

MACAA Officer and Board of Directors Meeting
9:00 a.m. · December 17, 2009
Interactive Video

Attendees: Glenn Hughes, Bill Burdine, Michael Newman, Wayne Porter, Al Myles, Andy Braswell, Amanda Walker, Jeff Wilson, Mike Steede and Donna Beliech

Glenn Hughes, president, called the meeting because of his concern over the annual membership dues numbers and the money needing to reach the national association in early Jan. 2010.

Jimbo Burkhalter was approved by the board to the position of 2010 Secretary/Treasurer.

A motion was made and carried to accept Al Myles as the new Treasurer to replace John Anderson who has taken an out-of state position as of Dec. 2009.

Glenn Hughes is very concerned over membership, since we did not have an annual conference. Al Myles stated that we had 55 paid members as of today (Dec. 17, 2009). Normally a flurry of dues payments comes in at the beginning of the year; 3-5 of those members would be associates, paid for by the association as complimentary. Al Myles mentioned one individual who would like to join the membership but we can't figure out a good way to accept the money because of policy (professional association dues cannot be paid with MSU funds at this time). This issue may be subject to review with new administration in the future. Bill Burdine stated that membership dues paid from soft money grants was being allowed at this time. He also stated that last year we had 104 paid members and that if we fall below 100 then we lose an Achievement Award (AA); <76 loses a DSA. If we lose members, then we will have to find some fair way to decide who receives the one AA award.

Mike Steede wanted to get an excel spreadsheet on who had already paid there 2010 dues. Amanda Walker as District Membership Chair as wanted this information. Al Myles said he could provide a list after the first of the year. Glenn Hughes wanted this list to go to officers, board of directors and membership chairs.

Glenn Hughes stated that this association gives a lot of monetary awards to membership. The money associated with the communication awards has increased.

Al Myles needed a copy of the 2010 annual meeting booklets. (He was getting one from Donna Schmidt). In the past the annual meeting has been uploaded to the MACAA website but it may be mid-Jan before that can be accomplished this year. The website has been maintained by Stanley Wise and is being turned over to Donna Beliech for updating.

All MACAA dues should be sent to:

Al Myles, Dept. of Ag. & Econ., P.O. Box 5187, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Al has the latest bank statement and bills for the annual conference. MACAA mail sent to John Anderson is being shifted to Al's mail box. There is just a few days delay in the process.

Bill Burdine said that the membership dues/information deadline is Jan. 15. That check must be at the national office and membership information must be on the national database by Jan. 15. Bill suggested that Glenn get in-touch with Scott Hawbaker, NACAA Headquarters Executive Director, and see if we can get an extension due to hardship for losing our annual conference this year. Glenn was going to check into this over the holidays.

Michael Newman thought that we needed to try and get all membership dues in by Jan. 8 and Al Myles concurred. Jimbo Burkhalter will be the one to input information into the national database before the deadline. It is a little complicated and Bill Burdine would walk him through the procedure.

Anyone joining the association but waited until the last minute can notify Al Myles via e-mail and tell him that 'the check is in the mail' and he will cover them with the MACAA account funds until it arrives. He must have an e-mail or paper trail type of confirmation to temporarily cover those individuals' dues.

Bill Burdine had already sent out a reminder to pay dues e-mail to extension in the NE District. Other officers, directors and membership chairs wanted a copy so they could modify it and sent it out to membership in the other districts.

The Communication Awards for the new amount: \$80, \$40, \$20 are in affect for this year's winners and have been taken care of. Glenn Hughes wanted to know if anything special was given to the MACAA Communicator of the Year.

Donna Beliech made the motion that the Communicator of the Year receives a Certificate of Recognition and no additional money. If they receive that honor then it means that they received quite a few awards with money attached. Bill Burdine thought that we had capped the amount for any one winner to \$240.00 or three, 1st place winnings. This was not recorded in any minutes and would be looked into before the next meeting. Bill thought that it was noted and voted on in an e-mail ballot sent out by Judd Gentry after the MACAA-PIC.

Mike Steede, Communication Chair in 2007-08, said that in the past the amount paid varied due to availability of fund; sometime winners only got certificates and a hand shake.

Wayne Porter, 2010 Communication Chair, must start soliciting for submissions before the Feb. 15 deadline and he will need the issue of a \$240.00 cap settled before then. The submission deadline was moved from March 1, which is in the National book in order to get them all judged and sent to the Regional Chair in time. Last year the submissions were late to the regional office and a 'hard' deadline was missed, therefore Mississippi was not eligible for national competition.

2010 Professional Improvement Conference (PIC)

Mike Steede is in charge of organizing the 2010 PIC in the Southeast District. With budget cuts we are not sure if it will affect the PIC but we are going ahead with plans.

Dates being looked at: mid- summer, late July; after the new annual travel budget. Don't want to have it too close or conflicting with the NACAA Conference (Tulsa, OK, July 11-15).

SW District locations considered: Hattiesburg, Coastal R&E Center (distance may be a problem). Other suggestions – Lauderdale Co. – MSU facility in Meridian - due to travel considerations. Wayne Porter could help make that connection if needed.

Transportation concerns: MSU has paid or provided transportation cost in the past. The 1st year they did; but other years we are unsure of. This will be a big consideration for the MACAA-PIC in 2010. Options: 2-day PIC with classroom type instruction or a 1-day classroom with nothing else; 1-day classroom instruction & 1 day of tours. Al Myles had \$5,201.24 outgoing invoices as of 12/09/09, plus a deposit of \$750.00 from Sunbelt Expo for the checking account to be up-to-date. Mike Steede had not checked on bus rental recently but thought that the cost for renting 2 buses for a day trip would be \$1000-1,500. We are looking at \$2,000 total for transportation. We need a commitment from administration as soon as possible.

Survey for PIC Topics: Mike Steede would like to send out a survey to membership about instructional and tour topics. Michael Newman is proficient at the Survey Monkey and can help pull that together. Al Myles would assist where needed. Mike is open to all suggestions. Potential topics include: large produce farm, cut flower operations, plant nurseries, the research station in Poplarville, MS (although the distance to the site may be prohibitive), woody biomass facility & a pellet mill (renewable energy) in Wiggins, MS and a paper mill in Perry Co., cattle back grounding and seed stock operation. The tour buses could be sent in different directions. Donna Beliech mentioned that a follow-up evaluation after the 2009 PIC was done and Mike Steede may want to review that for potential educational topics. Donna Beliech suggested checking into using District vans instead of buses, since many people took their own vehicles due to the final stop being closer to their home locations. A lot of money was spent on buses this past year that was not really necessary for the number of people traveling on them. We need cell phone numbers for people taking tours, so we can contact them if they are running late or have decided not to go at the last minute.

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

JCEP – Feb. 2-4 in Nashville, TN – Glenn Hughes and Bill Burdine will attend. They will drive.

PILD – in April - Michael Newman will attend.

NACAA – July 11-15 in Tulsa, OK.

OTHER ITEMS:

Donna Beliech stated that we are under the assumption that the MSU-ES/MAFES Annual Conference is on for 2010 and the MACAA Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with that in Nov. What do we do if the MSU-ES/MAFES Annual Conference is canceled? This is a possibility again but we will have to play it by 'ear', right now. Glenn Hughes will visit with Dr. Street about this and funding for the MACAA-PIC. Al Myles suggested that he also visit with and invite Dr. Bohach to any events/meetings. All the associations need a face-to-face meeting with administration about what they do for their members. If an annual conference was canceled then maybe all of the associations could jointly hold an annual meeting someplace together.

Al Myles said that there are rumors of an early out incentives for 2010 due to funding cuts and we may lose more members in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Beliech
2009 MACAA 2nd Vice-President