

LCAAA Spring Board Meeting Agenda
March 27, 2008
Woodworth, Louisiana

1.	Welcome/Call to Order	Ed Twidwell
2.	Minutes of Winter Board Meeting	Kurt Guidry
3.	LCAAA Handbook Update	Bill Branch
4.	Treasurer's Report	Keith Normand/Ed Twidwell
5.	Membership Report	Ed Twidwell/Keith Normand
6.	2007-2008 Budget	E.Twidwell/K.Normand/M.Brashier
7.	NACAA Director's Report	James Devillier
8.	NACAA E-Journal Update	Allen Hogan
9.	Awards Report	
	a. LCAAA DSA and AA Winners	Eddie Eskew
	b. 2008 Search for Excellence in Crop Production	Myrl Sistrunk
	c. Communication Awards	John Chaney
10.	Faculty Council Update	Miles Brashier
11.	New Business	
	a. JCEP & PILD Conferences	E.Twidwell/B.Chandler/M.Brashier
	b. Scholarship Report	Stan Dutile
	c. LCAAA 2008 AM/PIC	Ed Twidwell
	d. NACAA 2008 AM/PIC	Ed Twidwell
	e. Oklahoma Funding Proposal	Ed Twidwell
	f. 4-H Centennial Celebration Funding Discussion	Ed Twidwell
12.	Committee Reports	
13.	Other Business	
14.	Adjourn	

Those present at the meeting were:

Miles Brashier	R.L. Frazier
Brian Chandler	Stuart Gauthier
Glen Daniels	Kurt Guidry
James Devillier	Allen Hogan
Stan Dutile	Jason Holmes
Eddie Eskew	Myrl Sistrunk
Jimmy Flanagan	Ed Twidwell

Call to Order: Ed Twidwell began the meeting by welcoming everyone and announcing that handouts were available at the front of the room. Ed mentioned that we were going to alter the agenda somewhat. Bill Branch was unable to attend the meeting so we will push that discussion back in the meeting. Also, we would likely have to move James Devillier's report to later in the meeting given he was preparing the meal for the meeting.

Minutes: It was mentioned that copies of the last board meeting had been sent via email to everyone. It was asked if anyone had any comments regarding the winter board meeting minutes.

At that time Allen Hogan made a motion to accept the minutes as previously distributed and it was seconded by Brian Chandler. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Keith Normand was unable to attend the meeting, so Ed Twidwell gave the report. A report indicating the balances of all association accounts was provided. The balances as of 3/13/08 were as follows:

Account	Balance (3/13/08)
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
LCAAA #1 Savings	\$6,193.75
LCAAA Checking	\$4,209.02
LCAAA Money Market	\$67,387.66
LCAAA Scholarship Savings	\$535.95
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$78,326.38

The only major revision to the balance provided was the \$1,000 that was paid to Rock Eagle as agreed to by the board. It was mentioned that not many to any bills had to be paid from the last board meeting in December. A motion was then made by Brian Chandler and seconded by Jimmy Flanagan to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Ed Twidwell indicated that as of the board meeting we had 134 paid members. This amounts to total dues received of \$8,040 of which \$6,700 goes to pay national dues. This represents about 15 new members over the previous year. A question was asked whether people could still join the association. It was mentioned that they could, but that any dues received at this time would not count for DSA or AA awards. This led to another question on how the increased membership would impact the number of voting delegates to the national meeting. The question was if the voting delegates would increase in 2008 or 2009. It was noted that this could be brought up to James Devillier when he gave his update later in the meeting.

2007/2008 Budget: Ed Twidwell made available a copy of the both the proposed budget that was developed at the 2007 annual meeting and the actual budget as of 3/27/2008. Thus far in the year, it looks as if revenues will be higher than projected given the increase in membership, slightly better than expected interest revenue, and higher returns to both the scholarship auction and the annual meeting. On the expenditures, most of the expenses have been within the proposed levels. The two areas with the largest divergence from the proposed level were national dues and the 4-H Scholarship. The national dues were higher than projected as a result of increased membership. The 4-H Scholarship was higher since it was decided to provide 2 scholarships this year given the high level of funds generated with the scholarship auction. The budget figures provided were as follows:

2007/08 LCAA Proposed Budget
June 6, 2007
Oak Grove, Louisiana

Item	Proposed	Actual (as of 3/27/08)
Income		
Dues	\$7,560	\$7,860 (131 pd)
Interest		
Checking	\$10	\$5.45 (1/2 yr)
Savings	\$50	\$38.86 (1/2 yr)
CD	\$1,630	\$1,697 (1/2 yr.)
Scholarship Auction	\$1,100	\$1,467.50
Annual Meeting	\$1,600	\$2,175.19
Total Income	\$11,950	
Expenditures		
National Dues	\$6,300	\$6,550 (131 pd)
Police Jury Convention	\$250	No Request
NACAA Meeting		
DSA and AA Recipients	\$400	\$400
Voting Delegates	\$500	\$500
President	\$150	\$150
President-Elect	\$150	---
Vice-President	\$150	---
Treasurer	\$150	\$150
Secretary	\$150	---
Awards	\$250	Not Yet Spent
Office Expenses	\$50	\$51.83 (Plant)
JCEP Workshop	\$600	\$600
PILD Meeting	\$600	\$600
4-H U Luncheon	\$700	\$705.98
LCAA Professional		
Improvement Scholarship	\$1,000	Not Yet Spent
4-H Scholarship	\$500	\$1,000
Lunch for New Agent Orientation	\$50	No Request
Total Expenditures	\$11,950	

One question that was brought up regarding the budget was the funds provided to Rock Eagle and to North Carolina for the annual meeting. It was mentioned that \$1,000 had been sent to Rock Eagle with those funds coming from the interest generated on the CD. Another \$1,000 would be sent to Rock Eagle in June/July to complete the commitment agreed to by the board. The \$1,600 agreed to by the board for the "North Carolina States Night In" function at the national meeting had also been paid. Finally, it was noted that the 4-H Centennial funding request would be discussed later in the meeting.

NACAA E-Journal Update: Allen Hogan provided an update on the E-Journal. Allen indicated that the committee had recently had a conference call and that there had been 22 submissions for review and publication. The topics of the submissions covered the spectrum from Agronomy to Community Development to Environmental Issues. The submissions were given to volunteer reviewers to insure that each would have at least three reviewers. April 15 has been set as the deadline for completion of the review and scoring process. This will allow for score sheets and comments to be returned to the authors and give them roughly one month to make changes/corrections for final submission. The final drafts will be published in the 2008 AM/PIC proceedings and will be on-line at the NACAA website. Dr. Natalie Hummel and Allen Hogan will serve as reviewers for Pest Management submissions.

The question was asked as to how many issues the journal would have. Allen indicated that there one be one issue in the first year with the hope that it would develop into a multiple issues each year. Another question asked was whether there was any relationship between the E-Journal and the Journal of Extension. Allen indicated that there was no current tie in and that there was no indication that there would be one. One of the reasons for keeping these journals separate was to hopefully keep the wait time from time of submission to time of publication at a minimum, which has tended to be an issue with the Journal of Extension.

In addition to his E-Journal update, Allen also discussed the Agronomy/Pest Management Committee, of which he is chair. According to Allen, there were a few LCAAA members have submitted oral presentations for the Agronomy/Pest Management section of the 2008 NACAA AM/PIC. Allen and Boyd Padgett have submitted a presentation on the performance of foiliar fungicides in managing soybean diesaseas and Allen and Jerry Whatley have submitted a presentation on the potential of sweet sorghum as a bioenergy crop in Southwest Louisiana. He also was told that Tara Smith and Myrl Sistrunk have submitted a presentation on work done in conjunction with a new sweet potato research verification program.

Allen mentioned that the submission process was very confusing this year. One set of instructions were provided in the County Agent Magazine and another set of instructions were provided on the website. Allen indicated that he did not get much clarification when he contacted the National Chairman for the committee. He mentioned that he would ask James Devillier to bring this issue to the next national board meeting.

Miles Brashier then mentioned that he had submitted a presentation for the Horticulture and Teaching & Technology sections and thought that Annie Coco had or would be submitting a presentation to the Horticulture section.

Awards Report:

DSA and AA Winners: Eddie Eskew said that this years DSA winners were Boyd Padgett, Shaney Hill, and Richard Letlow. The AA winners were David Bourgeois and David Lanclos. All of the voting for both awards was done electronically this year and that seem to work okay. Eddie mentioned that only 40 to 45 out of 125 members voted for DSA and AA and said that we need to encourage more participation in future years. Eddie mentioned that the NACAA AM/PIC was going to be in Oregon in 2009 which may cause a problem for next year's winners in attending the meeting given the travel expense.

Eddie indicated that since David Lanclos had resigned from the AgCenter, he has requested clarification of his eligibility to be an AA winner from the NACAAA. In addition, he has asked for clarification if his new job prevents him from attending the national meeting. While he is still

waiting on clarification, he asked the board that if David Lanclos can't receive the award, do we bring up the runner-up, if possible, or do we just send one AA winner to the national meeting. The general consensus of the board was that if possible, we would bring up the runner-up if necessary. If the runner-up can not go to the meeting, the third ranked candidate could be asked to attend. It was agreed that we would not drop below the third ranked candidate.

Miles Brashier then made a motion that if David Lanclos is ruled ineligible then a replacement would be sent if possible. The motion was seconded by Glen Daniels. The motion passed unanimously

A question was then brought up regarding whether or not DSA and AA winners would be voting delegates at the national meeting. Eddie Eskew said that he would contact the winners to see if they would be willing to be voting delegates. It was mentioned that they would be provided some additional travel assistance from the association if they were voting delegates. At that time, James Devillier mentioned that with the increase in membership, the state would get 5 voting delegates in 2008.

Search for Excellence in Crop Production: Myrl Sistrunk indicated that there were two submissions from Louisiana for this program. He and Tara Smith had submitted some of their work and Denise Cummins had as well. There was also mention of another potential poster that would be submitted. Ed Twidwell indicated that he needed to get a list of all LCAAA members that had submitted presentations and/or posters to the national meeting so that he could pass that information on to Dr. Coreil to see if he would be willing to provide some travel funds as he had done in the past.

Communications Award: Ed Twidwell indicated that John Chaney could not attend the meeting today. However, it was mentioned that he had several submissions from one agent for the communications award but that the application was not complete and that he was never able to get a complete application to forward on to the national committee.

Faculty Council Update: Miles Brashier said that the biggest issue that the Faculty Council had been involved with was the faculty survey it conducted. The Council has summarized the results of the survey and made those available. He mentioned that the three biggest issues that came out of the survey were: 1) A general lack of morale throughout the AgCenter, 2) a general feeling of unfair pay practices, and 3) a general lack of trust of administration. The summary of the survey results have been provided to the Chancellor.

Other issues being discussed by the Faculty Council are the upcoming budget, the firing freeze, and the Ombudsman position. The Chancellor has indicated that as it stands now, the budget looks to be flat. There are increases to cover increases in mandated costs (i.e. insurance expected to increase 6% to 8%) but currently has no money for pay raises.

The AgCenter requested 108 positions be allowed to be filled when the hiring freeze was put into place. Those positions have been granted and the AgCenter is submitting a second request to be allowed to fill additional needed positions.

The Ombudsman position seems to be a dead issue at this point. Given the budget situation, this position is not a priority for the AgCenter at this time and therefore the chances for this position to move forward seem slim.

LCAAA Handbook Update: Ed Twidwell indicated that Bill Branch is currently working with Charles Overstreet on pulling together historic information/reports/statistics regarding LCAAA. They are currently looking for information from 1953. The hope is that they would have an updated handbook by the LCAAA AM/PIC in June.

New Business:

JCEP & PILD Conferences: Ed Twidwell indicated that he and Brian Chandler attended the JCEP meeting in Orlando this year. The JCEP meeting was conducted in combination with the Northern region this year. Both seemed to enjoy the meeting and thought it was beneficial. Next year's meeting will once again be in Orlando.

Miles Brashier indicated that he will be attending the PILD meeting in Washington DC. He has met with Dr. Coreil and Mr. Landreneau about the meeting and has also been able to speak with the lobbyists that represent the LSU System. He said they have set up for him to meet with 6 of the representatives from Louisiana during his visit.

Scholarship Report: Stan Dutile indicated that the scholarship information had been mailed out to the membership. The scholarship applications will be due on May 1. Last year, there were 6 applications for the 4-H scholarship but no applications for the membership scholarship. The top two applicants were awarded scholarships given the success of the auction. Since the board agreed that providing two scholarships would be contingent on the type of funds raised by the auction, Stan and the review committee would rank the applications in case two scholarships would be given again this year. Finally, Stan indicated that the two winners from the previous year had met all the requirements and were sent their money.

2008 LCAAA AM/PIC: Ed Twidwell passed out a draft program for the annual meeting. The draft program presented was as follows:

**2008 LCAAA Annual Meeting
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Meeting Dates:	June 1 – 4, 2008
Meeting Location:	University Inn & Conference Center (Soon to be the Red Lion Inn) 2445 S. Acadian Thruway Baton Rouge, LA
Room Rates:	\$72 per night (This is a great rate for Baton Rouge!)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 1:	Board supper in the evening at Miles Brashier's office in New Roads. Would include a boat trip on the False River and then meal near the office
Monday, June 2:	Board meeting in a.m. at motel Professional tour in p.m. – Pointe Coupee Area Tentative stops include: plastic manufacturing plant, master gardener plots, Big Cajun coal-fired plant, pecan orchard. Have meal and auction at the 911 building in Morganza.

Tuesday, June 3: Professional development program in a.m. at motel (Include Dept. Heads)
Spouses tour & lunch (Burden and LaHouse are potential tour areas)
AgCenter administrators & regional NACAA representatives in p.m.
Committee reports
President's reception and social
Kids pizza party & swimming
Awards banquet

Wednesday, June 4: Memorial breakfast
1 or 2 professional presentations
Business meeting
Adjourn by 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Ed indicated that plans were continuing to move along for the meeting. The one area that there was some concern was with regard to sponsors. To this point, only a small percentage of the sponsors that were contacted had responded. Ed asked if anyone knew of potential sponsors that could be contacted. Allen Hogan suggested that Ed contact Dr. Coreil to see if he would be willing to provide some assistance for the meeting.

2008 NACAA AM/PIC: Ed Twidwell stated that the national meeting was going to be in North Carolina on July 13 – 18, 2008. Ed mentioned that a minivan and a station wagon had been reserved for people going to the national meeting. Ed also mentioned again that he needed to have the information regarding who from Louisiana was making presentations or posters for the meeting so that he could contact Dr. Coreil to see about his willingness to provide travel funds.

NACAAA Director's Report: At this time, James Devillier was available to give his report. James said that he had contact someone from the NACAAA and asked about the ability for David Lanclos to be an AA winner. James indicated that his information was that as long as David paid his dues for 2008 and as long as the state bylaws did not preclude him from being a member, then he was okay from the national perspective.

James then mentioned that there was a national board meeting next week and that there had been monthly conference calls. He also mentioned that NACAAA was the host of the recent JCEP meeting. One of the issues that came up from the JCEP meetings was that of some communication awards. Apparently, there is some opportunity for members, for example, to get graphic design professionals to develop a template for a newsletter which the agent then puts up for an award. The question was does having a professional graphics person developing a newsletter template undermine the intent of these communications awards.

James also indicated that the national board are implementing a by-law change that will allow the board to conduct business electronically. Also, he mentioned that still on the PILD committee and that several national officer positions will be open. The office of secretary will be open and is open nationwide. The office of Vice-President will be open but must come from the North Central Region.

Finally, James indicated that registration for the NACAA AM/PIC should be available on-line by April 1st.

Oklahoma Funding Request: Ed Twidwell stated that he had been contacted from Greg Highfill from Oklahoma regarding a sponsorship for the 2010 NACAA AM/PIC in Tulsa. We were given three options for sponsorship. The first is co-sponsoring an ice cream social with Arkansas. The total budget for the social is \$7,000 – Arkansas has committed to providing \$3,500 and we would provide \$3,500. The second was being a break sponsor. The break sponsorships are \$2,500. The third option would be to sponsor the Wednesday morning breakfast. This is expected to be roughly \$4,000.

Brian Chandler made a motion that the board choose option 1 (co-sponsoring the ice cream social) and that this issue be discussed by the whole membership at the June meeting. Allen Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4-H Centennial Funding: Ed Twidwell indicated that at the winter meeting, the membership voted to support this event at the level of \$2,000. Ed asked how and when should we pay this amount. R.L. Frazier made a motion that the \$2,000 being taken out of savings and that it should be paid now. Allen Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: Ed Twidwell indicated that he would send letters to new members to encourage them to attend the LCAAA AM/PIC. He also mentioned that the retirees were meeting in April and that he would attend that meeting to invite them to the annual meeting as well. Finally, Ed mentioned that everyone would be welcomed to assist with Ag Magic. Ed mentioned that there is always room for more help. Brian Chandler asked if it would be beneficial for Ed to send a letter to Dr. Coreil listing all the LACAA members that were assisting with Ag Magic. Ed said that if he could get a list of all members working, that he would compile a letter to Dr. Coreil.

Ed mentioned that three board members from the state office would be coming off of the board this year. He asked that everyone be thinking of who we might put in their place.

Ed mentioned that the next board meeting would be at the annual meeting on June 2. With that, the board watched a video supplied by North Carolina advertising the NACAA AM/PIC.

At the end of the video, Kurt Guidry moved that we adjourn. It was seconded by Brian Chandler. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.