

# News & Views

Volume XLVI No. 1

October 2003

## What Has NAAE Done For Me Lately?

Sarah Osborn Welty, NAAE President

Or, “What has NAAE done for agricultural education lately?” This is a question that may come to mind during membership drives, state meetings, and in conversations between agricultural educators. The fact is that NAAE, among other things, is working within the legislative arena to provide a voice for our profession. In order to make this happen, NAAE is approaching the task from three different angles: professional collaboration, contacts with Members of Congress, and assisting NAAE members to take action on the local level.

### Professional Collaboration

NAAE works closely with the Association for Career and Technical Education, the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium, the National Council for Agricultural Education, and the National FFA Organization to collaborate on legislative updates and timely information that affects agricultural education. Using these updates, all groups can individually and collectively develop strategies to address legislative issues from many fronts. Our NAAE staff coordinates and collaborates with these groups and shares with our profession through the U.S. Ag Ed Listserv. In addition to the NAAE staff preparing one-page documents on each critical issue for the various ag ed related boards (such as The Council and NAAE) to use during Capitol Hill visits, NAAE staff have worked with FFA staff to develop state-specific one-pagers related to the importance of the Perkins legislation. These letters were hand-carried to members of Congress by FFA members who attended the Washington Leadership Conference program this past summer. The NAAE is often looked upon to provide timely information to groups on the national level.



Sarah Osborn Welty,  
NAAE President

### Making Contacts with Members of Congress

During the July NAAE board meeting this past summer, the NAAE board visited their respective members of Congress on Capitol Hill. A common question that was asked by the members of Congress to the board members was: “Can I visit your program?” Our members of Congress do support agricultural education, but we need to be sure they understand our programs fully and that our programs receive federal funding through the Perkins legislation. The board members found that most of our legislators already knew of or were aware of our three major issues: Perkins appropriations and reauthorization, the School Environment Protection Act (SEPA), and the USDA Secondary and Postsecondary Education Challenge (SPEC) Grant program. In one afternoon, the NAAE board made a minimum of 30 contacts with members of Congress and/or their key staff persons with the common message of encouragement to support agricultural education. Overall, there is a positive view on our issues. Our members of Congress agree with and support what we do in agricultural education.

In one meeting, the entire NAAE board met with Brent Gattis, deputy chief of staff for Representative Bob Goodlatte, who is the House Agriculture Committee Chair. Chairman Goodlatte was a **continued on page 5...**

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**Meet the NAAE  
President Elect Candidates  
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**2003 NAAE Convention  
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# Ideas Unlimited

## “AgLib” – A Fun Way to Learn

One of the most tedious tasks in agricultural education is trying to remember the technical terms associated with plants and animals. Most students learn these terms by creating flash cards. Thanks to **Dr. Frank Flanders**, we have a new tool to use. It is AgLib. This is a computer-based game that improves the students' knowledge of agricultural terms and makes learning vocabulary fun. This program has 1,000 agricultural terms and allows teachers to insert their own. This benefits the classes in two ways. First, the students are given the chance to give the definition as a group of 3-4 members. Secondly, the teacher reads the definitions aloud and the students choose which definition is correct. If the students guess correctly, they move ahead on the game board. The first one to the finish line wins. What an easy way to teach your students the definition of Ergate!

For more information about Dr. Flander's award winning teaching idea, contact him by calling (706) 542-9043 or sending e-mail to [flanders@uga.edu](mailto:flanders@uga.edu). For more information about the NAAE Ideas Unlimited award program, contact the NAAE Office by calling (800) 509-0204 or sending e-mail to [NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:NAAE@uky.edu). **Dr. Frank Flanders** was the 2002 NAAE Ideas Unlimited award winner for Region V. The program is sponsored by **Delmar Thomson Learning**.



**Dr. Frank Flanders, left, received the NAAE Region V Ideas Unlimited award from Zina Lawrence, Delmar Thomson Learning.**

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## New Organizational Members

NAAE is very pleased to welcome two new Organizational Members.

**Jist Publishing**, Indianapolis, Indiana (<http://www.jist.com>)

**Vernier Software and Technology**, Beaverton, Oregon (<http://www.vernier.com>)

Please be sure to go to the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org> and, from there, access the websites of these new organizational members.



## U.S. Ag Ed Listserv

If you want to keep up-to-date with all current information in agricultural education and NAAE, **subscribe** to the

**U.S. Ag Ed Listserv!**

Go to the NAAE web site at <http://www.naae.org> for details.

# Teacher Mentor

## Sally Shomo – Staunton, Virginia

2002 marked the first year of the NAAE Teacher Mentor Award Program sponsored by CEV Multimedia. Teacher mentors are those special experienced teachers who go the extra mile to assist early career teachers. An effective mentor/protégé relationship can be the difference in an early career teacher becoming an experienced mentor teacher himself/herself or leaving the agriculture teaching profession prematurely.

The Region VI winner was **Sally Shomo** from Beverly Manor Middle School in Staunton, Virginia. Sally is instrumental in the success of the future agricultural teachers in Augusta County, Virginia. The goal of the agricultural education programs in the county is to make students agriculturally literate and spark their interest in high school programs. With Sally's mentoring, the county achieves its goal in all three middle schools. Sally meets with her protégés at least once per month face-to-face, and is willing to help and answer any questions they may have between meetings. Sally has guided her most current protégé, Carrie Monger, on how to build a successful program. She helped her plan, schedule and host a leadership day camp and aided her on how to manage a greenhouse and poultry facility.

Sally believes that success does not come from participation solely in one program, but from a variety of programs and organizations, such as the Young Farmer Organization and NAAE. Another step to success is constructing a sound communication network with school board members, state legislatures, community leaders, and agriculturalists. Sally has helped Carrie build these connections. Overall, Sally leads her followers every step of the way.

For more information about successful teacher mentoring ideas, contact Sally by calling (540) 886-5806 or by sending e-mail to [sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us](mailto:sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us). For more information about the NAAE Teacher Mentor award program, contact the NAAE office. **CEV Multimedia**, Lubbock, Texas, sponsors this award program.



**Sally Shomo (left), VA, received the 2002 NAAE Region VI Teacher Mentor award. Gordon Davis, CEV Multimedia presented the award.**



[www.cevmultimedia.com](http://www.cevmultimedia.com)  
(800) 922-9965

# Teacher Spotlight

“Welcome to the Real-World” could be **Jodi N. Geiger's** classroom motto at Pine Ridge High School in Florida. In her agricultural education classes, Jodi emphasizes why students should learn to do and do to learn. To guide this philosophy, she requires all of her students to participate in supervised agricultural experiences. Once students are engaged in these activities, she will use their projects as teaching tools to inform the class. She has taken her classes on field trips to local cattle ranches and veterinarian offices. This allows her students to see the real meaning of her lessons.

“I like what I do and I love my subject area,” stated Jodi. This is what drives her to have a successful program. She lives by the adage: “The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the great

teacher demonstrates, the superior teacher inspires.”

“Everyday,” she says, “I strive to be a superior teacher.” Some of her students are now going into the teaching profession stating that she was their inspiration. In addition, she has lead many winning teams in competitions, such as Food Science, Horse Evaluation, and Livestock Evaluation.

**Jodi Geiger** was the 2002 NAAE Region V Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher. The award is sponsored by **Syngenta**, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. If you want to learn more about Jodi and her program, call Pine Ridge High School at (386) 688-9500 or send e-mail to [jngeiger@mail.volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:jngeiger@mail.volusia.k12.fl.us).



**Jodi Geiger (right), Pine Ridge High School, Florida, received the 2002 NAAE Region V Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher award. Bob Woods, Syngenta, presented the award. Jodi was also named the Syngenta Advocate for Agricultural Education.**



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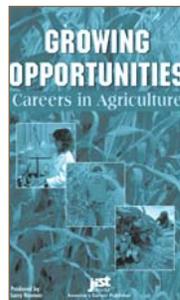
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## What Has NAAE Done For Me Lately (continued from page one)...

key player in defeating the SEPA legislation. Brent spoke very highly of our organization: “The support of NAAE on issues [such as SEPA] is good to have. We call on you and you respond quickly.” NAAE recognizes that fostering good working relationships with staff members and the members themselves is of the utmost importance.

Another component of our communications with Congress involves the NAAE sending letters to the elected officials of all of our NAAE award winners. I can tell you that I was impressed personally when the staff member of my Congressman brought up the fact that we had an award winner last year, and seven months later, even remembered the name of the award winner! During the Council meeting in October, Roger Teeple, Jay Jackman, and I met with key leaders involved in agricultural and education related committees. These meetings helped to “grease the wheels” of our NAAE relationships and to ensure that those partnerships are established before we actually need them. It was evident that a key tool for NAAE is the availability of an NAAE staff person who knows the players who are important, knows with whom they collaborate, and can talk the “Hill talk” in a face-to-face meeting.

### Providing Members with Updates and Pertinent Information Needed to Take Action

Most agricultural educators have our hands full completing the duties of our day jobs. We have little time to follow legislative activity, know who the players are, and have their finger on the pulse of legislative issues. If someone doesn't bring it to our attention, legislative activity may go unnoticed. NAAE works closely with ACTE and The Council to monitor legislation that affects agricultural education and then put that information into the hands of agricultural educators on a timely basis. We, as agricultural educators, then must use that information to make an impact from the local level—the level that counts the most with our elected officials. NAAE provides members with the Capital Advantage tool on our website. This is an efficient way of communicating easily with elected officials. Unfortunately, this system is often underutilized.

### What Have I Done for Agriculture Education?

Or, “Where are we now?” Collaboration within agricultural education groups and work done on the national level has laid the foundation – but the key to influencing legislation is building relationships. There are three ways to influence legislators: 1) lots of votes; 2) personal donations (\$250 minimum to be recorded by the Federal Election Commission); and 3) building a rapport between the legislator and their constituents. Our profession is relatively small in numbers (compared to the AARP or the NRA or to other organizations that have thousands upon thousands of members) so we don't bring a huge number of votes to elected officials. I'm guessing that few of us can afford to shell out substantial cash donations. So, our ability to influence elected officials comes down to building relationships. At all times during the year, keep your elected officials informed about what you and your students are doing in THEIR district and state. Visit them in their home office, invite them to visit your program, send them news articles and information about what you are doing. Bottom line: build a relationship with your elected officials. They are interested in you, your students and your program, and they want to be involved! You don't have to be in Washington D.C. to make these important contacts. In fact, the most valuable contacts you can make are in the home offices. And, don't pass on “just a staff member.” The staff members have the ear of the officials. Staff have a broad knowledge base and often they inform their “boss” on what is going on with issues and concerns of the home district and state. It all boils down to the grassroots effort being made by those concerned. It takes at least 12 pieces of communication (letters, faxes, phone calls) to a legislator from THEIR constituents before an issue will be noticed as important to the voters. Did your legislator receive 12 communiqués regarding Perkins? Use of the NAAE's Capitol Advantage and the updates and directives that were distributed on the Ag Ed Listserv are valuable tools that need to be used by all agricultural educators on all levels.

ACTE Executive Director Jan Bray met briefly with the NAAE board this summer to give us an update on the current status. Jan made these comments: “We're in good shape right now but it's important to stay on top of the issues and to keep our elected officials informed of our concerns. Encourage members of Congress to see the value in career and technical education and agricultural education. The grassroots effort does make a difference.” The NAAE board appreciates the positive working relationship our two organizations have while we work collaboratively towards a common goal. Jan is correct—the critical issues are not behind us yet. The time to build our case is now to educate decision makers regarding the value of our programs. We need to already have our friends when we need them. Trying to make a friend after you need one is too late. Encourage business partners and major employer groups in your area to assist in building that case. Legislators need to hear from all sectors of the economy to make the biggest impact.

Agricultural educators need to speak with one voice to be heard on the national level and that voice needs to come from all groups, all levels, and all different sectors of the field. Make it a goal this year to contact your elected officials frequently during the school year and foster those relationships that can pay big dividends in the future. What are you waiting for? You know who they are but do they know who you are?



**Sarah Osborn Welty presents the NAAE Distinguished Service Award to Brent Gattis, House Agriculture Committee Deputy Chief of Staff.**

# Regional Updates

## Region I

I hope this issue finds you excited and engulfed in the new school year. Thank you to Washington, Wyoming, and Utah for hosting me this summer at your annual workshops and thanks to California for hosting Elaine at your summer conference. I hope all of you are gearing up for the National FFA Convention and that you stop by the NAAE booth in the career show to say hello.

Congratulations to the all the state winners in the NAAE awards program. To be recognized at the NAAE convention in Orlando are: IU, Katie Thalman, UT; TM, Scott Mortimer, WA; OYM, Jolene Christensen, UT; OT, Mike Martin, WA; OMSP, Michael Gowans, UT; OPAP, Charles Bigo, UT; OS, Michael Schrag, WA; OC, Dorothy and Butch Carlson, WA; and LA, Keith Hyatt, ID. I hope all of you are planning on making the trip.

I believe that the NAAE is going through a time when we need to redefine who we are and what we are all about. With the completion of the strategic planning process (thanks to all who helped with this huge task), some important questions have been raised. It is time for all of us to step up and let our voices be heard. I urge all of you to contact your local, state, and national legislators to thank them for their efforts in our behalf or to try to get them on our side. I believe that if each and every one of us contacted our elected officials we can make a difference. It does take a little extra effort and time. That is what being a professional is all about.

I hope to see all of you in Orlando. If you cannot attend, I hope you contact your state leaders and express your concerns. Let your voice be heard. I would love to hear from you. After all, I was elected to serve all of you in Region I. Please call, email, or fax if I can be of service to you. **Allan Sulser**, (435) 654-0640, or [allan.sulser@m.wasatch.k12.ut.us](mailto:allan.sulser@m.wasatch.k12.ut.us).

## Region IV

Greetings from the Heartland!

It's harvest time! It's great to be involved in an occupation where we can enjoy the fruits of our labor during this time of the year and then, eight months later, enjoy our other crop (our students) as they ripen into outstanding young adults.

As another NAAE year comes to an end we will have a chance to celebrate our accomplishments at the National Convention in Orlando. It will also be a great opportunity for new individuals to seek leadership positions, be it an officer or a committee member. I encourage each of you to do so; it certainly gives one a sense of involvement and purpose for the organization.

Every member will have a chance this fall and winter to be a leader when they will have the opportunity to contact legislators and partners as the Carl Perkins issue gets brought forth. The best way to ensure that the voice of agricultural education is heard is by everyone talking at once!

Serving as your regional vice-president for the past three years certainly has been a highlight in my life. I look forward to seeing all my friends from Region IV and across the country at the National NAAE convention.

**Jeff Maierhofer**, (815) 357-5024, or [jeff@jmaierhofer.com](mailto:jeff@jmaierhofer.com).

## Region II

Well the summer has slipped by quickly once again. Hopefully, all of you had a productive summer and enjoyed your families. As this issue catches us well into a new school year, I hope that all of you have started an outstanding and tremendous year.

Thanks so much to the Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana ag teachers for hosting me at your summer meetings. Each and every state has unique ag ed systems and approaches to professionalism. Each state visit was delightful, and I very much appreciated the professional approach that everyone exhibited. Again, thanks for everything—all of you are making a difference.

It is time to make plans to attend our NAAE Convention in Orlando. Just a few years ago we had an outstanding convention in Orlando at the same hotel and facilities. Be prepared for a fantastic convention! I would like to invite all of you to attend and please check out our NAAE website for all of the details.

Congratulations to our award winners and to all who submitted applications and made an effort. Our Region II winners include: OYM, Jona Kay Squires, OK; OT, Becky Smith, OK; OMSP, Oklahoma Union HS; OPAP, Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center/ABM, OK; IU, Jason Larison KS; TM, Larry Liston, OK; LAA, Guy Finstad, TX; OSC, Brad Ashpaugh, OK; and OC, DJ's Fund Raising, OK. It will be great to see several young members at the convention thanks to our Teachers Turn the Key Award program.

If anyone is interested in running for Region II Vice President or Alternate Vice President in Orlando, please contact Dr. Jay Jackman for a MOU. Make an effort and become more involved in your professional organization.

I very much look forward to seeing all of you in Louisville and/or Orlando. **Larry Long**, (580) 225-1222 or [long@itfnet.net](mailto:long@itfnet.net).

## Region V

Where has the summer gone? It is hard to believe that we are back in school and about our busy activities. It was a very busy summer filled with conferences, meetings, and all of the agendas of hard working agriculture educators. It was great to see and work with many of you at our Region V conference at Mississippi. I thank each of you that participated in the conference and, if you were not able to attend, you missed a treat. Hats off to the Mississippi delegation for putting on a wonderful conference.

Congratulations are in order to our region V award winners: Outstanding Young member – David Nixon – SC; Outstanding Teacher – Al Griffin – AL; Outstanding Ag Ed Program – Eastern Randolph High School – NC; Postsecondary – Franklin Post Secondary Young Farmer Program – GA; Teacher Mentor – William Ted Turner – TN; Ideas Unlimited – Mike Bartholomew – NC; Lifetime Achievement – Charles P. Griner – GA; Outstanding Cooperation – James Bowers – MS; Outstanding Service – William T. McGrew – MS; Dodge Turn The Key Winners – Alicia Tomlinson – GA, Patrick Lemoine – MS, and Brian C. Stewart – NC. Congratulations to each of you on your achievements.

I hope each of you are making preparations to attend the NAAE conference in Orlando in December. It is going to be an outstanding conference filled with information and activities that will make us better educators.

Our summer board meeting was productive. Your board members worked on important issues concerning our association and made many legislative contacts in support of our legislative concerns that impact our association.

Please keep in mind if I can be of any assistance do not hesitate to contact me. Have a great school year and I hope to see all of you soon. **Lee James**, (662) 285-3205 or [leejjames@yahoo.com](mailto:leejjames@yahoo.com).

## Region III

With our school year off to a quick start, it is already time to plan for attending our NAAE National Convention in Orlando. What a great convention we have planned. We will have tremendous speakers and workshops for professional development. We'll recognize some of our outstanding members and supporters in our different award areas. And of course, we will have time to share ideas and experiences with our teaching friends.

However, the portion that I am most excited about is the new "Teacher Turn the Key" program. It will be an awesome opportunity for young teachers to attend a national conference, meet other young teachers, attend specialized workshops, and of course share experiences with other colleagues. I am looking very forward to meeting and interacting with these young professionals. I believe that the young teachers will spark enthusiasm and excitement that will carry over through the entire conference. Their energy and diligence is contagious and December is a good month to pick up a little extra energy to power us through the rest of the year.

My personal congratulations to all the award winners who will be representing Region III. I am always awed with the incredible work teachers are doing everyday with our students across our region and country. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Orlando, Dec. 9-13. As always if I can help in any way don't hesitate to contact me. **Paul Larson**, (920) 730-3820 or [palarson@athenet.net](mailto:palarson@athenet.net).

## Region VI

The fall semester is well underway and agriculture enrollment across our region continues to be on the rise this year. The freshmen that I have worked with are eager to learn and participate in student activities. I hope that you too are experiencing this kind of enthusiasm with your students. With all of the significant educational and financial issues we are all dealing with it, is important for us to stay focused on our mission. "Putting Students First" is a theme that resonates loud and clear in agriculture education.

Thanks to all of you who have contacted your elected representatives. Your voice is the most important voice for them to hear. Only you can bring to life the effects of their actions on the young people in your community. We must all continue to maintain strong relationships with our representatives and their staff, so that they will look to us for advice when issues arise that impact us.

I encourage each of you to make the extra effort to attend the NAAE National Convention, December 9-13 in Orlando. You'll be glad you did. We all look forward to having the opportunity to recognize and celebrate with our award winners, participate in professional development, tour innovative agricultural enterprises and, best of all, learn from our colleagues in the profession. It doesn't get better than that.

It's also not too soon to mark your calendars for the Region VI Summer Leadership Institute to be held in Danville, Virginia, July 7-9, 2004. This exciting location where the "North Meets the South" provides a wide variety of new technology in a beautiful historic area.

Let's all try to remember no matter how busy we get: "The Main Thing Is To Keep The Main Thing The Main Thing."

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in supporting your state association activities. **Terry Hughes**, (518) 255-5538 or [hughestr@cobleskill.edu](mailto:hughestr@cobleskill.edu).



### Perkins Reauthorization

We had anticipated that the House would take up the Perkins reauthorization this fall. However, it now appears that the House will not address the Perkins reauthorization until sometime in 2004. We were fairly sure the Senate would not get to the reauthorization until 2004, and that has proven true. The Perkins reauthorization may not occur until after the 2004 elections.

### Perkins Appropriations

At the time of this writing, we are pleased that the FY 2004 appropriations appear to be acceptable for career and technical education. The House appropriations bill has flat funding for Perkins and the Senate bill includes a small increase for Perkins. Most likely after conference, the basic state grant portion of Perkins for FY 2004 will be about level compared with FY 2003 funding. There is a considerable amount of disagreement between the House and Senate appropriations bills on some other education programs. However, Perkins should go through without much problem.

Of course, we would have liked increases in federal funding for career and technical education; however, during this current fiscal environment, we are fortunate to be able to maintain flat funding.

### What Can You Do?

The best thing you can do to ensure the continuation of federal funding for agricultural education is to be sure your members of Congress are aware of your good work and that your federal funding flows through the Perkins legislation. Please make a point to invite your elected officials to visit your program this year. Showcase your quality program and its products—your students!



Above: Representative Charles Taylor (NC, 11th), center, visited with the agriculture teachers (Roger Teeple, left, and Tim Pasour, right) at Owen High School in Black Mountain, NC.

Below: Representative Taylor visits with agricultural education students at Owen High School.



## Building a Seamless Education System—Programs of Study are Key!

Larry D. Case, U.S. Department of Education and National FFA Advisor

The American public, students, parents and industry deserve a seamless educational system that will educate students quicker, at a higher level and at a lower cost. The future demands that we prepare students to prosper in a fast-paced, quick-changing socio-economic environment. In order to accomplish this, education professionals must work together at the elementary, middle, secondary and postsecondary levels. We must recognize holistic educational goals and develop new and effective relationships within and between the levels of education to achieve the desired student educational outcomes.

An individualized student program of study can be an important tool in the development of a seamless educational system. A program of study is not a new concept. It is however, becoming vogue in the discussion about the future for integrated academic and career-technical education. The linkage of levels of education is quickly becoming a requirement in order to prepare our students for a fast changing economy.

Data suggests that 70% of the jobs today require some postsecondary education while 20% require a bachelor

degree. And, while more of today's students say they want to pursue higher education, a large number leave high school unprepared for college. In recent research, Rosenbaum found remediation rates of 46% for students entering 4-year colleges and 64% for those entering 2-year institutions. Also, 31% of the students who enter college leave without any credits (Rosenbaum, 2002).

In reading what is being proposed for the reauthorization of the current Federal career-technical law (Perkins), many groups involved with career-technical education are asking that the concept of a "program of study" be required for CTE programs/schools. The program of study as defined by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium as "a sequence of logically connected instruction in a career area that links secondary and postsecondary-level coursework." This is the basis for real linkage between secondary and postsecondary education.

However, agricultural education professionals are not waiting for the legislation to require programs of study and secondary/postsecondary linkages. As an outgrowth of the Career Cluster

initiative, (see [www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org)) agricultural education through the National Council for Agricultural Education is in a long term partnership with the AgrowKnowledge Center ([www.agknow.org](http://www.agknow.org)), the National Science Foundation and the National FFA Foundation in developing programs of study and building strong local connections with secondary, postsecondary (2-year and 4-year institutions).

The projected outcomes will be several programs of study developed around the Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources Systems pathways. In addition, best practices will be identified for developing the linkages between levels of education including the development and maintenance of local partnerships. For more information on the vision for seamless educational system for the agricultural education, see [www.agknow.org/career-clusters/media/VISION2020-SeamlessEducation.pps](http://www.agknow.org/career-clusters/media/VISION2020-SeamlessEducation.pps). I believe by working together, a seamless educational system for agricultural education will become a reality! Please join us in achieving this worthy goal!

# Meet the NAAE President Elect Candidates

## Larry Long

### 2000-03 NAAE Region II Vice President

As a young Freshman Greenhand in Mr. Grady Byrd's Vocational Agriculture I class in Hollis, Oklahoma, I never knew the impact that "Vo-Ag" would have on me. Yes, Vo-Ag was the language that was spoken several years ago. I used to listen for hours how the older agriculture teachers went about selling their programs. Many used their personal cars to secure livestock projects for their students. Some would purchase young swine and put them in the trunks of their family cars to bring back to their students. Now you talk about a commitment to their profession! In Oklahoma, those pioneer agriculture teachers did such a great job of selling the program that nearly all of the school superintendents still refer to the ag ed program as the vo-ag program. In my community we just built a new ag ed building, and the contractor has a sign out by the site that reads "Elk City School Vo-Ag Building." We have worked hard in my state to change to the agricultural education name, but many school administrators, legislators, and business associates still refer to us as vo-ag programs.

I am sure that to many of you the NAAE is still the NVATA. During my career I have been through many changes and concepts. As agricultural educators we must continue to "sell our programs" on the local, state, and national levels. We must all have the commitment and dedication that our pioneer ag teachers had. Most of us have great stories of how our agricultural teachers and FFA programs had a very positive impact on our lives. Now we as agricultural educators must pass this legacy on to our students. The name does not have to make a lot of difference if we are doing positive things and making an impact on our communities and students.

The NVATA and the NAAE have also had a great impact on my life during the last few years. My desire to become more involved began when I attended my first regional meeting in Arkansas. Since that time my enthusiasm for the organization has "lit the fire" inside of me, and I have attended every regional meeting. I have had leadership opportunities, which have afforded me the opportunity to share ideas, formulate plans and accomplish goals. As the State President of the Oklahoma Ag Teachers, I became more active in the legislative process. Due to the NAAE I have met people from coast-to-coast and many of the "best of the best" agricultural educators in our great nation. Without a doubt, I will never forget so many of you.

**My commitment and dedication to agricultural education have fueled my desire to lead our organization.** Each state association is diverse as well as most programs within the states. Each and every state has unique agricultural education systems and approaches to professionalism. We must all continue to promote agricultural education and see to it that our basic beliefs are preserved. Agricultural education has to be our common language, and it is my desire to lead us in that direction just as our pioneer ag teachers promoted the vo-ag name.

Team Ag-Ed is definitely the right step in helping to keep agricultural education proud and strong. I strongly believe that each organization within Team Ag-Ed can and will be major players in this endeavor. We are all professional agricultural educators, and each of us is making a difference. However, we must all continue to make more of a difference each day as budget crunches, legislation, new graduation requirements, and other forces challenge our profession.

Some of my goals for the NAAE include:

**Financial Stability.** Our organization is financially stable at this time, and we should always work hard to keep it that way. As a frugal agriculture teacher, I will always be concerned about saving money for the NAAE and the membership.

**Advocacy.** This is an area that I feel we can improve on. Although very expensive, the feasibility of hiring a part-time lobbyist for very pressing issues might need to be considered. Also, we could solicit the help of some of the membership whom are on a first name basis with their legislators. Most states do a great job on state legislation, but we must also focus on federal legislation.

**Increase Membership.** The NAAE and the state leaderships should make an all out effort to obtain a 100% membership in each state. We could possibly add an additional incentive for the states that achieve this goal. We should never be satisfied until we have obtained 100% membership from each state association.

**Mentorship.** I appreciate Dr. Gordon Davis and the CEV Multimedia for sponsoring the mentorship awards. We must strongly urge state leaders and experienced educators to continually mentor younger and beginning teachers. I always pride myself on taking young ag teachers "under my wing" to help and encourage them to stay in the profession.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention.** This area goes along with mentoring in some ways, but the NAAE must work closely with university programs and our membership to recruit outstanding new educators at the grass roots level. We must continue to recognize outstanding accomplishments of agricultural teachers to encourage them to stay in the profession. A good balance of career teachers as well as younger teachers is needed to contribute to the overall effectiveness of our programs.

**Teacher and Program Recognition.** The NAAE has a great scholarship and awards program, but we could look at some new areas to expand upon, such as the Teachers Turn the Key award program for the younger teachers. The continued recognition of teachers and programs will enhance the public perception of agricultural education.

**Partnerships.** The entire agricultural education family must work together to appreciate our present partners and to secure and build new alliances across our nation. Developing strategic partnerships within business, industry and education should be promoted at the local, state and national levels.

As a candidate for President Elect, I humbly ask you for your support in my desire to lead our great organization forward. I assure you that I will always be accessible, will listen to your concerns and will work hard to take care of the membership and the NAAE. I look forward to the opportunity to visit with you about my candidacy and welcome any questions or comments.

Together Everyone Achieves More.

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Larry Long, NAAE  
Region II Vice Presi-  
dent, Elk City, OK

# Meet the NAAE President Elect Candidates

## Jeff Maierhofer

### 2000-03 NAAE Region IV Vice President

#### Ready, Willing and Able

It is with humility and privilege that I announce my intent to vie for the position of President-Elect of the NAAE. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure of leadership for Illinois and Region IV for the previous twelve years, and believe I am now ready, willing and able to serve my professional organization at this level.

#### *Ready...*

I believe I am ready to lead this organization as we continue to improve the state of agriculture education in this country. I am ready to work within the framework of the existing organizations of ACTE, The National Council for Agricultural Education, the NASAE, the AAAE, and the National FFA Organization to ensure that we are all pulling on the rope at the same time to guarantee success for agriculture education. I have realized that we may not need one organization, but rather an improved, coordinated effort of all of us.

I am ready to serve our members so each of them feels they have made an investment when they submit their dues. One of my mentors, Bryan Gause, always reminded me that members in small towns or large villages wanted value for their membership and that one of the tasks of the board is to maintain high dividends.

I am ready to assist states who are struggling in encouraging national membership and participation by their members. If we are to gain political and advocacy support from everywhere in this country, we must offer our assistance in making sure that every state association is viable and is providing services for their members while concurrently being an integral part of the national organization.

#### *Willing...*

I am willing to assist in leading the NAAE in enacting our new strategic plan. For the first time we have a defined direction as to where we want to allocate our resources that will best serve our members.

I am willing to spend the time and effort to lead our organization in promoting our profession's goals and objectives. This needs to be a dual effort; performing some of the advocacy tasks as a member of the board of directors, and, more importantly, providing information to every member and potential member so we have a 7,200 plus person push towards those individuals and agencies who make decisions concerning what we do every day.

#### *Able...*

I am able to assist in conducting concise, efficient, and meaningful conferences and meetings. I do not believe in lengthy meetings, but rather believe in preparation and the use of technology to allow all members to come to the table ready to make informed decisions.

I believe I am able to communicate effectively in order to properly represent the NAAE in a positive manner. (However, please do not expect any long speeches.)

I am able to serve in this capacity because I have been given full support by my family (Levi smiled when I told him what I wanted to do), administration, and students. I ask for your support also.

Regardless of the results of this election, I believe the NAAE, with its strong state associations, leaders developed from our membership and our qualified professional staff, is ready, willing and able to meet any challenges that it faces.



**Jeff Maierhofer, NAAE  
Region IV Vice President,  
Seneca, IL**

**Jeff Maierhofer  
Seneca High School  
307 E. Scott  
Seneca, Illinois 61360**

**Office: (815) 357-5024  
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E-Mail: [jeff@jmaierhofer.com](mailto:jeff@jmaierhofer.com)**

**DRAFT — 2003 NAAE Convention Schedule — DRAFT**  
**December 9-13**  
**Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort; Orlando, Florida**

**Tuesday, December 9**

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Board of Directors Meeting
2:00–7:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
6:00–9:00 p.m.	NAAE Award Dinners (Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program, Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program, and Outstanding Teacher – by invitation only)

**Wednesday, December 10**

7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
7:00–7:45 a.m.	Reflections
8:00–9:00 a.m.	Spouses Meet-and-Greet
8:00–9:30 a.m.	NAAE Professional Development Workshops (including the State Presidents Workshop and “Teachers Turn the Key” session)
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	NAAE General Session I (Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program, Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program, Outstanding Young Member awards; Ideas Unlimited; and keynote speaker)
1:30–3:00 p.m.	NAAE Regional Meetings I
3:30–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Committee Meetings I
3:30–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Professional Development Workshops (incl. “Teachers Turn the Key” session)
6:00–7:00 p.m.	John Deere Reception (in honor of the Outstanding Young Members)
7:00–9:30 p.m.	Outstanding Young Member Award Dinner (by invitation only)

**Thursday, December 11**

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
8:00–9:30 a.m.	NAAE Regional Meetings II
9:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	AAAE/NAAE Joint Session (keynote speaker Gil Meyer, DuPont; teacher mentoring symposium; Teacher Mentor awards)
1:00–5:00 p.m.	Offsite Professional Development Tours
6:00–9:00 p.m.	Host State Social and Scholarship Auction

**Friday, December 12**

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
7:00–8:45 a.m.	ACTE Ag Ed Division State Leaders Breakfast (tentative – by invitation only)
8:00–10:30 a.m.	USDA SPEC Grants sessions (some invitation only; some open to all)
9:00–10:30 a.m.	Committee Meetings II
9:00–10:30 a.m.	NAAE Professional Development Workshops (incl. “Teachers Turn the Key” session)
10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	NAAE General Session III (Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Cooperation, Outstanding Service Awards; program TBA)
12:15–2:00 p.m.	NAAE Awards Luncheon (President Elect Candidate Speeches; Professional State Association and Membership awards; Past National Officer recognition)
2:00–3:30 p.m.	Professional Development Breakout Sessions
2:00–5:00 p.m.	USDA SPEC Grants sessions (some invitation only; some open to all)
3:45–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Regional Meetings III
6:00–8:00 p.m.	Partnership EXPO Exhibitors Reception (by invitation only)

**Saturday, December 13**

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Partnership EXPO with Continental Breakfast
1:00–2:30 p.m.	NAAE General Session IV (main business session; officer elections)
3:00–4:30 p.m.	NAAE Board of Directors Orientation Session

**2003 NAAE Convention**  
**Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort – Orlando, Florida – December 9-13, 2003**  
**Registration Form**

Name (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr.): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (only if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of NAAE Membership (check one from the following:)**

Active: \_\_\_\_\_ Associate: \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Life: \_\_\_\_\_ Life: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired: \_\_\_\_\_ Not a Member: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: If you are not a member of NAAE (excluding spouses), please add membership dues to the registration fees in the next section. For active membership, add \$50.00; for associate or retired membership, add \$25.00; for student membership, add \$5.00; for life membership, add \$500.00; and for associate life membership, add \$250.00. The addition of these fees to your registration fees will make you a member of NAAE.*

**Convention Registration**

**Amount**

<b>Pre-registration</b> (postmarked on or before November 1, 2003):	
Active/Associate/Associate Life/Life Member @ \$175.00*	\$ _____
Student Member @ \$75.00*	\$ _____
<b>On-Site Registration</b>	
Active/Associate/Associate Life/Life Member @ \$200.00*	\$ _____
Student Member @ \$100.00*	\$ _____
<b>Membership Dues</b> (see above for fees)	\$ _____
<b>Spouses Pre-registration</b> (postmarked on or before November 1, 2003):	
Includes luncheon and access to other convention events @ \$40.00*	\$ _____
<b>Spouses On-Site Registration</b>	
Includes luncheon and access to other convention events @ \$60.00*	\$ _____
<b>Host State Social Tickets**</b> Adults \$20 each x _____ tickets	\$ _____
Children (12 years old and under) \$15 each x _____ tickets	\$ _____
<b>Off-Site Tour Tickets</b> (cost and topics to be announced later)	\$ _____
(check NAAE website for details)	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

\* includes all refreshment breaks, receptions, awards luncheon, and Partnership EXPO

\*\* includes transportation to Florida FFA Leadership Training Center, meal, and beverages

**Make check payable to NAAE and remit to:**

NAAE, 300 Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215  
 Questions: Call (800) 509-0204 — Fax: (859) 323-3919 — E-mail: NAAE@uky.edu

**Hotel Reservations:** Call (800) 823-8300 for sleeping room reservations for the NAAE Convention at the Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort. \$119/night (plus taxes) for queen double suite or standard king suite.

## **NAAE, Inc.**

**300 Garrigus Building  
Lexington, KY 40546-0215**

**Phone: (859) 257-2224**

**Toll-free: (800) 509-0204**

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**Website: www.naae.org**

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# **Dates & Events**

**National FFA Convention — October 30-November 1, 2003 — Louisville, Kentucky**

**NAAE Convention — December 9-13, 2003 — Orlando, Florida**

**ACTE Convention — December 11-14, 2003 — Orlando, Florida**

**National Agricultural Education Inservice — February 5-7, 2004 — Indianapolis, Indiana**

**NAAE Region I Meeting — April 21-24, 2004 — Honolulu, Hawaii**

**NAAE Region II Meeting — June 20-23, 2004 — Glenwood Springs, Colorado**

**NAAE Region III Meeting — June 15-17, 2004 — Chaska, Minnesota**

**NAAE Region IV Meeting — June 21-23, 2004 — Sandusky, Ohio**

**NAAE Region V Meeting — June 20-22, 2004 — Asheville and Black Mountain, North Carolina**

**NAAE Region VI Meeting — July 7-9, 2004 — Danville, Virginia**