

American Society of Agricultural Consultants

Consulting Excellence to Agriculture – Worldwide

Communiqué



Combined BOD Notes

Get ready for “*Gone Country!*” ASAC’s annual conference and business meeting slated for November 1-4

Your ASAC BOD, together with its various committees, has been quite busy this summer, as has Russ Morgan and our EVP, Amy McDonald.

BOD Conference calls were held on June 16th and July 21st. Please allow this editor the liberty of combining reports from these meetings, as certain parameters have changed due to Covid.

It is with sadness it was reported in June that ASAC’s 2011 president, Gary Wagner, passed away.

Ethan Robertson’s Meetings Committee has been actively planning our annual meeting. Due to Covid, last week your BOD voted for the sake of health and social distancing, to not hold the planned in-person meeting in Nashville; however the annual meeting **WILL BE HELD** and plans are forging ahead to finalize commitments of diverse and timely speakers and to arrange potential break-out sessions and field trips for November participation.

Amy stated that the all-important CEU’s will be given for attendance at the conference. Russ Morgan has studied and presented various viable support service options for this endeavor.

The Meetings Committee, chaired by Ethan Robertson, reported on the upcoming meeting plans; The Branding sub-committee, with Steve McWilliams, continues tracking activity towards the ASAC website; Several committees are continuing to finalize the new logo and society brochure; the Strategic Alliance Committee, with Norm Brown, continues with working on the ASAC website, Russ Morgan reported both on the Education Committee (expect a re-set on 7/31) and on the Finance Committee (he stated that it is healthy); Russ is also working with the Membership Development Committee; Moe reported that the new slate of officers, for the election that will occur at the annual business meeting, is ready and will be submitted to the membership 45 days or more prior to then; Amy continues to work as the BOD directs and has been busy collecting membership information and annual dues. Amy will once again request that members check/update their information on the website.

ASAC Leadership

President:
Mick Lewis

Vice President:
Ethan Robertson

Sec-Treasurer:
Kyle Walker, CAC

Financial Officer:
Russell Morgan, CAC

Immediate Past President:
Moe Russel, CAC

Eastern Director:
Joanna Lidback

Western Director:
John Alcorn

Northern Director:
Steve McWilliams

Southern Director:
Keith Dickinson

Management Group:
Amy Keith McDonald,
McDonald Management

Communiqué Team:
Ib & Patricia Hagsten

• RECENT OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

- The last couple of weeks I have been in the Central Missouri Amish communities – What a delightful reprieve from the “world turned upside down” that one hears on the news and/or observes when in larger cities to audit processors, although I also have been fortunate enough to perform several inspections/audits VIRTUALLY, when it worked out for all parties.
- A couple of weeks ago I was scheduled to spend several days in a Mennonite community, yet due to a large family reunion have been held, after which Covid appeared in the community, I was advised to stay home. It is not very easy to do virtual audits and exchange data when everyone has only flip-phones; yet it’s impossible when there are no phones or electronic means around.
- Having relaxed buggy-rides anytime of day is delightful while studying the crops, the animals, and the rolling hills. (I do not drive thru and between any Amish farms anymore, after I had too many flat tires, it seems their steel tires are a lot less prone to punctures than my air-inflated tires).
- It is interesting how they all have “more than one egg in their basket.” In addition to the crop farm they have dairy or beef cattle, sheep or goats, hens – or at least enough milk from the one cow and eggs for all along with a large vegetable garden.
- Others work part time at the sawmill, some shoe horses, others have a couple of acres of mum plants, build cabinets, repair old Amish machinery, etc. – So, they don’t bother waiting for a \$1,200 government check or two during these “unsettling” Covid-19 times for the rest of the world.
- While in the area I did go one day to audit “an Englishman” – a delightful crop and livestock farmer I have visited on-and-off for more than a decade. He is on his seventh year of being the caregiver for his wife of 50+ years, who many days does not know whom the guy fixing food and “hounding her” about medication intake, is. Charlie has no choice but makes the best of farming, livestock chores, and managing the house chores, too, as the \$1,700 per month required at the nursing home is beyond his budget.
- All-in-all two delightful weeks, where I left Patricia, whom I’m currently the caregiver for, alone for two nights. Yet, it is enjoyable to come back home to discover something new she has either done, discovered, or experienced.

Continued

THE TREASURE CHEST

Since we had Independence Day in the middle of these two months, that would be a good topic to reflect upon, yet the closest in this treasure chest is the term, Nation.

We must have many Lincoln-hearted men.

Vachel Lindsey

The true discovery of America is before us.

Thomas Wolfe

Democracy is a small hard core of common agreement, surrounded by a rich variety of individual differences.

James Conant

America is a tune, it must be sung together.

Gerald Stanley Lee

This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny.

Franklin D. Roosevelt