

The *last* TACC Executive Committee Meeting of the *year*

On December 17th the TACC Executive Committee will be meeting for the last time this year. 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 4-5, 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?

TACC's 2nd Annual Texas Academy in Cooperative Excellence --- January 31-February 2 at the Inn on Barons Creek in Fredericksburg --- promises to be a dynamic program!

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 Friday Night Wurstfest at the Fredericksburg Brewing Co., Fredericksburg wine tour, and a countless variety of farm co-op leaders serving as speakers: including **Dr. John Park, Gary McLaren, Greg Taylor**, regional co-op representatives, several local co-op board presidents and others.

The registration fee will be \$595 per single / couple (*which includes a two-night hotel stay, most meals, and tour*). Meeting details and registration information can be found at <https://texas.coop/meetings/a-c-e/>.

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 3, 2020 (*Amarillo*) to be held at the Holiday Inn Amarillo West Medical Center and Thursday, February 6, 2020 (*Lubbock*) to be held at the USDA-ARS Plant Stress Lab.

Speakers include **Gary McLaren, Greg Taylor, Dr. John Park, Dr. Mike Boland** from the Agricultural Economics Department at the University of Minnesota (*the state with the most co-ops in the nation*) and much more. More information to follow as the program develops!

DEADLINE EXTENDED To January 10

TACC is once again conducting a co-op compensation study. Hard copy survey forms were mailed earlier this year to all local ag co-ops in Texas or can be downloaded from TACC's website. Please complete the forms by **January 10** and return them to co-op CPA Greg Taylor in Lubbock (*address is on the survey*). Download survey: <https://texas.coop/resources/>



Closing *keynote* Secured --- Andy Stumpf

TACC has secured **Andy Stumpf**, as the closing keynote at the **2020 TACC Annual Meeting, March 15-17 at the Woodlands Resort in The Woodlands, TX**. In 2015, Andy broke the world record for absolute distance traveled in a wingsuit (*also called a "squirrel suit" because when worn, the jumper resembles a flying squirrel*) to raise one million dollars for the Navy SEAL Foundation. Andy is an expert (*both in practice as a SEAL and a businessman*) in leadership, adapting to change, communication skills, teamwork, handling stressful situations, decision making, and peak performance. He has been featured on many top television programs, publications, blogs and podcasts and hosts his own podcast, *Cleared Hot*. You may have seen him on CBS' TV Reality Show "Hunted" as a hunter for fugitives. You won't want to miss Andy's take on leadership in high risk, high consequence environments!

TACC's **Tommy Engelke** says, "What makes this year's meeting special is that it's located on the northwest edge of Houston and not in Houston so traffic is not a problem, however if you want to take in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (*March 3-22*) in the afternoon, it would be convenient to do so!"

Merry Christmas & Happy *New Year* from TACC!



Once *again*, South Texas Conferences *exceed* Expectations!

TACC held the South Texas trifecta events October 30-31 in Corpus Christi --- 4th 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 a busy ginning season. Thank you to the 18 conference sponsors who helped make these events possible and to the nearly 80 people in attendance.

For the fourth year, the Board Chairmen's Conference was held at Gulf Compress with a loaded panel of speakers. Kicking off the conference was an engaging discussion between co-op leaders and board chairs about what general managers value most about their board president and the expectations of a co-op director. Renowned co-op attorney, **Gary McLaren**, from the McLaren Law Firm in Lubbock, discussed legal issues directly affecting co-op board chairs. **Jon Jones**, Board Chair and **Seth Stephens**, General Manager from Producers Co-op Elevator in Floydada, shared what it takes to make the co-op general manager and board president partnership work. **Dr. Mike Boland** from the Agricultural Economics Department at the University of Minnesota along with **Dr. John Park**, Roy B. Davis Professor of Agricultural Cooperation at Texas A&M University in College Station, closed the meeting with a powerful presentation on good and bad trends occurring in co-ops.

The TACC South Texas Leadership Conference, held at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, kicked-off Wednesday, October 30 with the annual Shrimp Boil cooked by a team of co-op leaders and new head chef, **Tyler Cross** of Smith Gin Co-op in Odem, and **Aaron Peña** of Valley Co-op Oil Mill in Harlingen. The conference began with **Kevin Brinkley** of Plains Cotton Cooperative Association in Lubbock discussing current and long-term marketing conditions in ag; **Greg Taylor**, CPA with D. Williams and Company CPA firm in Lubbock provided important updates to audits and tax laws; **Tony Morton**, CFO, PYCO Industries, Inc. in Lubbock gave a practical approach to analyzing financial statements; **Major Chris Nordloh**, the point-person for the Texas Department of Public Safety, answered the group's pressing questions about transportation regulations during the lunch hour.

The afternoon session began with a presentation from **Dr. Mike Boland** with the Agricultural Economics Department at the University of Minnesota along with **Dr. John Park**, Roy B. Davis Professor of Agricultural Cooperation at Texas A&M University in College Station on disruptions impacting co-op board governance. **Jarron Sharp**, General Council at the Federation of Employers and Workers of America (FEWA), from Bay City, provided an overview of securing H-2A workers as well as recent updates to the program. Wrapping up the afternoon, **Gary McLaren**, attorney at McLaren Law Firm, PLLC in Lubbock, updated the group on legal cases.

spring NSAC Meeting Set for Fredericksburg!

SAVE THE DATE --- The Texas Chapter, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives will be holding their spring meeting February 20-21 in Fredericksburg, Texas at the Inn on Barons Creek (830-990-9202). The room block rate of \$99 is good until the cut-off date of Monday, January 20.

Office and bookkeeping professionals at both the local and regional co-op level and those CPAs that work in co-op audit firms are encouraged to attend. More information regarding the meeting will be forthcoming. **Russ DuBose**, with D. Williams and Company CPA firm in Lubbock (806-785-5982), serves as president of the Texas Chapter. This is a great occasion to receive required CEU credits for those who need them.

TACC: OUT & ABOUT (since October 2, 2019)

- ✓ Coordinated and hosted the TACC South Texas Co-op Board Chairmen's Conference and TACC Cooperative Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi on October 30 - 31.
- ✓ Assisted **D. Williams and Company** with the TACC FYE September 30 audit in Austin November 4-5.
- ✓ Spearheaded numerous projects as chair of the Texas ag lobby group known as "Texas Ag Council," including a tour of the Port of Houston, facilitating a long-range plan, and hosting numerous political speakers.
- ✓ Facilitated a board retreat for Northeast Texas Farmers Co-op in Sulphur Springs on November 6-7.
- ✓ Taught the co-op business model and summer co-op internship program on November 7 at Tarleton State University, November 13 at Texas Tech University, November 14 at West Texas A&M University, and November 20 at Texas A&M University.
- ✓ Developed TACC "monthly" budgets.
- ✓ Prepared for the December 17 TACC Executive Committee meeting.
- ✓ Developed a TACC Christmas card.
- ✓ Assisted with job placements throughout the state.
- ✓ Attended and spoke at the Producers Cooperative Association Annual Meeting on October 14 in College Station.
- ✓ Conducted field contact visits along the Texas Gulf Coast October 16-18.
- ✓ Conducted an all-employee strategy improvement session for United Ag Cooperative in El Campo with Texas A&M Co-op Chair, **Dr. John Park**, on November 11-12.
- ✓ Attended the banquet of the national convention of Farmers Veteran Coalition in Austin on November 19.
- ✓ Hosted the Haskell FFA Chapter at TACC offices to assist in their preparation for the upcoming state leadership competition in Huntsville on December 5.
- ✓ Began coordination of a "Farm Store Summit" to be held in early 2020.
- ✓ Conducted interviews for the hiring of a vacant position at TACC.
- ✓ Hosted State Senator **Eddie Lucio** of Brownsville to TACC's office on November 19.
- ✓ Attended an exclusive EPA-Region 6 Ag Summit meeting at their offices in Dallas in November 21.
- ✓ Spoke to the special, elite group of 38 ag science teachers known as Ag LEAD, at the State Capitol on November 26.

Will Be:

- ◇ Preparing and soliciting attendees for the upcoming Texas Academy in Cooperative Excellence Program January 31-February 2 in Fredericksburg.
- ◇ Preparing an economic footprint/infographic for the Brownfield Farmers Co-op Station annual meeting in Brownfield in January.
- ◇ Developing agendas for the TACC Director Development Programs that will be held February 3 (*Amarillo*) and February 6 (*Lubbock*).
- ◇ Coordinating registration for the Texas Chapter, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives mid-year meeting in Fredericksburg on February 20-21.
- ◇ Attending the Beltwide Cotton Conference in Austin on January 8-10, National Cotton Council Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA on February 14-16, and the National Co-op Convention February 13-15 in La Quinta, CA.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

December

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

2020

January

1	TACC New Years Holiday
8-10	Beltwide Cotton Conference – Austin
31 - Feb 2	Texas Academy in Cooperative Excellence Program - Fredericksburg

February

3	TACC Director Development Program – Amarillo
6	TACC Director Development Program – Lubbock
20-21	Texas Chapter, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives Meeting - Fredericksburg
11-13	National Co-op Convention – La Qunita, CA
14-16	National Cotton Council Annual Meeting – New Orleans, LA

March

15-17	TACC Joint Cooperative Meeting – The Woodlands Resort, The Woodlands
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