

MACAA Minutes **April 10, 2012**

The second quarterly meeting of the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 via distance learning network. Members present were: John Byrd, Jimbo Burkhalter, Donna Beliech, Bill Burdine, Reid Nevins, Amanda Woods, Eddie Smith, Amanda Walker, Ty Jones, Shelby Bearden, Lester Stephens, David Carter, and Ruby Rankin.

New Business

Membership numbers for MACAA in 2012 shows having a total of 105 members. Of the 105 total members: 85 are previous members, 3 have re-joined, 17 are new members, and 5 have complimentary memberships. Donna Beliech stated gaining those 17 new members was a big help in getting MACAA back over the 100 member mark. MACAA lifetime member numbers is 120 in the national database. MACAA has contact information on 80 life members, but still needs information on the other 40. Donna Beliech stated she recommends Stanley Wise who is vice-chair of the life member committee to head up searching for contact information for life members that MACAA does not have.

The next topic that was discussed was how does MACAA handle the situation when an extension retiree (life member) comes back to work for extension? Donna Beliech stated that some states have re-instated them as active members. John Byrd asked does NACAA have a policy that we need to follow? Donna Beliech said no policy is in place and it is up to each individual state. The current MACAA policy is when someone retires they are no longer an active member, you are either a life member or you are no longer associated with the association. Bill Burdine stated that if you are retired and are already a life member why would you want to pay \$80 again to be an active member? Donna Beliech recommended tabling this discussion until more information is received from other states. John Byrd made a motion to check into re-instating life membership back to active member status before the annual meeting in October. Bill Burdine said we do not need a motion to check into options. He also stated any changes to the constitution and by-laws must be presented to the Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to annual meeting. Donna Beliech asked for volunteers for a life member re-instatement subcommittee. John Byrd said he would chair this committee and would like to recruit members that had several years in MACAA. John Byrd stated he would like to have Jimbo Burkhalter, Elmo Collum, and Donna Beliech work on this.

The next order of business was that MACAA needs to solicit nominations for the Mississippi Vice Director Chair slot. This is a 4 year term. Members were encouraged to ask around to see if any persons are interested in this. Bill Burdine stated that a large amount of time would have to be dedicated to this position as they would be traveling to various states and would need to get administration's blessing on this. Jimbo said he would nominate Bill Burdine for this position. Bill expressed interest in filling this position, but he also recommended an open nomination until a date is set by the president. Donna Beliech set the deadline of September 15 for nominations to cease. It will then be voted on at annual meeting in October.

Donna Beliech stated that MACAA had 13 first place entries that were submitted for Communications Awards and also made the comment that MACAA has never had that many people participate in Communication Awards. In addition to the entries for Communications Awards, a poster request was submitted by Dean Jousan, and another application came in for Search for Excellence in Livestock Production, submitted by Cliff Covington.

It was stated that Reid Nevins needed to attend the national meeting in Charleston, S.C since he was one of the AA recipient's. He stated that he was attending. Donna Beliech stated that some people are traveling to national meeting by van/car and some are considering traveling by air. A Mississippi 4-H'er was selected to go to the national meeting for entertainment this year. Her and her mother would need airfare from Ohio to Charleston, and then from Charleston to Jackson, MS. Cost would be approximately \$800 for both. Jimbo Burkhalter made a motion for MACAA to pay the airfare, no one seconded motion. John Byrd made a motion for MACAA and the 4-H Foundation split the cost of the airfare for the 4-H'er and her mother 50/50. Jimbo Burkhalter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was then turned over to David Carter and Shelby Bearden who are planning the Professional Improvement Conference to be held in Natchez August 22-24. Shelby Bearden stated David Carter is very capable of putting together this PIC. David Carter said most of this is designed to be hands-on training. He also said preparations are currently being made for transportation, food, and lodging. Shelby Bearden stated the agenda looked good for the PIC. Extension Administration mentioned they would like to come down and give an update at the PIC. David Carter stated there would be several good choices for tours, but one thing that needs to be decided on is there going to be an FCS component to this conference?

Old Business

Donna Beliech stated that Ed Williams had last ordered MACAA past president name plaques to go on the board in Bost. Ed said the people he got the name plates from before are no longer in business.

Donna Beliech asked Jimbo Burkhalter about compiling old MACAA motions and old policy changes. Jimbo said it is not completed yet because it is such a large task, but it is a work in progress.

Donna Beliech asked if anyone was interested in accepting the MACAA treasurer position. This would need to be a long term position. Donna Beliech then asked for any volunteers to head a committee on helping find an MACAA treasurer. Lester Stephens said he would be willing to chair the committee. Reid Nevins in Lowndes Co. said he will help. Donna Beliech asked the board to be thinking about other members to serve on this committee.

David Carter asked if MACAA had a budget for the PIC? Bill Burdine said the board has been approving around \$2000 for the conference. It was recommended to get as many sponsors as possible to help offset expenses.

Donna Beliech stated Arkansas is planning on making a bid for the 2016 NACAA National Meeting.

Donna Beliech nominated Dr. Lester Spell as a nominee for 2012 American World Agriculture Award that a southern region state is eligible for this year.

Mississippi did give South Carolina \$4500 to help co-sponsor a meal at the 2012 national meeting in Charleston, S.C. in July. Bill Burdine said he spoke with Dr. Jackson last summer about providing more money to go to national meetings for agents. Dr. Jackson said he has no problem adding \$500 to agents travel if they are in leadership positions.

Meeting was adjourned.