

A New *twist* on the December Executive Committee Meeting!

On December 18th the TACC Executive Committee will be meeting virtually for the first time ever. Members located near Lubbock will be meeting in the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association board room in Lubbock and those in South Texas will be meeting at Plains Cotton Cooperative Association / Gulf Compress in Corpus Christi. The meeting will be conducted via video conferencing.

The agenda for the meeting includes discussing the Council's preliminary audit results conducted by **D. Williams and Company** on November 6-7, and a review of TACC office operations.



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

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TACC is Ready to "A.C.E." This *conference* --- Are You?

Things are looking promising for the Texas Academy in Cooperative Excellence Program --- January 25-27, 2019 --- at the Westin Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio.

The primary purpose of this conference is to cultivate a new momentum and connect the dots for the next generation of farm families and co-op leaders by introducing them to alternative business structures with a special emphasis on the co-op business model.

Program includes a Fredericksburg wine tour, dinner on the Riverwalk and a countless variety of farm co-op leaders serving as speakers: including **Dr. Darren Hudson, Dr. John Park, Gary McLaren**, regional co-op representatives, several local co-op board presidents and others.

If your local co-op is a member of three of the five regional cooperative sponsors (*Farmers Cooperative Compress, Gulf Compress, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, PYCO Industries, and Valley Co-op Oil Mill*), the co-op will pay a registration fee of \$575 per single / couple. For those that are not a member of one of these regional cooperative sponsors, the registration fee will be \$995 per single / couple (*which includes a two-night hotel stay*).

If your co-op has questions or doubts about enrolling, please call our offices (512-450-0555) before reaching a final decision. Hope to hear from you soon.

Amarillo and Lubbock Director Development Programs are Coming to *Town!*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS --- TACC Director Development Programs are coming to town --- Monday, February 4, 2019 (*Amarillo*) to be held at the Holiday Inn Amarillo West Medical Center and Thursday, February 7, 2019 (*Lubbock*) to be held at the PYCO Industries, Inc. offices.

All but one speaker has been confirmed but includes **Gary McLaren**, Ag Texas Farm Credit Services CEO **Tim McDonald**, PYCO Industries CFO **Tony Morton**, a noted practitioner from Denver, CO., addressing personality testing and much more.

More information to follow as the programs develop.



On *demand* Training --- All Access Pass

TACC launched “on demand training” on September 1 --- whereby co-ops can have access to over 400 training videos anytime of the day or week. The videos range from various topics covering management, overcoming the challenges of being a new director, board effectiveness, being a first-time manager of people, building trust, people skills, and many more.

As of today, a number of co-ops have signed up for the ALL ACCESS PASS. You may have noted TACCs Facebook every Tuesday morning called “Training Tip Tuesday”. This has drawn a lot of interest and it is only one portion of what comes with this ALL ACCESS PASS!

For those interested in registering your co-op for an ALL ACCESS PASS, please contact **Christy Lewis** (christy@texas.coop) at TACC for an explanation of all the training programs!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from TACC!

Back to the *basics* --- South Texas Conferences *exceed* Expectations!

TACC held the South Texas trifecta events October 31 – November 1 in Corpus Christi --- Third Annual Co-op South Texas Board Chairmen’s Conference, Shrimp Boil, and the one-day TACC South Texas Cooperative Leadership Conference. Both conferences had great attendance, despite the ginning season still in full swing. Thank you to the 18 conference sponsors who helped make these events possible and the nearly 80 people in attendance.

For the second year, the Board Chairmen’s Conference was held at Gulf Compress with a loaded panel of speakers. Kicking off the conference was **Keith Hughey**, a management consultant from San Antonio; **John McClelland**, recently retired CEO of Garden City Co-op in Garden City, Kansas speaking on the expectations of a co-op board chair; and **Cindy Bertram**, an HR Consultant with Triangle Cooperative Service Company out of Enid, Oklahoma. She provided the group with information on evaluating the general manager. **Dr. John Park**, Roy B. Davis Professor of Agricultural Cooperation at Texas A&M University in College Station, presented a video from the ALL ACCESS PASS --- “Copa Airlines” --- linking the airline and co-op boards together and what they have in common. Rounding out the Board Chairmen’s Conference was **Gary McLaren**, co-op attorney from Phillips and McLaren in Lubbock discussing information directly affecting co-op board chairs.

The TACC South Texas Leadership Conference, held at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, kicked-off Wednesday, October 31 with the annual Shrimp Boil that was co-hosted for the second year with the Texas Grain and Feed Association.

With a jammed packed schedule, the conference began with **Kevin Brinkley** and **Keith Lucas** of Plains Cotton Cooperative Association in Lubbock discussing “Trade Agreements, Tariffs, and Disputes: The New Norm in Ag Marketing”; a panelist consisting of **Dr. John Park** of Texas A&M University, **John McClelland**, recently retired CEO of Garden City Co-op in Garden City, Kansas, **Kevin Brinkley** and **Greg Taylor**, CPA with D. Williams and Company CPA firm in Lubbock discussing how to appeal to the emerging and new producers; and **Dale Kerstetter**, the Environmental and Safety Director at Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers in Santa Rosa enlightening the group with an interesting presentation on how to survive an OSHA Inspection.

Dr. Roel Lopez, Director of Natural Resources Institute at Texas A&M University in San Antonio, discussed how rural Texas is facing a fragmentation challenge during the lunch hour; **Greg Taylor** gave an update on taxes; **Gary McLaren**, attorney at Phillips and McLaren law firm in Lubbock updated the group on legal cases; and wrapping up the conference was **Keith Hughey**, a management consultant in San Antonio.

A Collection of Legislative *gifts* for the Season ...

One of the required responsibilities of many associations is keeping their particular industry members out of the ditch with state agency regulators and policy-makers in Austin. Below is a three - month summary of the dual role TACC has played in preserving our industry's way of life, not only for cooperatives, but also in serving as chair of the 65 - member ag commodity lobby group "Texas Ag Council".

- Developed a 7th edition, two – year PAC hard copy newsletter highlighting where the state's ag PACs placed their money on the “contested” statewide, state senate, state house, and U. S. Congressional races from Texas.
- Coordinated an ag lobby fundraiser in Austin for D) State Senator – elect **Pete Flores** of Pleasanton, R) U. S. Congressman **John Carter** of Round Rock, and R) State Senator **Robert Nichols** of Jacksonville, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.
- Coordinated a collection of sponsors / speakers and participated in the Texas Tribune (*Austin's political newspaper*) “Rural Symposium” in College Station in mid-November, where upwards of 400 people attended and largely the rural agenda was set for the 2019 State Legislative Session.
- Coordinated and hosted a second State Capitol staffer event for the year on November 29th, but this time was known as a “Lunch and Learn”, where they were briefed on upcoming ag issues and land fragmentation challenges. Nearly 100 people attended.
- Began to align greater academic engagement in ag lobby activities with ag universities.
- Arranged for the State Comptroller, state legislators, the state's ag point person at the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the state's point person at the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, an agency under sunset review and the one that coordinates all driver registration and permitting, to appear at the first two weekly meetings of the ag lobby coalition beginning in January 2019.
- Participated with 25 other Austin legislative insiders as a speaker in the 30 – member Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association 3-day advocacy workshop at the State Capitol in late November.
- Established a new system by which the 6,000 – 8,000 legislative bills will be tracked by the ag commodity groups at the State Capitol beginning in January 2019.
- Coordinated the annual retreat, attended by 25 people, of all the ag lobby groups in Texas. The event was held on the ranch of R) State Representative **Kyle Kacal** of College Station.
- Initiated the development of the two-year state directory of all ag commodity legislative leadership, which will be distributed to 200 – plus policy-makers at the State Capitol in January 2019.
- After more than two decades of development, closing in on the opportunity to create an ag lobby appreciation / process / engagement course for students at a major ag university.
- Coordinated action of the state co-op PAC, TACC-PAC, to contribute \$17,900 to 51 campaign races during the November 6th General Election.
- Facilitated an “Ag Legislative Outreach Reception and Dinner” for 57 Dallas / Ft. Worth area legislators on October 4 in Ft. Worth, in conjunction with the Texas A&M Ag Law Symposium, which reached to nearly 100 people.



TACC: OUT & ABOUT (since October 10, 2018)

- ✔ Wrote, published and distributed a TACC-PAC Special Edition Newsletter announcing where most ag PACs placed their contributions in the November 6 General Election and to inform members on activities of TACC-PAC.
- ✔ Coordinated the TACC South Texas Board Chairmen's Conference and TACC Cooperative Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi on October 31 – November 1.
- ✔ Assisted **D. Williams and Company** with the TACC FYE September 30 audit in Austin November 6-7.
- ✔ Facilitated a strategic plan for the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton on November 8.
- ✔ Hosted a Texas Tribune Rural Symposium for over 350 people in College Station on November 12-13, along with other ag groups.
- ✔ Spearheaded numerous projects as chair of the Texas ag lobby group known as "Texas Ag Council".
- ✔ Along with co-op attorney **Gary McLaren**, conducted a half day co-op training seminar in Amarillo for the regional co-op board, COBA / Select Sires out of Columbus, Ohio on October 16.
- ✔ Prepared recommendations and held a TACC-PAC Board of Trustees' meeting on October 15 to determine TACC contributions to the November 6 General Election.
- ✔ Participated in numerous AgBenefits (*formerly Texas Ag Co-op Trust*) board meetings.
- ✔ Taught the co-op business model and summer co-op internship program on October 16 at West Texas A&M University, October 17 at Texas Tech University, and November 28 at Texas A&M University.
- ✔ Participated in a FranklinCovey event --- "Speed of Trust" seminar --- in Austin on November 29.
- ✔ Developed TACC "monthly" budgets.
- ✔ Prepared for the December 18 TACC Executive Committee meeting.
- ✔ Developed a TACC Christmas card.
- ✔ Assisted with job placements throughout the state.

Will Be:

- ◇ Attending a site visit for the 2019 Joint Cooperative Meeting to Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls on December 20.
- ◇ Solidifying plans for the approaching January 8, 2019 State Legislative Session in Austin.
- ◇ Preparing and soliciting attendees for the upcoming Texas Academy in Cooperative Excellence Program January 25-27 in San Antonio.
- ◇ Developing programs for the TACC Director Development Programs that will be held February 4 (*Amarillo*) and February 7 (*Lubbock*).
- ◇ Coordinating plans for the TACC Co-op Day and Legislative Dinner at the State Capitol on April 10.
- ◇ Attending the National Cotton Council Annual Meeting in San Antonio on February 8-10 and the National Co-op Convention February 13-15 in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- ◇ Participating in the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (*TALL*) program and reception at the State Capitol on January 16.
- ◇ Conducting a half-day training seminar for the U.S. Custom Harvesters Association on February 3 in Amarillo.
- ◇ Coordinating registration and speaking at the Texas Chapter, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives mid-year meeting in Fredericksburg on February 28-March 1.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

December

18	TACC Executive Committee Meeting – Lubbock / Corpus Christi
24-25	TACC Christmas Holidays

2019

January

1	TACC New Years Holiday
8	State Legislative Session begins
8-10	Beltwide Cotton Conference – New Orleans, LA
25-27	Texas Academy in Cooperative Excellence Program – San Antonio

February

4	TACC Director Development Program – Amarillo
7	TACC Director Development Program – Lubbock
8-10	National Cotton Council Annual Meeting – San Antonio
13-15	National Co-op Convention – Scottsdale, AZ
28 - March 1	Texas Chapter, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives Meeting - Fredericksburg

March

10-12	TACC Joint Cooperative Meeting – Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls
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