

## **50 +/- Years ago (Volume V, No 2, 1961)**

NACTA Editor John Wright wrote this about membership....The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture should have a membership of 1000. This is an arbitrary and compromising figure since there are many more than 1000 potential members. A few years ago the organization lowered the dues to encourage a larger membership.

Many state colleges understand the value of such an organization as NACTA because they have already reaped numerous benefits by being associated with a national organization that proposes to encourage self-improvement of it's members and to gain recognition for their work in training students in the field of Agriculture.

Accrediting agencies seem to demand respect. In a sense, NACTA has served in an accrediting capacity in some cases and can easily develop in an accrediting agency that will fill a serious need-still felt by many of the state and private colleges. Have you thought about the organization of your school in this respect?

The organization is making a special effort this year to increase it's membership. Dr. Roy Joe Stuckey of Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio is chairman of the membership committee. He is being assisted in his efforts to enlist members by the regional directors, namely Laurie Pearson, Hal B. Barker, and J.R. Wells .....ONE THOUSAND, WHY NOT?

It's amazing how these don't change. In our recent meeting in Stillwater on the Oklahoma State campus, our membership was just about 1000.

## **30 Years Ago (VOL. XXXIII No. 4)**

Paul Stelmashuk in his Coordinator for Canada report to the fall executive committee reported that Canadian membership in NACTA of all types, has increased from 26 two years ago, to about 50 at the present time for an increase of almost 100 percent. My goal is to double the membership in the next two years. We should attain a membership of 75 in 1980-81: and 100 in 1981-82. My study of the Schools of Agriculture in Canada takes me to all Agricultural institutions involved in post secondary, sub-degree education. As part of professional improvement review, I am recommending NACTA as a means to improve instruction. At each college I leave a supply of NACTA brochures. I plan to follow up the initial contacts with circular letters during the winter months. Active membership is the life-blood of any organization, so my first priority in Canada is to increase membership.

As we look at Alberta for 2011, we have quite a ways to go to get Canada back to it's 1979 membership numbers.

## **20 Years Ago (VOL. XXXIII No. 4 1989)**

NACTA Secretary-Treasurer's report from the

October Executive Committee meeting in Platt City, Missouri appeared in the December Journal. He indicated that at the close of 1988-89 fiscal year, the NACTA membership was 1086. We have 1104 members currently. The big membership push should now get underway. New NACTA brochures are ready for distribution to NACTA State Coordinators. Each coordinator will receive a letter of transmittal from his or her Regional Director, listing of current NACTA members in each state and a supply of new NACTA brochures.

The beginning NACTA cash balance was \$2,056.51. All bills have been paid, including a total of \$5,899.69, for the March and June issues of the NACTA Journal. A net surplus of \$701.67 has been received from the 1989 Annual NACTA Conference. The current bank balance is \$3,404.07. The beginning net worth of the NACTA Foundation was \$3,188.23. Contributions and interest added after June 1, 1989, have resulted in a current net worth of \$3,404.07.

A snap shot of membership and finances of the organization.

## **10 Years Ago, (Vol. 43 No.4 1999)**

The December NACTA Journal featured an opinion piece from Dale A. Coleman from Auburn University entitled "Preaching to the Choir". He writes, when two Ag faculty get together nowadays, one topic sure to come up is the diminishing status of agriculture, real or perceived, on many Land-Grant University campuses. Complaints will be heard that agriculture gets snubbed by administrators and that most college students don't know, or even care to know, about the very sector of our society that provides them the abundance of food and fiber they depend on for a privileged lifestyle. Even some Ag students seem hesitant to tell new friends their major for fear it will make them the brunt of endless jokes.

In defense, we decry their ignorance and tout the virtues of agriculture to each other, but we're only "preaching to the choir". Ironically, those who complain the most are usually the least likely to step outside their office to do anything about it-often lamenting that "nothing can be done". Well, there are things that can be done, but like most things worth doing, they take time and effort. It takes time to get yet more involved, and it takes effort to rekindle an understanding of agriculture and regain the campus-wide respect that agriculture still richly deserves.

Seems this is still a concern on our campuses...it was relevant then and is now..look up the rest of Dale's article and read his action plan to address this issue.

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