

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2013, 11:45 A.M.
RALPH & KACOO'S RESTAURANT
BATON ROUGE, LA**

President, Julie Mouch Broussard called the meeting to order at 11:50 A.M., welcomed everyone and asked them to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 37 voting Members, Officers and Board of Directors present at the meeting.

Julie asked everyone to review the minutes of the last Annual Meeting and if acceptable, asked for a motion to accept them. Randy Newfield moved, seconded by Wayne Orton to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Julie asked Severn to give the financial report. Severn indicated that he experienced a computer glitch and had to have the Excel financial statement sheet redone. When it was finished it did not automatically compute the rows and columns. Consequently, Severn had to compute it by hand and there were some errors. The 3rd Quarter revenues were correct at \$2,665.53. The 3rd Quarter Expenses were correct at \$7,412.80. However, the change in net assets was incorrect as presented and should have been \$4,474.27. The change in net assets 2013 year to date was incorrect as well and should have been \$2,118.82. The Excel spreadsheet will be corrected so that it will compute rows and columns. At that time any other errors that may occur will be corrected. Severn apologized to the Membership for the errors. There being no discussion Wayne Orton moved, seconded by Wes Gauthier, to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

Severn continued with the Membership Report by stating that currently we had 120 Members.

Severn continued with the Website Report. He encouraged the Membership to go to the website, www.l-i-a.org and click on Events. There one can scroll through the months and find scheduled training opportunities. LIA had classes scheduled through November 2014.

Severn continued with the Newsletter Report. He indicated that the Newsletter was a Member benefit and was printed and mailed to the Membership quarterly. He encouraged everyone to read it.

Julie asked the Membership if they would be interested in attending a seminar regarding the new Affordable Care Act and its ramifications. According to Barry Blumberg, our endorsed insurance provider, he was receiving many inquiries from his own employees about the Affordable Care Act. He suggested that if the LIA Membership was interested, a person from Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Louisiana could come and provide a seminar explaining the new Act. Julie asked the Membership to indicate on the evaluation form if they were interested and give the form to Severn.

Julie announced to the Membership that LIA recently purchased a new training course titled 'Irrigation Components for Residential/Light Commercial Systems' and it will be used at some of our future recertification training classes.

Julie also mentioned that LIA now had Cabela's ball caps, logoed with LIA for sale and the cost was \$12.00 each. If anyone was interested, please see Severn after the Meeting.

Julie asked Dr. Peter Gallagher for an update on current and future training. Dr. Gallagher indicated that 1) He was working on coordinating recertification course offerings so individuals will not receive the same training twice in a row; 2) He, Severn, Curt Bowman and Curt's employee, Daniel Ducote were going to attend the IA Show and Peter was to attend two training courses so he could teach them at recertification training classes in the future; 3) He was collecting demonstration items (visual aids) to augment various class content and they will see some of the visual aids in this afternoon's classes; and 4) It was the future goal of LIA to help fund irrigation research projects that would benefit the Membership and the industry as a whole.

Julie moved on to New Business and asked the Membership to consider a favorable vote on an Article of Incorporation change. The Board of Directors had previously voted, yes, to the change. In Article V, 3rd sentence, "An Executive Secretary shall be *contracted* (not employed) by the Board of Directors and shall be solely responsible to the Board". There being no questions, John R. Kavanaugh moved, seconded by Marianne Joye, to accept the change in Article V, 3rd sentence to 'contracted' not employed. Motion carried unanimously.

Julie then moved on to the Election of Officers and Board of Directors for 2014. The Board previously approved by acclamation the slate of Officers for 2014 which included; President, John R. Kavanaugh, Vice-President, Jack Hopper, Past President, Julie Mouch Broussard, Director 2013, 2014, Marianne Joye, Director 2013, 2014 Wes Gauthier, Director 2014, 2015 Wanda Tiblier, and Director 2014, 2015 Curt Bowman. Julie asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none Wayne Orton moved, seconded by Mary Mizell, to accept the slate of Officers and Board of Directors by acclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

Julie then introduced our Key Note Speaker, Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture with LDAF. Dr. Strain began his presentation by stating that Louisiana had some significant Environmental Challenges facing us now! The EPA's regulation of the Clean Water Act was completely out of touch with the environmental situation in Louisiana. We can't afford crystal clear water because aquatic wildlife depends on nutritious water which was not clear for food and survival. Silt moving down the Mississippi River was vital to marine life in the Gulf – even though hypoxic spots occur there during the hot months. That was and is a natural phenomenon.

Originally the EPA was to enforce the Clean Water Act to include navigable waters only. Now, it has gone a step forward to include non-navigable or non-flow waters. Consequently, several court cases were pending. Ultimately, EPA wants Louisiana to convert all brown water to clear water. Currently, LDAF was partnering with the LSU AgCenter, DEQ and others to ascertain a Nutrient Management Strategy and had instituted a Nutrient Management Task Force to determine the best management practices to show EPA what science was behind Louisiana's position. If Louisiana does not come up with a plan, it will cost us \$400,000.00/year in fines.

Newly elected President, John R. Kavanaugh, took the gavel and thanked everyone for a favorable vote on the Officers and Board Members for 2014. He stated that there were many challenges facing the green industry in the future as it relates to water conservation. He said to look at the laws in California – 'water is getting scarce!' He said last year in Atlanta, GA homeowners could not irrigate their landscapes on Mondays and half could irrigate for 30 minutes on Tuesdays, Thursday's and Saturday's. The other half could irrigate for 30 minutes on Wednesday's Friday's and Sunday's. Right here in north Louisiana the Sparta aquifer was running dry and much concern was expressed over how to replenish the underground water supply. He encouraged the Membership to keep up with the water situation in Louisiana. Some day a shortage may happen here.

John asked Past President, Julie Broussard to come to the podium. John handed Julie the Presidential plaque for service as President in 2013. It read: "President's Plaque Presented to Julie Mouch Broussard For Outstanding Dedication as President of the Louisiana Irrigation Association For 2012, 2013. The membership applauded Julie for her service.

Next, John asked Wayne Orton to come to the podium. John presented Wayne with a framed certificate which read; “Presented This Day, October 15, 2013 to Wayne Orton in Grateful Appreciation for the Years of Service as President and Serving on the Louisiana Irrigation Association Board.” Wayne thanked everyone and said he would still be around!!

John asked Ansel Rankins to give an LDAF update. Ansel introduced himself and said that he was the Assistant Director of the Horticulture Commission and primarily in charge of the Landscape Irrigation Contractors. Currently, there were 50 inspectors statewide and they cover a number of other program areas other than horticulture and irrigation. So if you suspect someone doing work without a license, please call LDAF and they will send out an inspector – ‘it may not be the same day but we’ll get someone out to investigate.’ Ansel said.

Concerning fines set forth by the Horticulture Commission, through Act 399 in the Legislature all unpaid fines will be sent to the Attorney Generals’ office for debt recovery (collections). In the most recent Quarterly Horticulture Commission Meeting, a person was fined \$14,000 for violations and it was his 3rd offense. To date the Commission had processed 39 violations worth \$13,500.00 in collected fines and of the 39 only 2 were Landscape Irrigation Contractors.

‘Starting last year your CEU’s have been printed on the back of your Landscape Irrigation Contracting license. So you will see when you need to be recertified.’ Ansel said. Ansel further indicated that he and others were working on getting the Landscape Irrigation Contracting License Exam online and hopefully it will be up and running in about a year. At that time after one takes the Irrigation Basics for Landscape Irrigation Contractors class, the exam will not be administered after the class. One will have to make arrangements at a testing center to take the exam.

Ansel stated that the Commission was very busy working on the Citrus Canker outbreak. There were currently 383 trees found to be infected and destroyed in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, and Plaquemines Parishes. He encouraged the Membership that if they were to provide maintenance to a yard with citrus trees, please sterilize your equipment so as to not carry the disease to another yard.

Finally, Ansel indicated that a great site for one to go to if they are starting a business was www.geauxbiz.com.

There being no more business Julie Broussard moved, seconded by Marianne Joye, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting concluded at 1:25 P.M.

