

## Fall Board Meeting Makes for the *final* One of the Year

With TACCs 2017-2018 fiscal year rapidly coming to an end, the Council's Fall Board Meeting will serve as the final chance for all directors to come together, brainstorm and give direction for the coming year.

TACCs Fall Board Meeting will be held at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center (806-776-7000) in Lubbock, Texas September 5-6. If you need a hotel reservation contact **Christy Lewis** at [christy@texas.coop](mailto:christy@texas.coop) or 512-450-0555.

The tentative agenda for the meeting:

### Wednesday, September 5, 2018

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	TACC Executive Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	TACC Division Meetings
3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.	TACC Committee Meetings
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Dinner

### Thursday, September 6, 2018

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Full TACC Board of Directors Meeting
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A packed agenda will include:

- ◆ Approval of the 2018-2019 budget;
- ◆ Conduct initial planning of several upcoming co-op conferences and the hosting of a...
- ◆ Review upcoming State Legislative Session and events;
- ◆ Review Council operations and establish the program agenda for the new year; and
- ◆ Hear from guest speaker **Dr. William F. Brown**, the new Dean of the Texas Tech University College of Agriculture.



### TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

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Harlingen, Texas

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**CHRISTY LEWIS**  
Director of Member Services

**WHITNEY CURRY**  
Manager of Marketing and  
Communications

## 2018-2019 TACC Award Applications *due*

It is now time to submit award applications for the *Cooperative Ginner of the Year Award* and the *Cooperator of the Year Award* for presentation at the 2019 Joint Cooperative Meeting to be held in Horseshoe Bay in March. The final date applications will be accepted is September 1, 2018. Please contact TACC (512-450-0555) if you have further questions or concerns about the application process.

The Past Three *Cooperator of the Year* Winners:

- 2017 – **Danny Helms**, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association – Warehouse – Sweetwater
- 2016 – **Rex Ford**, Farmers Cooperative Society – Stamford
- 2015 – **John Dunlap**, Farmers Cooperative Compress – Lubbock



The Past Three *Cooperative Ginner of the Year* Winners:

- 2017 – **David Wied**, New Home Co-op Gin – New Home
- 2016 – **Larry Black**, Central Rolling Plains Co-op – Roscoe
- 2015 – **Randy Reid**, TriCounty Producers Cooperative – Loop



# Managers' Conference *Continues to grow* Despite Co-op Mergers!

Another successful meeting with the highest attendance and evaluations seen to date at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso, New Mexico was recently completed. The Managers' Conference, held July 11-13, saw 70 co-op, university, and industry members represented, and including family; about 195 people attended. A panel of co-op summer interns and 13 speakers spoke during the conference. The Managers' Conference was made possible by 33 sponsors.



TACC brought in speakers from all over the United States and was able to "double-dip" with a couple speakers/firms for the Managers' Conference and Board Chair Conference as well as for future conferences. For the Managers' Conference notable speakers included; **Gary McLaren** with Phillips and McLaren, **Gail Faries** with D. Williams and Company, and **Dr. Sanja Zivkovic**, Assistant Professor in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department at Texas Tech University reported on a study that she and **Dr. Kishor Luitel**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agriculture at Angelo State University are working on for the co-op industry. A panel of two college professors from South Plains College in Lubbock, **Raymund Elizondo** and **Bill Tackett**, as well as a high school Vice Principal at Lubbock-Cooper High School, **Debbie Smith**, discussed ways to bridge between their students and the co-op industry.

**Dr. Jody Campiche**, with the National Cotton Council, provided a cotton policy and outlook, and **Chuck Connor**, with National Council of Farmer Cooperatives reported on the Section 199/199A legislation. **Lee Wicker**, with North Carolina Grower's Association, enlightened the crowd with how his association has successfully attracted ag labor since 1989, and **Dale Kerstetter** took the not-so entertaining topic of "OSHA" and provided insightful information for co-op managers.

If you weren't already thinking about retirement or planning for your retirement --- even the millennials in the crowd --- you probably are now after the informative presentation by **Miles Harris**<sup>CFP</sup> from Harris Financial Group, Inc. Wrapping up the 2018 Managers' Conference was once again **Michael Dags**, with Tutt and Dags, discussing multiple personality types and how to work with them.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Board Chair Conference --- One for the *books!*



The crowd has been holding steady the past few years with the TACC Board Chair Conference --- July 25-27 --- in Ruidoso, New Mexico at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. This year was no different! Thank you to the 12 sponsors who helped make this conference a success!

**Matt Danner**, a millennial farmer from Templeton, Iowa, got the conference rolling with an interesting outlook on expectations of the emerging leaders who trade with co-ops. The always crowd favorite **Gary McLaren**, with Phillips and McLaren, provided information on legal cases currently effecting co-ops. **Keith Hughey**, with J. Keith Hughey Company, provided the crowd with ways to have an effective board. With multiple personality types, it's hard to determine how to work with different personalities, however **Kevin Tutt**, with Tutt and Dags, gave the group some pointers. **Dr. John Park**, with Texas A&M University, dove deeper into board functions with a quick presentation on the roles board members play versus the managers.

Closing out the Board Chair Conference was a panel of **Kevin Brinkley**, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association; **Tommy Engelke**, TACC; **Dr. John Park**, and **Kevin Tutt**, who discussed complex issues taking place throughout co-op boards.

## Summer Interns Making *impacts* at Their Co-ops!

Wrapping up the ninth year of the TACC Summer internship program with another successful class, the 2018 TACC summer co-op interns finished with a trip to the TACC Cooperative Managers' Conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico on July 11-13 and a trip to Austin on August 7-8. During their time in Austin, they were introduced to the legislative and regulatory environment that co-ops and the ag industry face. The interns met with state agencies, toured the State Capitol, experienced a few Austin "dive" restaurants, and played a few rounds at TopGolf! While in Austin, times weren't all fun and games though --- these young adults were faced with a rigorous mock interview to help prepare them for the future and participated in a group exit interview designed to assist TACC with making changes in future programs.



With six interns from four different universities, three of these young adults graduated in May and / or August of this year. **Thomas Human**, a May 2018 Ag Economics graduate from Texas A&M University, was hired at Willacy Co-op in Raymondville in their large farm supply operation effective August 1. Other interns were offered co-op employment upon college graduation.

## Tradition and New Blood Set to Come to TACC's South Texas Leadership Conference!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR --- TACC is returning to Corpus Christi on October 31 – November 1 for its annual co-op trifecta --- Shrimp Boil, Third Annual Co-op Board Chair Conference and the traditional one – day conference. As in the past, the Shrimp Boil and one-day conference will be held at the downtown Omni Corpus Christi Hotel (361-887-1600) and the Third Annual Board Chair Conference will once again be held at Gulf Compress (361-882-5489).

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

The conference this year will have a variety of topics as well as feature co-op attorney **Gary McLaren**, and co-op tax expert **Greg Taylor** and a very popular newcomer on dealing with OSHA. Other notable speakers will include: **Keith Hughey**, a nationally - recognized speaker on management and board effectiveness, and PCCAs update on trending marketing and policy forecasts.

Due to the success of the previous two Board Chair Conferences in South Texas, the same conference will return, with different speakers and topics.

## Although Farm Bill a High Priority, “Preventive” State Ag Issues In the Cross-Hairs

Many ag groups are spending time in Washington, D. C. these days trying to preserve sound farm policy, and little mention is made of legislative issues on the state level. Rest assured, commodity groups are also doing the little things that matter statewide as the approaching January 2019 State Legislative Session nears.

Three events are the focus of statewide ag commodity groups in the next couple of months: assisting ag worthy candidates to get elected in the approaching Fall General Election that culminates on November 6, getting out of Austin and hosting an October 4th Legislative Outreach Reception and Dinner for all 57 state senators / state representatives / candidates in the Dallas / Ft. Worth metroplex as a part of the Oklahoma vs Texas Red River Rivalry Football Weekend, and finally, agreeing to be a significant player as the states' premier political newspaper --- Texas Tribune --- hosts a “Texas Rural Symposium” in College Station on November 12 – 13.

TACC's **Tommy Engelke** chairs the statewide ag commodity group effort (*Texas Ag Council*) and Plains Cotton Growers **Kody Bessent** in Lubbock, serves as chair – elect.

On the first point, eight key ag – friendly races will be the focus in the Fall elections for the group; ranging from the Killeen, Round Rock, Corsicana, Denton – Wichita Falls, and Palestine areas to Dripping Springs and Dallas. Extra effort and resources will be made to help these candidates get elected.



On the second point, the October 4 Ft. Worth event associated with the football weekend, ag groups felt it incumbent to begin to reach out to their urban counterparts and agree on those areas where there is common ground and where win – win situations can occur. This event is being held in conjunction with an ag law symposium that will be occurring on Friday, October 5 in downtown Ft. Worth where more than 100 people are expected.

On the last point regarding the “Texas Rural Symposium”, ag groups felt honored that THE states' political newspaper had approached them to be the focus of an approaching symposium on the welfare of its rural citizens. The ag community sensed this a one - shot opportunity to put its best foot forward. Over 400 people are expected to attend this symposium, so agriculture will be doing its part to showcase its economic contributions to the state.

## A Laugh and A Message All Wrapped Together --- Join Anita Renfroe at the TACC Joint Cooperative Meeting!

TACC has been making progress signing speakers for the 2019 Joint Cooperative Meeting at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Horseshoe Bay, Texas --- March 10-12, 2019! **Anita Renfroe**, a noted Christian comedian and Plains Cotton Cooperative Association's **Kevin Brinkley**'s cousin, has been confirmed as the Spouses Program speaker!

Anita went from a “stay-at-home-mom” to “YouTube Comedic Phe-mom-enon.” Anita has been featured as a comedy correspondent for Good Morning America, performed at The Grand Ole Opry, and has appeared on “Dr.Phil”, Sirius XM’s “Oprah and Friends”, CBS’s “The Early Show”, Fox News Channel’s “Fox and Friends”, “Inside Edition”, Nickelodeon’s “Mom’s Night Out”, “Huckabee” and many more. TACC is looking forward to having this sensational speaker on the program this coming year!



## Fall Co-op Bookkeepers, Office Managers & Accountants meeting Set for Lubbock

The Texas Chapter, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives (*NSAC*) meet twice a year to update attendees on the latest business and industry regulatory changes for those who work as co-op bookkeepers, office managers, and as accountants. They have set their next meeting for this Fall --- Friday, October 5, 2018 at PYCO Industries, Inc. offices. TACC will be coordinating the registrations as they have in the past.

People who attend these meetings can capture their annual required CEU credits. **Russ DuBose**, with D. Williams and Company CPA firm in Lubbock (806-785-5982), serves as president of the Texas Chapter. More information will be sent as the meeting approaches.

# TACC: OUT & ABOUT (since July 3, 2018)

- ✓ Attended Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Workshop in Ruidoso, New Mexico July 15 – 17.
- ✓ Participated in numerous AgBenefits board of director meetings and conference calls.
- ✓ Attended the Cotton Inc. Caucus and Texas Cotton Producers meeting on July 19 in Austin.
- ✓ Hosted TACC's summer co-op interns to Austin and the State Capitol on August 7 – 8.
- ✓ Confirmed nearly all speakers for the October 31 – November 1 South Texas Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi.
- ✓ Hosted both the TACC Managers' Conference and TACC Co-op Board Chair Conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico.
- ✓ Assisted in new hires at co-ops throughout the state.
- ✓ Conducted site visits to San Antonio on August 15 to determine location of a future conference.
- ✓ Attended a meeting at the State Capitol on July 9 regarding proposed Central Filing legislation in 2019.
- ✓ Chaired a meeting of all ag commodity groups regarding legislative issues in Austin on August 22 and chaired an executive committee meeting of this group also in Austin on July 18.

## Will Be:

- ◇ Preparing the 2018 – 2019 TACC budget for consideration at the Fall board of directors meeting.
- ◇ Partnering with FranklinCovey to provide members with unlimited access to over 400 online, “**on-demand training courses**” designed to positively impact performance across your business.
- ◇ Conducting a strategic plan, along with **Gary McLaren**, for Central Rolling Plains Co-op in Sweetwater September 20 – 21.
- ◇ Attending the “Celebrate Cotton” activities on September 15 weekend in Lubbock.
- ◇ Hosting an Ag Legislative Outreach Dinner in Ft. Worth on October 4, a “Texas Rural Symposium” in College Station on November 12-13, along with other ag groups, and assisting in several election campaigns in the Fall.
- ◇ Attending AgBenefits Annual Meeting in Lubbock on September 6.
- ◇ Teach the co-op business model and begin the 10th year of the co-op internship program with visits to college classes: October 10 at Angelo State University and November 14 at Texas A&M University.
- ◇ Along with co-op attorney **Gary McLaren**, conducting a half-day training seminar for the regional co-op COBA / Select Sires of Columbus, Ohio in Amarillo on October 16.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

### September

- 3 TACC Labor Day Holiday
- 5 – 6 **TACC Board of Directors Meeting - Lubbock**
- 6 AgBenefits (formerly Texas Ag Co-op Trust) Annual Meeting and Luncheon - Lubbock
- 15 Texas Tech University vs Houston Cougars Celebrate Cotton weekend - Lubbock
- 19 Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Annual Meeting - Lubbock

### October

- 5 Texas Chapter, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives Annual Meeting - Lubbock
- Oct 31 – Nov 1 **TACC South Texas Leadership Conference - Corpus Christi**

### November

- 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 12 PYCO Industries, Inc. Annual Meeting - Lubbock
- 22-23 TACC Thanksgiving Holidays

### December

- 24-25 TACC Christmas Holidays

### January

- 1 TACC New Years Holiday
- 25-27 TACC Academy of Cooperative Excellence Program - San Antonio

## White-out the Stadium with Your *cotton* Best!



In recent times, the hard – earned efforts of the state's cotton farmers has been recognized at the “Celebrate Cotton” Texas Tech Football game! This year, the Texas Tech Red Raiders will take on the Houston Cougars at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock on Saturday, September, 15th at 3 p.m.

Come out and join the numerous cotton vendors and sponsors that will be on display during the game --- this will be our one big chance this Fall to spotlight COTTON!