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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
Penn State University
Keller Conference Center
University Park, Pennsylvania
June 20, 1989

The Annual Business Meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association was called to order at 3:30 PM at Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania by President John Malone.

The minutes of the June 21, 1988 Annual Meeting were approved as printed and distributed to the membership in Volume 17, Number 2, October 1988 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 \$17,694.57 (membership dues, page charges and interest) plus a beginning balance of \$6,109.56 and expenses of \$12,897.01 (Journal printing costs and awards) leaving a cash balance of \$10,907.12 plus \$520.00 accounts receivable as of June 9, 1989.

The receipts of the NAREA Special Fund were \$120.01 from interest. There was a beginning balance of \$2,339.32 and there were no expenditures leaving a cash balance of \$2,459.33 as of June 9, 1989.

Neil Pelsue made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report: The motion was seconded by Don Epp and the motion passed.

Membership Report

Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the following membership information as of June 9, 1989: 333 regular members; 43 student members; 40 Honorary Life Members, and 12 Distinguished Members for a total membership of 416. The Secretary-Treasurer indicated total membership was approximately the same as last year's membership of 417.

Editor's Report

James Dunn, Editor reported that the 1989 Spring issue of the journal was in process of being printed and should be mailed about June 26. He indicated Heffernan Press is slower this year than last year in the printing. Editor Dunn has already received 6 papers for the Fall issue and potentially there will be six more plus the invited papers. Loren Tauer incoming editor is receiving papers for the 1990 Spring issue.

Auditor's Report

President Malone presented the Auditor's Report since no member of the Audit Committee was present. A motion was made by Gerald Cale to accept the report. The motion was seconded and passed. The financial report submitted to the membership at this meeting by Mary 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 9, 1989.

Finance Committee Report

Neil Pelsue, Chairman, University of Vermont, Thyrlie Robinson, USDA, and Bernard F. Stanton, Cornell University, reviewed the financial status of the Association and stated that the organization is in excellent financial position. Chairman Pelsue indicated that the finance committee performs two tasks (1) monitoring the present financial situation, and (2) investigating the long-run financial position—(special account). The committee presented suggestion utilizing the special account funds as follows: (1) use the principle for a large project, (2) use only interest accrued to increase the amount of Master Thesis awards or reactivate the undergraduate essay contest award, (3) provide an award for the best Journal article, or (4) do nothing. The committee solicits ideas from the membership to be sent to Neil Pelsue.

Nomination Committee Report

Neil H. Pelsue, Chairman, University of Vermont, John M. Gates, University of Rhode Island, and Daymon Thatch, Rutgers University, thanked all nominees who participated in the election process, Billy Lessley, Dennis Smith, Wayne Knoblauch, Geoffrey Allen, John Mackenzie and Ian Hardie. Also, he thanked members who suggested nominees for 1990-91 offices. Chairman Pelsue reported the results of the election as follows: Billy Lessley, Maryland, President-Elect, and Geoffrey Allen, University of Massachusetts and John Mackenzie, University of Delaware as 3 year members of Board of Directors. He reported that the committee was unable to get nominees for the Secretary-Treasurer position and urged the members to

seek a nominee for the position for the next year. Neil Pelsue reported since they were unable to obtain a nominee for Secretary-Treasurer position, President Malone asked Mary Templeton, current Secretary-Treasurer, to continue for the next year and she agreed. The Executive Committee approved this recommendation at the June 19, 1989 meeting. A motion was made and seconded and passed that Gerald Cole, University of Delaware make an inquiry of the Northeast Assembly members for suggestions on how to obtain a new Secretary-Treasurer for 1990-91.

Selected Papers and Symposia Committee Report

Cathy A. Hamlett, Chairman of the NAREA Selected Papers and Symposium Committee presented a report from her committee.

Eighteen reviewers served on the Selected Papers and Symposium Committee for the 1989 NAREA Annual meeting held at University Park, PA. The committee received 2 symposium proposals and 22 submitted papers. Of these, both symposia and 18 papers were accepted for inclusion in the program.

The two symposium proposals were each sent to three reviewers who had some expertise in the general area addressed by the proposals. The reviewers then returned written comments on the proposals and recommendations on appropriateness for the program. Final selection for inclusion was made by the program planning committee based on the reviewer's comments.

Evaluation of each of the 22 submitted papers were conducted by 3 reviewers from the committee. Reviewers were chosen to avoid faculty in the same department as the paper's author(s) and to match areas of expertise with the general topic of the paper. Criteria for inclusion in the program were 2 out of 3 of the reviewers ranked the paper acceptable and overall comments were favorable.

A future recommendation for improving the review process is to draft a set criteria for paper review and acceptance that could be given to each reviewer. The reviews seemed to contain inconsistencies in quality criteria and a set of guidelines should improve consistency.

Cleve Willis, President-elect and Program Chairman announced that since no papers were submitted for the paper fair session it was cancelled.

Master's Thesis Awards Committee

Spiro E. Stefanou presented the Master's Thesis Award Committee report for Chairman Rigoberto A. Lopez.

Ten theses were submitted for competition, down from 14 last year. Six schools participated: Connecticut (2), Cornell (2), Delaware (2), Maine (1), Maryland (1), and Rhode Island (2). The following schools did not participate: New Hampshire, Penn State, Rutgers, Vermont, Virginia

Tech, West Virginia, or any of the Canadian affiliates. In part, the relatively low participation rate was due to a low crop of theses in the region. However, maybe this is an indication that the competition should be more strongly promoted.

The committees consisted of six members: Drs. Rigoberto Lopez (Chair, Rutgers), Wayne Gineo (Connecticut), James Opaluch (Rhode Island), Christine Ranney (Cornell), Spiro Stefanou (Penn State), and David Storey (Massachusetts).

From the evaluation results, the committee's consensus resulted in the following awards:

Outstanding Master's Thesis of 1988:

John R. Gauvin, "An Econometric Analysis of Compliance Behavior in the Massachusetts Inshore Lobster Industry." University of Rhode Island, John Sutinen, advisor.

Master's Thesis Award of Merit:

Anne E. Debossu, "Conjoint Analysis of Consumer Preferences for Narrow-Leaved Evergreen." University of Rhode Island, Thomas Weaver, advisor.

Lawrence E. Haller, "A Study of Ex Ante and Ex Post Entry Behavior of the top Twenty Supermarket Chains, 1982-81." University of Connecticut, Ronald Cotterill, advisor.

As in last year, Rhode Island captured 2 out of 3 awards. Two committee members were unable to complete the evaluations. However, all completed evaluations involved reviewers that were not on the committee of candidate theses.

In general, the committee feels that although the number of theses submitted was somewhat low, their quality was outstanding. This competition will continue to be an important component of the NAREA mission.

Distinguished Member and Honorary Life Member Awards Committee

G. Joachim Elterich, Chairman, University of Delaware, John H. Foster, University of Massachusetts and Olan D. Forker, Cornell University, members of the Committee, reported that Mary E. Templeton, West Virginia University was recipient of the Distinguished Member Award and that Lee Day, Cornell University and Deane Lee, University of Massachusetts were recipients of the Honorary Life Member Awards. These awards will be presented to the recipients at the Awards Luncheon.

Membership Committee Report

Robert W. Bohall, Chairman, USDA, Michele C. Marra, University of Maine and Boris E. Bravo-Urita, University of Connecticut of the Membership Committee reported that 500 membership brochures were printed by ERS. President Malone

thanked the Committee for their preparation and distribution of the membership brochures.

Resolutions Committee

Steve Hastings, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee moved that the following resolutions be adopted by the Association:

"Be it resolved that the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association express its sincere appreciation to the faculty, staff and students of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University for hosting the 1989 Annual Meeting. Special recognition and thanks are extended to Donald J. Epp, local arrangements chairman and Shannon Stokes, Chairman of the Department.

Be it further resolved that President-Elect Cleve E. Willis and Cathy A. Hamlett, Chairperson of the Selected Papers and Symposia Committee be recognized for their efforts in arranging the program for this year's meeting."

The Resolutions Committee requests that copies of this resolution be sent to the appropriate administrative officers at The Pennsylvania State University and the University of Massachusetts.

Presidents Message

John Malone thanked each member and especially the Committee Chairmen for their support and willingness to accept assignments. He indicated that the past year had been a pleasant one. Special thanks were extended to Pennsylvania State University and to Donald Epp, chairman of local arrangements.

There being no more business, John Malone turned the gavel over to Cleve Willis, the new President. Cleve Willis thanked John Malone for his leadership and Cathy Hamlett for chairing the Selected Papers Committee.

He 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
Secretary/Treasurer

