

NYS Association of County Agricultural Agents  
December 18, 2002  
Ithaca NY at CCE – Tompkins Co.

**Motions in Bold**

**Call to order:** by Larry Hulle at 10:05AM

**Attendance:** Bill Van Loo, John Ameroso, Karen Baase, Beth Spaug, Steve Hadcock, Larry Hulle, Walter Nelson, Tom Gallagher, Paul Westfall, Bruce Tillapaugh, Ed Harwood and Anita Deming,

**Minutes:** October 17, 2002 read by Anita. Will email with these minutes. **Walt moved to accept as discussed. Beth seconded. Passed.**

**Treasure's report:**

- Our expenses are further under budget than our income so we are OK monetarily.
- Beth Spaug handed out her report on the Spaghetti Dinner net proceeds-\$279.98.
- The New Agent fund is only \$240. Fifty-three new members have received the New Agent dues subsidy for a total of \$1325. Decision to continue the New Agent account but we will take some money out of general fund if needed to cover the costs.
- 2003 Membership – 27 members and 1 affiliate. Discussion to have a small piece of New Agent training to let new people know about their professional association. Should we send a letter to ED's to help encourage their staff to join? Paul Westfall, and Joel Allen are working on a letter to the Executive Directors to encourage new staff to participate in their association. One on one contact is the best. Each NYSACAA director is responsible for asking new agents in their region to join. We need to be seeking new members but it is just as important to keep old members.
- 10-10-02 to 12-06-02: Expenses \$5,857.77 and Income \$2,302.81
- Balances: Mechew - \$ 3579.27, NYSACAA –CD – \$7,139.15, NYSACAA –CD2 – \$2,391.49, NYSACAA checking – 2,899.95, NYSACAA savings - \$8,648.91 = total \$24,658.77
- **Walt moved to approve treasurer's report and file for audit. Karen seconded. Passed.**

**Old Business:**

- Survey results – Anita Deming discussed the annual meeting questionnaire results.
  - Top reasons people like the Association: Camaraderie with fellow agents, Interactions with CCE Admin, Input into Production Ag week, and Providing awards to exceptional agents.
  - Larry wants to combine question 3 and 4 to hold a separate event not at Ag In-service Education Week (old Production Ag Week).

- Beth said that there was a lot of overlap with Ag In-service Education Week and other trainings that occur in the fall. Could we take some more time from that for the Annual meeting?
- Bruce wants to make it financially feasible for as many people to come as possible and consider with In-service Education Week.
- How do we want to participate with ACCEE? We will still plan for some Ag Agent activities, but will not have the Annual Meeting. Look to combine with Ag In-service Education Week or hold separately.
- We decided to do a short follow-up questionnaire. It is obvious that people are not finding it productive to have the Annual meeting with ACCEE every year. Choose from these 2 highest ranked options for the 2003 Annual Meeting and Award Banquet. Anita will email it to our members.
  - 2- day special event in Sept out-side of Ithaca (Albany was mentioned so we could meet with legislators or their aides, Ag and Mkts, Farm Bureau, DEC.
  - Combine with Ag In-service Education Week
- 2005 National Meeting Update
  - Next planning meeting will be Feb 25 in Albany.
  - We have the budget from Georgia meeting and the proposed budget from Green Bay
  - Minutes were sent from the last meeting.
  - We need more fund raising. There is a whole set of materials for this.
  - We have a logo with the Northeast region map and a waterfall at Buffalo and the “Power of teamwork”
  - Tom Gallagher – accepted the offer by Scott Hawbaker of \$10/registration for coordinating the registration so that is set.
  - Each State will receive a bill for \$100 to make new flags.
  - Handed out a new flyer based on National Association and another one for our 2005 Conference.
  - We will use the Policy handbook percentages for committees.
  - We are changing the video person and expect to save \$10,000, plus we have a new photographer so we will get the pictures before we leave.
  - They need \$272,000 for the Wisconsin meeting. They still need to raise lots of money. They have decided to raise the registration in 2003 from \$175 to \$185.
  - National will be in Orlando in 2004 which is the year before Buffalo, so we will really have to try for attendance after a potentially expensive one.
  - We had 1,957 agents at Georgia meeting. (900 were agents from the region, with a lot of first timers) There are about 3,995 National members.
  - Be sure to check our insurance policy. We need to budget an item for cancellation insurance. We have to pay for a rider on the National policy.
  - Feb 23-25 JCEP meeting. ILR meeting in Albany.
  - Need a promotional video and business cards. Need to ask Admin for help with this.
  - Galaxy II Sept 21-25, 2003 in Salt Lake.

- NYSACAA's plan to meet expenses of BOD meetings in 2003 and 2004 –
  - We have budgeted \$50/district per year or up to \$450 for the Board in 2002 but no one has asked for reimbursement.
  - We will pay for the Board's lunch today. (3 pizzas)

### **New Business:**

- Future of CCE Administration and NYSACAA work – Ed Harwood
  - Looking at scholarships of \$500 for some meetings. The Dean is aware that we may be looking for money for the promotional video. Bill Fry and Nancy Fay are the ones to contact.
  - April 1- 4, 2003 in-service – Warren Hall for Tues through Fri. Natural Resources will have classes as well. Workshops on facilitation, HASEP, bio security, and others.
  - May 6 meeting with Bill Fry and Helene Dillard 10 to 1:30 in Ithaca. Hopefully Susan Henry will be able to attend. We need to put together an agenda for this meeting.
  - November 4 to 6, 2003 Ag In-service Education Week at Clarion.
  - NE Center for Cooperatives meeting in July. Anita needs to talk to Brian Henehan. (JCAP)
  - We can put things in Ag Update with Nicki if we want to. She will coordinate things for the new agent orientation. We will work with her after Ed leaves in January.
  - Expect to fill Ed's slot but could be ¾ time. Could see some more things go by the wayside. His replacement will likely be a tenured faculty member.
  - We will need to take more effort to get to know our new leaders. Helene will need help.
  - CER's are moving to work with Executive Director's (ED's) only in the near future. Bd. Pres will have more local power. ED role is increasing.
  - **Group thanked Ed for his help over the years and wished him the best.**
- Goals for BOD in 2003 with volunteer coordinators underlined– Larry Hulle
  - Looking for a draft of what officers and directors did for NYSACAA so we can get list of duties and responsibilities so things don't drop between the cracks. Everyone will send to Larry. Take the office you did in 2001.
  - Funding and support from administration for 2005 meeting. Paul
  - Membership push. We will order 300-membership flyers, and 300-National meeting flyers for 2005. We will give some to Nicki for the new agent packets, and to NYSACAA Regional directors to contact people in their area, Beth
  - We want to increase communications. Could we use the list serve more and generate more conversation?. We could re-implement the newsletter. Esp. for generating ideas for in-services. Larry
  - Make contacts with “new Ed” and other leadership so we are heard. Larry
  - Larry will write a letter to new director. We would like to know what is going on in the departments. Get more involvement.

- Board members need to get more involved with the Annual meeting if we are going to do more. Need a committee. Good to get more than board involved helping. Anita and John will start the planning and recruit others to help.
- Need to tweak the by-laws. Karen B. will get the revised revised by-laws mailed out 15 days before the Annual Meeting.
- Start a policy handbook. Start with the stuff on the web site. Steve
- Start a list of what we have accomplished and what our goals are. Need to get the input. Beth
- Extension programming with budgetary constraints and use of T-1 line for in-service training.
  - Are we going to replace satellite usage with virtual meetings? Where will money come from to set up the communication system?
  - How to use this communication medium could be a possible topic for May meeting. Could be good for 1-day meetings or our Board meetings.
- Albany March meeting with Legislators
  - We like to meet with staffers and people on Ag. Committees.
  - Board meeting before. Speaker at lunch. Pat Hooker or Julie Schwarez
  - Need to have an agenda for the meeting. Ask Charlie Kruzansky to join us.
  - Tom will call Charlie and will find out who will be available to meet with us.

## District Reports

- **Northern** – Bill, Anita, Beth – Had a well-attended meeting at Cranberry Lake. Most counties are level funded. NAAN is still financially solvent. NNY Ag Development Project is changing and will have a new leadership, funding structure and advisory committee. Some legislators and farmers want to split the region into 2 three county groups. The North Country Dairy Viability Project was told that Legislators want wish lists in agreed upon priority order. Want dairy, apples, and crops to get a united voice.
- **Western** – Bruce, and Paul – Had a meeting and agents are wondering what to do about the increased cost of Pesticide Applicator Licenses. Counties are in financial trouble and funding for the regional teams may be in trouble. The funding structure is difficult. Farm security is an issue regarding tainted products and thefts.
- **Capital District** – Steve, and Tom – Had a regional meeting and did a tour of Washington County. They set up dates for 2003. Hope to go to Long Island for a tour in June 2003.
- **Central** – Walt – Most counties are level funded. The South Central New York dairy team (5 counties) will not immediately be staffed with a farm business management person. Dairy farm summary type of programming will be “creatively funded.” Sub contracts are likely
- **Southeast** – John and Larry - The Dec. meeting was cancelled due to a conflict with another meeting.

- **General News** – Christina Stark has been reassigned. Craig Alexander is no longer employed in milk marketing.

**Adjourn 1:50 PM**