



A monthly update from Bonnie McCarvel,
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MACA Monthly News December 2020

December – It’s almost a wrap! What a strange year it has been. Words like pandemic, COVID-19, Zoom, and Teams became household words this year while we all learned how to do things differently. As a result, we are doing things differently and are able to offer more opportunities to the membership. Think the annual meeting speakers who are all on line and available to listen to at your convenience, think about the quarterly meetings and the ability to participate in more than one committee meeting; think about the ‘Lunch & Learn’ speakers like Genevieve O’Sullivan from CropLife America talking pesticides and the new virtual presentations for the CropLife Ambassador Network program. The ‘Member Spotlight’ starts December 4, so look for the details later this week showcasing the 2020 annual meeting sponsors. We’ve had to be more creative and resourceful in how we reach members and consumers.

As a result of COVID-19, the committees and board are planning some special events for 2021 which will provide additional insight into the issues facing the MACA member. The goal is to inform and educate on key issues and topics. Stay tuned for the announcement next month.

Here’s wishing you and yours the best of the holiday season! May you find time to enjoy the little things in life that make you smile or warm your heart. Help a friend or neighbor who may need a helping hand. Spread some cheer and you’ll feel better as we close out 2020.

MACA NOVEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

The Mid America CropLife Association Board of Directors met on Thursday, November 12 and took the following actions:

- Approved Matt Jones, BASF, as an At-Large Executive Committee member with his term ending September 2022.
- Heard committee updates from the respective committees.
- Approved Certis USA as a member with Tim Riley as the contact.
- Approved the 2020 financial review prepared by Filla & Filla, C.P.A.s,.
- Approved committee goals.
- Reviewed committee chairs/vice chairs. Click [here](#) for entire list.
- Approved tentative budget for FY 2021.
- Approved 2021 meeting fates as follows:
 - Week of February 8 – Committee Meetings, Virtual
 - Feb. 8 - 9:30 – noon Annual Meeting
 - Feb. 9 - 9:00 – noon Executive Committee
 - Feb. 9 - 1:30 – 3:30 pm Industry Communications

- Feb. 10 - 9-Noon D&E
- Feb. 10 - Noon- 1:15 pm Lunch & Learn
- Feb. 10 - 1:30-3:30 pm PES
- Feb. 10 - 5-6:30 pm Murder Mystery?
- February 11 – Board Meeting, Virtual
- June 9 – Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO/Virtual???
- (If virtual week of June 9)
- Cardinals Baseball Game????
- June 10 – Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO/Virtual???
- July 30 – Zoom call with board (Approve award nominees.)
- September 7-9 – MACA Annual Meeting, TBD
- September 9 – 7:30 am - MACA Annual Business Meeting, TBD
- November 10 – Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO/Virtual???
- (If virtual week of Nov. 10)
- November 11– Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO/Virtual???

Due to Covid-19, the type of meeting – in-person or virtual – for the June and November board meetings will be determined closer to the actual meeting date.

CROP LIFE AMBASSADOR NETWORK

It was great seeing so many faces on Zoom for the November meetings. As expected, this fall has been slow for the CAN program. With many schools going all virtual or simply not allowing guests in their buildings, we have not received many requests. Many teachers are also expressing they are trying to figure out this school year and are trying to keep it simple and not making the requests we are used to seeing. We understand and we are trying other ideas to reach out to students and teachers to spread the word about Agriculture. We are creating smaller quick recorded videos that teachers can share when they have time.

We can use your help too! If you can help reach out to schools in your area to see if anyone would like one of our presentations let me know. Maybe you have children in school or grandchildren in school. We can set up live virtual presentations or offer one of our prerecorded presentations to share. Please email me if you can help – michelle@maca.org.

And as always, we are still in need of more ambassadors. Please talk to your colleagues and ask them to sign up to be an ambassador. I would be happy to give more information to anyone who might be interested. For more information: <http://ambassador.maca.org/volunteers/>.

Please follow us and like us on Facebook: search for CropLife Ambassador Network. Encourage others to like us on Facebook too! I look forward to working with all of you a little bit more this spring. Happy Holidays!



Find us on **Facebook** – search - CropLife Ambassador Network- CAN.

YOUNG LEADER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We are currently looking for company sponsors for our Young Leadership Scholarship Program (YLSP). If your company can help, please contact [Bonnie](#) to work out the details.

The YLSP brings up to 13 future leaders from the Ag industry to the MACA annual meeting and helps spread the word of MACA at 14 different universities. All contributions are tax deductible and **very** appreciated and necessary for the success of the program. Your company will be recognized in various ways through MACA's meetings and publications.

To learn more about this important program, please visit our website by [clicking here](#). To get started please, contact Bonnie at Bonnie@maca.org or 314-849-9446.

Thank you to our current sponsors: **Albaugh, AMVAC, FMC, IEDS, KALO, MFA, Morris Bixby, Rosen's, Syngenta, Valent USA, Wright Distribution**. A special thanks to the the first-time sponsors - **Certis USA, Epogee, Helm Agro, Russell Associates, and UPL**.



Michelle Kilper
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Program Coordinator

CropLife Ambassador Network and Young Leader Scholarship Program

STATE UPDATES

Kansas – “Following the 2020 election, Republicans will have supermajorities in the Kansas House and Senate, which will allow them to override any veto by Democrat Governor Laura Kelly,” says Randy Stookey, JD, IOM, Sr. Vice President Government Affairs & General Counsel, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association. This will prove significant when considering weighty issues such as tax policy, possible Medicaid expansion, and the redistricting of House and Senate districts. House Speaker Ron Ryckman will likely retain his position, along with other current Republican leadership. During the Senate primary, Republicans elected five conservatives over moderate incumbents. For that reason, the Senate is likely to become much more polarized. Look for COVID-19 issues to consume much of the next legislative session.

There has been, and continues to be, great economic repercussions from the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal and state responses in the form of financial aid and unemployment payments have been helpful. However, the Kansas unemployment insurance fund is projected to be depleted by early 2021. Without federal assistance, there could be devastating economic hardship in the first two quarters of next year. Replenishing the fund alone will be a financial hit to Kansas employers.

Last year, KARA helped draft and introduce a bill to allow up to \$50,000 from the agricultural chemical remediation reimbursement fund to be used annually for a new Pesticide Waste Disposal Program which would be managed by the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture. The bill made steady progress last year before being stalled out due to the shortened session. The bill will be reintroduced this year. In recent years, the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE) requested legislation to allow the agency the authority to define reportable quantities and timelines for reporting spills of hazardous chemicals, and to harmonize those quantities and timelines with federal standards. The bill would also grant KDHE authority to assess civil

penalties for failing to timely report hazardous chemical spills. The bill will be introduced again this year.

Minnesota – “The defeat of U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson, who chairs the federal House Agriculture Committee, was the most high-profile change on the federal level. Mr. Peterson, 76, had bucked political trends for years, winning re-election in a rural district that was increasingly shifting toward the Republican Party,” writes Bill Bond, Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR). Michelle Fischbach, 55, a former lieutenant governor who vowed to ‘fire’ Speaker Nancy Pelosi upon arriving in Washington and sought to tie the congressman to his party’s left flank, finally ended his run. In the State Senate, Republicans will remain in by control by one seat and while the DFL lost several House seats, they maintain control of the House of Representatives. However, the DFL also lost state Rep. Jeanne Poppe of Austin, who chairs the Minnesota House Agriculture and Food Finance and Policy Division, and state Rep. Jeff Brand of St. Peter, who is vice chairman of that committee. This shakeup raises questions about the future of agriculture policy in the House of Representatives as the DFL party is increasingly made up of lawmakers from the Twin Cities metro area. In addition, two DFL Senators, Senator Tom Bakk and Senator David Tomassoni announced they would be leaving the Senate DFL Caucus to form a new Independent Caucus but will be caucus with the Senate Republicans. This will shift the current Minnesota Senate makeup from 34 Republicans and 33 Democrats to 34 Republicans, 31 Democrats, and 2 Independents that will caucus with Republicans. Evidence of a further movement of moderate legislators away from the DFL Party.

Virtually everything in public policy and MCPR Board and Committee activity remains virtual. This will not change at the State Capitol which makes legislative relations much more virtual... and challenging.

Looking ahead to 2021, Bond says they will focus on virtually everything in the House of Representatives.

Wisconsin – “In Wisconsin, the Republicans gained two seats in the Senate (21-R, 12-D) and the Democrats gained two seats in the Assembly (61-R 38-D) Both chambers are still clearly controlled by the Republicans,” reports Tom Bressner, Executive Director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association. “With a Democratic Governor, that will make for another interesting budget year in 2021.”

2020 is my 40th year in business since graduating from college in 1980. I honestly can't remember one filled with more challenges, issues, and controversy. All our time now is being spent turning a 1,200-person convention into a virtual event. Never dreamed we would have to do that. However, we will survive 2020 with only minor bangs and bruises, and we look forward to 2021.

In Wisconsin, 2021 will be a budget year, so that will rule over everything else. We also expect a lot of discussion, legislation, and regulation on water quality issues.

MACA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 2021 MACA membership renewal emails were sent out October 30. The 2021 new dues structure is in place and so there may be a change in the dues amount for some members. The

dues amount is based on your company's audited financial information...but that is on the honor system. Also, the dues can be paid in calendar year 2020 or prior to February 15, 2021. Thanks to those who have renewed!

SHORT NOTES

- The November issue of the MACA Water Update by **MACA's Water Consultant Steve Taylor** focuses on the recent election and what the results may mean. Check out the [update](#) for details.
- 'Vision 2030' featured speakers at the virtual 2020 Annual Meeting and are still posted on the MACA app which you can access via your phone or computer. Just click the MACA Logo below to access all download and access options.



The three featured speakers including **Chris Novak, CLA CEO & President; Jason Henderson, Purdue Extension, and Philippe de Lap rouse, HighQuest Partners**, are still available for your review.

- The **MACA Member Spotlight** will begin December 4 and will feature MACA members who were sponsors for the 2020 annual meeting. Watch for more details!
- **Genevieve O'Sullivan, Vice President, Communications & Marketing, CropLife America** was the featured speaker during the November "Lunch & Learn".
- The February 10 "Lunch & Learn" will feature **Kent Schescke, Executive VP of CAST**. Plan to join us!

CALENDAR

- **December 24 – MACA Office Closed**
- **December 25 – Merry Christmas! MACA Office Closed**

2021

- **Jan. 1** **MACA office Closed.**
- **Jan. 11-14** Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic – virtual
- **Jan. 11-14** MABA Winter Conference & Trade Show
- **Jan. 19-21** Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association's virtual Winter Conference.
- **Jan. 27-29** [2021 OABA Industry Conference](#)
- **MACA Quarterly Meetings:**
 - Feb. 8 - 9:30 – noon MACA Annual Meeting Committee, ZOOM
 - Feb. 9 - 9:00 – noon MACA Executive Committee, ZOOM
 - Feb. 9 - 1:30-3:30 pm MACA Industry Communications Committee, ZOOM
 - Feb. 10 - 9-Noon MACA D&E Committee, ZOOM

- Feb. 10 - Noon-1:15 pm MACA Lunch & Learn, ZOOM
- Feb. 10 - 1:30-3:30 pm MACA PES Committee, ZOOM
- Feb. 11 - 7:30-11:00 MACA Board Meeting, Virtual, ZOOM
- **Feb. 9-10** Iowa Agribusiness Showcase & Conference
- **Nov. 30-Dec.1** Northern Ag Expo of 2021

2022

- **Jan. 18-20** IFCA Winter Convention, Peoria, IL
- **Jan. 19-20** AGEXPO, Sioux Falls, SD

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Sometimes, carrying on, just carrying on, is the superhuman achievement."
~ Albert Camus

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