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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
University of Maine
Orono, Maine
June 21, 1988

The Annual Business Meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association was called to order at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine by President Neil Pelsue.

The minutes of the June 22, 1987 Annual Meeting were approved as printed and distributed to the membership in Volume 16, Number 2, October 1987 Issue of the Journal of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer, reported general fund income of \$15,410.47 (membership dues, page charges, journal sales and interest) plus a beginning balance of \$4,556.37 for total assets of \$19,966.84 and expenses of \$13,857.28 (Journal printing costs and awards) leaving a cash balance of \$6,109.56 plus \$469.72 accounts receivable as of June 15, 1988.

The receipts of the NAREA Special Fund were \$635.27 which included a \$500 donation from the University of Rhode Island, Department of Resource Economics plus \$135.27 interest. There were no expenditures leaving a cash balance of \$2,339.32.

Bill Lessely made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Steve Reiling and passed.

Membership Report

Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the following membership report. As of June 15, 1988 there were: 328 regular members, 53 student members, 35 Honorary Life Members, and 12 Distinguished Members which are included in regular membership, for a total membership of 416. The Secretary-Treasurer indicated there was 6.3 percent increase in membership from last year.

Editor's Report

James Dunn, Editor, reported that Volume 17, No. 1, April issue of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Journal has been mailed. He has received several papers for the NAREA Fall issue and that 2 papers had been submitted for 1989 Spring issue. He reported that there was an increase over last year in number and quality of papers submitted. Also, he encouraged members to submit papers for the Journal.

Editor Dunn announced that his term of office will expire with the publication of the 1989 Fall Issue, and it is the custom for the new editor to serve one year with the present editor.

Nominations for the new editor should be submitted to the Executive Committee to be considered at the Fall Meeting.

Editor Dunn thanked his editorial board for their participation during the past year.

Auditor's Report

President Pelsue presented the Auditor's Report since no member of the Audit Committee was present. A motion was made by Billy Lessley to accept the report. The motion was seconded and passed. The financial report submitted to the membership at this meeting by Mary E. Templeton, Treasurer for the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, was found to be a true and accurate reporting of the items shown in the accounting records, bank statements, and the check book balances as of June 15, 1988.

Finance Committee Report

Steven E. Hastings, Chairman, University of Delaware, Thyrele Robertson, USDA, and Gerald Cole, University of Delaware, reviewed the financial position of the Association and noted that the organization is in excellent financial position. Chairman Hastings asked the membership for ideas on how to administer the Special Fund (spend all or part of the fund and what type of expenditures). He suggested that members convey their ideas to the Executive Committee to be considered at the Fall Meeting.

Nomination Committee Report

Steven E. Hastings, Chairman, University of Delaware, Malcolm Bevins, University of Vermont and Enrigue E. Figueroa, Cornell University, thanked all nominees who participated in the election process. Chairman Hastings reported on the results of the election as follows: Cleve Willis, Massachusetts, President-Elect and 3 year nominees for Board of Directors will be: James Opaluch, Rhode Island and Donn Derr, Rutgers University. He reported that the committee was unable to get nominees for the Secretary-Treasurer position and urged the membership to seek a nominee for the position for next year.

Steve Hastings reported since they were unable to obtain a nominee for Secretary-Treasurer position President Pelsue asked Mary Templeton, current Secretary-Treasurer, to continue for the next year and she agreed. The Executive Committee voted approval of this recommendation at June 20, 1988 meeting. Steven reported only 50 percent of the ballots were returned. Also he suggested the organization obtain an official envelope for the ballot.

Selected Papers and Symposia Committee Report

Julie Caswell, Chairman, presented the following report:

Eighteen reviewers served on the Selected Papers and Symposia Committee for the 1988 NAREA Annual Meetings held in Orono, Maine. The Committee received 5 symposium proposals and 35 submitted papers. Of these, 3 symposia and 24 papers were accepted for inclusion in the final program.

The review process was as follows. The 5 symposium proposals were sent to 3 members of the Committee, each of whom has a different area of specialization. These 3 members evaluated the symposium proposals on the basis of their topic area and format. Final selection of symposia for inclusion in the program was made by the program planning committee based on the reviewers' recommendations.

The evaluation of the submitted papers was carried out by the remaining 15 members of the committee. Each paper was reviewed by 3 people, at least 2 of whom specialize in the topic area of the paper (e.g., farm management, resources). The reviewers rated the papers based on their overall quality, making specific comments to the Committee and to the author(s) if desired. The criterion for inclusion in the program was that the paper was rated excellent or good by at least 2 out of 3 of its reviewers.

For the future, I recommend that NAREA publish a submission sheet for papers and symposium proposals in its newsletter when it announces its call for papers for the annual meetings. This sheet should ask submitters to identify from a provided list, the topic area under which they want their paper to be considered. This will ease administration of the review process and insure that papers are reviewed by the appropriate specialists. In addition, I would recommend that reviewers' evaluation of papers on a scale of excellent to poor be placed at the bottom of the review sheet, cut off, and sent to authors so that they get this direct feedback of the quality of their papers.

It has been suggested that the Committee should avoid sending papers to reviewers who are in the same department as the author(s) being reviewed. While it may be generally desirable to avoid this situation, the limited size of the pool of reviewers and number of departments in the Association would make it difficult to do so in all cases. It might also mean that a paper could not be reviewed by more than one specialist in the appropriate topic area because one of the specialists on the Committee is in the same department as the author(s). Therefore, I would not recommend that it be required that

papers could not be reviewed by a Committee member in the same department as the author(s).

Master's Thesis Awards Committee

Dan Lass, Chairman of Master's Thesis Awards Committee reported that 14 theses were submitted and the final rankings were based on four of the six committee member's rankings.

The winner of the competition based on the four rankings is: Hayes, Karen Marie, University of Rhode Island, "An Analyses of the Benefits of Improving Water Quality in Narragansett Bay: An Application of the Contingent Valuation Methods."

The Award of Merit winners were as follows:

Brooks, Priscilla. University of Rhode Island, "The Retail Value of Extending the Shelf Life of Fresh Seafood."

Venkateswar, Reddy. Pennsylvania State University, "Determinants of Off-Farm Labor Force Participation and Income Distribution Among U.S. Farm Families."

Distinguished Member and Honorary Life Member Awards Committee

Kenneth D. McIntosh, Chairman, West Virginia University, Joachin Elterich, University of Delaware and John H. Foster, University of Massachusetts, members of the Committee, reported that Robert Sinclair, University of Vermont, Fred Webster, University of Vermont, A. Robert Cook, Rutgers University and Marvin Kottke, University of Connecticut were recipients of the Honorary Life Member Awards. These Awards were presented to the recipients at the Awards luncheon. There were no nominations for the Distinguished Member Award.

Ad Hoc Undergraduate Committee

Steven Hastings, Chairman, Johannes Delphendahl, University of Maine and Dennis K. Smith, West Virginia University, suggested that an Undergraduate Teaching Symposium be held each year.

AAEA President

Daniel Padberg, President of AAEA invited all members to the Annual Meetings at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dan emphasized that he was attending the meetings as an NAREA member not as a representative of AAEA.

Editor—CHOICES

Lyle Schertz—Editor of CHOICES thanked Chairmen and Department Heads for articles submitted to the magazine for publication. Also, he extended his appreciation to persons outside of the profession for their subscriptions, especially Deans in the Northeast who have made group subscriptions to the magazine. Student subscription rate is \$5.00. Each department is provided one free advertisement in the classified section. Editor Schertz

reminded members that 1988 is the year the publication is to be reviewed and evaluated. Comments should be sent to his office of the Farm Foundation.

1989 Annual Meeting

Donald Epp, Chairman of Local Arrangements for the 1989 Annual Meetings urged everybody to come to Pennsylvania State, June 19–21, 1989. He indicated we will have a good meeting if you are there; a good place to meet formally and informally, good fun, good spirits, and good weather, which has been very pleasant for 15 years, and Pennsylvania has great places to visit.

Resolutions Committee

Bruce Lindsay, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee moved that the following resolutions be adopted by the Association.

The Resolutions Committee brings forth the following motion for your adoption:

Be it resolved that the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association express its sincere appreciation to the faculty, students, and staff of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maine for hosting the 1988 Annual Meeting. Special appreciation is extended to Johannes Delphendahl and Alan Kezis, local arrangements coordinators.

Be it further resolved that President-Elect John Malone

and Julie Caswell, Chairperson of the Selected Papers and Symposia Committee, be recognized for their efforts in arranging the program for this year's meetings.

The Resolution Committee requests that copies of these resolutions be sent to the appropriate administrative officers at the University of Maine, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President's Message

Neil Pelsue thanked each member for their support and willingness to accept assignments when asked, he indicated the past year had been a pleasant one. Special thanks to the University of Maine and to Johannes Delphendahl, chairman of local arrangements and Alan Kezis, Chairman of the Department.

There being no more business, Neil Pelsue turned the gavel over to John Malone, the new President. John Malone thanked Neil Pelsue for his leadership and Julie Caswell for chairing the Selected Papers Committee.

He also solicited volunteers for NAREA Committee appointments, nominations for Distinguished and Honorary Life Member Awards and items for the Newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mary Templeton
NAREA, Secretary/Treasurer

