

News & Views

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A-D-V-O-C-A-C-Y

I'm sure many of you have been told there are selective topics one should not discuss when initiating conversation with strangers – religion, politics and money. Well, considering I have never met many of you who are reading this article, perhaps that is advice I should heed! But, instead, I am going to go out on a limb and address the dreadful issues of money and politics, and perhaps even do a little preaching!

This past summer, I served as the NAAE Advocacy Intern. Stationed in Washington, DC for eight weeks, my responsibilities included visiting the offices of U.S. Representatives and Senators as well as presenting to the agriculture teacher contingency that attended National FFA's Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) program each week. During these presentations and visits, I addressed agricultural education and how the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act effects our profession.

I'm sure all of you are well aware of the lack of support the current Administration has shown Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Perkins programs. Fortunately, Congress has shown us that they will not follow the Administration's recommendations to eliminate appropriations for Perkins programs. Yet, we are still waiting for the reauthorization of Perkins, several differences in the House and Senate Perkins bills have yet to be worked out, and it appears that some Perkins funding (occupational and employment information) will be eliminated. This means that we are barely getting a passing grade in our advocacy efforts.

In the over 100 visits I made to Senator's and Representative's offices this summer, I

heard the same messages over and over: "We love Perkins in this office" or "Perkins is important to our district" or "You have nothing to worry about in this office; we support Perkins." While that was refreshing to hear,

something was slightly unsettling. How, after hearing accolade after accolade for Perkins, has Congress not already reauthorized Perkins, and why is Congress expected to reduce Perkins funding for FY 2006 (even if the funding reductions are slight)? It would make sense to me that a program that seems to be so popular among members of Congress would have no problem getting reauthorized and funded at the same levels as the previous year, even if it is a tight year on the federal budget. There seems to be a serious disconnect between what is being said and what is being done with the Perkins program.



Stephanie Shertzer, 2005 NAAE Advocacy Intern at the ACTE office.

So, what is that disconnect? I believe it is a lack of knowledge about agricultural education and how the money from the Perkins program is used in the local schools. If Congress does not know where the money goes or what it is used for, they will find somewhere else for the money to go. It is time for us as a profession to not only advocate for Perkins and agricultural education but to also educate.

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"... we are barely getting a passing grade in our advocacy efforts."

Editorial Note: Content for this issue of News and Views was submitted prior to the recent devastation left in the Gulf Coast States by Hurricane Katrina. The NAAE staff and board of directors are working to develop ways that NAAE members and their programs can help their colleagues that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. Please check the NAAE website, www.naae.org, and the U.S. Ag Ed Listserv for the most current information on relief efforts.

Ideas Unlimited

“FFA Bucks”

As an agricultural education teacher at Beverley Manor Middle School in Staunton, Virginia, Sally Shomo often searches for new ideas to excite her students to learn. To encourage FFA members to become active in the local chapter, Shomo has started the FFA Bucks auction program.

“FFA Bucks” is play money that members earn by participating in FFA activities and chapter fundraisers. The students may begin collecting FFA Bucks in August and continue to collect until the auction is held in May. Parents and community businesses are asked to donate items to sell at the auction, such as hats, T-shirts, model tractors or candy. Auction items are displayed for bidders to see and an auctioneer and clerks help run the event.

“The FFA auction is easy to plan and is a wonderful public relations tool for the chapter and community,” said Shomo. “This is an excellent way to not only get students involved in your program but also parents and the community.”

Sally Shomo from Beverley Manor School in Staunton, Virginia was named as the 2004 Region VI Ideas Unlimited Award winner. To learn more about Sally and her innovative idea, contact her at (540) 886-5806 or via email at sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us.

For more information about the NAAE Ideas Unlimited Award program, contact the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or via email at NAAE@uky.edu. The Ideas Unlimited Award is sponsored by Delmar Thomson Learning.



Sally Shomo (VA), center, received the NAAE Region VI Ideas Unlimited award from Dave Rosenbaum, Delmar Thomson Learning (right) and Roger Teeple, 2003-04 NAAE President (left).

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New Organizational Members

NAAE is pleased to welcome two new Organizational Members.

Jolly Farmer Products
New Brunswick, Canada
(<http://www.jollyfarmer.com>)



Ag For Life
Clinton, North Carolina
(<http://www.agforlife.com>)

Please be sure to go to the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org> click on Organizational Members, and visit the websites of our new and existing Organizational Members.

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Teacher Mentor

Dale Horton has served as an agriculture teacher for 29 years. In 1976, Horton was hired as the agriculture instructor at Norman Public Schools. Three years later, he transferred to Noble High School. "As a mentor to my own students as well as my student teachers, it was important to me that each student find his/her interest and allow someone to help them develop that interest in a challenging way," said Horton.

Although Horton has mentored 29 student teachers, an agriculture instructor that benefited immensely from Horton's assistance and teachings is his daughter, Jona Kay Squires. Squires, currently following the career path of her father by teaching at Norman High School, nominated Horton for the Teacher Mentor Award. Squires explained, "After his 29 years of service, I am proud to support my father for this award."

Dale Horton from Noble High School in Noble, Oklahoma was named as the 2004 Region II Teacher Mentor Award winner. To learn more about Dale and his mentoring success, contact him at (405) 872-7626 or via email at dhorton@nobleps.com.

For more information about the NAAE Teacher Mentor Award program, contact the NAAE office. The Teacher Mentor Award is sponsored by CEV Multimedia, Lubbock, Texas.



Dale Horton, OK (center), received the 2004 NAAE Region II Teacher Mentor award. Gordon Davis, CEV Multimedia (left) and Roger Teeple, 2003-04 NAAE President, presented the award.



www.cevmultimedia.com
(800) 922-9965

Teacher Spotlight

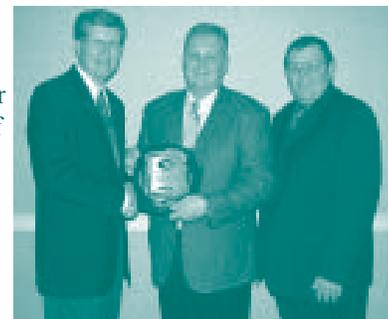
According to the Strength Finder profile, **Mark Zimmerman** completed at the National Ag Ed In-service, excellence, not mediocrity, is Mark's measure. Zimmerman has demonstrated this high standard of excellence in all aspects of teaching. This is evident by the fact that the Spencer Public Schools FFA Chapter has consistently ranked as a three-star chapter as well as a Model of Innovation.

These successes have come also in part due to a solid partnership with local elementary school teachers. This partnership has enabled the chapter to implement the mentoring program Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS). The PALS program has been in place at Spencer FFA since 1993 and it has been such a success that Spencer FFA has been asked to make special presentations about PALS at the National FFA Convention. The chapter also conducts a Food for America program to educate young students about food and fiber systems.

Additionally, the Spencer FFA has developed a special partnership with the Spencer Area Chamber of Commerce. Each month, two members attend chamber meetings to learn about chamber business and to report on Spencer FFA happenings. Zimmerman has also received the Crystal Apple Award sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Spencer Public Schools in Spencer, Wisconsin was named as the 2004 Region III Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program Award winner. To learn more about Mark Zimmerman and his program, contact him at (715) 659-2403 x 112 or via email at mzimmerman@spencer.k12.wi.us.

For more information about the Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program Award, contact the NAAE office. The Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program Award is sponsored by Case IH.



Spencer Public Schools (WI), represented by Mark Zimmerman, center, received the NAAE Region III Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Ag Ed Program Award from Dennis Hann, Case IH (left) and Roger Teeple, 2003-04 NAAE President (right).



The View From My Front Porch

“The Quenching of a Drought”

Jeff Maierhofer, NAAE President

It's a rare summer day for me to be able to sit on my OWN front porch. After a season of enjoying motel balconies and other people's front porches while traveling on behalf of the NAAE, it's refreshing to be back home ready to start school. A soft rain shower adds to the peacefulness of the afternoon but makes me realize for the two hundred and sixth time that I really should put some gutters on the porch. The lone clap of thunder sent Levi to higher ground to be with his beloved little people and Fisher Price farm toys, giving me time to reflect on the past year of the NAAE.

The turf before me has turned back to its proper emerald, replacing the scorched, tan, rough carpet who's only life had been a few dandelions and plantain. After the third driest and second hottest summer on record for Northern Illinois, the infusion of rain has certainly sent a breath of life back into our bean crop and caused us to get the mowers out after their unplanned summer hibernation. The NAAE had a similar irrigation this past year.

A common question posed to me on those porches across America was “what did the dues increase that passed at last year's convention do for our association?” The short answer is simply two words, “Sam Alvis;” The addition of an associate executive director is the longer version. That position was originally funded through the advocacy project of The Council that allowed our executive director to focus on advocacy work. In order to financially maintain the associate executive director position, a dues increase was proposed and passed at last year's NAAE convention.

From my view on the porch, the position that Ms. Alvis holds has been exactly what the NAAE has needed for years. A cloud burst of her accomplishments so far include: the initiation of the Communities of Practice tool, creating a new, user-friendly website, making timely preparations for regional meetings, organizing the NAAE convention five months before the first gavel falls, and directing some of the day to day operation of the Lexington office. Both the position and the person have exceeded the board's expectations.

The dues increased also resulted in a visibly revitalized executive director. Relieved of many of the day to day responsibilities of the NAAE, Jay is able to perform tasks that he is an expert at: advocacy work and association management. In addition, he is able to take care of some of important necessities that he relinquished because of his relentless commitment to this organization – namely his health and sleep. Two years ago I would have received emails from Dr. Jackman with a timestamp of 3:01 a.m. as he finished the *News and Views* long after the deadline. The fact that you're reading this article, assuming you're still reading it, in a timely manner is the result of the dues increase.

The NAAE office staff is no longer reacting last minute to the next deadline. Instead, your staff is now proactive, communicating more effectively with members, thinking of new membership benefits, and implementing members' ideas. They are allowed to be professionals. I am proud of the staff we have in place in Lexington and the work they are doing.

For less than three cents a day per member, the dues increase, like this short downpour, has created a rebirth, a new spirit, in your national organization. During my time on the board, members constantly asked for more, asked for timelier information, and expected it all for the same money. From my viewpoint, the dues increase has been a total success, and will allow the NAAE to be the responsive, progressive, and visionary organization its members expect and demand.

The rain has stopped, so it looks like I'll have that softball game tonight. Levi is back, stomping in puddles as his brother Calvin is sprinkling tears to get his mother's attention for dinner. I better get off the porch before the taxpayers driving by think they're not getting their money's worth. Please stop by and share your views with me, and I'll let you take in mine.



**Jeff Maierhofer,
Illinois, 2004-05
NAAE President**

A-D-V-O-C-A-C-Y ... continued from page 1

Considering we are educators by trade, this should be easy to do! Don't get me wrong – your efforts so far have not gone unnoticed, but it is time we take our advocacy efforts to the next level.

In order to get to that next level, I want to offer a few points to consider...

- Address the issue-take time to educate yourself about Perkins and the legislative process. The old adage “Knowledge is Power” certainly rings true when it comes to fighting for our cause. Two great resources to use are the NAAE website at www.naae.org and the Association of Career and Technical Education website at www.acteonline.org. Make sure to check them out!
 - Democracy really works! Contrary to what many people think, our elected officials do really care about what matters to their constituents. They want to hear from you because you vote them into office and you can just as easily vote them out.
 - Visit your members of Congress. While a trip to DC isn't always practical, utilize the time when your members of Congress are back in your home district. Often, they are in the district once a week as well as for extended recesses throughout the year. Take time to schedule a meeting to visit about what agricultural education is, what Perkins has done for your program or what great things your students are doing in the community.
 - One person cannot do it alone! Solicit the help of local community members, FFA alumni members, and even your students to help advocate for CTE. The more your elected officials hear about your concerns, the more likely they are to address the issues.
 - Contact your members of Congress and invite them to events. Annual banquet, FFA week activities, state FFA conventions, etc. are all great ways to educate your members of Congress on the great achievements of your students as well as a way for them to connect with their constituents.
 - Take Action! People in our profession can be good at complaining about how no one understands the importance of agricultural education. It is time to stop complaining and start taking action to educate others on the importance and effectiveness of our programs.
 - Make the Connection between agricultural education being a part of career and technical education, which is federally supported by the Carl Perkins program. Many elected leaders recognize the importance of agricultural education but do not make the connection between ag ed and the Perkins program. Take time to remind them that if they want to support ag ed they need to support Perkins.
 - You and only you can determine how much support ag ed receives from Congress. Take the time to write a letter, make a phone call or schedule a visit to your members of Congress and start building relationships with them. Doing this will definitely provide a large pay off in the end – literally!
- Remember-Address the issue, Democracy works, Visit your members of Congress, One person cannot do it alone, Contact your members of Congress to attend an event, take Action, make the Connection between ag ed and Perkins and only You determine the future of ag ed. *A-D-V-O-C-A-C-Y*. Advocacy is the key to ensure the future of the Perkins program.

It is time to stop avoiding the issues of “politics and money” and to start talking among ourselves in the profession about how we are going to educate Congress about the importance of Perkins. If we continue to advocate and educate, we will continue to have the funding and support our programs deserve!



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.

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Regional Updates

Region I

What visions I had this summer: from standing on top of a malting plant almost 300 feet high to visiting an apple packing plant and from playing some scramble golf to enjoying the tremendous lake shore view in Frank Sinatra's old hang out on Lake Tahoe. I must give a special thanks to Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Nevada for your fine hospitality, I thoroughly enjoyed your state teacher conferences and learned some new tricks of the trade. Your professionalism and dedication to agricultural education is evident. Keep up the good work.

You can also pat yourself on the back for the 3rd year in row! Region I's membership is up and we have the highest percentage of membership gain. Also congratulations are in order for the Region I NAAE Award Winners. Start gearing up for both National FFA and the national NAAE convention "A Step Ahead" in New Orleans. We will be revisiting dues changes for lifetime, organizational and student members and there are fine opportunities for professional development.

Please take time to utilize the (CoP) Communities of Practice segment of the NAAE website. You can help out a teacher needing information and help get answers to questions you may have. It needs every teacher's input to make this valuable tool work.

Just like that amazing view of Idaho I enjoyed on top of that malting plant. I would like to wish you the best outlook with the upcoming school year and close with a few thoughts. Do you have a vision? Is it big? Can it be bigger? Are you working towards your vision? Good Luck and Take Care!

Kevin Fochs, Region I Vice President

Region IV

Greetings Region IV. Summer's almost gone and I wish you the best as you start your new school year. Remember that the school year will go as quickly as the summer.

Region IV met at Amish Acres in Nappanee, Indiana for our conference. Thanks to Chad Berger and the rest of the Indiana Association for their hospitality in hosting an outstanding conference. Next year we will be meeting in the "Bootheel" of Missouri June 26-28, where plans include tours of rice and cotton production, catfish farming and a trapshoot.

I hope that everyone is making plans to attend the National Convention in New Orleans. The convention is a chance for us to recognize our outstanding members, programs and supporters. Members will have a chance to give their input through committee meetings, regional meetings and the delegate session. As always there will be excellent opportunities for professional development through workshops and educational tours. I look forward to seeing you there.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me.

Harold Eckler, Region IV Vice President

Region II

Greetings from Region II! A big thank you goes out to our Louisiana hosts for the Region II summer conference in June. It was a terrific time of food, professional development, fellowship, and food. The teachers from Louisiana set the bar high, but I know that the New Mexico teachers are looking to go them one better next June in Ruidoso. Put it on your calendar now – June 18-21, 2006, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

A big thank you also to my friends in the Colorado and Texas ag teacher organizations. I thoroughly enjoyed my visits to those states and their summer conferences. Every state's conference is a little different from another's, but it reflects well on our profession when a high percentage of the state's ag teachers make it a priority to attend their summer annual meetings. We must be providing the right stuff in order that teachers make time to get there and participate.

By the time this newsletter arrives, another school year will have begun – another year in which agricultural education students across the country will be changed for the better for having chosen to get involved in our programs. Good luck and best wishes for another successful year!

Dr. Bill Hunter, Region II Vice President

Region V

Where has the summer gone? I am quite sure all of you were as busy as I was this summer doing what we do best, going about the business of being agriculture teachers. We had a super Region V Conference at Hilton Head Island, SC and the delegates from South Carolina are to be commended for all of their hard work to make our conference a success. Thanks to each of you who attended the conference, all of the hard work conducting the business of our region was evident and shows your dedication to our profession.

A special congratulation goes out to our Region V Award winners; we are looking forward to recognizing each of them at the NAAE Conference at New Orleans in December.

Remember that we will be electing a Region V Vice President for a three year term as well as electing a Regional Secretary which is done on an annual basis. All candidates must have a Memorandum of Understanding completed prior to the election.

All indications show that our NAAE Conference is going to be outstanding again this year. We had a large number of workshop proposals this year that promise to be informative and worthwhile to attend.

Please take time to check up on those beginning teachers you might have in your areas and give them that much needed pat on the back and advice that will get them through the year and on their way to a rewarding career in Ag Education.

Remember to continue to make those contacts with your legislators; the war is not over in the Perkins Allocations.

Please let me know if you need anything at all, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans

Lee James, Region V Vice President

Region III

Greetings Region III;

The summer has passed on by quickly and now we are facing the daily challenge of motivating students, increasing knowledge, and honing leadership skills. As we all start our new school year, let's be sure that we develop clear goals for the school year and that we also pledge to take some time with our own families. Let's do the best job we can, but be ever mindful of the important folks at home.

I would like to thank the North Dakota Association for hosting an outstanding Region III Conference in Beulah. We had good attendance and held a very successful conference. As we look ahead to next year, Iowa, here we come. Looking forward to a great conference in Estherville. I would like to congratulate our Region III National Award winners who will travel to New Orleans in December to be recognized for their fine work. Congratulations to all the award winners. I am looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

Speaking of New Orleans, the conference schedule is set. Please check the website and sign up for tours and look over the workshop selections. Also note that the Louisiana Association has organized a scholarship golf outing for NAAE on Tuesday at noon. Should be fun and all proceeds go to the NAAE Scholarship fund. Hope to see you in Cajun Country. As always if I can be of any assistance don't hesitate to contact me.

Paul Larson, Region III Vice President

Region VI

We had a great Region VI conference at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Uncasville, CT. Thanks again to Cheryl Matthewson and her team for organizing such an outstanding meeting and for highlighting some of the outstanding agricultural businesses that are unique to New England. It was wonderful to see so many states represented at this joint state and regional conference. Please mark your calendars for next year's Region VI Conference in Rehoboth Beach, DE the last week of June.

One of the goals of NAAE is to be able to identify the demographics of our membership. So, please take the time to accurately fill out your state rosters so that the office can sort the data in order to provide potential organizational sponsors with a clear picture of what our membership is comprised of.

This year's NAAE Conference is being held in conjunction with the Urban Agriculture and ACTE national conventions. NAAE events will be held at the Sheraton on Canal Street, New Orleans from December 7-10, 2005. I hope that our region will strive to represent itself proudly with record participation. The NAAE Board has responded to our members' request for additional tours and scholarship fundraising activities. I strongly encourage you to participate in these optional events, as they are what make our conferences successful and memorable.

As always, I am here to assist you in any way. Feel free to contact me as needed so that I can respond to the needs and issues of our region to the best of my ability
Andy Seibel, Region VI Vice President



NAAE Adds All State Legislatures to the NAAE Legislative Action Center Thanks to Sponsorship from the National FFA Alumni Organization

The National FFA Alumni Association has agreed to partially sponsor the NAAE Legislative Action Center, which has allowed for the addition of all 50 state legislatures to the CapWiz section of the NAAE website. Agricultural educators, and supporters of agricultural education, can now easily communicate via the NAAE website, not only with their members of the U.S. Congress, but also with their state legislators! This is a tremendous addition to the NAAE Legislative Action Center. The new features have already been activated.

We are very pleased that the National FFA Alumni Association is partnering with NAAE toward these important advocacy initiatives. National FFA Alumni members truly are "Advocates for Agricultural Education!"



A special thank you to the National FFA Alumni Association for their partial sponsorship of the NAAE Legislative Action Center.

<http://capwiz.com/naae/home/>

Perkins Reauthorization

The full Senate approved its version of the Perkins reauthorization (S. 250, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2005) on March 10, 2005 by a 99-0 vote. (The one Senator who was not present for the vote is a huge supporter of career and technical education – so this was truly a unanimous vote in the Senate.) On May 4, 2005, the full House voted 416-9 to approve its version of the Perkins reauthorization (H.R. 366, the "Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act"). House

Legislative Update

and Senate Congressional staff have had informal discussions about the conference report for the Perkins reauthorization, but no official action has taken place on the Perkins conference committee proceedings. We are still confident that Perkins will be reauthorized in this Congress. However, the Supreme Court nomination and appropriations bills will take precedent when Congress the immediate future. The Perkins reauthorization might not take place until the second session of the 109th Congress.

FY 2006 Appropriations

On Friday, June 24, 2005, the House approved the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3010) with a floor vote of 250 to 151. This House bill includes level funding for the Perkins basic state grant and Tech Prep at about \$1.312 billion. On July 14, 2005, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Senate's FY 06 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. Senate floor action has not yet taken place. The Senate bill, out of committee, maintains the bulk of Perkins funding at \$1.309 billion, just slightly less than the House approved funding level of \$1.312 billion. This funding level is a major victory considering the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Perkins program and the tight budget environment.

We expect the Senate will complete its FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill soon. We are hopeful that the Section 118 funding (Occupational and Employment Information) can be restored, or at least partially restored, before the bill is finalized.

Farm Bill Forums

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is hosting listening sessions all across the nation to gather input on the upcoming Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2007. Agricultural education has been well represented at these Farm Bill Forums. The National FFA Organization has done an outstanding job of getting FFA members at the listening sessions to speak about the value of agricultural education. Agriculture

teachers have also presented at some of the Farm Bill Forums. The National Council for Agricultural Education will be developing a list of agricultural education related initiatives we hope will be addressed in the next Farm Bill. The American Association for Agricultural Education has named a legislative task force that is working on Farm Bill initiatives as well; the AAEE legislative task force will be working with The Council.

National FFA WLC and SPC

Hundreds of FFA members who attended the National FFA Organization's Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) program and the State Presidents Conference (SPC) in Washington, DC during the summer of 2005 took the opportunity to visit with their members of the U. S. Congress. In addition, Stephanie Shertzer, NAAE Advocacy Intern, and Keri Haars, ACTE Advocacy Manager, met each week with the agriculture teachers who attended the WLC advisors program. Stephanie and Keri accompanied agriculture teachers on visits with key members of Congress.

U.S. Ag Ed Listserv

To keep up with the latest ag ed advocacy news, be sure you are subscribed to the U.S. Ag Ed Listserv. Visit the NAAE website at www.naae.org and look for the U.S. Aged Listserv information under the "About" tab.

For the latest information related to advocacy for agricultural education, check out the semi-monthly *Advocacy in Action* reports on the NAAE website at:

www.naae.org/advocacy/aianewsletter/.

National Association of Agricultural Educators
Advocacy in Action
A semi-monthly update of news and information in Agricultural Education.

Meet the NAAE President Elect Candidates

Paul Larson

2002-05 NAAE Region II Vice President

This past summer I had another opportunity to travel to Washington, DC. During my stay, I spent time on Capitol Hill and around the historic sites and monuments. Then on a recent family vacation to Springfield, IL, I had the chance to tour the monuments and museums at Lincoln's birthplace. Whenever I am around these symbols of our great country, I often find myself reflecting about what these people's lives were like and what they must have been doing and dreaming about. During these reflections, my mind tends to drift to my life and question what I have done to make a difference in my home, community, and world. Have I done all I could? What could I have done better? Today, these questions lead to my desire to be the next President Elect of the National Association of Agricultural Educators. I believe that I have three main qualities that make me a strong candidate for President Elect: Experience, Vision, and Passion.

Let's start with **Experience**. I have been around agricultural education my entire life. My father taught "vocational agriculture" for 39 years, so I grew up with SAE visits, FFA banquets, state conventions, and county fairs. As I matured and became an FFA member with more significant involvement, I realized that there could be no other career for me. I have watched and participated, as "vocational agriculture" has become agricultural education. When I began my teaching career 19 years ago, the agriculture education program was struggling and had only 50 students. Through my leadership, the program transformed with multiplying enrollment, the addition of a second instructor and middle school classes. Currently, our program serves over 110 high school students and over 320 students in the middle school each year. This year I am teaching four middle school classes and two high school classes.

The second quality is **Vision**. One of my strongest attributes is futuristic thinking. I develop goals and a plan to achieve our vision. I did this with my program when I started teaching and continue to do so today with all aspects of my professional and personal life. When I look at NAAE, I want us to be THE organization for agricultural educators, providing leadership for professional growth and advocacy. In order for agricultural education to survive, we must be able to demonstrate our effectiveness at enhancing students' academic skills through technical applications. We all know that we have a tremendous model for helping students achieve academic success. What we must now do is conduct more research that demonstrates the effectiveness of our programs at helping students achieve academic success in the face of "No Child Left Behind" testing. It is my vision to incorporate funding in the 2007 Farm Bill to develop, distribute, and train teachers on the best methods for infusing more math, science, and language arts standards into our agricultural education curriculum. While I know we all teach these skills, we must do a better job of documenting our successes and training every teacher on the best methods to be successful. I believe this is where our continued efforts at advocacy will pay huge dividends. We have built relationships with our legislators, and now is the time to ask for their assistance to help us assure a bright future for the absolutely vital industry of agriculture. What is a better way to assure this future than a Farm Bill that funds innovative strategies that help every student achieve not only on tests, but in their careers as well?

The final quality is **Passion**. I have the passion to help move the NAAE forward. We have laid a great foundation and are ready to soar. We have a solid strategic plan that we must continue to evaluate, update and use as our guiding force to meet the needs of our members. We must develop and implement a marketing plan not only to increase our membership but also publicize our organization and profession to the general public in order to keep them better informed about the importance of agriculture and agricultural education.

Based on these three main qualities, I believe that I am a strong candidate for President Elect and I would be honored to serve. I welcome any questions or comments you may have at the contact information below.

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Region III Vice President,
Appleton, WI.

Meet the NAAE President Elect Candidates

Lee James

2002-05 NAAE Region V Vice President

EXPERIENCE – “THE KEY TO LEADERSHIP”

Experience is defined by Webster as the “*actual participation in something.*” After enrolling in agricultural education and the FFA in high school, I decided that I wanted to be a career agriculture teacher. My high school agriculture teacher instilled in me the desire to become the best agriculture teacher possible. He believed experience builds the person and creates the most effective teacher. In my twenty-eight years in the classroom, I have tried to be open to change and the new experiences that make me a more effective teacher. My years in this profession have exceeded all my expectations. I continue to envision agricultural education as a tool by which we mold our students into productive citizens.

As a beginning teacher, I incurred many obstacles and sought refuge in other teachers through my professional organization, NAAE, on both the state and national levels. I acknowledge the assistance of many tenured teachers who have shaped me into the person and teacher I have become. This professional, but personal, involvement provided me with the direction and wisdom necessary to provide my students with the best that the total agriculture program has to offer. In addition, because of the assistance given to me by fellow agriculture teachers during my twenty-eight years, I have sought to follow their example by handing on to other teachers what I have received throughout my career.

Webster goes on further to define experience as “*the knowledge or skill acquired from training received during an activity.*” It is my belief that the leadership training I have received through our profession has prepared me to lead our organization. I view being a good listener as one of the most important characteristics of a good leader. I believe that in order to effectively represent others who are members of any group one must adhere to the needs of and listen to the concerns and ideas of all the members who make up the organization. I affirm that my effectiveness to lead our organization will be solely based on my ability to allow your needs to drive my actions. Many issues are involved in the operation of our organization, and I believe input from our membership is the foundation of our past and future success.

My primary goal, if elected to lead our organization, is to be open to suggestions from all of our members. I will strive to promote and maintain the success of NAAE by keying in on the specific issues that drive our organization:

- ✓ **Membership-** our success as an organization is only as good as each of our members. It is vital to continue to recruit members, but not at the expense of providing present members the resources, information and training that will allow them to continue to impact student achievement.
- ✓ **Advocacy-** through the efforts of the NAAE staff and our members, we have a strong advocacy program in place. Keeping our members aware of the important issues that affect agricultural education, and giving them the tools necessary to make the contacts to promote our programs will be a high priority.
- ✓ **Communication-** keeping each member aware of the activities of the NAAE is essential to our success. United we stand, divided we fall, rings so true to the ability of an organization to be successful. It is my goal to keep members informed, and to be open to each of their suggestions, and to treasure their comments.
- ✓ **Service-** working hard for NAAE and our members will be a focal point of my leadership. I will follow our organization’s strategic plan with input from all regions. Acknowledging our actions defines who we are.

As my FFA members are entering into competition, we gather together for just a moment for reflection. I tell them to remember “who they are,” “where they came from,” “and why they are here.” As a candidate for President-Elect of NAAE, I acknowledge agricultural education has made me into “who I am,” “that I come from the agriculture classroom,” “and that I am here to serve the members of NAAE.”

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Lee James
2002-05 NAAE
Region V Vice President,
Ackerman, MS

2005 NAAE CONVENTION



Take “A Step Ahead” and plan on attending the 2005 NAAE Convention.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, NAAE and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) continue to make plans for the annual convention in December 2005. It is unlikely that we will meet in New Orleans. NAAE and ACTE are currently investigating alternative arrangements for the 2005 NAAE/ACTE Convention. At the time of this publication, requests have been sent to a number of cities to host the convention. There will be a 2005 NAAE/ACTE Convention. Please be patient with both organizations as we make these alternate arrangements.

We ask all NAAE/ACTE Convention attendees to regularly check the NAAE website at www.naae.org for information on convention, as well as information on changing and making travel arrangements.

Schedule, hotel information, and registration forms available online at <http://www.naae.org>

2005 NAAE/ACTE Convention Registration

The 2005 NAAE Convention schedule and the 2005 ACTE Convention schedule are being planned carefully so that NAAE members may attend sessions at both conventions. NAAE members will pay one registration fee and have full access to both conventions. All registration fees for the NAAE and ACTE conventions will be processed by ACTE. You may register for the conventions now on the ACTE Convention Registration Website at <http://www.acteonline.org/convention/registration.cfm>.

IMPORTANT: It is imperative that you select “Agricultural Education (AGR)/NAAE” on Part A of the registration form. The NAAE convention registration fee will be paid from ACTE to NAAE for all registrants who check “Agricultural Education (AGR)/NAAE” on Part A of the registration form.

Advanced Registration (\$305) is open until October 31, 2005. Register NOW and save \$45!

For the 2005 convention, NAAE MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO ACTE MEMBERS are, of course, eligible for the ACTE member convention registration fee rates. NAAE members who ARE NOT ACTE members will only have to pay an additional \$60.00, a savings of \$120.00 over regular non-ACTE member rates.



NAAE/Florida Department of Citrus Future Teachers Scholarships

NAAE is pleased to announce the continuation of the NAAE Florida Department of Citrus Future Teachers Scholarship Program. Applications are due to the NAAE office postmarked no later than March 15, 2006. Ten (10) students will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for the fall 2006 college/university term.

To be eligible for these scholarships, each applicant must: a) be an agricultural education student and an FFA member; b) be a high school senior planning to pursue a career as an agriculture teacher; and c) attend a high school where the agricultural education/FFA program conducts a Fresh Florida Citrus Product Fundraiser.

The Florida Department of Citrus joins with NAAE in encouraging agriculture teachers to inform their students, especially their new freshman, about the 2006 NAAE/FDOC Future Teachers Scholarship Program. Florida Department of Citrus Executive Director Dan Gunter stated, "We feel it is important to make students aware of this scholarship program early in their high school careers, which will enable them to ensure they meet eligibility requirements and make informed decisions about their future."

Fresh Florida Citrus Fundraisers are easy, quick and simple ways to add thousands of dollars to your treasury. For more information about the Florida Department of Citrus and Fresh Florida Citrus Fundraisers, visit the website at http://www.floridajuce.com/cm_citrus_fresh_florida.php, send e-mail to info@citrus.state.fl.us, or call (863) 499-2500. Request a free Fundraising Kit and list of Florida citrus suppliers. For more information, including the application and application guidelines, on the 2006 NAAE/FDOC Future Teachers Scholarship Program, visit the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org/awards/applications/>.

Florida Citrus Future Teachers Scholarship Winners

NAAE is pleased to announce the 2005 class of Future Teachers scholarship recipients. This scholarship program is sponsored by the **Florida Department of Citrus**. These students will be majoring in agricultural education with intentions to become agricultural educators after graduation.

This is the ninth year that this program has been sponsored by the Florida Department of Citrus. We received nearly 30 applications for these awards this year. Officials from the Florida Department of Citrus selected ten of the applicants to receive the scholarship. Each scholarship winner has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Thank you, Florida Department of Citrus!

Congratulations to these deserving students and their agriculture teachers!

Jeremy Fish, Eastbrook High School, Sweetser, IN; Teachers: **Jeff Beranix** and **Kevin Plumer**

Stephanie Florence, LaRue County High School, Hodgenville, KY; Teachers: **Tim Quiggins**
and **Misty Bivens**

Briana Hargett, Smyrna High School, Dover, DE; Teachers: **Keith Shane**, **Jim Harrison**
and **Russ Stinson**

April Harris, Winchester Community High School, Ridgeville, IN; Teacher: **Keith Snyder**

Whitney Hill, West Columbus High School, Cerro Gordo, NC; Teachers: **Fred McPherson**,
Jeff Parris and **Carlton Campbell**

Amber Johnson, Pine Grove High School, Ripley, MS; Teacher: **John-Grady Taylor**

Keith Konradi, Jac-Cen-Del High School, Batesville, IN; Teacher: **Charlotte Salkeld**

Alex Lauffer, Garden Spot High School, Narvon, PA; Teachers: **Robert Lauffer**, **Kara**
Graver and **Traci Marchini**

Heather Lyerly, South Rowan High School, Salisbury, NC; Teachers: **David Cress** and
David Overcash

Colbi Parker, Bruce High School, Bruce, MS; Teacher: **Ted Camp**



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2004-05 NAAE Board

Dates & Events

NASAE Annual Meeting – October 23-25, 2005 – Louisville, Kentucky

National FFA Convention – October 26-29, 2005 – Louisville, Kentucky

NAAE and ACTE Conventions – December 6-10, 2005 – Location TBA

Join the U.S. Ag Ed Listserv.

Details at <http://www.naae.org/about/usagedlistserv>