

# 2011 SPRING BOARD MEETING RECAP: Big Issues on the Agenda

By Jay Calleja  
Manager of Communications

**N**AAA, WNAAA and NAAREF held their spring board meetings Feb. 11–13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Arlington, Va. The meetings kicked off with a breakfast fundraiser for AgAv PAC, NAAA's Political Action Committee, featuring U.S. Sen. Mike Johanns of Nebraska.

Sen. Johanns, who served as Agriculture Secretary under President George W. Bush and Governor of Nebraska from 1999–2005, spoke about the current outlook for agriculture and his efforts to repeal a provision in the health care law that will result in an avalanche of new paperwork for businesses. The little-known provision mandates that all companies beginning in 2012 must issue 1099 tax forms to any individual or corporation from which they buy more than \$600 in goods or services in a tax year. The senator expressed confidence that a repeal of the 1099 requirement would get passed this year.

Unlike other sectors, the U.S. has a trade surplus in agriculture, but there isn't enough corn in the pipeline to keep up with demand, Sen. Johanns said. That could have a ripple effect throughout agriculture and push prices up on other commodities, he observed. The combination of tight supply, high demand and government regulations that stifle production are causing food prices to increase and could lead to inflation, according to the senator's presentation to NAAA.

After NAAA's opening General Session, the various NAAA, WNAAA and NAAREF committees met and deliberated on a wide range of important issues. Here are some highlights.

The **Budget & Finance Committee** approved the 2011–2012 budget and submitted it to NAAA's board for final approval. Several other committees brought funding requests before the

budget committee. The **Long Range Planning Committee** asked for funds to seek counsel from an outside expert to aid the association in revising its governance and membership structure. The **Communications & PR Committee** asked for funds to produce and distribute wind tower ads for operators to use as bill stuffers in their invoices to farmers. A sample will be sent to each operator, and operators will be allowed to order as many as they will reasonably use. The budget committee approved those requests along with a request for funds to supply each NAAA member with a copy of the new Aerial Application Study Guide, a guide developed as a preparation manual for state aerial category pesticide exams.

In other committee news, the **Communications & PR Committee** submitted a motion to the board granting NAAA the authority to partner with Syngenta on a pesticide stewardship brochure tailored to aerial application. It will be called the Aerial Applicators and Pesticide Stewardship Brochure. No commercial or trade names would be used, and NAAA would have final approval of the content. The brochure will be posted on the Syngenta, NAAA and Pesticide Environmental Stewardship websites.

The **Convention Committee** evaluated NAAA's 2010 Convention in Savannah; chose a theme for NAAA's 2011 Convention; and selected convention sites for 2012, 2013 and 2014. "Ag Aviation, America's Winning Hand" was chosen as the theme for the 2011 convention Dec. 5–8 in Las Vegas. After a great



From l–r, NAAA President Rick Richter, Nebraska members Rick Boardman and Craig Bair and NAAA Executive Director Andrew Moore greet Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), second from left, after NAAA's AgAv PAC breakfast.

deal of discussion, the Convention Committee authorized negotiations with Savannah, Ga., for the 2012 and 2014 NAAA Conventions and decided to return to Reno, Nev., for the 2013 Convention.

With a possible end to FAA and EPA grants to NAAREF and challenges associated with securing continued funding for industry research at USDA-ARS' Aerial Application Technology Group, the **Long Range Planning Committee** discussed ways in which NAAA and the industry could mitigate or make up for the loss of this federal funding.

Another important topic was the issue of consolidation and the shrinking amount of operators and pilots in the industry. It was agreed NAAA needs to explore avenues to keep current dues and ensure member participation in the future. Possible solutions could include a dues structure tied to the number of aircraft or hopper size. Another suggestion was adding an additional membership category for former operators bought out by someone. President Richter agreed to appoint a subcommittee from several different standing NAAA committees—Long Range Planning, Constitution & Bylaws and Membership—to flesh out these ideas.

Finally, in NAAREF news, the updated Pilot Rescue Video has been completed except for the associated training manual. The video, which is aimed at first responders, will be shipped to all NAAA operator and pilot members later this year. The next board meeting will occur Oct. 7–9 in Greensboro, N.C. ■

## “How to Promote Agricultural Aviation Positively!” Chosen as Theme of WNAAA’s 2011 Scholarship Essay Contest

The Women of the National Agricultural Aviation Association have chosen “How to Promote Agricultural Aviation Positively!” as the theme of this year’s WNAAA Scholarship Essay Contest. The WNAAA will award a \$2,000 scholarship as top prize in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual essay competition, and Covington Aircraft Engines has generously agreed to sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship.

If you are an NAAA member (or become one by June 15, 2011), WNAAA invites you to sponsor an applicant for the 2011 WNAAA Scholarship. The scholarship is not restricted to use for a “flying career.” Any educational pursuit beyond high school (at any age) is eligible.

### 2011 Essay Contest Rules

The competition is open to all NAAA members and the children, grandchildren, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law or spouse of any NAAA operator, pilot member, retired operator or pilot who maintains an active membership with NAAA. The contest is also open to allied industry members and the children, grandchildren, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law or spouse of an allied industry member. Each allied industry company is allowed only one eligible family member. To qualify, dues must be paid by the organization or individual member on or before June 15, 2011.

Entrants must have graduated from high school prior to the entry deadline and be enrolled in continuing education during the year of entry. Previous winners are not eligible to compete.

The entry deadline is Aug. 15, 2011. Essays must be 1,500 words or less. Topic deviation and/or modification will not be accepted. Papers submitted will be judged on content, theme development, clarity, originality and proper grammar. All sources used must be cited. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. Entries must be typewritten and double-spaced.

To ensure that the judges will not know the identities of the writer, keep any reference to the author’s name, sponsoring company and company location out of the essay itself. A title page must be attached, however, and contain the entrant’s name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, relationship to sponsor, sponsor’s company name, address and telephone number. A photograph of the entrant and a short biography also should be included.

One copy of the manuscript must be sent by mail (postmarked by Aug. 15, 2011) to: **Erin Morse,**  
**WNAAA Scholarship Chair**  
**P.O. Box 185**  
**Connell, WA 99326**

An electronic submission of the essay is also required, either by e-mail attachment to [erinimorse@gmail.com](mailto:erinimorse@gmail.com) or by disk to the mailing address above (postmarked by Aug. 15, 2011). Questions should be directed to Erin at that e-mail address or by phone at (509) 237-1880.

**For more information, please visit [www.agaviation.org/content/wnaaa-scholarship-contest](http://www.agaviation.org/content/wnaaa-scholarship-contest). The winners will be notified by phone and letter and recognized at the 2011 NAAA Convention. ■**