

# NEWS & VIEWS

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS, INC.

## NAAE National Convention 2006

JOIN US IN ATLANTA for the 2006 NAAE Convention, November 28 through December 2. Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect with your peers from across the nation. Held in conjunction with the ACTE convention, more than 5,000 educators will be in attendance. Your NAAE Convention registration gives you full access to both the NAAE and the ACTE conventions, so you get to experience two great events for the cost of one.

### WHY ATTEND?

- \* **Gather fresh ideas** through our professional development workshops
- \* **Network** with middle school, high school and postsecondary agriculture instructors from across the country
- \* **Behind-the-scenes tours** of Atlanta attractions that will be specialized to highlight agricultural interests
- \* Attend the ACTE **Career Tech Expo** to learn about recent innovations you can take back to your program.

### REGISTER FOR CONVENTION

**Online:** Click [HERE](#) to go to the ACTE Convention Registration Website. Register this way to receive a discount

**By Mail:** Click [HERE](#) to download a registration form  
Find this information and more online at [www.naae.org/convention/registration](http://www.naae.org/convention/registration)

### Members Make the Difference



*Allan Sulser  
2005-06 NAAE  
President*

I MADE IT TO THE TOP OF THE DIVIDE the other evening; I had just finished sorting sheep and matching the bucks with the ewes. I had a couple of hours of daylight left so I took the short drive. The view was spectacular; the aspens starting to turn their golden yellow, the maples all shades of red, the elk were whistling, and the valley below was green and lush. I sat there for the next



two hours, watched the elk and took it all in. I wondered why I hadn't done this earlier, and then I remembered I had traveled most of the summer, that school had started, state fair had just finished, FFA was getting in full swing with convention planning, officers to help train, members to get involved, the list continues. I shifted that to the back of my mind and thought about NAAE for a while.

First, I would like to congratulate all of you who helped push the reauthorization of the Perkins Act. Thank you so very much for your letters, emails, and phone calls to your Representatives and Senators. It was you and your efforts that opened the ears of our national leaders. Each time I met with elected officials they knew the importance of agriculture education and CTE because you had let them know. Thanks again for your efforts! The new bill reauthorizes Perkins until 2012, with a new focus on accountability, more

rigorous academics and connections with business and industry. Check with your state agricultural education director to see what your state is doing to prepare.

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 on 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 could make a difference. It does take a little extra effort and time, but that is what being a professional is all about.

*"It was you and your efforts that opened the ears of our national leaders."*

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## 2006 NAAE Convention Professional Development Workshops

GET FRESH IDEAS, technology and techniques through the NAAE Convention's Professional Development Workshops. With over 35 different offerings, there is a workshop for every interest. Talk to your school about earning professional development credit for attending. Click [HERE](#) to download the PDF file with the complete listing of workshops or go to <http://www.naae.org/convention/profdevworkshops>.

Here are a few of our offerings:

### Using GoogleEarth in the Agriculture Education Classroom

Integrate the GIS program GoogleEarth and help students learn about precision agriculture, soil and water management, land use and urban sprawl.

### Biofuels: The Ethanol Alternative

Explore fermentation as a source of combustible fuel as you discuss a lab activity where students produce and distill ethanol using various food sources.

### No Teacher Left Behind: Welding curriculum that works for you!

Get the tools to improve the quality of your welding program. Learn about a new curriculum developed by the Lincoln Electric Company that focuses on the newest processes in the industry.

### Plant Genetics and Breeding Improved Crops

Investigate the genetics of corn plants by simulating two crosses - one between the offspring of plants with one trait and the other using plants with two traits. Examine and compare pictures of offspring produced by two different sets of parents and use evidence from these to extend your investigations on the inheritance of dominant and recessive traits and the Law of Independent Assortment.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE ALL WORKSHOPS](#)

## The value of professional development

# Our Image as Professionals



*Lee James  
Mississippi  
2005-2006  
President-Elect*

AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER I have had a genuine respect for my agriculture teacher. Even today, after he has been retired for some six years, if he gave me a job task I would say "Yes sir," and get at it. How do we as agricultural educators develop and maintain that type of professionalism? One contributing factor is our dedication to our profession. This is evident through involvement with students and the communities where we live and work to promote a better way of life that all can enjoy. Another key to our success is being continually involved in professional development activities that keep us on the forefront of the ever changing industry of agriculture. Are there benefits in professional development activities; if so, what can we expect to gain?

By participating in professional development, we can better educate our students be prepared for the careers in agriculture as well as help our adults keep abreast of new technologies in the industry. Our actions and knowledge can be seen through the effort we expend on

*"...professional development activities keep us on the forefront of the ever changing industry of agriculture."*

our programs. In turn, this effort can bring the outside support on which many of our programs depend.

We are blessed to have an almost endless source of exceptional professional development activities to provide us with the information and resources to meet the needs of our specific instructional area. Many activities are scheduled to fit into our busy itineraries. Our state and national professional organizations, universities, as well as the National FFA staff have numerous activities that meet

the needs of our agricultural educators in specific subject areas as well as leadership.

Many times it is we as agricultural educators who provide the professional development to other teachers in our respective school districts, and we can be proud of that fact. I hope that many of you will have the opportunity to attend the NAAE/ACTE Conference in Atlanta. Our staff has worked hard to provide professional development workshops that will be of great value to us all. One of the sentences of the Agricultural Teacher's Creed states "I will endeavor to develop professionally through study, travel, and exploration." As agricultural educators I see this as one of our most important goals.

### *...from Page 1*

Second, I would like to congratulate all of you who will have Proficiency Award winners, American FFA degree recipients, CDE teams, National Chapter, and other awards recognized at National FFA Convention. It takes a lot of effort on your part to see those students shine in the national spotlight. I am constantly amazed at how many of your names and chapters I recognize as I read through the award categories on the FFA website. I hope that you can stop by the NAAE booth and say hello during the career show. We will have information on the upcoming NAAE convention and candidate information for the next president elect.

Third, congratulations to all the regions. I just read our membership update, and four regions had a positive growth rate this year

in active membership. Overall membership is up by nearly 200 active members. What a great accomplishment, considering that we just had a dues increase, which usually means a decline in membership. What that tells me is that NAAE is focusing on your needs and wants. Please keep us informed on those items that can be of service to you and your state.

Finally, I believe that NAAE has planned for a great year, that NAAE is something that we can all be proud of, and that Agriculture Education has the best teachers in the business of education. Remember that if you are ever in Utah stop by and I will take you on the short ride up to the divide and show you one of the prettiest places around. You can share some of your views with me and I will share mine with you. See you in Atlanta.

# Ideas Unlimited

## Light Stand Shop Project

CORY WEDEL, agriculture educator with Stratton High School in Stratton, Colorado, developed his light stand shop project as a way for students to utilize skills learned in his Agriculture Mechanics class.

The idea evolved as Wedel tried to design a practical project that could be used by all students, whether they lived on a farm or in a more urban environment.

Essentially a halogen floodlight affixed to a metal base, the stand utilizes a duplex receptacle with a single pole switch to control the light. An extension cord is then wired into the receptacle box and stored on a hook welded to the stand's side. Students begin the unit by learning the skills essential to the light stand's creation, including

safety, welding, electrical wiring, creating technical drawings and bills of materials. After practicing these skills individually, the unit culminates with the actual building of the light stand. For more information about the light stand unit, contact Cory Wedel, 2005 Ideas Unlimited Region II winner at [corywedel@strattonschoools.org](mailto:corywedel@strattonschoools.org). You can also access Wedel's Light Stand plans on the web at <http://stratton.groupfusion.net>. Click on Classroom Pages; Wedel, Cory; then Ag. Projects.

Do you have a great idea? Tell us by entering the NAAE Ideas Unlimited award program. To learn more, call The NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or send an e-mail to [NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:NAAE@uky.edu). The Ideas Unlimited Award program is sponsored by Delmar Thomson Learning.

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CHECK OUT THE REST  
BUT  
COME TO THE BEST!!

# Spotlight

## Outstanding Postsecondary/ Adult Program

THE FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (FBM) program at Minnesota West Community and Technical College serves to help farm families achieve their business and personal goals through improved farm organization, management efficiency, and marketing.

Since its inception in 1991, the program has grown to include two full-time instructors, Dennis Schroeder and Troy Otto. Schroeder and Otto work to help farmers maximize their returns on business investments by providing them with a solid foundation in management principles, agricultural technologies, and the knowledge of emerging farm practices.

"We believe that the best way to help our students learn is to have them interact with the subject, experience the effects of their management decisions, and understand the consequences of chosen management practices," stated Schroeder. They accomplish this using a variety of tools,

including simulations, computer worksheets, and hands-on labs. In addition, Schroeder has developed online market-



Area farmers learn to use GPS backpack system at a FBM workshop

ing courses and the Marshall FBM *Management Watch* website. The online courses have allowed students to learn marketing concepts off-campus, on their own time and

at their own rate of learning. *Management Watch* includes free management charts and current news and information sources.

FBM students have achieved national recognition, with one being selected as one of the top 100 best managed farm in the United States.

If you would like to learn more about Minnesota West Community College's FBM program, contact Dennis Schroeder at [dschroed123@starpoinet.net](mailto:dschroed123@starpoinet.net) or visit the *Management Watch* website at [www.mnwest.edu/program-sites/jackson/farm-business-management](http://www.mnwest.edu/program-sites/jackson/farm-business-management).

For more information about the NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award, contact the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or via e-mail at [NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:NAAE@uky.edu). The Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Award Program is sponsored by Syngenta as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



## Outstanding Teacher Mentor



Hals Beard (center) received the Region II Outstanding Teacher Mentor Award. Presenting the award are Jeff Maierhofer, 2004-05 NAAE president and Steven Akers, CEV Multimedia

HALS BEARD, a 22-year veteran agriscience instructor in Louisiana, believes that mentors are most important in assisting and retaining new and young agriscience teachers. It is this belief that has led him to mentor eleven new teachers in the past five years.

"Throughout my two years I have yet to witness a day when his enthusiasm for

education and working with students was less than 100 percent," said John Underwood, AP Biology, Physical, and Environmental Science Instructor at North Central High School and former mentee.

"Hals has helped other FFA chapters in St. Landry Parish by offering assistance and guidance in preparing other teams for competition," said Richie Badeaux, Port Barre High School agriscience teacher and seven-year mentee of Beard's.

Beard's seemingly boundless energy for helping both students and teachers is evident in the wide variety of activities in which he is involved. "Over this time I have learned probably as much from those that I mentored as they learned from me," said Beard of his many years mentoring experience.

Beard encourages new educators to seek opportunities to adopt a cross-curricular approach. Team teaching gives both Beard and his mentee the opportunity to observe the others' teaching methods. This allows Beard to give constructive feedback on the new teacher's strengths and the mentee to

observe some effective teaching methods which he or she might incorporate into the classroom.

According to Beard, one of the first steps to a successful program is the development of good relationships in the school and community. He works to make sure that he sets the standards by showing new teachers the way to success.

Beard is currently serving as the Agricultural Education Program Consultant for the Louisiana Department of Education. To learn more about how Beard is an effective mentor, contact him at [hals.beard@la.gov](mailto:hals.beard@la.gov) or (225) 219-0366. For more information about the NAAE Teacher Mentor Award, contact us at (800) 509-0204 or via e-mail at [NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:NAAE@uky.edu).

The Teacher Mentor award is sponsored by CEV Multimedia of Lubbock, Texas.



# Regional Update

## Region I



**Kevin Fochs, Region I VP**

**Email: kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us**

Welcome back to school! Here's hoping the new school year is treating you well and that you and your family are healthy and happy. This past month has been a hot and dry one in Montana and we've been surrounded by fires. Four fires are burning within 30 miles of Livingston. One is almost 300,000 acres in size and burned 26 buildings. Luckily this weekend we received some welcome moisture with a little snow in the mountains and some rain in the lower elevations to put a damper on them. We keep praying for more moisture.

On the positive side, we are fortunate to have Carl Perkins funding for the future. It's nice to know that we can and do have an impact on decisions made by congress. Our advocacy work is just beginning to pay off. Please think about other agricultural education issues you would like to see addressed in the future. The Regional Conference next April 25-28 in Cody, Wyoming will be a great time to address local or state concerns you might have. Send me an email or call with your thoughts. I'm always happy to hear your concerns.

Congratulations and a fine job to the Region I award winners who will be traveling to Atlanta in December.

**Outstanding Program**-Flathead High School, MT; **Outstanding Young Member**-Justin Patten, ID; **Outstanding Teacher**-Clark Krantz, MT;

**Ideas Unlimited**- KevinAmsden, WA;

**Outstanding Postsecondary**-Gary Sundseth, NV; **Teacher Mentor**-Veril Nelson, OR; **Outstanding Cooperation**-Lee Boyer, MT; **Lifetime Achievement**-Kelly Birch, WY. Ten young members were also selected for **Teacher Turn the Key**. Michael Larsen, AZ; Jeff Holmes, Rick Grewell, MT;

Charlie Vandehey, Jim Cant, OR; Alissa Hadfield, Suzanne Hadfield, UT; Beth Hammerberg, Danielle Jelinek, WA; Danielle Cox, WY.

## Region II



**Bill Hunter, Region II VP**

**Email: billh@prattcc.edu**

A big howdy from Region II! I want to say a big thank you to the ag teachers in New Mexico who hosted the Region II summer conference in June. Farmington provided a great place for us to enjoy the local foods, good tours, and fellowship. As much as we enjoyed ourselves and as much as we got done in New Mexico, I know that my friends and colleagues in Kansas will have a terrific conference next June in Pittsburg. This conference will be in the area I grew up in, so I may be a little biased, but I think that everyone who comes to next summer's Region II conference will get to see a Kansas you've never seen before. Put it on your calendar now - June 17-20, 2007, Pittsburg, Kansas. The Holiday Inn Express is already accepting reservations in the Region II block. Keep watch on the NAAE website for more details as they become available.

I also want to thank my friends in the Louisiana and Oklahoma ag teacher organizations. I thoroughly enjoyed my visits to those states and their summer conferences. Even though every state's summer conference is a little different, I took things from each conference that I am using or will use in my classroom. I also enjoyed talking to the new teachers and young teachers at these meetings. You can't help but catch some of their enthusiasm! It reflects well on our profession when some of the best and brightest choose our profession in which to make their mark.

By the time this newsletter arrives, another school year will be well under way - another year in which agricultural education students across the country will have their lives changed for the better because they chose to get involved in our programs. Good luck and best wishes for another successful year!

## Region III



**Tom Hofmann, Region III VP**

**Email: thofmann@spsne.org**

Hidey Ho fellow agricultural instructors from God's Region (that would be Region III). I hope all is well in your little part of the world as I try to cure my writer's block before the first period bell. I have been busy teaching, coaching football, supervising FFA activities, and raising a few hogs, making free time a premium. My son is involved in soccer and midget football and my daughter is a member of a competitive gymnastics team. I have always heard if you want to get something done, ask a busy person. I am really enjoying the experience as your Region III V.P., and invite any suggestions to improve my ability to serve you on the board.

Thank you Iowa for another outstanding Region III conference. A great time was had by all attendees thanks to the hard work by Clyde Johnson and the rest of the gang from Iowa.

Congrats on your efforts with the Perkins legislation. Believe me when I tell you, your letters were heard loud and clear on Capital Hill. Your legislators know the value of career and technical education even if the President doesn't. Take time and write a thank you letter to your legislator for their efforts on Perkins.

Are you planning to attend the FFA convention in Indianapolis? Take some time to learn about the NAAE candidates for President-elect. Speaking of the upcoming NAAE election in Atlanta, make sure to give Paul Larson a big thank you for stepping up and putting his name in the hat for president-elect. Paul is an excellent leader of our organization and I wish him the best in the upcoming election.

Remember to get those travel arrangements and registration taken care of for the NAAE convention in Atlanta. I am expecting a big turnout from Region III.

In closing, remember as long as you're going to be thinking, think big. GO HUSKERS !!

# Regional Update

## Region IV



**Harold Eckler, Region IV VP**  
Email: [eckler@marktwain.net](mailto:eckler@marktwain.net)

Greetings from Region IV. Summer is long gone and the school year is well under way. As is the case every year, we will challenge our students to get involved, to develop their leadership skills and to apply for awards. As professionals, we need to do the same. Two leadership opportunities that are available to NAAE members are a position on the FFA CDE Advisory Committee and a position on the National FFA Board of Directors. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and a resume to me prior to November 15th. The CDE Advisory position is open to any NAAE member, while the FFA Board of Directors position will be filled by a NAAE member from Region IV.

Congratulations and thank you to David Wells, Pam Proffitt-Rowland, and the Missouri Association for providing an outstanding Region IV Conference this summer in Jackson. Next year we will be in the Detroit, Michigan area on June 25-27, 2007. Additional information will be presented at the NAAE Convention.

Hopefully you have already made plans to attend the NAAE Convention that will be held in Atlanta, November 29 through December 2. As you make plans, keep in mind that the last business session is scheduled to end at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, so make flight plans accordingly. While attending, you will have the opportunity to attend joint activities with the ACTE, including the trade show exhibits and professional development workshops. NAAE will still be conducting business as usual with professional development workshops, committee meetings and business sessions, as well as recognizing our award winners.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me.

## Region V



**Ray Nash, Region V VP**  
Email: [rnash@alcorn.k12.ms.us](mailto:rnash@alcorn.k12.ms.us)

I just finished registering for the National FFA Convention and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the NAAE booth in the career show. I know many of you are preparing teams for national contest. I wish you well in your preparation, and good luck in your bids to be national champions.

As I prepare to take my trip, I can't help but reflect back on a busy summer. I want to extend a great thanks to the Tennessee teachers for hosting a fantastic regional meeting in Chattanooga. Along with all the hard work contributed by the regional delegates in accomplishing regional business, we had a great time seeing the sites of eastern Tennessee, floating down the river and visiting an age old farm still carrying on agricultural traditions today. The summer also allowed me to attend both the Florida and Mississippi agriculture teacher's conferences. Thanks to both associations for having me. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with new and old friends.

Next summer the regional meeting will be hosted by the teachers in Alabama, please make your plans to attend. It is a personal goal of mine to attend each state conference in Region V, so please send me the dates and locations of your state conferences so that I can make plans to attend.

As we approach the NAAE Convention, I hope many of you have made arrangements to attend. The NAAE staff is working hard to make our convention a success. The convention will consist of the recognitions of our regional award winners, professional development workshops and tours, organizational business, and enjoying all the southern hospitality that Atlanta has to offer.

As always, I want you to know that I am your personal representative on the NAAE Board of Directors, so if at anytime I can be of assistance please contact me.

## Region VI



**Sally Shomo, Region VI VP**  
Email: [sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us](mailto:sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us)

Only three months to Christmas. Hard to believe, especially when you think that we only just started back to school. Now it's collecting FFA dues, field trips, getting ready for the National FFA Convention, followed by our trip to Atlanta for the NAAE Convention. They always said to never wish away your life, for as we get older, things do go much faster! With the start of the new school year, again we have many opportunities. My students sometimes get tired of my favorite word (opportunity), until I share with them the many opportunities that are available through the FFA. And what about the many opportunities for agricultural educators and members of NAAE? This summer I had lots of great opportunities and experiences visiting some of the Region VI states, from Maine with the 6-state Ag Conference, to Delaware, West Virginia and of course, Virginia. Attending workshops, tours and the opportunity to meet the many diverse agricultural educators across our nation made my summer a very busy one, but quite a learning and worthwhile experience! Thanks for these opportunities.

I hope everyone is making their travel plans for the NAAE/ACTE Convention in Atlanta, GA – November 29 – December 2. I am sure that we are going to have some great tours and learning opportunities during this week, as well as recognizing our Outstanding AG ED instructors! I can't think of any other teaching area that allows teachers to have as many opportunities that are available to us as agricultural educators. Take advantage...it's yours for the taking! Also, don't forget to slow down every once in a while and take time for family and yourself. You will be a better teacher if you learn to prioritize and spend some time away from school! I hope you learn to believe in this as you help mold our future leaders. Looking forward to seeing you in Indianapolis and Atlanta!

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.



*Wm. Jay Jackman  
Executive Director  
NAAE*

### **Perkins Legislation Reauthorization**

On Saturday, August 12, the President signed the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. The new Perkins act is Public Law No: 109-270. The President's action followed the Senate's approval of the new Perkins bill on July 26 and the House of Representatives' approval of the new Perkins bill on July 29.

This new bill officially reauthorizes Perkins programs until 2012. States, local school districts, and institutions must now develop transition plans toward full implementation of the new law. To help career and technical educators quickly understand the new law's implications, ACTE hosted a live webcast on August 15, 2006. You may view the archived version of the webcast at [http://www.acteonline.org/policy/legislative\\_issues/Perkins-new.cfm](http://www.acteonline.org/policy/legislative_issues/Perkins-new.cfm) Check with your state director of agricultural education to see what your state is doing to prepare to implement the new Perkins law.

### **FY 2007 CTE Appropriations**

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have voted to approve their respective appropriations bills (Labor,

Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee bills) that include education spending for FY 2007. The bills provide \$1.296 billion for Perkins, which represents flat funding compared to the previous fiscal year appropriations. It is anticipated that the full House and Senate will not take up the bills until after the November 2006 elections.

Therefore, given that the federal fiscal year ends on September 30, 2006, we expect Congress will pass a continuing resolution (or a series of continuing resolutions) to keep the federal government operational at the FY 2006 funding levels until after the elections. A "lame duck" session of Congress would be scheduled after the elections to complete the appropriations bills. Another possibility is that Congress will pass an omnibus appropriations bill at the end of the regular session (scheduled at this time to end on October 6, 2006) or during a "lame duck" session after the elections. An omnibus appropriations bill would be one bill that includes several appropriations bills wrapped up into one piece of legislation; a continuing resolution simply continues current law up to a specified date.

Needless to say, we are very pleased that all indications are that Congress will fund career and technical education at the FY 2006 levels in spite of the President's recommendation to eliminate federal funding for Perkins programs.

### **New OVAE Assistant Secretary**

The United States Senate has confirmed Troy Justesen as assistant secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education

(OVAE) at the U.S. Department of Education. Justesen replaces Susan Sclafani, former chief of CTE at the education department. Justesen will be Education Secretary Margaret Spellings' advisor on career technical and adult education, lifelong learning, community colleges, and workforce and economic development.

"Over the past few years, Troy has been an integral part of the department's team, helping to serve our country's students with disabilities," said Spellings. "He is dedicated and knowledgeable and I am thrilled he will continue to be a member of my team as head of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education."

Justesen, a Utah native, has held several positions at the department, serving most recently as deputy assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services. Before that, he served in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services as deputy commissioner for the rehabilitation services administration.

Click here ... <http://www.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/justesen.html> ... to review Justesen's biographical sketch.

Justesen will be a speaker at the 2006 National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) annual conference, at the 2006 National FFA Convention, and at the 2006 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Convention.

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER**

**Up-to-date information about what's going on with your elected officials.** [www.naae.org/advocacy/legactioncenter](http://www.naae.org/advocacy/legactioncenter)

## **NAAE Member Receives American Star of Teaching Award**

**NAAE MEMBER BRIAN FULLER**, an Agriscience teacher at Peoria High School in Peoria, Arizona, has been named a 2006 American Star of Teaching by the U.S. Department of Education.

Fuller was surprised with the award at a recent ceremony in the school's gym. Arizona Senator Jon Kyl, Congressman Trent Franks, and a U.S. Department of Education official were on hand to congratulate the award winner.

The spotlight hasn't changed things for Fuller, however. He plans to "keep teaching and trying to become a better instructor every day." Fuller said he feels that Agriculture Education is vital because it is the place where all academic subjects come together in a reality-based environment. "Ag Education is where students get it," he said. He feels that keeping current with industry standards and staying on top of the latest technology are challenges that all

agriculture teachers must face. By meeting that challenge, Fuller feels that teachers will be able to train students who can be competitive in the workplace of the future.

The American Star of Teaching program recognizes teachers who use innovative strategies to improve student achievement, and is awarded to teachers across grade levels and disciplines. 2006 winners were selected from more than 4000 nominations.

# Meet the Candidates

## NAAE President Elect Candidate

**PAUL LARSON**

### 2002-05 NAAE Region III Vice President

One of my favorite activities as an agricultural educator is working with our chapter FFA officers during their annual leadership planning sessions. During these sessions we reflect on the previous year's accomplishments and set our program of activities for the coming year. We also examine how our personal strengths can be utilized to help our FFA chapter reach its potential and achieve our goals. I especially enjoy this activity because it causes me to consider my own strengths and how I can better help my students achieve their personal and chapter goals. I took a similar approach when deciding to run for president elect.

When I look at the NAAE's accomplishments over the past few years I am very excited. However, I believe there are several issues that need more attention and should be our focus as we move forward in the coming years.

✓ **Advocacy** – As the Region III Vice President, I was the consultant to the Public Policy committee and I currently serve on The Council's Legislative Task Force. NAAE should continue to build relationships with our legislators. We also must continue to build coalitions with other commodity groups and associations with whom we share a common vision. With increasingly tighter budgets, we need to align with others who can help strengthen our voice and advance our initiatives. To be successful, all members must do their part to help spread agricultural education's message.

✓ **Communication** – Any association that is going to be successful must communicate effectively. It is my belief that this communication must be two-way. If we only talk and do not listen, we won't hear the concerns of members and may not take the proper steps to address these issues. As president elect, I would send updates via the National Ag. Ed. listserv and make myself available to members whenever needed via phone and e-mail. If necessary, I would be willing to make state visits to better meet the needs of the membership.

✓ **Membership** – The NAAE is only as strong as its membership. It is vitally important that we increase our marketing efforts to illustrate the tremendous member benefits offered by NAAE. We need to reach out to our potential members and "sell" our message to encourage all agricultural educators to join with us to help make a positive difference in their profession.

✓ **Data Collection** – We are in an age of accountability. Many states have started to collect the data necessary to measure the success and value of agricultural education in their communities and states. We need an organized national effort to encourage all states to collect the statistical information that demonstrates our value in teaching core academic competencies. Imagine our strength if we could validate with statistical data that students of agricultural education score 15 percent higher on standardized tests than their peers who do not take agricultural education classes. Further imagine the support we could generate from legislators, business and industry, and others if we had this vital data. With this essential information, we could better influence the future direction of the agricultural education profession.

With these goals in mind, I look at my personal strengths to help our association achieve these initiatives. I am a product of agricultural education and I am passionate about the profession. My father taught agricultural education for 39 years and I have now been active in the profession for 20 years. Through these experiences, I have gained the leadership skills necessary to help guide the NAAE to a brighter future. I further believe that my energy and vision for agricultural education will yield the results necessary for the NAAE to be the professional association of choice for agricultural educators. For these reasons, I believe I am a strong candidate for the president elect position and would very much appreciate your vote.

If you have questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me:

Paul A. Larson, 3219 N. Bluemound Dr., Appleton, WI 54914

[plarson@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:plarson@freedomschools.k12.wi.us) Home - 920.730.3820 Office - 920.788.7940 Ext. 329 Cell – 920.841.3820



# Meet the Candidates

## NAAE President Elect Candidate

### DR. BILL HUNTER

#### 2003-06 NAAE Region II Vice President

As I talk to agricultural educators around the country, I believe that our profession is in a historic time. NAAE membership is up again this year, organizational memberships continue to rise, the organization continues to partner with more and more groups and organizations with similar interests, and the organization is on a sound financial footing. In addition, the entire agricultural education profession is in an era of cooperation unparalleled in recent memory.

As we look to the future, where do we go from here? Our organization is strong, and we need to continue to build on that strength. How do we do that? I believe that we can do this with a team effort focused on (1) member service, (2) communication, and (3) advocacy.

**Member Service** -- The NAAE currently provides a wide variety of services to its members. We need to continuously evaluate the services we offer to make the best use of the resources we have, and continue to seek out additional opportunities to add value to membership in our professional organization.

**Communication** -- The organization has made great strides in moving its communications to its website, emails to the profession by way of the national listserv, and so on. We need to continue to utilize electronic media and other means of getting our message out to our members, friends, and others we seek to influence.

**Advocacy** -- Over the last several years, the entire Team Ag Ed has made great strides in advancing the cause of agricultural education advocacy. However, one of my biggest frustrations during my tenure on the Board has been that we have not been able to advance a legislative agenda for our organization and the profession. In discussions with my congressman, who serves on the House Agriculture Committee, there is an opportunity for us to press for additional funding for agricultural education in the new farm bill, which will be introduced next year. Will we have the courage to work with our friends and supporters in the Congress to seek funds to help start new programs, to provide more opportunities for professional development, to strengthen mentoring programs for new teachers, to strengthen preservice programs, or other ideas that will make current agricultural education programs better at all levels and add more programs to build toward the goal of 10,000 quality agricultural education programs by 2015?

I believe that our organization has moved forward during my tenure on the Board, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to help guide the profession as your President-elect. It was 40 years ago this fall that a short, skinny (yeah, skinny!) kid walked into that Kansas agriculture classroom at Labette County High School. The lessons I learned in classes, on field trips, through the FFA, and in career development events helped me figure out what I wanted to be – a teacher of agriculture. What a long, strange journey it has been – seven years as a high school agricultural education instructor in Kansas and Missouri to graduate school where I trained to be a teacher educator to seven years in Illinois writing curriculum materials for agriculture teachers to three years writing and editing leadership and rural development materials to now thirteen years teaching agriculture courses at a community college.

I bring a wide variety of experience in our profession to the table. I humbly ask for your support. If you would like to talk with me about the future direction of our organization, contact me at:

Dr. Bill Hunter	Office: 620-672-5641 ext 239
408 S. Pine Street	Home: 620-672-9569
Pratt, KS 67124	Email: billh@prattcc.edu



# Meet the Candidates

## NAAE President Elect Candidate

### HAROLD ECKLER

#### 2003-06 NAAE Region IV Vice President

In the summer of 1983, I took my first and only job at North Shelby High School as a beginning teacher. To say that I was green is an understatement. My first year was one of survival, in that I had taken teacher preparation classes, but had only six weeks of student teaching experience and limited technical knowledge in most of the classes that I taught. Trying to gain the respect of students that were only five or six years younger than me was also a challenge. My saving grace was my ability to seek out and listen to successful veteran teachers and the desire to learn and become successful in my chosen career.

My entrance into the leadership realm of agriculture education was similar to the beginning of my teaching career in that I was still green. Once again I sought out and listened to successful teacher leaders who have helped guide me along the way. I have continually tried to use the experiences and view points of others in combination with my own to choose the path that I take.



As a candidate for President-elect, I will strive to promote and maintain the success of NAAE by concentrating on the specific issues that drive our organization:

- **Membership** -- The strength of our organization comes from the individual members. We should strive to attain 100 percent membership of all Agricultural Educators. Although this is a lofty goal, by listening to the needs of our membership we can continue to grow the NAAE.
- **Teacher Recruitment** -- It is essential that we continue to work with our partners to recruit students into our profession. We need to look closely at how we can encourage young people to enter the Agricultural Education field. Scholarships and internships can attract some of these students; however the most effective way is a day to day campaign in our own schools by having a quality program that actively engages all of our students.
- **Mentoring** -- Too many young teachers change professions after 2 or 3 years of teaching. We as an organization need to provide a support mechanism in an effort to make it easier for teachers to stay in the profession. There are hundreds of knowledgeable and experienced teachers throughout NAAE that can fill this role. We must each do our part.
- **Advocacy** -- All politics are local. As an organization, we must help our members understand the importance of developing relations with policy makers at all levels, give them the tools necessary to build these relations, and keep them informed of important issues affecting agriculture education. We must also realize that we cannot do this alone. Individual members must build a local network that can lobby at the local, state and national levels for their own programs as well as agricultural education.
- **Communication** -- The NAAE was built on the premise that we are a grassroots organization. We must continue the legacy that the organization is an organization of, by and for the membership. By keeping the members informed and seeking their input on issues affecting our organization, we can maintain our ideals of being a member driven organization.

Over the past 23 years, I have had the opportunity to develop into an experienced agricultural educator. Yet today, I still find myself seeking out the guidance of successful teachers to help me along the way of improving myself, although it seems that they have gotten younger. If elected to the office of President-elect, I will continue this grassroots effort by seeking input from other teachers in carrying out the work of the NAAE.

Harold Eckler, 5148 Shelby 234, Shelbyville, MO 63469  
eckler@marktwain.net or heckler@nshelby.k12.mo.us Home-(660) 284-6422 Work-(573) 633-2525 Cell-(573) 406-2984

# NAAE Proposed Bylaw Amendments

## Proposed Amendments to the NAAE Bylaws to be Considered at the 2006 NAAE Convention

Following is the section of the NAAE Bylaws regarding amendments to the bylaws of the organization:

### Article VIII AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. The bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of delegates present and voting at the annual meeting, providing the following provisions are met.

- (a) Proposed amendments must be adopted by at least one Region or recommended by the Board of Directors.
- (b) Proposed amendments must be sent to the Executive Director at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting.
- (c) Affiliated state associations shall be notified of proposed amendments at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting by the Executive Director.

### **Bylaws Amendment Proposal #1** – Regarding NAAE Active Life Membership Dues and Associate Life Membership Dues

#### **Current Language:**

### Article III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 5. Life Membership Dues.

- (a) Active life membership dues shall be \$500.00.
- (b) Associate life membership dues shall be \$250.00.

#### **Proposed Language:**

(revise Article III, Sec. 5 (a) and Article III, Sec. 5 (b) to make active life membership dues and associate life membership dues 12 times active membership dues and associate membership dues, respectively)

### Article III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 5. Life Membership Dues.

- (a) Active life membership dues shall be set at 12 times the active membership dues.
- (b) Associate life membership dues shall be set at 12 times the associate membership dues.

#### **Rationale:**

During the 2004 NAAE Convention, the delegates rejected the NAAE board's recommendation to set active life and associate life dues at 20 times active and associate dues, respectively. During the 2005 NAAE Convention, the delegates rejected the NAAE board's recommendation to eliminate the active life and associate life membership categories (except for those members who had already paid life dues who would be "grandfathered" in). During the 2006 regional meetings, the regional delegates recommended a range of active life and associate life dues from 10 times to 15 times active and associate membership dues. The NAAE board is recommending the middle position from the regional meeting recommendations, which is to make active life and associate life membership dues 12 times active and associate membership dues, respectively. This seems to be the most reasonable solution to NAAE's life membership dues situation considering the past three years of debate on this subject.

### **Bylaws Amendment Proposal #2** – Regarding Adding a Retired Life Membership Category

#### **Current Language:**

### Article III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 2. Class of Members. Qualifications and privileges of each type of membership shall be defined as follows:

- (f) Life Membership—those who at any time pay the active or associate life membership dues. Active life members who become qualified as defined in Article III, Section 2(b) Associate Membership, shall become associate life members. Associate life members who become qualified as defined in Article III, Section 2(a) Active Membership, shall become active life members upon submitting the balance of active life membership dues. The balance of life dues shall not be refunded to active members who become associate life members.

*Continued on Page 12*

# NAAE Proposed Bylaw Amendments

*Continued from Page 11*

**Proposed Language:**

(revise Article III, Sec. 2(f) by adding a retired life membership category)

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 2. Class of Members. Qualifications and privileges of each type of membership shall be defined as follows:

- (f) Life Membership— those who at any time pay the active life, associate life, or retired life membership dues. Active life members who become qualified as defined in Article III, Section 2(b) Associate Membership, shall become associate life members. Associate life members who become qualified as defined in Article III, Section 2(a) Active Membership, shall become active life members upon submitting the balance of active life membership dues. The balance of life dues shall not be refunded to active members who become associate life members. The balance of life dues shall not be refunded to active members or associate members who become retired life members.

**Rationale:**

This action would create a new life membership category to aid retired NAAE members in paying a one-time fee, which would allow these retirees to continue to be involved in the organization as long as they so choose. These members would require very little in terms of services on the part of the national organization. Should an active life member or associate life member become a retired life member, the difference in the one-time dues paid would not be refunded to the retired life member.

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**Bylaws Amendment Proposal #3** – Regarding the Dues Amount for Retired Life Membership (this proposal will be considered only if Bylaws Amendment Proposal #2 passes)

**Current Language:**

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 5. Life Membership Dues.

**Proposed Language:**

(add Article III, Sec. 5 (c) to create a dues amount for retired life membership)

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 5. Life Membership Dues.

- (c) Retired life membership dues shall be set at \$150.

**Rationale:**

This action would set the dues for retired life membership at a one-time payment of \$150.

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**Bylaws Amendment Proposal #4** – Regarding the Parliamentary Authority for NAAE Business Meetings

**Current Language:**

Article IX PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, REVISED, shall govern all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws or special policies.

**Proposed Language:**

(add the words “most recent edition” to clarify the edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised that will be used in NAAE business meetings)

Article IX PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws or special policies.

**Rationale:**

This action will ensure that the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised will be used as the parliamentary authority for NAAE business meetings.

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Any questions regarding these proposed bylaws amendments may be directed to the NAAE office by calling (859) 257-2224 or (800) 509-0204 or by sending e-mail to [JJackman.NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:JJackman.NAAE@uky.edu).

# Dates & Events

**NASAE Annual Meeting** -- October 23-24, 2006 -- Indianapolis, Indiana

**National FFA Convention** -- October 25-28, 2006 -- Indianapolis, Indiana

**NAAE & ACTE Convention** -- November 28-December 2, 2006 -- Atlanta, Georgia

**NAAE Region I Conference** -- April 25-28, 2007 -- Cody, Wyoming

**NAAE Region II Conference** -- June 17-20, 2007 -- Pittsburg, Kansas

**NAAE Region III Conference** -- June 18-20, 2007 -- Sioux Falls, South Dakota

**NAAE Region IV Conference** -- June 25-27, 2007 -- Detroit, Michigan

**NAAE Region V Conference** -- June 18-21, 2007 -- Alabama

**NAAE Region VI Conference** -- July 10-12, 2007 -- Monroe, New Jersey

## Life Beyond High School: Most CTE Students Enroll in Postsecondary Education

The National Center for Education Statistics found that more than 80 percent of high school students who participate in dual Career and Technical Training and college-prep programs go on to higher education.

Why is this important? According to Census Bureau in 2005, workers who held bachelor's degrees earned an average of \$19,000 more than those with only a high school diploma. Furthermore, the Bureau estimates that over an adult's

working life, high school graduates earn an average of \$1.2 million; associate's degree holders earn about \$1.6 million; and bachelor's degree holders earn about \$2.1 million. (ERIC Digest)

Agriculture and natural resources has the third-highest number of students in any CTE field, behind trade and industry and business. Together, these three areas of concentration make up 82 percent of all CTE students.

### QUICK FACT

In an increasingly tough job market, it is the youngest workers who feel the squeeze most sharply. According to a Sept 4, 2006 article in the New York times, although the unemployment rate for people from ages 25-34 has fallen to 4.4 percent, it is 8.2 percent for workers between the ages of 20 and 24.

# News & Views

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*Julie Fritsch, Editor  
NAAE, Inc.  
300 Garrigus Bldg., UK  
Lexington, KY 40546-0215*

*Phone: (800) 509-0204 or  
(859) 257-2224  
Fax: (859) 323-3919  
Email: [JFritsch.NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:JFritsch.NAAE@uky.edu)  
Website: <http://www.naae.org>*