MID AMERICA CROPLIFE ASSOCIATION

Monthly Update
Rodney Schmidt, Executive Director
11327 Gravois Road, Suite 201
St. Louis, MO 63126
Phone: 314/849-9446
E-mail: rodney@maca.org

MACA Monthly News

March 2025

It is often said the weather in the Midwest never gets boring. February 2025 did not let us down! Here's an amusing forecast I pulled from the internet via the Almanac: *"Temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average, particularly in the early part of the month."* I would beg to differ with this prediction. It was so cold in Central Indiana in the middle of the month I had to talk my dog into going outside in the morning! I think we can all agree that February was a very busy month for the Agriculture Industry. MACA had a very productive virtual Quarterly Meeting in February, where the Board and Committees set plans in motion for the year. The month was closed out with an informative and timely Lunch & Learn session covering CropLife America's Legislative Priorities with the Trump Administration. As we move into March look at your calendars, as there are events you will want to attend. Additionally, Bonnie McCarvel and I will continue meeting to ensure a smooth transition with my role. Read on for the latest information and share it with others in your company who may have an interest.

February Quarterly Meeting Summary

The MACA Board of Directors met February 13, 2025, and took the following actions:

- Approved **NPW LLC** and **Kincannon & Reed** as Allied members.
- Heard an update on Developing Professionals which has 11 participants from 8 member companies.
- Approved applicants for the 2025 Young Leaders Scholarship Program (YLSP) Class.
- Heard an update on the Agriculture Academy which has transitioned to a grant program for schools and other youth organizations.
- Reviewed the speakers for the March and May '25 Lunch & Learn series.
- The Critical Member Issues committee provided an update on speaker plans for the year
- The FY'25 Approved Budget was presented.
- Changes with the officers were reported with **Aaron Deardorff**, Syngenta, the new Vice President; **Matt Lawrence,** Valent USA, the new Secretary – Treasurer; and **Sarah Betzold**, BASF, to serve the director term of Matt Lawrence who moved to an officer position.
- The Annual Meeting Committee shared plans for the '25 Annual Meeting.
- The Communications Committee reviewed the budget, website and implementation of the '25 contract with Aggregate.
- The next board meeting is set for June 5, at 7:30 AM CT in St. Louis, MO.

"THANK YOU BONNIE CELEBRATION" – March 11

After an exemplary association management career our leader and friend, Bonnie McCarvel will be moving on to her next steps in life with her retirement from MACA on March 31. Bonnie defined and demonstrated an unmatched model of being a professional Executive Director to ensure success with the associations

she managed. Mid America CropLife Association would not be where it is today without Bonnie. Thank you so much for all you have done for all of us these past 3 decades Bonnie!!

Since we didn't get to have this celebration in person, we are going to do it virtually on March 11, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM CDT. We welcome all of you to join us. Also feel free to forward this to others who may want to wish Bonnie well.

Click on the link below to join the meeting:
Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 278 004 011 802

LUNCH & LEARN Session – March 28

Please plan to join us for an informative Lunch & Learn (L&L) session with updates from the State Associations within MACA Geography. This will be held Friday, March 28, from Noon-1:15 pm **Central Daylight** Time.

Randy Stookey, JD, IOM, Sr. Vice President Government Affairs & General Counsel, Kansas AgriBusiness Retailers Association, will host the event. Joining him will be:

- Steve Taylor, Executive Director, MO-AG
- Grace Howe, Executive Director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
- Bruce Kettler, President & CEO, Indiana Agribusiness Council
- Julie Kenney, CEO, Agribusiness Association of Iowa

All MACA member companies are welcome to invite all their employees to join any of the L&L sessions. Make plans to attend and share the invite with others in your company.

Click on the link below to join the meeting:
Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 294 685 744 538

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals continue by member companies. 33 member companies have renewed their membership at the present time. The membership committee is following up with those who have not renewed. Members are encouraged to renew their membership this month. If you need another copy of your membership renewal invoice, just let me know.

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS (DP) PROGRAM

Mentorship was the topic for the class at the end of January. The DPs engaged in the training and shared firsthand experiences. Great to listen to and see how things are going.

The next class topic is set for March 25 and will focus on 'Work Life Balance' with **Drew Ratterman** as the presenter.

This year's class includes 11 individuals from 8 member companies. If your company is looking for an opportunity for your Developing Professionals to improve some of their personal skills, consider having them participate in the Class of '26 Developing Professionals Program. We'll be looking for applicants in late spring/early summer.

MACA ANNUAL MEETING

September 2-4, 2025, are the dates for the Annual Meeting set for the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO. The committee, chaired by Matt Wagner, is working on the program speakers, tour, as well as golf. Details will be forthcoming.

CALENDAR

March 28	MACA Lunch & Learn - State Association Update
June 4	MACA Quarterly Meetings – Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO
June 5	MACA Board of Directors Meeting, St. Louis, MO
Sept. 2-4, 2025	**MACA Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

~ Theodore Roosevelt