



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

November 5, 2025

PROGRAM BOOK

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Mississippi State University Extension Service appreciates generous corporate support for its research and educational programs. The Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents would like to show our gratitude not only in the program book, but by encouraging members to personally thank industry sponsors for their support of agriculture in the State of Mississippi.

We appreciate your support!



MISSISSIPPI
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION



The Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents would like to thank you
for your sponsorship and support of this year's Annual MACAA Meeting.

89th ANNUAL MEETING
MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS
BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS PROGRAM
MSU Bost Extension Center Auditorium
Wednesday, November 5, 2025

- 10:00- 11:00 Registration**
Please pay dues (\$100.00 for Regular Members, Free for First Timers).
- 11:00 AM LUNCHEON PROGRAM**
MSU Bost Extension Center Auditorium
(Sponsored by MS Pesticide Safety Education Program)
Invocation.....Josh Tilley, MSU Extension Agent, Lowndes County
- 11:10 AM Welcome and Sponsor Recognition.....Dr. James Shannon, President MACAA
- 11:15 AM Association Greetings – Epsilon Sigma Phi, MEAFCS, MAE4-HA
- 11:30 AM Recognition of Retirees..... Dr. James Shannon & Zach Yow, MACAA Treasurer
- 11:35 PM Guest Speaker Introduction.....Drew Wilson, MSU Extension Agent, Panola County
- Guest SpeakerStafford Shurden
- 12:30 PM Adjourn
- *The awards program will begin 15 minutes after the conclusion of the luncheon.

2025 MACAA AWARDS PROGRAM AND BUSINESS MEETING

MSU Bost Extension Center Auditorium

Call to Order.....Dr. James Shannon, MACAA President

MACAA Address.....Dr. Angus Catchot, MSU Extension Director

Presidential Citation Award.....Dr. James Shannon, MACAA President

Recognition of Distinguished Service & Achievement Award Winners

MACAA Outstanding Program Awards

Ello Collum Mid-Career Programming Excellence Award

Wesley Farmer Excellence in Animal Agriculture Programs Award

Booker Mims Excellence in Plant Agriculture Programs Award

Excellence in ANR Youth Programs Award

Ruby D. Rankin Early Career Excellence in Programming Award

Communication Awards

NACAA Search for Excellence Awards State Winners

Environmental Quality, Forestry, and Natural Resources

4-H Programming

Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

Young, Beginning, or Small Farmers/Ranchers

BUSINESS MEETING

Old Business/New Business

MACAA Investment Update.....Dr. Jason Barrett, Chair MACAA Finance Committee, Investments

MACAA Financial Report.....Zach Yow, MACAA Treasurer

NACAA Update.....Lonnie Jenschke, NACAA Southern Region Vice Director

PIC/Corporate Sponsorship Program UpdateDrew Wilson, MACAA 1st Vice President

Memorial ServiceDrew Wilson and Jessica Sibley, MACAA History Committee

Installation of New Officers.....Ross Overstreet, MACAA Past-President (2024)

Outgoing President's ReportDr. James Shannon, MACAA Outgoing President

Incoming President's ReportHeather Jennings, MACAA Incoming President

Adjourn

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, November 6, 2025

6:30 a.m. Starkville Café, Main Street, Starkville

Sponsor: Mississippi Cattlemen's Association

Attendees: State Officers, Junior Directors, Senior Directors, Membership Chairs, Past President, NACAA Representative, Honored Guests



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

STATE ASSOCIATION

PresidentHeather Jennings
President-ElectDr. Drew Gholson
1st Vice-PresidentDrew Wilson
2nd Vice-PresidentAlex Shook
SecretaryHunter Null
Treasurer..... Zach Yow
Past PresidentDr. James Shannon

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Senior DirectorCody Mills
Junior DirectorRandall Nevins
Membership ChairJosh Tilley

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Senior DirectorButch Bailey
Junior DirectorLindsey Pansano
Membership ChairKelby King

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Senior DirectorJessica Sibley
Junior DirectorMadison Jones
Membership ChairMatthew Thornton

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Senior DirectorKyle Lewis
Junior DirectorBrent Breland
Membership ChairAdam Barrilleaux

STATE OFFICE GROUP

Senior DirectorDr. Rocky Lemus
Junior DirectorDr. Whitney Crow
Membership ChairDr. Kevin Ragon

MACAA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2025
OFFICERS



Heather Jennings
President



Dr. Drew Gholson
President Elect



Drew Wilson
1st Vice President



Alex Shook
2nd Vice President



Hunter Null
Secretary



Zach Yow
Treasurer



Dr. James Shannon
Past President

DIRECTORS
Northeast District



Cody Mills
Senior Director



Randall Nevins
Junior Director



Josh Tilley
Membership Chair

Southeast District



Butch Bailey
Senior Director



Lindsey Pansano
Junior Director



Kelby King
Membership Chair

Northwest District



Jessica Sibley
Senior Director



Madison Jones
Junior Director



Matthew Thornton
Membership Chair

Southwest District



Kyle Lewis
Senior Director



Brent Breland
Junior Director



Adam Barrilleaux
Membership Chair

State Officer Group



Dr. Rocky Lemus
Senior Director



Dr. Whitney Crow
Junior Director



Dr. Kevin Ragon
Membership Chair



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2025 Active and Life Members

Deceased Members

Past Presidents

Previous DSA and AA Winners

2025 ACTIVE MEMBERS AND CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Alberson, Brandon	16	DelPrince, James	9	Karisch, Brandi	11	Rogers, Marie	10
Anglin, Laura	2	Dodds, Darrin	19	King, Kelby	7	Russell, Dillon	3
Arnold, Rayne	2	Drackett, Pat	14	Larson, Erick J.	30	Russell, Ellen	12
Aust, Preston	13	Drewery, Mason	1	Lemus, Rocky	16	Self, Brady	14
Baginski, C.J.	3	Durst, Libby	1	Lewis, Kyle	12	Sellers, Victoria	1
Bailey, Butch	3	Elliott, Brittany	1	Martin, Steve	26	Shannon, James	9
Banks, Darrell	6	Eubanks, Leah	4	Maples, Josh	3	Shook, Alex	12
Barnes, James	3	Floyd, Sam	2	McAdory, Jim	9	Sibley, Jessica	14
Barnett, Trent	13	Ford, Kaitlyn	7	McPherson, Madison	3	Smith, Eddie M. L.	18
Barrilleaux, Adam	3	Ganaan, Vicki	7	Melanson, Rebecca	10	Steede, Heath	14
Barrett, Jason	11	Garrard, Patrick	1	Merkel, Gene	10	Street, Joe (Lifetime)	
Bearden, Shelby	31	Gholson, Drew	6	Mills, Cody	4	Surette, Sherry	14
Beliech, Donna	31	Glidewell, Skip	3	Mizelle, Dillon	1	Tagert, Mary Love	12
Blakeney, Amanda	14	Grebner, Donald	1	Morgan, Melissa R.	14	Thompson, Barrett	1
Blakenship, John M.	1	Hancock, Kim	14	Moss, Casey	3	Thornton, Matthew	8
Boland, MariBeth	3	Harris, Jeff	5	Mulvaney, Mike	1	Tilley, Josh	1
Boone, Tracy	17	Harvey, Lorin	3	Nevins, J. Randall	14	Tucker, Steven	11
Breland, Breton	3	Havard, Sandra	9	Newman, Lance	3	Turner, Lea	5
Briscoe, Mabrey	1	Hay, Shani	9	Null, Hunter	6	Vandever, Jr., Phillip	19
Burney, Missy	3	Henderson, James	19	Odum, Brittany	3	Varner, Beau	3
Byrd, Jr., John D.	37	Henn, Alan	20	O'Neal, Paul	1	Ware, Amy	14
Caldwell, Wade	1	Hudson, Shelby	3	Oswalt, Garrett	7	White, Bonnie	3
Carter, Doug	12	Hurdle, Jason	14	Overstreet, Ross	12	Whitehead, Keith	13
Catchot, Jr., Angus L.	22	Irby, Trent	14	Palmer, Justin	1	Williams, Jennifer	2
Christensen, Tannah	2	Jennings, Heather	9	Pansano, Lindsey	6	Wills, Gina	8
Coker, Christine	10	Jones, Brad	14	Peavy, Tristan	3	Wilson, Drew	11
Coleman, Crayton	8	Jones, Curtis	3	Phelps, Lemon	10	Wilson, Jeffrey C.	22
Craven, Anthony	1	Jones, Jason	12	Phelps, Shelbie	4	Woods, Amanda	18
Creekmore, Warner	3	Jones, Keri	8	Pruden, Michael	4	Yow, Zach	10
Crow Whitney	1	Jones, Madison	3	Ragon, Kevin	2	Zurweller, Brendan	5
Davis, Ann	14	Jost, Daniel	1	Ray, Tim	12		
Deason, Alex	11	Jousan, Dean	20	Rios, Leyla	2		

2024–2025 NEW MEMBERS

Mabrey Briscoe – Lafayette County

Mason Drewery – Tippah County

Patrick Garrard – Chickasaw/Clay Counties

John Michael Blakenship – Bolivar County

Jessie Tisdall – Forrest County

Wade Caldwell – State Group

Anthony Craven – State Group

Whitney Crow – State Group

Donald Grebner – State Group

Daniel Jost – State Group

LIFE MEMBERS

Adams, Lamar
Alford, Walter
Alley, George
Bachman, Gary
Baird, Sr., Tommy
Bales, Don
Bishop, William T.
Blasingame, Donald J.
Braswell, Andy
Brewer, Thomas
Bridges, Terry L.
Broome, Malcolm L.
Brumfield, Perry
Brunson, Marty
Bryant, Daniel W.
Burdine, Bill
Burkhalter, Jimbo
Burns, Charles
Carpenter, Myles
Carter, Frank
Cheatham, Danny
Coccaro, John C.
Collins, James C.
Corban, Frank
Covington, Cliff
Crenshaw, Mark
Crouse, Keith
Cummings, Steve
Dale, Jr., John J.
Daniels, Bob
Davis, Otis L.
DeMuth, Larry
Dicke, Stephen
East, Tammy G.
Falconer, Lawrence
Ferguson, Ricky

Fitts, Charlie
Fulcher, Bobby M.
Gentry, Judd
Giachelli, Belvia
Giesmann, John
Gillie, Mark
Goforth, Joe
Goodwin, William O.
Grantham, Charles S.
Grubbs, Truitt
Harris, Eddie B.
Hay, Richard
Henry, William
Herndon, Bill
Hudson, Harvin
Hughes, Glenn
Jones, Audrey W.
Jones, Ronald L.
Kushla, John
Layton, Blake
Lee, Billy Joe
Lee, Perry
Maily, William (Bill)
Martin, Robert
McKie, John
Mowdy, Mark
Myles, Al
Needham, Tim
Newman, Michael
Oatis, Melvin J.
Oldham, Larry
Parker, John L.
Pepper, Tim
Poindexter, Patrick
Porter, Wayne
Pullin, Ted

Raby, Elton
Raspberry, Freddie
Reginelli, Dennis
Respass, Don
Rhea, Jr., Joseph R.
Richmond, James P.
Rouse, Jr., Clayton E.
Sartor, Martha Ray
Schmidt, Joseph F.
Sims, Bobby G.
Singleton, Jerry
Smith, Art
Smith, Donald H.
Smith, John W.
Starks, Nelda
Steeby, Jim
Steede, Mike
Stokes, Charlie
Street, Joe
Tanner, Jr., Barney A.
Taylor, Liston (Lee)
Twitty, Richard C.
Walker, Walter
Watkins, Coyt
Webb, Anita
Wells, W. V.
Wells, Wayne
Wheeler, Dwayne
Willcutt, Herb
Williams, Byron
Williams, Glen E. (Ed)
Williams, Mike
Williams, Robert L.
Winters, Steve
Wise, Stanley

DECEASED MEMBERS

Alexander, Luther	2006	Edwards, Elmer	1998	Locke, Earl L.	2006
Andrews, Gordon	2023	Estes, Ansel	2002	Loftin, Tom H.	2021
Ashford, Charles	1997	Estess, Sr., Charles E.	2005	Love, Thomas H. "Joe"	2009
Baker, Fred A.	2022	Farish, Hayes T.	1992	Luther, Jimmy K.	2014
Baker, Jr., Joe P.	2025	Farmer, Wesley	2006	Marks, Alphonse	2001
Barker, Robert S.	2002	Fleming, Dolan Curtis	2023	Massey, William C.	1993
Baskin, Charles	2013	Fleming, William M. "Bill"	2013	McCarty, Robert H.	2000
Baylis, Freddy	1995	Flint, Ernie	2018	McCaskill, John H.	2004
Bennett, Albert G	1997	Fowler, Roy	1993	McElveen, Monroe "Red"	1994
Berry, George L.	1995	Fulcher, John	2018	McLain, Jimmy C.	2019
Betterton, Jr., C. B.	2000	Fulgham, Hershel Q.	1991	McMillen, Jack C.	2024
Blasingame, Donald J.	2025	Fulton, Joe C.	2009	McMorrough, Howard D.	1998
Boone, Charles	1994	Gardner, III, Milburn "Skip"	1998	McNeill, George F.	1993
Bost, W.M.	2014	Garrison, Everette W.	1995	McVey, John L.	1997
Brooks, Gladden M.	2000	Garrison, Lewis N.	1999	Meeks, Roy Doyle	2003
Bryson, Clyde P.	1999	Garrison, Jr., George W.	2017	Miley, Walter B.	1995
Buchanan, James F.	1992	George, Hunter E.	1995	Miller, Dalton Lee	2013
Buckley, Rupert O. "Buck"	2008	Gholston, L. E.	2006	Mims, Booker T.	1998
Bullock, John L.	2006	Gilliam, G. W. (Willie)	2014	Ming, Claude E.	1998
Bullock, Willie	2006	Gilmore, Colonel Bert	2018	Miskelley, James B.	1998
Carpenter, Jamie	2015	Glover, Leonard "Danny"	2010	Monroe, Johnny	2001
Caves, James	2007	Graves, Andrew L.	1995	Monroe, Lewis	2001
Chapin, Bob T.	1991	Graves, Sr., Larry H.	2012	Montgomery, Fred	2008
Childers, W. S. "Strat"	2000	Hamberlin, William H.	1998	Moody, Athaniel H.	1994
Chisholm, William C.	1997	Hardee, Harold	1997	Moore, William "Billy"	2023
Clarke, James F.	2016	Harness, Creevy	2013	Morgan, Henry D.	2022
Cochran, Dexter	2013	Harris, Joseph P. (Pat)	2021	Morgan, Sr., James K.	1990
Coleman, Leslie F.	2007	Hartness, Ronnie	2023	Mullendore, Dr. George	2012
Collum, Elmo (Murray)	2015	Head, Bob	2005	Nail, James E.	1998
Cox, Aubrey	2008	Hollis, James B.	2014	Nelms, Wiley "Steve"	1991
Craft, William Dewitt	2016	Hopper, William	2011	Norton, C. S. (Bill)	1995
Crawford, Louis (Hot)	2015	Hoskin, Ruben	2014	Oatis, Sr., Joseph C.	1999
Davis, James R.	2013	Houston, Wayne	2022	Owen, Danny	2017
Davis, John E.	1998	Jefcoat, W. C. (Spec)	2003	Padgett, Betsy	2022
Dean, Milton E.	1994	Johnson, Jimmy P.	1995	Paige, Raynor C.	1995
Deen, Walter L.	2010	Johnson, Sr, William "Bill"	2013	Palmertree, Hiram	2006
Demby, Sr., William S.	1997	Johnston, Rupert B.	1993	Parker, O'Farrell (OF)	2015
Denmark, Billie W.	1998	Killebrew, Frank	1999	Payne, Lawrence	1998
Dickerson, John	2006	Killebrew, John H.	2022	Pigg, Johnnie	1992
Dievert, Warren D.	2000	Kimbrough, Perry D.	2018	Preuss, Theodore "Ted"	2021
Doss, Roy	2018	King, John Robert	1995	Putnam, Herman J.	1991
Duke, Jr., Charles B.	2012	Lee, Victor	2007	Randle, Ellis E.	1998
Dyar, Sam W.	2008	Lewis, Sr., Robert P.	2009	Rankin, Ruby	2017

DECEASED MEMBERS

Ray, Willey	2014	Stephens, Lester	2021	Walton, Billy	2014
Reynolds, Ray C.	2011	Strong, Steve	2014	Walton, Billy S.	2011
Robertson, Orville	1993	Sullivan, John E.	1996	Warfield, Anderson	1997
Robison, Ross C.	1995	Swords, Luther	2015	Weaver, George	2015
Rone, Loyde George	2024	Tadlock, Travis	2018	Wellborn, Dr. Tom	1998
Rowell, Otho C	1995	Taylor, Gerald T.	2015	Wells, Charles	2001
Rowzee, Mack A.	2000	Taylor, Tommy	2011	Whittington, Andrew "Whit"	2012
Sanders, Charles W.	1998	Thompson, Sr., Lee H.	2013	Wilbourn, Carl	2015
Sartor, Johnnie	2004	Tolar, James L.	2006	Wilkerson, Thomas L.	1997
Sartor, Ray	2015	Trammell, Jr., David	1995	Wise, Louis N.	1990
Scott, Denton O.	2000	Tucker, Dr. Duane	2011	Withers, Butch	2012
Shannon, Dr. Charles	2011	Walden, Charles	2000	Young, David	2017
Simmons, Clay	1995	Waldrup, Charles E.	2021	Young, Mack	2023
Smith, Charles I.	1997	Walker, Ron	2015	Youngblood, Carroll	1998
Smith, W. Taylor	1999	Wallace, Barry K.	2024		
Steede, Mike	2025	Walley, Jerrald W.	1993		

MACAA PAST PRESIDENTS • 2000–2025

2025	James Shannon
2024	Ross Overstreet
2023	Tracy Boone
2022	Amanda Masholie
2021	Reid Nevins
2020	Jason Barrett
2019	Thomas Brewer
2018	Andy Braswell
2017	Anita Webb
2016	Charlie Stokes
2015	John Byrd
2014	Ruby Rankin
2013	James Burkhalter
2012	Donna Beliech
2011	Bill Burdine
2010	Glenn Hughes
2009	Judd Gentry
2008	Lamar Adams
2007	Ed Williams
2006	Al Myles
2005	Victor Lee
2004	John Cocco
2003	Terry Rector
2002	Stanley Wise
2001	Jim Thomas
2000	Lee Taylor

PREVIOUS DSA AND AA RECIPIENTS • 2006 – 2025

DSA RECIPIENTS			AA RECIPIENTS		
Year	District	Recipient	Year	District	Recipient
2007	SW District	Shelby Bearden	2007	NW District SW District	Steven Martin Walter DeLoach
2008	State Level State Level	John Gieseemann Arthur Smith	2008	State Level State Level	John Anderson Mike Howell
2009	SE District NE District	Mark Gillie Charlie Stokes	2009	SE District NE District	Nathan Buehring Jeffrey Wilson
2010	SW District	Elmo Collum Judd Gentry	2010	SW District SE District	David Carter Mike Steede
2011	State Level	Andy Londo Bill Burdine	2011	State Level	Dean Jousan
2012	SW District SE District	Houston Therell, Jr. Ruby Rankin	2012	NE District NW District	Reid Nevins Lester Stephens
2013	NE District NW District	Danny Owen Andy Braswell	2013	SE District SW District	Kimberly Tolbert Wayne Boshart
2014	State Level SE District	Mark Crenshaw Thomas Brewer	2014	NE District NE District	BJ McClenton Angus Catchot, Jr.
2015	SW District NW District	Donna Beliech Jimbo Burkhalter	2015	NW District SW District SE District	Tracy Robertson Ty Jones Ross Overstreet
2016	State Level NE District	Angus Catchot Patrick Poindexter	2016	State Level NE District NW District	Darrin Dodds Steven Tucker Brady Self
2017	SE District SW District	Wayne Porter Anita Webb	2017	SW District State Level	Randy McKey Rocky Lemus
2018	NE District NW District State Level	Jeff Wilson Anthony Bland Erick Larson	2018	SW District NE District NW District	Amanda Blakeney Stephen Myers Alex Deason
2019	SW District NW District State Level	Amanda Masholie Tracy Robertson Dr. James Henderson	2019	NE District SE District State Level	Suzanne Marie Rogers Dr. Christian Stephenson Jason R. Barrett
2020	State SE District SW District	Dr. Dean Jousan Amanda Woods Rebecca Bates	2020	SW District SE District State	Melissa Morgan Brad Jones Dr. Amanda Stone
2021	State NE District SW District	Larry Oldham BJ McClenton Bubba Vandevere	2021	NW District SW District NE District	Preston Aust Heather Jennings James Shannon
2022	SW District SE District	Melissa Morgan Dr. Eddie Smith	2022	NE District SE District	Zach Yow Jessica Sibley
2023	NE District NW District	Trent Barnett Dr. Brady Self	2023	State SW District	Dr. Drew Gholson Kyle Lewis
2024	SE District SW District State	Ross Overstreet Doug Carter Dr. Rocky Lemus	2024	NE District SE District State	Hunter Null Kelby King Dr. Keri Jones
2025	SW District NW District NE District	Lurlinda Soignier Jessica Sibley Jim McAdory	2025	SW District NW District NE District	Sandy Havard Micheal Pruden Cody Mills



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

2026 MACAA COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
OVERALL CHAIRMAN

President Elect: Dr. Drew Gholson

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

4-H & YOUTH PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Chair: Kelby King
Vice Chair: Lindsey Pansano
Members: Dr. Dean Jousan, Marie Rogers,
Jessica Sibley, Alex Shook,
Jennifer Williams

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Chair: Lea Turner
Vice Chair: Jim McAdory
Members: Dr. James Barnes, Dr. Brandi Karish

AGRONOMY & PEST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Rebecca Melanson
Vice Chair: Gene Merkl
Members: Brendon Zurweller, Mike Mulvaney,
Hunter Null, Justin Palmer,
Beau Varner

ANIMAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Shelby Bearden
Vice Chair: Brad Jones
Members: Alex Shook, Lionel Brown, Shani Hay,
Libby Durst, Adam Barrilleaux,
Tannah Christensen

HORTICULTURE & TURFGRASS COMMITTEE

Chair: Donna Beliech
Vice Chair: Dr. James Del Prince
Members: Dr. Alan Henn, Dr. Keri Jones,
Dr. Rebecca Melanson,
Warner Creekmore, Brenton Breland

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE**

Chair: Ross Overstreet
Vice Chair: Jim McAdory
Members: Pat Drackett, Tim Ray, Butch Bailey,
Barrett Thompson, Tristan Peavey,
Dr. James Henderson, Dr. Brady Self

EXTENSION DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

**LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS
COMMITTEE**

Chair: Shani Hay
Vice Chair: Melissa Morgan
Members: Keith Whitehead, Brittany Elliot,
Missy Burney

AGRICULTURE ISSUES COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Whitney Crow
Vice Chair: Garrett Oswalt
Members: Jason Jones, Preston Aust,
Dillon Mizelle, Jason Hurdle

EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Drew Gholson
Vice Chair: Randall Nevins
Members: Amy Ware, Heath Steede, Ann Davis,
Sandra Havard

**TEACHING & EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES
COMMITTEE**

Chair: Gene Merkl
Vice Chair: Heath Steede
Members: Donna Beliech, Leah Eubanks,
Rayne Arnold, Randall Nevins, Shelbie
Phelps

OTHER NACAA COMMITTEES

LIFETIME MEMBER COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Bill Burdine
Vice Chair: Steve Winters
Members: Ronnie Jones, Ed Williams,
Stanley Wise

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair: Past President: James Shannon
Vice Chair: President: Heather Jennings
Members: All Active MACAA Past Presidents

**PROGRAM RECOGNITION COUNCIL
COMMITTEES**

COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Brenton Breland
Vice Chair: Beau Varner
Members: Jason Jones, Lurlinda Soignier,
Ellen Russell, Warner Creekmore

RESEARCH & EDUCATION POSTERS COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Eddie M.L. Smith
Vice Chair: Lemon Phelps
Members: Lionel Brown, Dr. Drew Gholson,
Shelby Hudson, Dr. Juan Silva

RECOGNITION & AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: President: Heather Jennings
Vice Chair: Past President: James Shannon
Members: Senior and Junior Directors,
Membership Chairs and
Past DSA Recipients

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Lindsey Pansano
Vice Chair: Jason Hurdle
Members: Donna Beliech, Beau Varner, Bonnie
White, Casey Moss, Dr. Kerri Jones,
Jennifer Williams

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Kelby King
Vice Chair: Kim Hancock
Members: Dillon Russell, Dr. Dean Jousan, Jennifer
Williams, Phillip Vandever Jr.

NACAA Committees

<https://www.nacaa.com/committees>

NACAA Committee Members Handbook

nacaa.com/committee-members-handbook

MACAA COMMITTEES

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair: Zach Yow
Vice Chair: Gene Merkl (Financial Records)
Vice Chair: Dr. Jason Barrett (Investments)
Fundraising: 2nd Vice President, Directors
Custodians: MACAA Executive Board
Members: Donna Beliech, Lance Newman

FINANCE COMMITTEE (INVESTMENTS)

Chair: Dr. Jason Barrett
Vice Chair: Zach Yow
Members: MACAA Executive Board

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Chair: Jessica Sibley
Vice Chair: Drew Wilson
Members: Dr. Alan Henn, Doug Carter, Brandon
Albersen, Dr. John Byrd

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION COMMITTEE

Chair: President: Heather Jennings
Vice Chair: President Elect: Dr. Drew Gholson

EXTENSION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Rocky Lemus
Vice Chair: Dr. Sherry Surrette
Members: Dr. Leyla Rios de Alvarez,
Amanda Blakeney, Meribeth Boland,
Dr. Jeff Wilson

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Alex Shook
Vice Chair: Matt Thornton
Members: Ellen Russell, Mary Love Tagert,
Steven Tucker

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Matt Thornton
Vice Chair: Jessica Sibley
Members: Brenton Breland, Ross Overstreet,
Drew Wilson

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Chair: Butch Bailey
Vice Chair: Matt Thornton
Members: Kaitlyn Ford, Dr. James Del Prince,
Melissa Morgan, Kyle Lewis,
Madison Jones

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Chair: Gina Wills
Vice Chair: Dr. Christine Coker
Members: Dr. John Byrd, Kimberly Hancock,
Brittany Odum, Amanda Woods



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS
COMMITTEE REPORTS

2024 – 2025 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2025 OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

Below are listings of award honorees. These individuals are not eligible for award nomination again until 2 years have lapsed.

Ruby D. Rankin Early-Career Programming Excellence.....Tristan Peavey

Elmo Collum Mid-Career Programming Excellence.....Sandy Havard

Booker Mims Excellence in Plant Agriculture Programs.....Randall Nevins

Wesley Farmer Excellence in Animal Agriculture Programs.....Melissa Morgan

Excellence in ANR Youth Programs.....Heather Jennings

Victor Lee Superior Service Award.....No Entry

PREVIOUS PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

Year	Booker Mims Excellence in Plant Agriculture	Wesley Farmer Excellence in Animal Agriculture	Ruby Rankin Early-Career Programming Excellence	Elmo Collum Mid-Career Programming Excellence	Victor Lee Superior Service	Excellence in ANR Youth Programs
2024	Donna Beliech	Kelby King	No Entry	Heather Jennings	No Entry	Melissa Morgan
2023	Kelby King	Doug Carter	No Entry	Jesica Sibley	Amanda Masholie	Kelby King
2022	No Entry	Kelby King	No Entry	Dr. Dean Jousan	No Entry	Heather Jennings
2021	Donna H. Beliech	No Entry	Kelby King	Marie Rogers	Thomas Brewer	Dr. Bill Burdine
2020	Dr. Charlie Stokes	No Entry	Heather Jennings	Dr. Brady Self	Dr. Jeff Wilson	Lurlinda Soignier
2019	Alex Deason	Keith Whitehead	Angie Byrd	Reid Nevins	Bill Burdine	Jessica Sibley
2018	Donna Beliech	Lemon Phelps	No entry	Randall Nevins	No Entry	Lemon Phelps
2017	Craig Hankins	Jimbo Burkhalter	Judd Gentry	Alex Deason	Michael Pruitt	Leanne W. McGee
2016	Gary Bachman	H. Brad Jones	Craig Hankins	Rocky Lemus	Donna Beliech	Betsy Padgett
2015	Jeff Wilson	Kipp Brown	Brady Self	Reid Nevins	No Entry	Kimberly Wilbourn
2014	Lelia Kelly	No entry	Ty Jones	Jimbo Burkhalter	Stanley Wise	Julie White
2013	No Entry	Reid Nevins	No Entry	Jeffrey Wilson	Judd Gentry	Leanne McGee

Year	Area Agent	County Director	Specialist
2012	Mark Mowdy Kipp Brown	Don Respass Amanda Walker	Darrin Dodds Glenn Hughs
2011	Cliff Covington (BM) (WF)Jeffrey Wilson	Stephanie Pendleton (VL) Eddie M.L. Smith	Rocky Lemus Mengmeng Gu
2010	Dennis Reginelli (BM) Wayne Porter	Anita Webb (VL) Patrick Poindexter	Alan Henn (WF) Angus Catchot
2009	Bill Burdine (BM) (WF) Don Bales	Houston Therrell (VL) Rebecca Bates	Wayne Wells Nathan Buehring
2008	Mike Howell (BM) Donna Beliech	Eddie Harris (VL) Tommy Bishop	Charlie Hogue (WF) No nominee
2007	Dennis Reginelli (BM) (WF) Kerry Johnson	John Cocarro (VL) Harvin Hudson	Angus Catchot Bill Herndon
2006	No nominees	Lamar Adams Steve Cummins	Erick Larson Lelia Kelly

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

The president may give one or more citations to individuals or groups in recognition of outstanding support to the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACAA) during his/her term. This is a decision solely of the MACAA president. Thus, this award is not lightly given, nor should it be lightly taken. It is the highest honor the association may give to an individual or organization that supports its mission.

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARD WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS

2025	Dr. Bill Burdine, Extension Specialist (Retired)
2024	Mr. Gene Merkl, Pesticide Safety Education Program
2023	Ron Beliech, MACAA website host and administrator
2022	Dr. Gary Jackson, Associate VP for Outreach and Engagement Dr. Steve Martin, Extension Director, Interim
2021	Dr. Charlie Stokes, Extension Agent IV-Chickasaw County
2020	Heather Jennings, 4-H Agent, Rankin County
2019	Andy Braswell, Extension County Coordinator, Leflore County
2018	Mark Crenshaw, State Swine Specialist
2017	Mike McCormick, President, Mississippi Farm Bureau
2016	David Carter and Natchez PIC Planning Committee
2015	MACAA Endowment Trustees: Ronnie Jones, Perry Lee, Tim Pepper, and Ed Williams
2014	Rob Seal, Lauderdale County Agri-Center Director
2013	Delta Ag. Expo Board of Directors 2013
2012	Joe Street, Associate Director, Extension State Program Leader - Agriculture
2011	Donna Schmitz, Graphic Design Assistant, MSU-ES Julia Biator, Director, Lee County Agri-Center
2010	Dan Brook, Computer Applications and Services (Ret.), MSU-ES
2009	Elmo Collum, Central Mississippi Research & Extension Center, MSU-ES
2008	Vance Watson, Interim Director, MSU-ES
2007	Wesley Farmer, Extension Dairy Specialist Victor Lee, County Director, Simpson County
2006	Mississippi Pork Producers Association
2005	Federal Land Bank Association of South Mississippi, FLBA
2004	Soybean Promotion Association Board (Mississippi)
2003	Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition (Moultrie, GA)
2002	No citation awarded
2001	Robert McCarty, Bureau of Plant Industry Wade Stewart, BASF
2000	Tommy Strickland, Director, Mississippi State Fairgrounds Nancy Strickland, MSU-ES/MAFES
1999	Clayton Henderson, House of Representatives, 9th District

NACAA COMMUNICATIONS AWARD PROGRAM – 2025 STATE WINNERS

MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

COMMUNICATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The MACAA Communication Award Program winners are listed below.

COMMUNICATION AWARD CATEGORIES

AUDIO RECORDINGS

1st Dr. Eddie Smith

COMPUTER GENERATED GRAPHICS PRESENTATION

1st Dr. Bill Burdine

2nd Dr. James Shannon

PERSONAL COLUMN

1st Dr. Eddie Smith

2nd Kelby King

FEATURE STORY

No Entry

EDU. VIDEO RECORDING

1st Dr. Eddie Smith

FACT SHEET

1st Dr. Bill Burdine

PUBLISHED PHOTO

1st Heather Jennings

2nd Kelby King

3rd Eddie Smith

PUBLICATION

Brenton Breland

WEBSITE/ONLINE CONTENT

Heather Jennings

LEARNING MODULE/NOTEBOOK

No Entry

EVENT PROMO PACKAGE

1st Kelby King

2nd Dr. Bill Burdine

3rd Brenton Breland

NEWSLETTER

1st Heather Jennings

2nd Melissa Morgan

3rd Kelby King

DISTRICT COMMUNICATORS OF THE YEAR

State –

Northeast – Dr. Bill Burdine

Southwest – Heather Jennings

Southeast – Eddie Smith

Northwest –

STATE COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

Heather Jennings

Search For Excellence Awards

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN 4-H PROGRAMMING

Jennifer Williams

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CONSUMER/COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE

Brenton Breland

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Kelby King and Kimberly Hancock

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN YOUNG, BEGINNING, OR SMALL FARMERS/RANCHERS

Matthew Thornton, Jessica Sibley, and
Laura Anglin



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2025
NACAA/ MACAA Communications Report
NACAA Communications Awards Competition

A way for members to be recognized for their outreach efforts.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Beliech

Upcoming Award Year 2025

Entries must have been first used between March 15, 2024, and March 15, 2025.

Electronic submission with a March 15 deadline.

Entries are scored on a 100-point scale ... Content, Format, Style, Technical Quality, Abstract, Script, Creativity, Readability, Personalized Approach, Organization & Continuity, Visuals, Appearance, Overall Appearance, Ease of Use, Design, etc.

Submissions by Region

Southern: 462 entries

North Central: 160 entries

Northeast: 111 entries

West: 62 entries

Summary of entries made in each of the **13 Communication Categories**

1. **Audio Recordings** - 52 entries
2. **Published Photo** – 82 entries
3. **Computer-Generated Presentation with Script** - 48 entries
4. **Event Promotional Package** – 93 entries
5. **Personal Column** - 68 entries
6. **Feature Story** - 54 entries
7. **Newsletter** - 99 entries
8. **Educational Video Recordings** - 68 entries
9. **Fact Sheet** - 83 entries
10. **Publication** – 54 entries
11. **Website/Online Content** - 50 entries
12. **Learning Module/Notebook** - 26 entries
13. **Bound Book/eBook** - 17 entries

TOTAL Entries – 794

- **MACAA**: State Category Winners – Certificate & CASH (\$20, \$40, \$80; \$240 Cap)
- **NACAA**: 12 Regional Category Finalists – Certificate
- **NACAA**: 3 National Finalists per Category - Certificate and \$250 cash
- **NACAA**: 1 National Winner per Category - Certificate and \$500

2024-2025 NACAA Communications Awards Committee

National Chair: Brittany Council-Morton

Southern Region Vice-Chair: Sarah Scott

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE 2025

The Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents was eligible for three Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) and three Achievement Awards (AA) based on our 2024 membership under NACAA guidelines. The number of DSAs and AAs selected each year is based on 2% of our association's membership as of February 15 of the previous year. This was an NACAA policy change as of 2012.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to members who have served at least 10 years as members of the Extension Service and the MACAA. The winners are selected by their peers and must be approved by the Extension Director. They are held in high esteem by their fellow members for their service in planning and delivering quality educational programs.

Achievement Award winners are selected by their peers for outstanding early-career programming. The winners must be current MACAA members with fewer than 10 years of employment with the Extension Service. **NACAA policy requires that all DSA and AA winners attend the NACAA AM-PIC in the year of their approval, to be showcased before a national audience during formal ceremonies for the prestigious awards.**

Exemptions are only extended for extenuating circumstances.

The following DSA and AA winners were selected in October 2025 and will be recognized at the NACAA Annual Meeting to be held in Denver, Colorado, July 8 – July 12, 2026.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Northwest – Dr. Drew Gholson

Southeast – Butch Bailey

State – Dr. Brandi Karisch

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Northwest – Dillon Russell

Southeast – Lindsey Pansano

State – Dr. Leyla Rios

Future Rotation (based on current membership staying above 130 members)

Distinguished Service Award

2027

Northeast

Southeast

Southwest

2028

State

Northwest

Northwest

2029

Northwest

Northwest

Southwest

2030

State

Southeast

Southwest

Achievement Award

2027

Southwest

Southeast

Northeast

2028

State

Northwest

Southwest

2029

Southwest

Northwest

Northeast

2030

State

Southeast

Southwest

NACAA / MACAA Scholarship Committee Report

Provide funds for a professional improvement opportunity.

Prepared and submitted by Scholarship Committee Member: **Donna H. Beliech**

Must be in good standing with MACAA for 2 years.

Must have contributed at least \$100-\$200 to be eligible for \$1,500-\$3,000 in educational funds.

Short Details:

Two application deadlines Dec. 1, 2025 & June 1, 2026.

Electronic submission <https://www.nacaa.com/scholarship/> Application is 1-3 pages (max). Individual or Group applications accepted. Scholarships have been awarded for advanced degrees, certification classes, specialized training or conferences, group study tours, etc.

NACAA members and friends donated \$25,740.64 to the scholarship program from May 16, 2024, through May 15, 2025. These financial contributions were made through ... individual donations, state donations, items brought for the auction, or purchasing cash drawing tickets. Total proceeds (Auction & Raffle) from the 2025 NACAA AM/PIC Scholarship fundraiser in Montana is \$24,182.57 (before expenses).

On Dec. 1, 2024, the scholarship committee received 8 qualified applicants (7 individuals & 1 group) who were awarded a total of \$15,334. The distribution of scholarship recipients by region was North Central—3, South—3, Northeast—0, and West—2.

On July 17, 2025, the scholarship committee reviewed 5 applications (4 individuals & 1 group) for educational merit, completeness, and quality. A total of \$15,300 was awarded. The distribution of applicants by region was: North Central – 0, South – 4, Northeast – 1, West – 0.

The NACAA Scholarship Committee managed the donated funds for the Territory Grant Program. Five Puerto Rican educators received funds to attend the Billings, MT AM/PIC.

Individuals

North American Association for Environmental Education
Slovenia Beekeeping Tour
Ireland Horticulture Tour
Ireland Agriculture Tour
Graduate School - Seed Science
Ireland Digital Technologies Symposium
Florida State Horticulture Society Conference
Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting

Groups

International Rangeland Congress in Adelaide, Australia
New Zealand & Australia, forage-based livestock production trip

2025-26 Scholarship Committee

National Chair: Jennifer Lutes (MO), lutesjl@missouri.edu 417-223-4775.

Southern Region Chair: Kathryn Holmes (NC) kathryn_holmes@ncsu.edu 336-342-8230.

MACAA MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF AUGUST 2025

Total contributions of members shown: \$1,933.00

Total awards of members shown: \$2,698.29

To be eligible for a Dec. 2025 or June 2026, \$1,500 educational scholarship you must have contributed at least \$100 by the end of this years' AM/PIC (before July 3,2025).

Only 7 of the 20 members listed below are eligible:

Contributor	Donations	Scholarships
<u>Barrett, J. R.</u>	200.00	828.29
Bearden, S.	40.00	
<u>Beliech, D. H.</u>	454.00	920.00
Boone, T. R.	64.00	
Carter, D.	40.00	
<u>Davis, A.</u>	140.00	
Henn, A.	40.00	
<u>Jennings, H.</u>	135.00	
Jones, B.	40.00	
<u>Jousan, D.</u>	115.00	
Martin, S.	40.00	

Contributor	Donations	Scholarships
McAdory, J.	40.00	
<u>Nevins, J. R.</u>	120.00	
Newman, L.	80.00	
Rogers, S. M.	40.00	
Shannon J.	20.00	
Ware, A.	40.00	
Wills, G.	40.00	
Wilson, D.	20.00	
<u>Wilson, J.</u>	120.00	950.00
Counts:	20	3



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

MACAA Investment Report

As of October 20, 2025

On October 20, 2025, the Mississippi Association of County Agriculture Agents (MACAA) assets with Meadowbrook Wealth Advisors of Raymond James, had an Ending Market Value of \$424,219.80.

Over the course of the last 12-month cycle, September 30, 2024, to September 30, 2025;

- Beginning Market Value of \$396,001.33
- Contributions/withdrawals of \$10,000.00
- Income of \$20,206.69
- Change in market value of \$18,616.47
- This makes for a combined investment result of \$38,823.16.

On September 30, 2025, the MACAA assets with Meadowbrook Wealth Advisors of Raymond James, had an Ending Market Value of \$424,824.49. The portfolio returns over this 12-month period was 9.91% with a quarter-to-date return of (0.14%).

The investment structure (asset allocation) of this account is:

- 8.92% Cash & Cash Alternatives (2024 – 4.92%, 2023 – 14.72%)
- 15.44% Fixed Income (2024 – 22.99%, 2023 – 22.73%)
- 74.57% Equity (2024 – 71.14%, 2023 – 61.66%)
- 1.06% Allocation Strategies (2024 – 0.95%, 2023 – 0.9%)

This account is in line with current market trends and should be meeting the needs of the association.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Jason R. Barrett, Chair
MACAA Finance/Investment Committee

MACAA 2024/2025 Statement of Income and Expenses (Checking)
Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/2025: \$16,716.50

Income		
2025 MACAA Membership Dues		
Membership Dues received for 2025 membership (130 active members & 3 life members)	\$11,325.07	
		\$11,325.07
2025 NACAA Conference Reimbursements		
JCEP Travel Reimbursement	\$450.00	
		\$450.00
Annual MACAA Sponsorships		
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation	\$1,000.00	
Tri State Soybean Forum	\$1,500.00	
Firewise	\$500.00	
		\$3,000.00
Raymond James Account Withdrawal		
Sponsorship for the Travel Expenses for Agents Travel to NACAA AM/PIC	\$10,000.00	
		\$10,000.00
Other Income		
MPSEP Sponsorship of MACAA 2024 Annual Meeting Lunch Meal	\$1,280.00	
MS Cattlemen's Association Sponsorship for Board Meeting Breakfast	\$197.60	
Interest on Checking Account	\$31.21	
		\$1,508.81
Total Income		
(2025 MACAA Membership Dues, 2025 NACAA Conference Reimbursements, Annual MACAA Sponsorships, Raymond James Account Withdrawal, and Other Income)		\$26,283.88

Expenses		
2024 Annual Conference Expenses		
Special Awards		
Wesley Farmer Excellence in Animal Agriculture Program Award - Kelby King	\$500.00	
Booker Mims Excellence In Plant Agriculture Program Award - Donna Beliech	\$500.00	
Excellence in ANR Youth Program Award - Melissa Morgan	\$500.00	
Elmo Collum Mid-Career Program Award - Heather Jennings	\$500.00	
Communication Awards	\$720.00	
Board Meeting Breakfast at Starkville Café	\$197.60	
MACAA Annual Meeting Lunch Meal	\$1,280.00	
Supplies for Annual Meeting - Ross Overstreet	\$43.87	
2024 MACAA Retiree Jackets	\$581.74	
		\$4,823.21
NACAA Membership Dues 2025		
Membership dues paid to NACAA for 2025 Membership	\$6,650.00	
		\$6,650.00
2025 NACAA Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference		
NACAA AM/PIC Conference Travel Expenses (Award Winners & Voting Delegates)	\$8,327.82	
JCEP & PILD Conference Travel Expenses	\$3,185.85	
State's Night Out Dinner at NACAA AM/PIC	\$637.50	
Bull Barn Rental Fee - MACAA Social at Agent Training	\$50.00	
MACAA Social Refreshments at Agent Training	\$352.49	
		\$12,553.66
Other Expenses		
Website Fees	\$201.80	
Rural Insurance Agency - Crime Policy	\$237.00	
Jones & Jones CPA - 990 Tax Filing Fee	\$275.00	
MSU-Ag. Comm. Print Shop - MACAA President Name Plates (2021-2025)	\$25.00	
		\$738.80
Total Expenses		
(2024 Annual Conference Expenses, NACAA Membership Dues 2025, 2025 NACAA Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference, Other Expenses)		\$24,765.67
Net Income (Total Expenses - Total Income)		\$1,518.21



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2025 MEMORIALS



Joe Porter Baker, Jr.
October 11, 1943 – July 12, 2025

Joe “JoJo” Baker, age 81, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at UAB Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Visitation will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from 12pm-2pm at Welch Funeral Home located at 201 W Lampkin, Starkville, MS 39759. The funeral will be at 2pm followed by a graveside service at Memorial Gardens. Cowbells are welcome at the graveside service.

Joe was born in York, Alabama on October 11, 1943, to the late Joe Porter Baker, Sr. and Jodie Baker. The eldest of four siblings, he spent his childhood in Indiana, Florida, and Mississippi. He graduated from high school in Macon, Mississippi in 1961, where he was a standout athlete in both football and baseball.

After high school, Joe attended the University of Mississippi for a year before transferring to Mississippi State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Animal Science in 1966. He went on to complete both a Master's and Doctorate at MSU—an institution he proudly supported for the rest of his life.

Joe married the love of his life, Kay Daniel in 1966. He then joined the U.S. Army Reserves, serving 6 years in the reserves at Clarksdale, MS. He also began a 32.5-year career with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. He served in various roles, including Assistant County Agent in New Albany, Area Livestock Specialist in Pontotoc, and later as the State 4-H Livestock Specialist. In 1982, Joe and Kay moved to Starkville with their son, Joe Dan, when Joe accepted a new position with MSU.

Some of Joe's greatest joys came from being a father and, later, a grandfather. He cherished coaching Joe Dan's baseball teams—All-Stars, Dizzy Dean, the 1994 State Championship, and the World Series in Georgia—and in more recent years, he took just as much pride in cheering on his grandsons, Porter and Kellen. Whether at a practice or a game, he never missed a chance to show up and support them.

A devoted Mississippi State Bulldog, Joe was a lifelong season ticket holder for football, basketball, and baseball, and a fixture in the legendary Left Field Lounge since the 1970s. He was a proud member of the MSU Quarterback Club and had one of the best cowbell collections around. He saw his first MSU vs. Ole Miss football game in 1962 and missed only four Egg Bowls in the decades since.

After retiring from Extension in 1998, Joe turned his passion for antiques into a second career as a dealer—buying, selling, and collecting everything from classic treasures to what he fondly called “junk.” He also served his community for over 20 years as a poll worker in Oktibbeha County and was elected to five terms as Election Commissioner, retiring again in 2023. He was a faithful member of the Global Methodist Church.

Joe's hobbies reflected his enthusiasm for life and sharing them with his friends and family. He built an impressive Coca-Cola memorabilia collection, and his Christmas decorations—especially his yard displays—became a local tradition beginning in the early 2000s. He loved the outdoors, spending countless hours hunting, fishing, water skiing, and walking in the woods. In recent years, his greatest joy was sharing those experiences with his grandsons.

Joe lived a life defined by love—for his family, his work, his community, and his Bulldogs. He led by example, lived simply, and gave generously. He was a role model and a man who never missed a chance to show up for the people he loved.

Joe is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Kay; his son, Joe Dan; daughter-in-law, Beth; and beloved grandsons, Porter and Kellen. He also leaves behind his brothers, Jackie Baker of Aliceville, AL, and Johnny Baker of Columbus, MS; his sister, Janice Gregg (Ron) of Hernando, MS; his cousin, Davis Baker (Kathy) of Columbus, MS; and nieces and nephews Jeff Gregg, Rusty Gregg, Troy Baker, Taft Baker, Jarrett Baker, and Jodie Baker Fortenberry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Jodie Baker.



Barry Kyle Wallace

June 14, 1946 - November 11, 2024

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 17, 2024 at Silver Creek Baptist Church in McComb for Barry Kyle Wallace, 78, of Foxworth, who passed away Monday, November 11, 2024 at his residence. Interment will be at Silver Creek Baptist Church Cemetery in McComb. Rev. Michael Perry and Rev. Wayne Hall will officiate the services. Julie Turnage will provide special music. Visitation will be held from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 17, 2024 at Silver Creek Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his Wife, Joy West Wallace; Father, Thomas TJ Wallace; Mother, Dulcie Simmons Wallace; Son, Stephen Rawson; Grandson, Ryan Rawson.

He is survived by his two Sons, Dr. Thomas Wallace (Darien) and Robert L. Rawson, Jr. (Kim); Daughter, Vanessa Green; seven Grandchildren, Kyle Wallace, Kallie Hopewell (Kyle), Jessica Greer (Joshua), Rachel Armitt (Allan), Stephen Green (Allie), Dr. Joshua Rawson and Weston Wallace; Brother, Russell Wallace (Rachel); 5 Great-Grandchildren; nephew, Brian Wallace (Marsha); niece, Melissa DeMille (Daniel).

The Pallbearers will be Brian Wallace, Kyle Wallace, Stephen Green, Brayden Greer, Josh Greer, and Kyle Hopewell. Hathorn Funeral Home oversees arrangements.

Friends may sign an online guest register book at www.hathornfuneralhome.com



Donald Jerry Blasingame
June 22, 1939 - August 5, 2025

Donald Jerry Blasingame was born to William Monroe and Velma Reagan Blasingame on June 22, 1939 and died on August 5, 2025 in Starkville. His family moved to Leflore County near Sidon, Mississippi. From his humble beginnings, Don accomplished much. He attended Sidon Elementary and later Morgan City High School. After Morgan City consolidated with other Leflore County schools, he attended and graduated from Leflore County High School. He excelled in sports and was quarterback all four years and baseball pitcher all four years of high school. In August of 1959 he was drafted into the Army. He trained as an operating room technician and quickly rose to sergeant E-5 after being assigned to the 24th Infantry Medical Battalion in Augsburg, Germany. On December 30, 1959, while on leave he married his high school sweet heart, Carol Patricia Allison. He returned to the Army and Patricia stayed home to attend school. In August of 1960, Patricia joined Don in Germany where their only child, Miriam Carol was born on May

30, 1961.

After completing military service, they returned to Morgan City. He began work with Staple Cotton Association and later worked in Greenwood Leflore Hospital as an inhalation therapist. In January of 1963, Don enrolled in Mississippi Delta Junior College. After graduation at MDJC they moved to Cleveland to attend Delta State. Don worked a full shift at Bolivar County Hospital. He received a BS in Biology and a minor in chemistry. Patricia received a BS in Education. Don and family moved to Starkville for Don to enroll in the Plant Pathology Department at Mississippi State while Patricia taught school in Columbus. After Don received his master's degree, they moved to Bryan, Texas where he received a National science Foundation Scholarship to attend Texas A & M University. In February of 1972 after Don received his PhD in Plant Pathology they moved to Starkville where he was hired by the MS Co-Operative Extension Service to work as a cotton specialist and Turfgrass Specialist. After working 20 plus years with the MS Cooperative Service he retired and he received the title of Professor Emeritus. He began work with the Southern Turfgrass Association as the Technical Director and with the Cotton Council in Memphis, TN where he was chairman of the Nematode Committees. Don received numerous awards from the Turfgrass Association for his promoting the Turfgrass Association and as editor of the newsletter. He received awards for his outstanding work with the MS Association of County Agents. But most of all, Don enjoyed his work for his Lord and Savior. He was ordained as a deacon in 1975. He served on the MS Baptist Convention Board for six years and was a certified deacon trainer for the MS Baptist Convention Board. Also, he served on the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Department. He first began teaching Sunday School to fifth grade boys at Central Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas. He progressed to college age and then senior adults. He was the Berean Sunday School teacher at First Baptist, Starkville until his eyes began to fail him.

He was a member of the Agricultural Development Foundation through which he made many agriculture mission trips to witness and help people learn how to feed themselves. He went to Belize, Honduras, Brazil, Ukraine, China, Mongolia, and it was the Christians of Bangladesh that stole his heart where he and Patricia made three trips. He and Patricia accompanied youth on mission trips to Georgia and Kentucky. Missions were a high priority with Don. Don and Patricia traveled all over the world. Their last trip was a family trip to Antarctica during the Christmas holidays. Don knew God had richly blessed his family. A few days ago, he said to a friend "I have worshipped the Lord on this side and I am ready to worship the Lord in Heaven." Don had two brothers, one sister, his parents, his only daughter and son-in-law to precede him in death. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 66 years, Patricia; grandson, Don Walker; great granddaughter, Dixie Walker; great grandson Donald Walker, all of Starkville, MS; and his older brother, Norman of Little Rock, AR. There are two other special young people, Tiffany Holland of Sault Ste. Marie, MS and Taylor Carrithers of Starkville, MS. There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Welch Funeral Home in Starkville, MS, however there will not be a visitation. Rev. Chip Stevens and Rev. Clifton Curtis will conduct the service.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4: 7



John Michael "Mike" Steede
November 5, 1963 – June 24, 2025

Age 61, passed away peacefully June 24, 2025, surrounded by his family and loved ones. A proud alumnus of Mississippi State University, he earned both a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural & Extension Education.

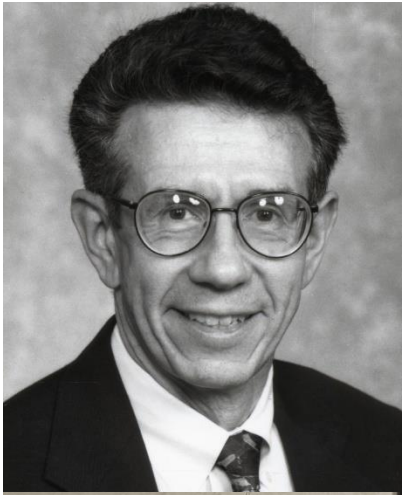
Mike's life was rooted in his love for his faith, his family, and the land. His devotion to his church and years of mission work reflect an unwavering faith and service to others. His passion for agriculture and stewarding the land is something he passed on to not only his children, but his numerous students—formal and non-formal. He treasured time with his loved ones and passed on values of hard work, integrity, and generosity. In every field he planted, every mission trip he served, and every family memory he made, Mike's warmth, faith, and gentle spirit will be deeply missed by all those he loved.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Toler and Iness Steede, Rev. Millard, Virgie and Kathleen Howell; in-laws, Kenneth and Barbara Bell.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife, Darlene Bell Steede; children, Garrett (Jesse) Steede and Shelby (Mason) Hudson; grandchildren, Ellie Jean and Millie Rae Hudson; parents, C.G. and Glynda Fay Steede; sister, Loretta (Darrin) Steede; brother, Heath (Mandy) Steede; numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

The Visitation will be Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Crossroads Free Pentecostal Church. The Funeral Service will begin at 2:00 PM in the church sanctuary with Rev. Warren Slay and Rev. Chris Bell officiating. Burial will follow in Carter Cemetery with Pallbearers including Gunter Steede, Hank Cochran, Marty Havard, Greg Mizell, Charlie Flurry and Mike Cochran. Honorary Pallbearers will include Mike's Sunday School Class.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Crossroads Free Pentecostal Church, 7231 River Rd, Lucedale, Mississippi for their mission work of putting water wells in Africa through the Call To The Nations Organization. Mail donations to Crossroads Free Pentecostal Church, P O Box 1572, Lucedale, MS, 39452, marked In Memory of Mike Steede, or call Warren Slay at 601-508-2605 for more information.



Milo Burnham

August 8, 1938 To March 7, 2025

Milo Burnham, 86, passed away on March 7, 2025. A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary at Trinity Presbyterian Church which is located on Hospital Road, Starkville, Mississippi. Visitation with the family will take place in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. Inurnment at the columbarium of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Starkville, Mississippi will be held at a future date.

Milo is survived by his son Kevin Eric, (wife Tye), and granddaughter Isabella of Brandon, Mississippi and his daughter Rachael Lynn, (husband Jonathan Pybus) and grandsons Jacob Milo and Colton Jonathan of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. In addition to his children, their spouses and his grandchildren, Milo is survived by 5 first cousins, one niece (Janine Burnham Ruth) and one nephew (Wayne Stephen Burnham).



Milo Burnham (no middle name) was born in Hackensack Hospital in Hackensack, New Jersey on August 8, 1938. He resided in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey for the first 18 years of his life, and graduated from Wood-Ridge High School in 1956. Milo was named after his great grandfather, Milo Frank Burnham, who was born in Calais, Vermont in 1857. Milo was preceded in death by his parents, Thelma Ducorsky and Allison Wayne Burnham, his grandparents, his three aunts and three uncles, and his brother Gerald Burnham.

Milo was born with a love of horticulture and the growing of plants. This came as no surprise since so many Vermont based ancestors listed their occupation on early US Federal Census forms as "farmer." Much of

Milo's early horticulture training came from his very close relationship with his Wood-Ridge next door neighbor, a Georgia lady, Blanche Bell. As a child, when ever asked what he was going to do when he grew up, Milo replied "I'm going to Rutgers University and study horticulture", and that is exactly what he did.

Raised in a single parent home, in his teenage years Milo looked after the property surrounding the small house in which he grew up. Always planting something or rooting cuttings, Milo loved bearded iris, 4 o'clocks, sweet peas, zinnias and marigolds. As soon as he could, Milo took on a paper route and when old enough, got working papers and took a job working after school and on weekends for the Madsen and Christensen Greenhouses, a large commercial greenhouse grower of holiday plants in Wood-Ridge. He worked until he graduated high school and left Wood-Ridge to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey to study horticulture.

Milo never claimed to be especially bright, and high school and standardized tests were hard for him but led to a strong sense of perseverance and the development of good study habits that enabled him to excel in college. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with High Honors in General Agriculture from Rutgers University in 1960, a Master of Science Degree in Horticulture from the same university in 1961, and a Doctorate in Horticulture from Michigan State University in 1965.

In the summer of 1965, following receipt of his doctorate, Milo married a Michigan girl, Sonja Linda Carlson. Immediately following his marriage in Michigan in 1965, Milo and Sonja headed for Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Louisiana State University where Milo had accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Horticulture, and where he taught a graduate level course in Cytogenetics and another in Plant Morphology. A son, Kevin, was born in Baton Rouge in September 1970, just 6 weeks prior to Milo and family leaving for Starkville, Mississippi and Mississippi State University. Milo had accepted the position of Assistant Extension Horticulture Specialist with the Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service. A daughter, Rachael Lynn Burnham, was

born in 1974. These two children were Milo's pride and joy for the rest of his life. Milo and Sonja divorced in the summer of 1987.

Milo worked 27 years for Mississippi State University in the capacity of an Extension Horticulturist and at retirement in 1996 held the title of Leader of Extension Horticulture in the Plant and Soil Sciences Department. During his time at MSU, Milo authored many publication among which "The Garden Tabloid", a home vegetable gardening publication, was for many years the most popular Extension publication. Milo was active in radio and tv and participated in many Extension educational programs. Milo wrote a weekly newspaper column on gardening and hosted a live weekly radio program on gardening. He also served for many years as host of "The Golden Triangle Gardener," a radio program produced by a local radio station. He continued to host this program for several years after retirement. Following Milo's retirement Starkville local garden clubs had a tree and plaque of appreciation placed outside Dorman Hall on the Mississippi State University campus.

Milo developed a late in life interest in voice, much to his mother's amusement, she being a professional vocalist in her young life, and became a member of the Starkville/MSU Symphony Chorus and the Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir, utilizing his rich bass voice for his own enjoyment and that of others. He participated in a vocal group, Cross Fire, and also sang with the Columbus Choral Society and the Trinity Presbyterian Church group called The Men in Black. For several years he traveled to Columbus, Mississippi to participate as a member of the chorus in the annual performance of Handel's Messiah. Other community activities Milo participated in were Starkville's Board of Adjustments and Appeals, City Beautification Committee, and the Board of Directors of the Starkville Symphony Association, Board of Directors of the Starkville Community Theater, and the Starkville Jaycees.

Milo never lost his interest in gardening and after retirement from Mississippi State University in 1996, he developed a strong interest in daylilies. In 1999, he started a daylily breeding program which gave him great pleasure when the new seedlings bloomed each May. This he said was like having Christmas every day. Though he never named or released any daylily varieties his efforts produced many very attractive unnamed seedlings which he freely shared with gardening friends.

Milo thought of himself as a pretty good cook and enjoyed preparing food for family and friends. He loved collecting art and added many pieces to his collection from the Kentuck Festival and local art fairs. Milo also loved the many pets he had during his life including birds, dogs, and goldfish.

Long after he should have, Milo developed an interest in his family history. Milo worked hard on tracing and developing a genealogy of his family, a combination of his mother's Russian immigrants with his father's old Vermont, New England and French Canadian families. Milo spent a whole week in the Mormon Church Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and made many trips to look at microfilm at the Latter Day Saint Library in Columbus, Mississippi. With the advent of ancestry.com, Milo spent countless hours on-line on his computer tracking his New England extended family members.

After a fall which broke his hip in 2021, Milo moved to The Blake in Flowood, MS, to be closer to family. While there, he became an active resident participating in painting classes, going out to lunch with the "lunch bunch", and playing cards.

Although a large amount of Milo's time was dedicated to his job and many interests and hobbies, his children and grandchildren were the center of his life and he loved spending time with them. He loved them unconditionally, and they provided him with much joy.

Contributions in memory of Milo can be made to: The National Audubon Society, 225 Varick St., New York, NY, 10014. Phone: 212-979-3196. www.audubon.org



Dr. Jackie Wayne Carroll
July 21, 1940 - October 5, 2024

Starkville, MS – Dr. Jackie Wayne Carroll, 84, passed away on October 5, 2024, peacefully at home in Starkville, MS, surrounded by the love of his family.

Jack was born in Bessemer, AL, and was a graduate of McAdory High School of McCalla, AL. He attended Birmingham-Southern College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry. He earned his master's degree in biology and his Ph.D. in cell physiology and biochemistry at The University of Alabama. During his postdoctoral work, he lived in New York, where he worked at Sloan Kettering doing research on Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

During his career, he worked at Mississippi State University in various roles including environmental specialist and associate professor, among others, always having a love of chemistry. After his retirement in 1996, his love of travel, MSU baseball, practical jokes, and most of all, the love of his family prevailed.

He is survived by his wife and high-school sweetheart, Charleen, to whom he was married for 62 wonderful years; his son, William "Bubba" Carroll (Karen) of Birmingham, AL; his daughter, Tonia Carroll-Davis (Dale) of Eupora, MS; beloved granddaughter, Anastasia Warren (Harrison) of Vicksburg, MS; sister-in-law, Martha Carroll of New Market, AL; brother-in-law, Charles "Buddy" Ramey, Jr. (Betty) of McCalla, AL, as well as many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to American Cancer Society Joe Lee Griffin Hope Lodge of Birmingham, AL or the church of your choice.

The celebration of Jack's life will be held at 12:00 PM on Saturday, October 12th, 2024, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 820 Evergreen, Starkville, MS. Graveside services will be held at Valhalla Cemetery in Birmingham, AL, on Saturday, October 19th.



James "Jim" Berry Hollis Sr.
October 10, 1941 - January 27, 2025

Graveside services for Mr. James "Jim" Hollis Sr. will be held Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Oddfellows Cemetery in Aberdeen, MS, with Rev. David Meadows Officiating. Robert Barham Family Funeral Home is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements. Visitation will be Friday, January 31, 2025, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at the funeral home.

James "Jim" Berry Hollis Sr., age 83, of Meridian, MS, passed away Monday, January 27, 2025, at Brookdale Meridian.

Jim graduated from Derma High School and then went on to attend Mississippi State University graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture with a minor in animal science.

While at Mississippi State, Jim was introduced to Ms. Linda Earnest, at a MSU Basketball Game. After graduation Jim and Linda married in 1965 and made their home in Meridian, MS. Jim went to work for the Extension Service of Mississippi State University. He was a 4H youth agent, and then later became the Lauderdale County Extension Agent. In the midst of his career, he earned a Master's Degree from Mississippi State University. After a 28-year career Jim retired as the County Agent for Mississippi State University Extension - Lauderdale County.

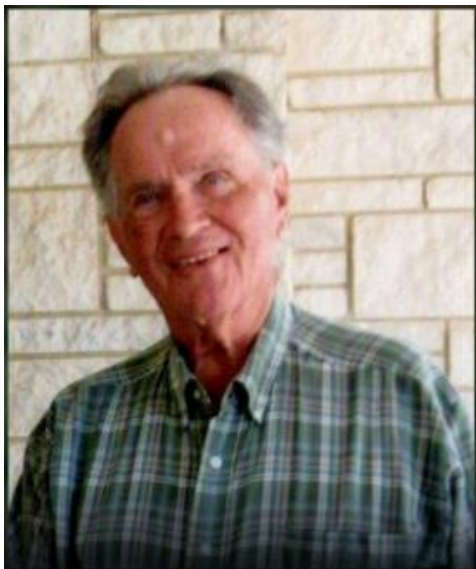
Jim was a dedicated fan of all Mississippi State University sports. He enjoyed woodworking and was a Licensed Hamm radio operator (KA5DOQ). Jim and Linda were active members of Druid Hills United Methodist Church.

After the tragic loss of their daughter Sarah, Jim and Linda joined with other grieving parents to co-found a chapter of Compassionate Friends here in Meridian, MS for bereaved parents.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Linda E. Hollis, son, James "Jay" Hollis Jr. (Cecilia), grandchildren; James "Trey" Hollis III (Whitney) and Carmen Hollis (Mark Cherry), great-grandchildren; Ledger "L.J.", Gwen, and Ayla, siblings; Jane Landreth (Denny) and Joe Hollis (Joanne) and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sarah Hollis, parents, Franklin Graham Hollis Sr., and Maggie Spraberry Hollis, brother; Franklin "Frank" Graham Hollis Jr.

Pallbearers will be, James "Trey" Hollis, Mart Murphree, Franklin Hollis, Graham Murphree, Matthew Walker, and Austin Walker.



John Aldrich Wilson, Sr.
Jan 10, 1936 - Oct 18, 2024

John Aldrich Wilson, Sr., 88, passed away Friday, October 18, 2024, at his home. He was born January 10, 1936, in Itawamba County to James Gordy and Audra Eva Dell Ledbetter Wilson. He worked as a County Agent for the MSU Itawamba County Extension Service before retiring in 2001. He was a member and deacon of Providence Baptist Church and was caretaker of Providence Cemetery for many years. He was a veteran of the United States Army. John was an avid gardener until he wasn't able, but he still bossed everyone else around to make sure they were doing things to his liking. He enjoyed football, especially Mississippi State and Ole Miss, and riding his side-by-side on the several trails he made. He was also a bee keeper

who loved giving away the honey. Most of all, he was a family man who loved spending his time with them and watching the grandchildren play in the yard.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 20, at the McNeece-Morris Funeral Home Chapel in Fulton with Bro. Jeff Lentz and Bro. Paul Stupka officiating. Burial will be in the Providence Cemetery. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Sandra Grissom Wilson; and his three daughters, Tammy Holland (James), Terri Brown (Nick), and Candy Robinson (Michael), all of Tremont; one brother, Lanny Wilson (Becky) of Tupelo; three sisters, Janice Shepherd (Mike) of Bartlett, TN, Shirley Whitfield of Red Bay, AL, and Judy Rogers of Tremont; 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by one son, John A. Wilson, Jr.; his parents, Gordy and Eva Dell Wilson; three brothers, James Robert Wilson, Gerald Wilson, and Ross Wilson; and three sisters, Helen Stone, Jackie Lucas, and Brenda Wilson.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons: Steven Holland, Tyler Delancey, CJ Thompson, Chase Westmoreland, Blain Evans, Zack Ramey, and Cody Cook.

Honorary pallbearers will be his granddaughters: Lizabeth Holland, Lezlie Thompson, Lindzey Holland, Jamie Westmoreland, Krista Evans, Haley Ramey, Hannah Robinson, Amber Brown Gasaway, and Jessie Brown; and grandsons, Peyton Robinson and Tommy Brown.

Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until service time Sunday at the McNeece-Morris Funeral Home in Fulton.

Condolences may be shared with the Wilson family at mcneecemorrisfuneralhome.com.



Cicero Price Miller

November 16, 1929 – August 1, 2025

Cicero Price Miller went to his heavenly home on August 1, 2025, at the age of 95. Mr. Miller was a life long resident of Decatur, MS. Price was born on November 16, 1929 in West Point, MS to Samuel Cicero Miller and Emma Perry Miller. He spent his childhood on a farm in Chester, MS where he was raised to love the land and always worked hard. He attended the small school in Chester where he met his best friend, Billy Jenkins. They remained great friends through their lifetime. After graduating from Chester High School, he attended Wood Junior College where he played on their

basketball and tennis teams. After his two years at Wood, he attended his beloved Mississippi State where he received a degree in Agriculture Business. After graduating from Mississippi State, Price was employed by the Mississippi Extension Service and soon moved to Decatur, MS where he served as County Agent for Newton County. He was involved in 4-H programs, rural community development, dairy, farming poultry, and catfish programs. He loved his job and loved developing relationships with the farmers throughout the county. Some of his fondest memories were attending the different community center meetings in the county. During his time at Wood Junior College, he met his future wife, Rebecca Jo-Anne Manning. They married September 13, 1952. Soon afterward, Price was deployed with the US Navy on a US Destroyer. He sent his new bride gifts from each port he docked. These gifts are still proudly displayed in their home that they built together in the mid 1950s in Decatur. They had two children, Sam and Annette. Price was devoted to his family and faithfully took care of Jo-Anne who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis right before they were married. He was often described as an angel on earth by his mother-in-law, Opal Manning. After Jo-Anne's death in 1998, Price married Sarah Burkett in April 2000 until her death in 2023. Price and Sarah enjoyed travel and both were involved in the American Legion. From the time Price moved to Decatur, he joined the Decatur Methodist Church and was a faithful servant. He led by quiet example. Every Sunday, he could be found on the right-side back pew. In the last few years, the lack of stamina kept him from attending very often, but he was so very thankful for his church family. He was proud to say he had welcomed around 14 different pastors to the church and had helped most of them move into the parsonage. Even though he stated he did not help with the current pastor's move this year, Price and Brother Steve did enjoy their visits and was thankful for him. Price is survived by his daughter, Annette Callaway (Brint), his son Sam Miller, three granddaughters who Price adored, Emily Callaway Faulkner (Jordan), Anna Callaway Jeffries (Wade), and Katie Callaway. He also has two great-grandsons, Grayson Faulkner and Miller Faulkner. The family would like to express their love and say a very special thanks to Price's caregiver and friend, Patricia Eaves. Services will be held at Milling Funeral Home in [Union, MS](#) on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 11:00 with visitation one hour prior to the service. Brother Steve Potter will officiate. Price will be laid to rest beside his wife, Jo-Anne, in Ingomar, MS at 3:30. Pallbearers will be Jordan Faulkner, Wade Jeffries, Jordan Evans, Graham Clarke, Tommy Keith, and Johnny McLaurin.



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2024-2025 BOARD MINUTES

MACAA Annual Meeting
Memorial Hall Coskrey Auditorium
Mississippi State University
10/21/24

President Ross Overstreet opened meeting with a welcome to all in attendance.

-Retirees were recognized.

-Representatives from the other professional associations made comments and gave welcome.

-Administrators in attendance were recognized.

-Dr. Catchot gave an overview of upcoming events during the annual conference.

-A representative from Call 811 gave a presentation about their organization and discussed a recent change in legislature (SB2603).

-Ross presented the Presidential Citation Award to Mr. Gene Merkl.

-ASA and DSA award recipients were recognized.

AA Recipients	DSA Recipients
Sandy Havard- Warren	Jessica Sibley - Desoto
Micheal Pruden - Coahoma	Jim McAdory - Winston
Cody Mills -Oktibbeha/Webster	Lurlinda Soignier - Hinds

-Outstanding Program Awards were presented.

Elmo Collum Mid-Career Award	Heather Jennings
Booker Mims Excellence in Plant Ag.	Donna Belich
Wesley Farmer Excellence in Animal Ag.	Kelby King
Excellence in Youth ANR	Melissa Morgan

-Communication Awards were presented

-See PowerPoint presentation

-Ross Overstreet opened the business portion of the annual meeting asking for any old or new business. Donna Belich asked about the future of our PIC conferences. Ross said that the board would hold discussion about possibly holding one in 2025.

-Dr. Jason Barrett gave the financial investment update. Dr. Barrett stated that as of 9/30/24 the investment account balance was \$396001.33.

-Ross Overstreet directed everyone to look at pages 35-36 of the annual program book since the treasurer Zack Yow was absent.

-NACAA Secretary Donna Belich gave an update on open committee chair/vice chair positions within the southern region and encouraged our members to consider applying. Donna announced that the 2025 NACAA PIC conference would be held in Billings, MT between 6/29/25-7/2/2025.

-Southern region vice director, Sherri Sanders gave an update on the upcoming NACAA PIC conference and shared with our membership the many benefits of being an active member in NACAA.

-Heather Jennings gave a sponsorship update and read the list of current association sponsors.

-Four past association members who have recently passed were memorialized.

-New officers were installed.

-Ross Overstreet gave his outgoing president speech.

-James Shannon gave the incoming president speech.

-Meeting was adjourned.

MACAA BOARD MEETING

Starkville Café

Starkville, MS

10/22/24

President James Shannon opened the meeting. He invited discussion about plans for the 2025 PIC conference. There was discussion of whether MACAA plans to continue partnering with MAE4HA to plan and implement a joint conference. There was also discussion of MACAA supporting its membership while on campus for the August professional development training provided by the administration in lieu of a PIC conference. It was determined that more communication between associations and administration was necessary before making any decisions.

Jason Barrett gave an update on the MACAA financial investment with our total being slightly below four hundred thousand dollars. Jason recommended the board consider endowing current scholarships and awards through the MSU foundation. Jason shared his knowledge of the process of depositing and requesting funds that are given to the foundation for endowment. The board decided that it would be advantageous to invite MSU foundation representative Will Staggars to the next board meeting to answer any questions that the board may have to aid in making the most informed decision on a potential endowment with the foundation. Alex Shook suggested that the board consider developing a financial mission statement to help guide future board members.

Gene Merkl stated that the pesticide education program wished to continue supporting our organization through sponsorships.

There was discussion about the balance in our checking account. Heather Jennings stated that there was approximately Eight thousand dollars currently in the account and explained what expenses could still be expected. Ross Overstreet made a motion to withdraw Five thousand Dollars from the investment account and deposit in the association checking account to cover future expenses. The motion was seconded by Heather Jennings. The motion passed unanimously.

Drew Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MACAA Board Meeting

11/20/24, via Zoom

- James Shannon opened the meeting.
- James Shannon asked everyone to look over the minutes from the annual meeting and board meeting. Heather Jennings made a motion to approve, Cody mills seconded.
- Zack Yow gave the treasury report. Motion made by heather Jennings seconded by Cody mills
- Will Staggars from the MSU Foundation gave a presentation and answered questions from board members on the process of endowing awards.
- Much discussion amongst the board members was had. The complete transcript of the discussion is available. In summary, there was a consensus to take what Will had presented and meet with our Raymond James Rep, Chris Correro, to compare the services we have with Raymond James and that any action on the matter of moving any money to the MSU foundation would be taken before the membership at the annual meeting. Alex Shook brought up exploring the possibility of utilizing some of the association funds to endow a scholarship for the children of MACAA members.
- After a motion was made by Alex Shook and seconded by Heather Jennings, the Board agreed to appoint Zack Yow, Ross Overstreet and Reid Nevins to an Ad Hoc committee to create a Financial Mission Statement for the Association.
- Heather Jennings gave an update on new rules and deadlines for paying national dues. The new policy on dues is that they will become delinquent after February 15th and then a \$10 late fee will be levied to the membership dues for everyone after that. Discussion was had on encouraging unpaid members to get their dues turned in.

- James and Heather will schedule a meeting with Dr. Catchot after the new year to discuss PIC and continued support for our members attending NACAA, PILD and JCEP.
- Meeting Adjourned

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes
12/18/24, via Zoom

- James Shannon opened the meeting and asked everyone to review and consider accepting minutes from the previous meeting.
 - Motion made by Jessica Sibley
 - Second by Kelby King
- Zach Yow gave treasurers report
 - Current Balance in Checking account \$13,953.52
 - Expenses: Retiree Jackets \$581.74
 - 8 memberships paid
 - Membership chairs have been contacting members with delinquent dues.
- We received the updated endowment agreement from Will Stagers for the Associations consideration. The board still plans to meet with Chris Correro from Raymond James to explore all available options before bringing the decision to the membership.
- James gave an update on Ad Hoc Committee to create a financial mission statement. Nominees Ross Overstreet and Zach Yow accepted, and Reid Nevins is no longer a member of the association and therefore ineligible to serve on the committee. James opened the floor for nominations for a third member of the Ad Hoc Committee. Heather Jennings nominated Amanda Masholie to serve on the committee.
- James Asked Gene Merkl (Chair of Teaching and Ed Tech committee) to work with CTO Contact Dale Moore on updating the association website.
- Gene Merkl told the board that we still had a vacancy for Jr. Director and asked for nominations. Ross Overstreet nominated Dr. Rocky Lemus to fill the position.
- James Shannon will attend ELC in Savannah, GA
- Heather Jennings will attend PILD in DC
- Ross Overstreet made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gene Merkl.

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes
1/22/2025, via Zoom

President James Shannon opened the meeting at 9:02 am.

Those in attendance: James Shannon, Heather Jennings, Kelby King, Randall Nevins, Jessica Sibley, Lindsay Pansano, Whitney Crow, Butch Bailey, Gene Merkl, Drew Gholson, Rocky Lemus and Kyle Lewis.

James Shannon asked everyone to look over the minutes from the board meeting. Jessica Sibley made a motion to approve, Rocky Lemus seconded. Motion carried.

James Shannon gave the treasury report: \$16,136.66.

Financial mission statement update – James will check on the status with Zach Yow.

James recapped the meeting that he and Heather Jennings met with Dr. Catchot and Dr. Irby regarding MACAA Leadership, PIC, etc. He stated that there are plans for an August in-service training and more in-service training at the Annual Conference. Dr. Catchot would like our association to give ideas for training at the Annual Conference and to think about

what our organization is and how we would like to promote it.

There was discussion regarding our MACAA PIC and what that would look like. Rocky Lemus made a motion to piggyback off the planned August training and have a MACAA Night/Meeting instead of having a separate MACAA PIC Conference. Drew Gholson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

When August training is planned, Administration will let us know which day will primarily be ANR training and we will have a PIC/Meeting/Social that evening. Butch stated that he would help with the social. Rocky suggested tours and demonstrations be part of this. Rocky also suggested that we contact Human Science and develop some type of survey to access what type of training we would like offered that would go more in depth and break down into training wanted at the new-agent level, mid-agent level and late-agent level.

Annual Conference date is November 5-7th.

Bost Conference Center/Theatre is reserved for MACAA for our Annual Meeting.

James Shannon will represent MACAA at JCEP in February and Heather Jennings will represent MACAA at PILD in April. Heather asked that any members send her talking points they might like addressed for PILD.

James mentioned that the MACAA Board has a meeting later today with Chris Corroero with Raymond James to discuss the Investment Account.

Heather Jennings made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rocky Lemus seconded the motion, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Next MACAA Board Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025.

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes

02/26/25, via Zoom

In Attendance:

Gene Merkl, Ross Overstreet, James Shannon, Jim McAdory, Drew Wilson, Drew Gholson, Jessica Sibley, Zach Yow, Butch Bailey in attendance.

James Shannon called to order at 9:00AM.

Financial Update - Zach Yow – motion to accept as presented by Gene Merkl 2nd by Butch Bailey - **ACCEPTED**

Checking account balance of 10,515.09 as of 2/26/25

Expenses:

NACAA \$6550 for 120 members and 3 life members

990 Tax Filing Fee - \$275

Income:

Membership \$1200

Outstanding income

\$197.60 from Cattlemen's Assoc. for Board meeting in October

Paying dues late (after 2/15) will incur a \$10 fee which will be fully paid for by the member

Motion by Jessica Sibley, 2nd by Heather Jennings – **PASSES**

Discussion –

Look into moving money into checking account to pay any upcoming expenses.

-NACAA conference, PILD/JCEP conferences, Social event at August training, etc.

Financial Mission Statement Committee – will try to present draft at next meeting

James Shannon – Gave JCEP ELC thoughts and overview from trip to Washington

Look into possibly increasing the stipend for members/award winners/voting delegates to national conference with travel cost increasing and possibly less support from administration

Adjourn – motion by Gene Merkl 2nd by Ross Overstreet

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes
03/19/25, via Zoom

In Attendance:

Gene Merkl, Alex Shook, James Shannon, Vicki Ganaan, Drew Wilson, Drew Gholson, Kelby King, Whitney Crow, Butch Bailey, Rocky Lemus, Cody Mills, Heather Jennings in attendance.

James Shannon called to order at 9:00AM.

James Shannon asked everyone to review minutes from the previous meeting and then asked for a motion to accept.

Motion- Butch Bailey

Second- Cody Mills

Minutes were accepted

Discussion –

James Stated that we have 6 award winners and 3 voting delegates attending the national conference in Montana. Administration has agreed to provide a \$500 stipend for the award winners and MACAA will provide \$500 for voting delegates. James explained that the conference this year was going to be more expensive than conferences in the past. There will be an approximate cost of \$3000.00 per attendee this year. He requested that the board consider increasing the financial stipend for conference attendees to help offset the cost. James asked that the board consider increasing the amount provided by MACAA by \$1000 dollars per attendee for a total of \$9000. This would obligate MACAA to provide a total of \$1000 per award winner and \$1500 per voting delegate for the 2025 NACAA AM/PIC.

A motion was made by Alex Shook to approve a one-time increase of \$1000 in travel funds per conference attendee for a total of \$9000.00.

Second by Drew Gholson

Vote was unanimous to approve motion.

Any future increases above the normal \$500 per voting delegate will be determined by board on a year-to-year basis.

Awards update

Kelby has submitted the search for excellence award candidates to the southern region chair.

Brenton Breland is in the process of getting communication awards judged.

James asked if there was any further business. Hearing none , he then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion -Butch Bailey

Second- Drew Gholson

Meeting adjourned

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes
04/16/25, via Zoom

In Attendance:

Gene Merkl, Alex Shook, James Shannon, Drew Wilson, Drew Gholson, Brent Breland, Ross Overstreet Heather Jennings, Jessica Sibley in attendance.

James Shannon called to order at 9:00AM.

James Shannon asked everyone to review minutes from the previous meeting and then asked for a motion to accept.

Motion- Heather Jennings

Second- Ross Overstreet

Minutes were accepted

Financial Report Given by James Shannon

Balance- \$10,732.76

Income -\$450.00 (JCEP)

Expenses - \$237.00 (Insurance)

Motion to accept treasury report made by Ross Overstreet

Seconded by Gene Merkl

Motion Passed

Old Business

Financial Mission Statement

James asked Ross for an update from the Ad Hoc Committee tasked with creating a financial mission statement. Ross replied that the committee had not yet met and that he hoped to have something by the next meeting.

Presidents Jacket and Plaque

Ross Overstreet reminded the group that he had selected a blazer to commemorate his presidency in lieu of a plaque last year. He shared some options with the board. Heather Jennings mentioned that several other states provide their presidents with a blazer usually adorned with the same colors as the university they represent. Alex Shook made a motion that MACAA presidents beginning with Ross Overstreet receive a Blazer and a plaque to commemorate their service to the association. The motion was seconded by Heather Jennings. Motion passed.

New Business

PILD Report

Heather Jennings gave a report on PILD. She said that the group was able to meet with three MS legislators and the staff members for the rest. She said that all were knowledgeable of MSU Extension Service and that the group was well received.

Presidents Plaque in Bost

James spoke with Chris Sowers on campus and is working on getting the MACAA presidents plaque updated in Bost Lobby.

NACAA States Night Out

James has a venue/ restaurant located to host MS states night out dinner at the NACAA in Billings, MT. He asked the board members to help identify all MACAA members that were attending the NACAA Conference so that he could reserve enough space. There was a determination of approximately 25 people attending. James said that he would send an email to all MACAA members and try to get an accurate count of who would be attending the conference. James asked for a motion to approve MACAA paying for the States night out meal at the 2025 NACAA Conference. The motion was made by Heather Jennings and seconded by Ross Overstreet. The motion passed.

MACAA Hospitality event at August training

Heather asked James to contact Dr. Irby and get an agenda for the August agents training held on campus so that we could proceed with planning a hospitality event for MACAA members in lieu of a PIC conference.

MACAA Representation at New Agent Orientation

Alex asked James to consider making a request to administration for an MACAA member to be allowed to make short promotion to new agents about the benefits of MACAA membership. James stated that he was scheduled to attend the next new agent meeting and that he would promote MACAA membership.

James asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion -Ross Overstreet

Second- Gene Merkl, Meeting adjourned.

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes
05/21/25, via Zoom

Butch Bailey, Alex Shook, James Shannon, Drew Wilson, Brady Self, Vicki Ganaan, Heather Jennings, Jessica Sibley, Kelby King, Zack Yow in attendance.

James Shannon called to order at 9:00AM.

James Shannon asked everyone to review minutes from the previous meeting and then asked for a motion to accept.

Motion- Jessica Sibley

Second- Drew Wilson

Minutes were accepted

Financial Report Given by Zack Yow

Balance- \$9049.11

Income -\$1500 (Tri State Soybean Forum)

Expenses - \$3185.85 (\$1818.63 JCEP) (\$1367.22 PILD)

Motion to accept treasury report made by Jessica Sibley

Seconded by Vicki Ganaan

Motion Passed

Old Business

Presidents Plaque in Bost

James is working with new print shop manager on campus to get the MACAA presidents plaque updated in Bost Lobby.

NACAA States Night Out

James has made a reservation at Hooligan's Sports Bar to host MS states night out dinner at the NACAA in Billings, MT.

MACAA Hospitality event at August training

James reported that Dr. Irby still doesn't have an agenda for the August agents training held on campus. We are waiting on that agenda to proceed with planning a hospitality event for MACAA members in lieu of a PIC conference.

New Business

Deceased Members

Jessica Sibley is working on a list of deceased MACAA members for Annual meeting. Once she has compiled the list she will share with James who will send to NACAA.

AM/PIC

Bill Burdine Shared details about the AM/PIC Conference in MT for attendees.

James asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion -Jessica Sibley Second- Drew Wilson Meeting adjourned.

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes
06/25/25, via Zoom

Kyle Jeffries, Alex Shook, James Shannon, Heather Jennings, Jessica Sibley, Cody Mills, Ross Overstreet, Gene Merkl in attendance.

James Shannon called to order at 9:00AM.

James Shannon asked everyone to review minutes from the previous meeting and then asked for a motion to accept.

Motion- Gene Merkl

Second- Ross Overstreet

Minutes were accepted

Financial Report Given by Zack Yow

Balance- \$12,825.67

Income -\$588.27

Still Waiting on \$197.60 check from MS Cattleman's for breakfast sponsorship.

Expenses

MSU Extension - \$3185.85 Uncleared Check (\$1818.63 JCEP) (\$1367.22 PILD)

NACAA – \$110.00 Uncleared Check - Dues for James Barnes(renewal) and Victoria Sellars (1st Timer)

Checking Account Balance once check's clear is \$9,529.82

Motion to accept treasury report made by Jessica Sibley

Seconded by Alex Shook

Motion Passed

Old Business

NACAA States Night Out

James has made a reservation at Hooligan's Sports Bar to host MS states night out dinner at the NACAA in Billings, MT.

MACAA Financial Mission Statement

Ross presented a draft of a financial mission statement for the board to consider presenting to the members at the annual meeting. James will send the draft to all board members for review.

MACAA Hospitality event at August training

James reported that Dr. Irby still doesn't have an agenda for the August agents training held on campus. Checking to see if the Bull barn is available for a hospitality event during the August training, preferably Wednesday night. Planning to serve H'orderves and refreshments.

Planning Committee: James Shannon, Alex Shook, Ross Overstreet, Butch Bailey & Heather Jennings

New Business

Deceased Members

Jessica Sibley is working on a list of deceased MACAA members for Annual meeting. Once she has compiled the list she will share with James who will send to NACAA.

AM/PIC

James shared list of all conference attendees and gave date and time for the regional meeting and encouraged MS delegates to attend.

Annual Meeting

James shared the dates of the annual conference (11/5-7). He has reserved Bost B for our meeting. Ross will coordinate with Harvin about cooking lunch. Gene said that he would sponsor the lunch. James mentioned that elections would need

to be held soon to fill open officer positions for 25-26 year. Ross also stated that award info needed to be sent to members soon and achievement award recipients would need to be selected.

2026 JCEP ELC Conference February 4-5, 2026, Savannah, GA – Heather Jennings will attend.

2026 PILD Conference April 20-21, 2026, Bethesda, MD – Drew Ghoultson Will attend.

James asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion -Ross Overstreet

Second- Jessica Sibley

Meeting adjourned

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes 07/16/25, via Zoom

Alex Shook, James Shannon, Heather Jennings, Jessica Sibley, Cody Mills, Lindsey Pansano, Vicki Ganann, Kelby King and Gene Merkl in attendance.

James Shannon called to order at 9:00AM.

James Shannon asked everyone to review minutes from the previous meeting and then asked for a motion to accept.

Motion- Heather Jennings

Second- Drew Wilson

Minutes were accepted

Financial Report Given by Zack Yow

Balance- \$9,532.30

Income -\$588.27

- Still Waiting on \$197.60 check from MS Cattleman's for breakfast sponsorship.

Expenses

- MSU Extension - \$3185.85 Uncleared Check (\$1818.63 JCEP) (\$1367.22 PILD)
- NACAA – \$110.00 Uncleared Check - Dues for James Barnes(renewal) and Victoria Sellars (1st Timer)

Expenses to be paid

- MSU Extension- Travel Reimbursements for voting delegates and award winners to AM/PIC-Approximately \$8,500.00
- Cadence Credit Card- State's Night out Dinner at AM/PIC \$637.50

Motion to accept treasury report made by Vicki Ganann

Seconded by Jessica Sibley

Motion Passed

Old Business

NACAA AM/PIC

James said the AM PIC was very good this year and he thanked the association for the financial support.

MACAA Hospitality event at August training

James reported that he has reached out to Dr. Irby about MACAA hosting a hospitality event on the Wednesday night of the training at the Bull barn. Heather stated that the southern region representatives had reached out about attending

the event, but she felt that with the uncertainty of the schedule it would be better to just have them attend the annual meeting in November and James agreed. *(James later emailed the board and said that Dr. Irby had responded and was ok with the event)*

New Business

Money Transfer to the Checking account

James stated that he and Zack had discussed the current checking account balance and discussed the need to transfer additional funds into the account to pay for upcoming expenses. James requested an amount of \$10,000.00. Alex Shook made a motion to transfer \$10,000.00 into the checking account to cover expenses from AM/PIC and upcoming events and meetings. The motion was seconded by Cody Mills.

Heather asked Zack if AM/PIC attendees needed to submit any type of documentation for reimbursement. Zack said that he would send funds directly to Pressley to be distributed back into each person's account. There was further discussion about some of the attendees receiving additional funding provided by NACAA and that we could save money on those individuals. Zack will send the attendees an email to find out if they received those additional funds.

Deceased Members

Jessica Sibley is working on a list of deceased MACAA members for Annual meeting. Once she has compiled the list she will share with James who will send it to NACAA.

Annual Meeting

James stated that he would be sending out information on upcoming officer elections and award nominations. DSA & AA winners will come from Southeast, State and Northwest this year. A new secretary will need to be elected from the Northeast district.

James said they would be working on the book for the annual meeting. Heather said that committee chairs needed to submit reports for the book. ELC and PILD attendees should also submit a report for the book.

Jessica asked if we were going to continue including nonmembers in the deceased member ceremony. James asked if we had records to prove that those individuals were nonmembers. James said that he would prefer that we continue recognizing those individuals so that no one gets accidentally missed due to inaccurate records. Jessica suggested we do a PowerPoint presentation of all the deceased members instead of reading obituaries. It was decided that we would have a PowerPoint presentation in lieu of the reading the obituaries. We will also continue with the candle ceremony.

2026 JCEP ELC Conference February 4-5, 2026, Savannah, GA – Heather Jennings will attend.

2026 PILD Conference April 20-21, 2026, Bethesda, MD – Drew Gholson Will attend.

2027 AM/PIC will be in Denver, CO July 8-12, 2026

Next Meeting 8/20/25

James asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion -Jessica Sibley

Second- Cody Mills, Meeting adjourned

MACAA Board Meeting Minutes

8/8/25

MAFES Bull Barn

Starkville, MS

In attendance:

James Shannon, Heather Jennings, Drew Wilson, Butch Bailey, Gene Merkl, Drew Gholson, Whitney Crow, Cody Mills,

Call To Order – James Shannon 3:07 pm

New Business

MSU Foundation investment – motion made by Ross Overstreet to keep investment as is and do not support moving money to foundation. 2nd by Butch Bailey. PASSES

- Supports presenting to the membership at the annual meeting to get the stance of the members

Dues – Motion by Drew Wilson to keep dues the same for now and revisit as needed when necessary. 2nd by Butch Bailey PASSES

District Elections need to be held for respective board openings and awards. Emails will be sent out and some have already taken place

DISCUSSION

Next meeting will be held Sept. 17th via ZOOM

Membership meeting in November – Possible speaker Stafford Shurden, location booked and reserved.

**MACAA Board Meeting via Zoom
09/17/25**

In attendance:

Alex Shook, James Shannon, Drew Wilson, Jessica Sibley, Cody Mills, Kelby King, Whitney Crow, Gene Merkl, Butch Bailey, Jim McAdory, Drew Gholson, Vicki Ganaan, Brent Breland & Ross Overstreet in attendance.

James Shannon called to order at 9:00AM.

James Shannon asked everyone to review minutes from the previous meeting and then asked for a motion to accept.

Motion- Jessica Sibley

Second- Kelby King

Minutes were accepted

Financial Report Given by James Shannon

Balance- \$16,713.59

Income - \$17,643.85

- \$197.60 check from MS Cattleman's for breakfast sponsorship.
- \$10,000.00 Raymond James Account Withdrawal
- \$500.00 Firewise Sponsorship
- \$1000.00 Farm Bureau Sponsorship
- \$5946.25 MACAA Membership renewals

Expenses

- MSU-ES Agent Training Social
 - Facility rental-\$50.00
 - Supplies -\$352.49
- 2025 NACAA AM/PIC Travel Reimbursements \$8,327.82

Motion to accept treasury report made by Butch Bailey

Seconded by Jim McAdory

Motion Passed

2026 Award and Board of Directors Nominations

2026 DSA

Northwest: Dr. Drew Gholson

Southeast: Butch Bailey

State: Dr. Brandi Karisch

2026 AA

Northwest: Dillon Russell

Southeast: Lindsey Pansano

State: Dr. Leyla Rios

2026 Elected Officers

Membership Chairs

Southeast Kelby King

Southwest: Adam Barrilleux

State: Dr. Kevin Ragon

Northwest: Matthew Thornton

Northeast: Josh Tilley

State Officer:

Secretary: Hunter Null

Old Business

No old business was discussed

New Business

MACAA Awards

James asked that all award nominations be submitted by Friday September 26, 2025

MACAA Presidents Plaque in Bost

The missing nameplates have been received for the plaque in Bost and will be added soon.

Annual Meeting

James stated that the southern region vice director, Lonnie Jenschke would be visiting during the annual meeting and asked for volunteers to pick him up and return him to the airport. James also asked for volunteers to entertain him during his stay.

Butch asked Drew Wilson for an update on the speaker for the meeting and Drew reported that everything was good to go. Butch asked that everyone consider purchasing a book from the speaker to show appreciation for his coming to speak at the meeting.

Next MACAA Board Meeting: October 15, 2025

James asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion -Jessica Sibley

Second- Cody Mills

Meeting adjourned

MACAA Board Meeting via zoom

10/29/25

Call to Order

James Shannon opened meeting at 9:01AM

James Shannon asked everyone to review the minutes from the previous meeting and then asked for a motion to accept.

Motion - to accept the minutes from Drew Gholson

Second - Kyle Lewis

Motion Passed

Old Business

MACAA Annual Meeting

James Shannon - Reviewed agenda and plans for the annual meeting

- Everything will take place in Bost
- James will follow up with Ross on the catering reservation
- 44 signed up for the annual meeting as of 10/29/2025
- James will follow up with Drew Wilson about Stafford and his biography
- Heather suggests that James should follow up with Lonnie about what he needs for the meeting
- James has the PowerPoint to keep the meeting on track
- James has completed the plaques for NACAA awards and the president plate for the wall award, communication awards are still being completed
- James will contact Starkville Café about the officer meeting for next week
- Heather suggests that James should contact the presidents of the other associations to give greetings at the meeting
- James has the retiree gifts, and they have been invited
- James has invited Dr. Catchot to give greetings at the meeting. Confirmed by Whitney Crow on 10/29/2025
- No discussion of the vote against putting money into the foundation will be necessary at the meeting
- James described the itinerary for Lonnie's visit
- Butch is available to entertain Lonnie when needed
- Gene Merkl asks James to confirm that Zach Y will provide a lunch invoice
- Heather suggests bringing table cloths for lunch and James agrees

Adjourn

James asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting 9:20AM

Motion to adjourn Rocky Lemus 9:20 AM

Second - Butch Bailey

Motion Passed



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

2025 SPECIAL REPORTS

JCEP ELC/PILD CONFERENCES
NACAA AM/PIC
February 19-20, 2025 – JCEP-ELC – Savannah, GA
April 7-9, 2025 – PILD – Arlington, VA
June 29-July 2, 2025 NACAA AM/PIC – Billings, MT

Extension Leadership Conference (ELC) Report

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) unites the seven Extension professional associations within the Land Grant University System. JCEP enhances the impact of the Cooperative Extension Service through a collaborative effort to promote leadership, scholarship, continued learning, and advocacy. The 2025 Extension Leadership Conference (ELC), held February 13th – 15th in Savannah, Georgia, embodied this mission. The conference, entitled “Year-Round Leadership Rooted in Tradition, Growing with Innovation,” challenged participants to become the best version of themselves by developing foundational core beliefs to provide positive leadership within the Cooperative Extension Service and beyond. Held in the backdrop of one of the United States’ most beautiful and historic cities, everyone involved left with the inspiration, connections, and improved knowledge to take the next step as an Extension professional and a leader.

James Shannon
President, MACAA

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) Report

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals, 2025 PILD Conference was held April 7th – 9th in Arlington, Virginia. The theme of the conference was “Year-Round Impact.” As President-Elect, I represented MACAA as one of four Extension Agents from Mississippi State University.

The conference started out with discussing rapid leadership changes and making an impact presentations by representatives Dr. Doug Steele (Vice President, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources [FANR], Association of Public and Land-Grand Universities) and Ms. Vonda Richardson with is the 2025 Chair of Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP). There were panel discussions on ECOP Program Action Teams and many short breakout sessions to help each state prepare for their Hill meetings with their state legislators. Additionally, there were association meetings that took place and NACAA leadership gave updates on the upcoming 2025 NACAA AM/PIC in Billings, Montana. That night we attended the reception at the National 4-H Council Headquarters. On the second day of the conference, there was a panel discussion on Congressional Visit Best Practices, again preparing for State Hill Visits. Our Mississippi state delegation planned for our Hill Visits and went to dinner for State’s Night Out.

The last day was Hill Visit Day and it was very busy week on Capitol Hill! We were able to meet with representatives from the offices of Senators Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, Congressmen Michael Guest, Benny Thompson, Trent Kelly and Mike Ezell. We gave introductions and highlighted our program areas and discussed Extension needs. It was a very productive day and we were able to meet Congressman Michael Guest, Benny Thompson and take a picture with Congressman Trent Kelly.

Heather Jennings
President-Elect, MACAA

NACAA Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC)

The NACAA AM/PIC was held June 29 – July 2, 2025, in Billings, MT. It was an excellent conference that provided an opportunity for Extension professionals from around the United States to learn from one another and to be recognized for their accomplishments. MACAA members who attended included Butch Bailey, Donna Beliech, Bill Burdine, Sandy Havard, Heather Jennings, Rocky Lemus, Cody Mills, Ross Overstreet, Michael Pruden, Brady Self, James Shannon, Jessica Sibley, and Drew Wilson. Attendees served as voting delegates, presenters, and communication, DSA, and AA award winners.

A variety of fascinating professional improvement presentations covered agricultural economics, agronomy, animal science, horticulture, natural resources, and 4-H youth development topics. MACAA members and their families gathered for State's Night Out at Hooligan's Sports Bar in downtown Billings on June 30th. It was a time of good food, fellowship, and fun!

The highlight of the conference was quite possibly the excellent professional improvement tours offered to highlight Montana's agriculture, tourism, and stunning scenery. Popular options included the Beef Production Tour, Montana Ag Production and Processing Tour, Montana Livestock and Ag Innovation Tour, Explore the Beartooth Plateau, and Barley and Brews. The Montana Association and the NACAA board worked tirelessly to provide an outstanding conference that has us looking forward to experiencing what Colorado has to offer!

James Shannon
President, MACAA

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

JCEP – Extension Leadership Conference – Savannah, Georgia, February 4-5, 2026

JCEP – Public Issues Leadership Development Conference – Arlington, Virginia, April 20-21, 2026

NACAA Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) – Denver, Colorado, August 8-12, 2026



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

PRESIDENT'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MACAA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025

Dear MACAA Members:

It has been an honor to serve as the 2024-2025 MACAA President. Together, we've upheld the mission to provide educational and award opportunities for our members. Over the past year, I've witnessed firsthand the power of cooperation and the strength of shared purpose. I am very appreciative of the guidance and assistance provided by the MACAA Board of Directors and their willingness to participate in monthly meetings, which provided opportunities to serve the association's purposes while keeping it on firm financial footing.

Accomplishments included the development of a financial mission statement and the planning of the social event as part of the Extension agent in-service training event in August. The financial mission statement will provide future MACAA leadership with priorities for the wise use of the resources that we have been blessed with. This will ensure that the association's needs are met, including continuing education, professional training, leadership development, and opportunities for collaboration with Extension professionals from across the United States.

Our members have continued to innovate, educate, and inspire. We've celebrated excellence through awards that honor not just achievement, but the spirit of service. Ties with the NACAA have been strengthened, ensuring that Mississippi's voice is heard on the national stage. I will always cherish the opportunity to represent MACAA at national meetings, including JCEP PILD in Washington, D.C, JCEP ELC in Savannah, Georgia, and the NACAA AM/PIC in Billings, Montana. These experiences have allowed me to grow professionally and personally.

I want to thank each of you for your dedication, wisdom, and unwavering support. To the incoming leadership, I offer my complete confidence and encouragement. May you continue to elevate this organization and carry forward the legacy built from those who have gone before us. Though my term as president comes to a close, my commitment to MACAA remains. I'll continue to support the mission, advocate for our members, and celebrate the incredible work done by the MSU Extension Service.

Sincerely,



James Shannon
2025 MACAA President



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Financial Mission Statement:

The financial mission of the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents is to responsibly manage and grow resources derived from member dues, donations, strategic investments, and other sources to support its membership. We are committed to transparent, sustainable financial practices that prioritize high-quality professional development opportunities, including continuing education, training, regional and national networking, and leadership development. By aligning our financial strategy with our mission, we aim to strengthen the capacity of our members to serve their communities and advance the agricultural extension profession.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

MACAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AVAILABLE AT:

<http://www.mscountyagent.com/pdfs/bylaws%2020%20update.pdf>

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS



www.mscountyagent.com

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS



www.nacaa.com

EXTENSION WORKER'S CREED

I BELIEVE in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.

I BELIEVE that education, of which Extension work is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy; and that people, when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest but also in the interest of society.

I BELIEVE that education is a lifelong process, and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.

I BELIEVE in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.

I BELIEVE that the Extension Service is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.

I BELIEVE in the public institutions of which I am a part.

I BELIEVE in my own work and in the opportunity, I have to make my life useful to mankind. Because I BELIEVE these things, I am an Extension worker.

