



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT CROP CONSULTANTS

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By  
*Gary Coukell*  
NAICC  
2014 President

# An Invitation

In last month's *NAICC News* I issued a call for members to re-invest in their involvement in NAICC committees or to volunteer for a committee in 2015. Over my years of involvement with NAICC, I have often heard (and at one time I felt myself) that members, and especially new members, didn't have a clear picture of what the various committees do, who can get can participate on committees, and how to get involved.

Let's address the last two questions first. Although certain committee are appointed, and the Allied Industry committee is comprised of Sustaining Members, ANY individual member in good standing has the ability to participate on all other committees of NAICC. There are several ways to get involved: 1) On your membership form/renewal, indicate the committees that you are interested in, 2) email the EVP, Allison Jones at [allisonjones@naicc.org](mailto:allisonjones@naicc.org) to express your interest or to get more information about a specific committee, and 3) at this time of year, the President-Elect is developing the committees for the next year, and you may be approached by either the President-Elect (Debra Keenan), or by a 2015 committee chair and asked to serve on a committee.

## General Information About NAICC Committees

Each committee is comprised of a Committee Chair person appointed by the President (occasionally two people act as co-chairs), committee volunteers from the membership, and a liaison from the Executive Board (appointed by the President). The role of the Board Liaison is to sit in on committee meetings when possible and to function as the point of contact between the Committee Chair and the Executive Board. A few committees also have sub-committees within their structure, and for the most part these sub-committees also have a chair and function the same way, but typically report to the larger oversight committee (details below).

All committees meet on Wednesday afternoon at the Annual Meeting each year (feel free to stop in to ask if you can participate!), and most committees will hold several conference call meetings throughout the year or do committee business via email communication.

## A Brief Description of Each Committee (and acronyms)

The **Allied Industry Committee** is made up of eleven elected Sustaining Members and two Voting members, (appointed by the President). The purpose of this committee is to recommend ways that NAICC and industry can work more closely on projects they have in common. This committee also identifies areas of mutual concern and provides an avenue of communication. All Sustaining members are members of the Allied Industry Committee. A Working Group within this committee evaluates papers for the Emerging Technology Session using the current criteria and specifications.

One of the most vital committees of

the Alliance, the purpose of the **Annual Meeting Coordination Committee (AMC)** is to plan, coordinate, and find speakers for the program of the next annual meeting, with input from the Consultant Education (CEC), Research Education (REC) and Quality Assurance Education (QAEC) Sub-Committees. This committee is chaired by the President-Elect.

The **Certification Board** is appointed by the President and finalizes, administers and modifies the NAICC Certification program as needed.

Hopefully everyone has heard of the annual **Crawfish Boil on the Hill (CBOH)** in Washington, DC which the NAICC puts on for Congressmen, Senators, Congressional staff, USDA, EPA and other agency personnel, as well as invited commodity and Ag association groups/representatives. This is a large undertaking each year, and wouldn't be possible without the coordination and network of the Crawfish Boil on the Hill Committee.

The **Education Outreach Committee (EOC)** has two subcommittees: Consultant Education and Researcher/QA Education. They are responsible for developing educational opportunities for members outside of the annual meeting. Currently this committee is responsible for planning and promoting the Focus on Precision Ag workshop, the GLP Training course and other regional workshops held annually.

Although it is seldom needed, the **Ethics and Grievance Committee (E&G)** reviews any grievances one member may file against a fellow member and if necessary would submit to any recommendations stemming from a review to the Executive Board. They also periodically review the NAICC Code of Ethics and recommend updates as needed.

*Continued on page 5.*



## Attendees Can Go Home With Brand New Laptops

NAICC is raffling three new laptops during the Saturday morning breakfast session at the Annual Meeting in Reno, NV. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$10 each and can be purchased at the registration desk starting Wednesday, January 21.

NAICC is looking for companies or individuals to sponsor these laptops. Proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will go to the NAICC general fund to help offset costs for educational purposes such as the Annual Meeting and Focus on Precision speakers and the Crawfish Boil on the Hill reception held each year in DC for our Congressmen, Senators and their staff plus our representatives from USDA, EPA and commodity/ag groups. Three sponsored laptops will be featured in the educational sessions complete with the sponsor's logo. Two, also displaying sponsors' logos will be at the NAICC registration desk. Sponsorships are \$500 for the educational session laptops and \$250 for the registration laptops.

To sponsor a laptop and have your name in front of attendees all week, contact Allison Jones at [allisonjones@naicc.org](mailto:allisonjones@naicc.org) or 901.861.0511.

## 2015 Annual Meeting Registration in a Nutshell

Look for your 2015 Annual Meeting program and registration materials in the mail or view all materials online.

- Go to [www.naicc.org](http://www.naicc.org) to begin the registration process. Click on the links on the meetings page or type in the links listed below.
- Register for the meeting at <http://naicc.org/meetings/2015-annual-meeting>.
- Register for booth space at the AG PRO EXPO at <http://naicc.org/member-center/exhibitor-registration>.
- Reserve your hotel room at <https://aws.passkey.com/event/11421422/owner/7268/home>
- Print and return the GLP or apparel forms to the NAICC HQ via email ([allisonjones@naicc.org](mailto:allisonjones@naicc.org)) or fax 901.861.0512.
- Download the Annual Meeting app to help plan your meeting schedule. Go to [www.eventmobi.com/NAICC15](http://www.eventmobi.com/NAICC15) or scan the QR code to the right.
- Come and enjoy Reno!



**Register by December 26 and receive a \$50 discount!**



# 2015 Ag Pro Expo January 21-24

## Register Your Booth Now

Want to connect with potentially every attendee at the 2015 Annual Meeting? The most effective and efficient way is by hosting an Exhibit Hall booth at the AG PRO EXPO! The Exhibit Hall is the central hub for all NAICC Annual Meeting activity including attendee meals, refreshment breaks, special events and evening activities. Your booth will be right in the middle of all the action – how easy is that?

This year, we expect more than 75 leading crop and research consultant booths on the Expo floor. Don't miss out. The deadline for NAICC member registration is November 7, 2014. After this date, we open the floor to non-members.

### Registration details:

- NAICC Sustaining Members receive a discounted fee of \$700 for exhibit booths; all others, \$1100
- One complimentary registration is included with booth fee; additional registrations are available (\$250/member; \$350/non-member)
- All registrations include registration packet, name badge, Exhibit Hall meal tickets and admission
- Registration after November 8 deadline is first come, first served
- Leave a lasting impression on agricultural decision makers – go to <http://naicc.org/member-center/exhibitor-registration>.

# 2015 GLP Training

By Lisa Wheelock-Roney

Back by popular demand, Applying GLP Fundamentals for Research and Quality Assurance Professionals will be held before the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 from 7:30-12:00. Participants will be able to pre-register for one of three modules: Basic GLP Training, Advanced GLP Training and Practical Field Workshop. The Basic module is geared towards individuals with 0-3 years experience with a fun, interactive overview of the GLPs.

# GAIAC Holds Annual Meeting and “Eat and Greet”

The Global Alliance of Independent Agricultural Consultants (GAIAC) will hold its 2015 Annual Meeting in conjunction with the NAICC Annual Meeting Thursday, January 22, in Reno, NV. All attendees are invited to attend.

The meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. where attendees can “meet and eat” while networking with your peers. Please bring your lunch (there are plenty of outlets at the Peppermill to grab a sandwich or quick bite to grab and go). The official meeting will run from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. and will include an informational session followed by a brief business meeting where the election results for the 2015 Board of Directors will be announced. The remainder of the time will be for feedback and brainstorming. You will have the opportunity to sign up for GAIAC committees as well.

GAIAC has about 21 members currently and the first year is FREE for NAICC and AICC members. If you like to activate your free 2014 membership of the Global Alliance of Independent Agricultural Consultants (GAIAC) with no long term obligations, go to [www.gaiac.org/application.html](http://www.gaiac.org/application.html).

[www.naicc.org](http://www.naicc.org)

## Emerging Technologies Session at NAICC Annual Meeting

Please plan to participate in the Emerging Technologies Session on Thursday, January 22, 2014 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Resort Casino and Spa in Reno, NV. The session is a primary avenue for Voting and Sustaining Members to advertise new products and services. See official rules and deadlines at the end of this newsletter.

## NAICC Quality Assurance Networking Luncheon Sponsored by Dow AgroSciences

Would you like to receive advice or help from experienced Quality Assurance Professionals or have questions about an unfamiliar area of auditing? Want to connect with other QA Professionals? Then consider joining us for a QA networking luncheon sponsored by Dow AgroSciences on Thursday, January 22, 2015. If you are new to the Quality Assurance role and are interested in our mentoring program, please inquire at the luncheon. We are looking forward to seeing you in Reno! Luncheon details will be mailed with your registration information. All Quality Assurance professionals are invited. However, space is limited, so please register early.

The Advanced module will challenge your knowledge of the GLPs with real life scenarios and get you to “think outside the box”. In the Practical Field Workshop, participants will work through a protocol, calculate application rates, and even practice making an application with a backpack sprayer. This Training is available for everyone in the GLP arena: Sponsor Companies, Analytical Labs, Independent QAs and Field personnel. For more information, and to register for the Training go to: <http://naicc.org/meetings/2015-annual-meeting/>. Early registration is encouraged as space is limited and the registration fee will increase closer to the training.

Benefits of membership include:

1. Access to a worldwide knowledge base of members
2. Website forum to share experiences
3. Coming soon - Quarterly newsletters by email with experiences from home and aboard

*The Global Alliance of Independent Agricultural Consultants (GAIAC) is a worldwide association which was formally incorporated in 2012 by independent crop consultants and researchers from across the world including members of the AICC in the UK and the NAICC in North America.*

*The GAIAC aims to promote the exchange of information, technology, techniques and experiences on a global basis to allow members to offer timely and pertinent services from a global point of view. GAIAC also aims to promote independent consultancy and research in countries which have poor independent structures. For example, the GAIAC has already provided detailed advice in the formation of a French independent crop consultant association. Check us out on [www.gaiac.org](http://www.gaiac.org)*

October 2014

## QA Corner:

### Francisca Liem Provides Regulations & Interpretation for Master Schedule

By Dr. Stu Mertz, PEAK Quality Consulting, Inc., Cary NC

The following is additional information provided by Francisca Liem, Director, EPA's GLP Program, regarding "GLP Issue No. 1" as reported in September's QA Corner.

On September 8, F. Liem and I had further discussion on the issue of QA maintaining the master schedule (MS). She stated that EPA uses the definition of the word "maintain" as equivalent to "have". QA is not required by GLP regulations to "create" nor "update" the MS. Furthermore, she emphasized that one must be consistent in the use of this definition within all the QA sections in 40 CFR 160.35 and .195(d). This is in contrast to another definition of the word "maintained" as used in other sections of the regulations, e.g., as applied to equipment that is maintained by study personnel. The key GLP regulations for MS are as follows:

- 1) No one appears to misunderstand the QA requirements in the 1989 GLPS 40 CFR 160.35(b)(2) to "maintain copies of all protocols." The GLPS require QA to have (maintain) their own copy of a protocol (not to create nor update a protocol).
- 2) Interpret similarly the requirement §160.35(b)(1) to "maintain a copy of a master schedule sheet". The GLPS require QA to have (maintain) their own copy of a MS (not to create nor update the MS).
- 3) In 1997 Test Facility Management's responsibility for the MS was clearly defined in the OECD Principles of GLP to which the USA is a member country and forms the basis for the Mutual Acceptance of Data Agreements between countries. ENV/MC/CHEM(98)17, OECD No.1, Section II, in 1.1(2m) management should "ensure the maintenance of a master schedule;" and in II.2.2(1a) QA personnel should "have access to an up-to-date copy of the master schedule". Nowhere does it say that the QA must create nor update the MS. Management can assign the creation of the MS to any appropriate entity.

## Scholarship Application Now Available

The NAICC's Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education (FEAE) will provide a \$3,000 scholarship to a deserving college student in Agriculture with a major in Crop Production or an allied subject. The Richard Jensen Scholarship is a tribute to one of the NAICC's early leaders.

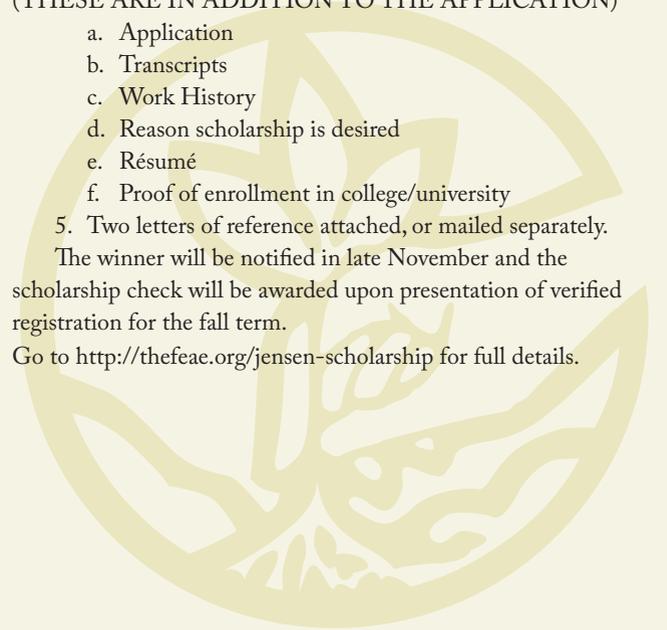
Completed applications are due by November 1, 2014.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Pursuing a four-year degree in a major or discipline closely aligned to crop production such as Soil Sciences, Agronomy, Entomology, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Weed Science, Contract Ag Research, or pursuing a Doctorate in Plant Medicine.
2. Completed a minimum of one year toward a four-year degree
3. Presently enrolled in the discipline of studies cited in item 1.
4. Submits a packet to the Review Board that includes:  
(THESE ARE IN ADDITION TO THE APPLICATION)
  - a. Application
  - b. Transcripts
  - c. Work History
  - d. Reason scholarship is desired
  - e. Résumé
  - f. Proof of enrollment in college/university
5. Two letters of reference attached, or mailed separately.

The winner will be notified in late November and the scholarship check will be awarded upon presentation of verified registration for the fall term.

Go to <http://thefae.org/jensen-scholarship> for full details.



## Help Raise Money for The Foundation's Educational Programs and the Jensen Memorial Scholarship Fund!

The Foundation is sponsoring a raffle and silent auction at the 2015 NAICC Annual Meeting! Let's make the silent auction every bit as exciting; simply contribute worthy items. All you have to do is drop the item off at the FEAE table near registration, along with a description of the donation and its value. Have a great idea for the raffle drawing? Please contact [allisonjones@naicc.org](mailto:allisonjones@naicc.org) to donate a prize for the raffle drawing.

Past prizes include:

- \$1,000 Cabela's gift card
- \$1,000 Visa gift card
- Pair of designer cowboy boots
- Handmade quilts
- Fine jewelry

## President's Column

Continued from page 1.

One of the most interesting committees, the **Governmental Affairs Committee** (GAC) is privy to a great deal of information on legislation. This group, appointed by the President, is responsible for monitoring federal legislation and policies that may impact NAICC and its membership and assisting the Executive Vice President with the responsibility of providing information to the Alliance through newsletter articles and mailings.

The purpose of the **International Outreach** is to coordinate with other similar consulting organizations outside of the U.S. and to look for avenues to cooperate on educational programs and information exchange. NAICC members from various countries serve on this committee and help keep NAICC informed about activities of other organizations.

No surprise, the **Marketing Committee** is responsible for marketing the association to sustaining members and current membership.

The **Membership Recruitment, Retention and Rules Committee** (MRRR) is responsible for soliciting members, reviewing all applications for membership and accepting or rejecting them, periodic examination of the eligibility of all members and recommendations concerning re-classification or cancellation of memberships when necessary, and investigating

services the membership would like and ensuring that the organization meets those expectations. The MRRR has one sub-committee. The **Newsletter Subcommittee** has its own chair and works with the Executive Vice President to accumulate articles for the *NAICC News*. Committee members write and solicit articles and interview new members. This sub-committee is a great place for people to start getting involved with the Alliance if they have not been involved with committees before.

The **Nominating Committee** has the important task of nominating and recruiting candidates to run for election for positions on the Executive Board. This group consists of the Past-President (Chair), a minimum of two other previous Presidents, and a minimum of two other members from each of two geographic areas of the United States described as being separated by the Mississippi River, each having been nominated and elected from the floor at the most recent annual meeting of the Alliance.

Having reviewed these summaries of committee activities and functions, pick the one(s) that interest you and either volunteer, register your interest, or contact NAICC for more specific information.

## Nominations Open for Consultant of the Year

*Deadline is November 30, 2014*

Do you know an NAICC member who has demonstrated exemplary performance this year? Consider nominating him/her for 2014 Consultant of the Year (COTY). Once again, BASF is generously sponsoring the recognition of three NAICC leaders to be honored at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Winners will receive complimentary hotel, airfare and registration!

Nomination forms are available at <http://naicc.org/member-center/forms-applications>. All nominations must be received by November 30, 2014.

## RENEW Today!

Don't forget to renew your NAICC membership by October 31 to be included in the 2015 membership directory.

While you are renewing, why not sign up your employees or encourage a colleague to join NAICC. Members who recruit the most members from your state are eligible to be named TOP RECRUITER! A variety of membership levels are available. Go to <http://naicc.org/member-center> to see the many advantages of membership.

## Certification Reminder

CPCC certification fees and 36 CEUs are due to the NAICC headquarters by March 1. You may mail your check or credit card information to the NAICC headquarters or go to <http://naicc.org/member-center/ceu-renewal/> to renew and report your CEUs online!



National Alliance  
of Independent  
Crop Consultants

Allison Jones

Executive Vice President

Gary Coukell, M.Sc. P. Ag.

President

Melanye Lunsford Managing Editor

349 E. Nolley Drive / Collierville, TN 38017

Office: 901.861.0511 Fax: 901.861.0512

E-mail: [AllisonJones@naicc.org](mailto:AllisonJones@naicc.org)

[www.naicc.org](http://www.naicc.org)

ICMS

Box 67 Station Main,

2375 Saskatchewan Avenue, E.

Port R1N 3B2

Office: 204.857.2723 Fax: 204.239.4478

Mobile: 204.857.2723

E-mail: [coukell@icms-inc.com](mailto:coukell@icms-inc.com)