CCA LOUISIANA BOARD MINUTES FOR JULY 19, 2006

PLACE: LSUA Extension Building, LSUA Campus, Alexandria, La.

Board Members Present: J Stevens, John Fontane, Lloyd Glenn, Mike Venable, Marty Pousson and Fran Deville

Meeting came to order at 1:00pm

Topics of Discussion Were:

1) Carl Dischler, a CCA member, gave the board his opinion of the CCA organization. He says his employer Pioneer Seed Co. stresses to its employees the importance of being a CCA. He personally likes the idea of multiple CEU sessions rather than 1 to 2 day big sessions. Likes the direction the board is going in making the La. CCA organization more meaningful.

2) Mike Venable suggested that phone calls to members to remind them of CEU sessions would help increase attendance. Also, we could use CEU sessions as training for potential members wanting to take the CCA Exam. Need to make CEU sessions more attractive. Suggested we watch dates not to conflict with other meeting in the area.

3) Board approved minutes of meeting held January 13, 2006.

4) The board approved that any expense occurred by a board member would have to be approved by 2 board members before sending to ICCA for reimbursement.

5) Board approved that future Louisiana CCA state exams and retake exams would be $25.00. Extension personnel would be exempt from the fee. Cost of exam would be posted on the La. CCA web site.

6) Board was presented with a copy of the 2005 financial statement and given an explanation of the expenses and income. Board was presented with a June 2006 financial statement. John explained to board that dues paid by members are spread out over 12 months by the ICCA. The Louisiana Board will attempt to have a yearly financial statement which will be easier to understand. Ending Balance as of 12-31-2005 was $9841.24. Ending balance as of June 2006 was $11078.51. Most of fixed expenses for 2006 had not occurred as of June. John will attempt to get a better understanding of membership and dues paid to present at next board meeting.

7) Board approved running an advertisement in Louisiana Farm and Ranch Magazine for Sept., Oct. and Nov. 2006 and March, April and May of 2007. The ad will focus on the importance of farmers using CCA members for crop advice. Expenses for ad were approved up to $1000. The Louisiana CCA will also put in articles in this magazine featuring CEU sessions. Marty suggested we post our board minutes. Lloyd suggested we put the La. CCA logo on the ad. Ad will also reference our web site. A feature story on the Deer Food Plot seminar will also be featured. Board will contact ICCA and see if they are still offering co-op advertising.
8) A recent article about the Texas CCA was presented to the board. Several features in the article about what the Texas CCA organization is trying to accomplish were pointed out to members. Many of these items such as a web site, posting membership on web site, more CEU sessions, advertising, and e-mail notification are things the La. CCA board had adopted in the last year.

9) Updated membership roster had been sent out to board by e-mail. Mike Venable was thanked for his help in securing updated e-mail addresses for members in North La. John stressed to board that the least expensive and least time consuming manner to communicate with CCA members was thru e-mail. However, not all members read their emails. We also depend on district managers of area company's to promote CEU session and exams.

10) Board was presented with membership and its changes since December 2004. The La. CCA had 96 members in Dec. 2004 and currently has 93 members. Names of additions and deletions were presented. The geography of the members was also presented. There are 2 persons waiting for credential approval and 2 persons that will be taking the exam in August. The August CCA exam will be given in Crowley.

11) Mike Venable discussed the recent North La. Board sponsored CCA session held on July 13. Meeting attended by 23 CCA members and other Ag industry persons. J Stevens, Robert Prince, Steve Nipper and Robert Prince conducted the session. Lloyd suggested that we try to have 2 North La. CEU sessions per year.

12) Board was brought up to date on the CCA Board / LSU Ag Center CEU sessions that will be held in August and November 2006. At the present time member response has been disappointing. Several board members said they will try to "recruit" attendees. It was discussed that Paul Coriel and the LSU Ag Center will try to conduct a first class seminar and the importance of having as close to 50 attendees as possible. Two more emails will be sent out for the August session. Another CEU session sponsored by La. CCA and LSU Ag Center will be held in November. After this session we will reevaluate these sessions.

13) Board approved having an Ag Educator of the Year Award and dropping the CCA Of The Year Award. Members will get nominees to John for approval at next board meeting in November. John stressed that he would like at least 4 nominees.

14) John presented to board the following ICCA Board changes that were approved at their February meeting.
   a) Renewal fees are non refundable.
   b) CEU's approved by a board in one state are automatically accepted by all states.
   c) Restriction on maximum hours for Professional Development was removed. A CCA member can now obtain 20 or more hours of professional development to apply toward his 40 hours of Continuing Education. This was adopted in response to the survey in which CCA members stated they wanted it easier to receive CEU'S. This is effective for 2006. Also the ICCA does not want to restrict managers and other professional in obtaining CEU'S. John will e-mail to the board a copy of items that qualify for CEU's.
   d) ICCA is trying to separate CCA from ASA
   e) Each state board will be required to present a budget effective 2007
   f) Overhead fees will be increased but actual figure has not been determined.
15) Due to the changes by the ICCA the board decided that its direction in restricting CEU'S would need to be reevaluated. The board had adopted the policy in the past year that CEU's would be more difficult to obtain and thus being a CCA member would be more meaningful. Now the board may be forced to lessen its restrictions so as not to conflict with the direction the ICCA is taking in awarding CEU'S.

16) John discussed recent comments from several CCA members about the restrictions placed on CEU'S for field days. It was viewed that these comments have increased the interest level of CCA'S and the board viewed this as being positive.

17) The board reversed an earlier restriction that field days would need to be pre approved. County agents have commented that it is not their obligation to make this effort for the CCA organization. Field days will also be considered for CEU credits in the future. It was discussed that it is harder to police attendance at field days since it is usually an open environment.

18) The board adopted the following policy. The position of the board is that CEU'S should continue to be more difficult to receive so as to put more meaning in the organization. However, the board will not attempt to overrule the wishes of the ICCA. The board agreed to voice its position to Luther Smith and Cliff Synder by letter or email.

19) None of the members were interested in attending the next ICCA board meeting in September to be held in Idaho. However, board members would attempt to attend future meeting.

20) The next board meeting will be held on November 9th at LSUA Extension Building immediately following the CEU session. This meeting will be for the sole purpose of approving an Ag Educator of the Year Award to be presented at the January LAIA meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm