

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
RALPH & KACOO'S RESTAURANT  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
OCTOBER 14, 2014, 12:00 NOON**

President, John R. Kavanaugh called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon, welcomed everyone and asked them to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 44 voting Members, Officers and Board of Directors present and 10 other guests.

John asked everyone to review the minutes of the last Annual Meeting and if acceptable, asked for a motion to accept them. Wes Gauthier moved, seconded by Julie Broussard, to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

John then asked Severn to present the financial statement. Severn indicated that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, revenues were \$5,255.86 and expenditures were \$5,881.48, leaving \$625.62 in expenses over revenues. However, the Friday before the Annual Meeting, October 10, 2014, a bank deposit was made totaling \$1,800.00 and the PayPal account the same day amounted to \$2,580.00 but not transferred, totaling an additional \$4,380.00 in cash assets. An additional accounting, recommended by our CPA, Susan Webb with The Firm of Lee Gray, CPA, was Proof of Cash for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Proof of Cash represented total credits (deposits from the bank statements) and total debits (checks drawn on the account from the bank statements) which proved that the total checking balanced with the bank statements and was \$10,423.92. There being no questions, Wayne Orton moved, seconded by Bill Reese, to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Severn continued by stating that the Membership as of October, 13, 2014 was 138 Members which was the greatest Membership LIA had experienced by this date. More Members signed up this morning and the total will likely be a record.

According to our webmaster the page views on our website have been rising since June, 2014 from 1065 to a high of 1365 at the end of September, 2014. The newly revised site was completed in April and it was so much easier to navigate than the old site.

Severn concluded by stating that the LIA Newsletter was sent to all members, quarterly and the content was improving with each quarterly issue. Look for more technical articles in the future.

John moved on to Old Business and stated that LIA had logoed Cabela's ball caps and shirts for sale as well as logoed T-shirts. If anyone wanted them, please see Severn at the break.

John asked Dr. Stacia Davis to stand and be introduced. John indicated that he had met her at the Red River Research Station earlier in the year and was very impressed with her qualifications. She will have state wide responsibilities working in irrigation with primarily an Extension appointment. She also had agreed to be a columnist in the LIA Newsletter and will develop several courses for recertification purposes. Additionally, she has agreed to be on the LIA Board of Directors representing the LSU AgCenter.

John then moved on to New Business and stated that Election of Officers was in order and asked Julie M. Broussard, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to report on this year's recommended slate of Officers and Board Members. Julie stated that the committee presented their recommendation to the Board of Directors and the Board voted in favor of the nominees. Included in the 2015 Board approved slate of Officers and Board Members were:

President, Jack Hopper  
Vice-President, Wes Gauthier  
Past President, John R. Kavanaugh  
Director 2015-2016, Chris Friedman  
Director 2015-2016, Chris Braud  
Director 2014-2015, Wanda Tiblier  
Director 2014-2015, Curt Bowman

John asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, Jim LaGrone moved, seconded by Cameron Cantrelle, to accept the slate of Officers and Board Members by acclamation. Motion carried.

John stated briefly that through a proclamation signed by Governor, Bobby Jindal, July was designated as Smart Irrigation Month in Louisiana this year. As a result of the proclamation, LIA had received publicity announcing the proclamation. John was interviewed in *Landscape Management* in the July issue and he also was interviewed by the Red River Public Radio Station in Shreveport. The proclamation was officially given to LIA by Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, at the Commission Office in Baton Rouge, LA

John continued by stating that the LSU AgCenter earlier this year hired 4 new researchers at the Red River Research Station to work in the areas of soil & water quality management, soil fertility and irrigation and water policy and economics. As he already introduced Dr. Stacia Davis, she will ultimately replace Dr. Bill Branch and Dr. Ron Sheffield doing homeowner and Green Industry irrigation work statewide and working closely with LIA.

John introduced our Key Note Speaker, Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Dr. Strain began by stating that EPA and The Corps of Engineers' proposed rule redefining WOTUS or "Waters of the U.S." that would fall under Clean Water Act (of 1972) jurisdiction constituted a regulatory overreach that would likely set the Green Industry and other entities back. The proposed rule was a significant jurisdictional expansion of the Clear Water Act that would have a major negative impact on individuals, businesses and the entire state. By this rule expanded federal permitting and associated direct costs and delays would affect all work performed near water, including ditches, irrigation ponds, wetlands and golf course ponds not to mention navigable waters. In essence this proposed rule would affect all waters both navigable and non-navigable waters!

Since 1980 runoff had been reduced by 60% and currently, agriculture in Louisiana was worth \$12 billion. If the rule prevailed, agriculture could lose as much as \$500 million. Right now EPA inspectors were inspecting dairy farms, poultry farms and race tracks to determine the amount of runoff each contributed to surrounding waters. Next, they are expected to be inspecting production agriculture including nursery crops and home landscapes.

Dr. Strain encouraged everyone to send a hand written note to their congressional delegation urging them to vote 'no' for the proposed rule.

John proceeded with closing comments of his presidency. He thanked everyone for their support and reiterated that LIA accomplished much in the past year. He thanked the Board, Severn and the Membership for the accomplishments LIA has made and stated there was still much to do. He then turned the meeting over to incoming President, Jack Hopper.

Jack asked John to stand and then presented him with the Presidential Plaque. It read; "Presidents' Plaque Presented to John R. Kavanaugh For Outstanding Dedication as President of the Louisiana Irrigation Association For 2013, 2014.

Jack then asked Julie Mouch Broussard to come to the podium. He handed her a framed certificate stating; "Presented This Day, October 14, 2014 to Julie Mouch Broussard in Grateful Appreciation for the Years of Service As President and Serving on the Louisiana Irrigation Association Board". Julie gratefully thanked everyone.

Marianne Joye was unable to attend but also received a framed certificate thanking her for her service to LIA. It read; "Presented This Day, October 14, 2014 to Marianne Joye in Grateful Appreciation For Serving on the Louisiana Irrigation Association Board".

Jack thanked the Membership for their support and asked if anyone had any comments or concerns. There being none, Jack asked Ansel Rankins to provide the LDAF update.

Ansel began by stating the Emerald Ash Borer was very close to Louisiana and by being reported in Arkansas about 45 miles from the Louisiana border, inspectors were busy monitoring North Louisiana for its presence. It was primarily spread in fire wood. So it was recommended to only buy firewood from local sources. Ansel had a flyer on the Emerald Ash Borer and made it available to whoever wanted it.

Ansel stated that they hired two new temporary inspectors to monitor Citrus Canker in South Louisiana. He further stated that there were 401 current, licensed Landscape Irrigation Contractors – 384 who live in Louisiana, which made for a 92% renewal rate this year. The overall pass rate for those who attempted to take the license exam was 58%. As far as LIA' Basics Classes, the March class had a pass rate of 67% and the June class had a pass rate of 100%.

Ansel met with Mike Goree, Dr. Peter Gallagher and Dr. Stacia Davis twice since August to revamp the Landscape Irrigation Contractors License Exam and were making great progress. He further stated that LDAF had revamped their website and it should be easier to navigate through it. LDAF also was able to hire five new inspectors.

The question arose as to how many states required a Landscape Irrigation Contractors license. Ansel stated that Texas, North Carolina, New Jersey and Louisiana were the only ones.

Jack asked if there was any more business and there being none, asked for a motion to adjourn. Wes Gauthier moved, seconded by Tommy Neck, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and the meeting concluded at 1:10 P.M.