



# Great Lakes Times

The Voice of the 2007 NACAA Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference

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Michigan Association of Extension Agents

Sunday, July 15, 2007

## Humor, Harmony & Inspiration

You won't want to miss the Sunday evening Inspirational Program 7:00 pm in the Performance Hall, Devos Place. You will be entertained and inspired by the a capella group, Three Men and a Tenor and the humor of inspirational speaker Jay Lafoon.

**THREE MEN AND A TENOR**'s repertoire of familiar tunes range from sentimental favorites to popular rock 'n roll songs spanning the 1950s through the '90s. Their program, is a mix of harmony and humor blended into a high-energy style and designed to appeal to all ages.

**Jay Lafoon** uses real-life illustrations to motivate and inspire his audience to action. Be ready for an evening that will get you fired up and excited about being someone who truly makes a difference in people's lives.



**JAY LAFFOON** is known for his energy and enthusiasm – a combination of power-packed delivery and laugh-out-loud humor.

## President's Message

Welcome to Grand Rapids! I have had the privilege to make several trips to Grand Rapids the past three years and I am excited that you can all join me in this "grand" community! We have a great week ahead of us and I encourage all of you to take time to take advantage of the opportunities that our Michigan hosts have lined up for the upcoming days. I hope you enjoy the get acquainted dinner tonight and the inspirational program. Our goal is to kick this event off on a high note and carry it on through the entire week. I think that Three Men and a Tenor, as well as Jay Lafoon, will have no problem getting your week started off right! If you have any questions during the week, flag down any of your National Board or Michigan Hosts and we'll all be glad to assist you!

*Chuck Otte*, NACAA President

### Daily Quote...

Dr. Gordon Guyer, MSU President Emeritus, enjoying the carousel at the Van Andel Museum during the NACAA Gala event said, "The highlight of my 12 years as the Director of MSU Extension was to visit the NACAA Conference. That was where the action was at and was an excellent example of land grant philosophy."



**THREE MEN AND A TENOR** have been performing comedic a cappella programs for festivals, public concerts, schools and corporate functions for well over 10 years.



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## Announcements

- **State Pictures**— There has been a change in the order of the state pictures. Okalahoma and North Carolina will be first Sunday night at 9 p.m. sharp. Michigan will have their photograph taken last on Monday. For a complete listing see the Program Schedule.
- **States Night Out**—Check out the details by picking up a list at registration, Michigan headquarters or from your state president.
- **Room Changes**

Event	Date	Time	New Location
Morning Prayer	Sunday (7/15)	10-11 a.m.	Emerald A
Trade Talk: Bioenergy	Monday (7/16)	10:15 - 11:40 a.m.	DeVos River Overlook E & F
- **Sunday's Weather Forecast:** Partly Cloudy and 84° F.

## Exhibit Hall Prize Drawing

The Michigan Association of Extension Agents hopes you will all take time to visit the commercial and educational exhibits in Ballrooms B, C & D on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. We're encouraging your perusal of the exhibits with a prize drawing!

Every registered participant received an Exhibit Hall Drawing Ticket in their registration packet at check-in. Each exhibitor space has a plastic bin in which you may deposit your drawing ticket (be sure to fill out your name and contact information first!). Tickets must be deposited by 6 pm on Monday, July 16 in order to qualify for a prize.

Three tickets will be drawn from each exhibitor's bin on Monday night after the exhibits close for the day, and the winners will be posted at the exhibit hall and in the daily newsletter on Tuesday morning. Winners will receive a \$10 gift certificate good toward the purchase of any item at the Back40 Books exhibit on Tuesday, or the certificate may be used for mail-order and web purchases from Back40 Books until December 31, 2007.

## Sons & Daughters News...

- Welcome to Michigan! We hope you are prepared for a great week of fun, sun and of course friends. To help you prepare for the week, here are some meetings that you won't want to miss.
- Parent Orientation, DeVos Grand Gallery A&B, 4:30—6:30 pm
  - Sons and Daughters Get Acquainted Mixer, DeVos—Grand Gallery A&B, 7:00—8:30 pm
  - The Monday Sons & Daughters Tours will not depart until 9:30 am. Please come to the Amway—Ambassador West at 8 am for breakfast.

## Exhibit Hall Ticket Drawing



Win a \$10 gift certificate to Back40 Books!!

Note that there will be three winning tickets drawn from each of the exhibit booths—your odds of winning are better if you can find a bin that hasn't got very many tickets in it!

There are also three Grand prizes worth over \$100 each, provided by Back40 Books and the Michigan Association of Extension Agents. Grand Prize winners will be selected from the gift certificate winners. You need not be present to win – be sure to provide the contact information on your drawing ticket so we can arrange for delivery of prizes.

Michigan State University employees, retirees, spouses and children are not eligible for the grand prizes.

Look for your tickets and visit the exhibits!

## Navigating the 2007 Conference

The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and DeVos Place Conference Center are a magnificent blend of old meeting new. More than 240 NACAA meetings and sessions will take place in both facilities with the majority of activities for members taking place in the DeVos Place through Wednesday. On Thursday most of the sessions for everyone are in the Amway except for the Awards Banquet.

For newcomers to these facilities be assured you will need directions once or twice during this conference. Here are some hints:

- use the maps in your registration packets, at the registration area, and on the walls throughout the facilities
- all rooms beginning with "Amway" are in the Amway, those beginning with "DeVos" are in the DeVos
- the skywalk from the conference registration area leads to the DeVos Place
- NACAA directional signs will be posted on all the major travel corridors, Michigan staff and volunteers in the green vests will also be there to assist you
- most sessions will be on the first and second floor
- The DeVos Place has Grand Gallery meeting rooms and Grand Gallery Overlook rooms, "Overlook" means it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Enjoy your stay, have fun, read your maps, don't be afraid to ask.

## Retired Michigan Agents Volunteer

It takes a lot of help to put on the AM/PIC and Michigan Agents are grateful for the response of retired agents and staff members to support our 2007 meeting. We have had a good group of retirees that have volunteered to help with Life Member registration and the Life Member Hospitality room. Many more have scheduled with Roberta Dow Labor Pool Coordinator for many other tasks necessary to help all of our guests have a great time in Grand Rapids.

Pictured are George Atkeson, Gerry & Sandy Draheim and Dick Allen helping with Saturday Registration.



We appreciate very much their willingness to schedule some time to help make our 2007 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference a good experience for both our Life Members and Agent Members and their spouses and families. We know that they are also enjoying the opportunity of visiting with co-workers and friends.

## First Timer News

Welcome to Michigan! We are excited that you chose Michigan as your first NACAA Conference.

As a first time attendee, you and your spouse are invited to attend the First Timer Orientation and Reception, on Sunday, July 15 at 3:00 pm in Grand Gallery D of the DeVos Center.

Conference Annual Meeting Chair Phil Durst will be presiding with information to help First Timers get more out of the conference.

Check with the First Timers desk in the registration area for more information.

**Michigan ranks #1 in the  
nation for the  
production of flowering  
and bedding plants.**

## Welcome Spouses!!!

By now you are expecting a grand time in Grand Rapids and that's just what we have in store for you with the Spouse's Program during the 2007 NACAA AM/PIC.

I've cashed in some favors & made arrangements for beautiful weather for your tours on Monday. It's supposed to be a bit more hot & humid by mid-week, but the rain clouds should be few and far between. The weather can change quickly here in Michigan, so don't hold me to that forecast!

Be sure to carefully go over your registration information so that you have all the tickets you need for the various events of the week. Many of the spouse tours & workshops are full and the space is limited, so you will need those tickets. Be sure to check the times on your tickets for Monday's tours - we stage in the Amway's Ottawa Room.

We are looking forward to your stay in Grand Rapids!



*Michigan  
Association of  
Extension  
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## Hosting the nation's Extension agents in 2007!

*We would love to hear from you, e-mail  
me at: thelen22@msu.edu*

*"The purposes of an Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference are to provide professional improvement opportunities to members as they strive to improve the effectiveness of their respective programs, to encourage high standards of professional performance, provide stimuli and incentives to help members to develop new methods, new approaches and new projects."*

NACAA Policy Handbook, 2005

Send your announcements, articles,  
stories and pictures for  
**Great Lakes Times** to  
thelen22@msu.edu

Or the GLT's Press Room, located in the Governors  
Room.

Must be received by 5 pm to appear in next day's issue.

## Quick Reference...

- Sunday Registration, Amway Center Concourse, 8 am—7 pm
- Computer Lab, Vandenberg Rm. Sunday, 1—6:30 pm
- MI Headquarters, Governors Room, 1—6:30 pm
- State Pictures, Grand Keeler Foyer starting at 9 pm on Monday

NACAA Scuttle service from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport:

- Sunday, July 15—FREE—from 8 am to 7:30 pm
- Friday, July 20—FREE—from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel shuttle service offered daily, every 30 minutes, 7 am to 9:30 pm outside of Gate B. Cost is \$15

Taxi—Metro Cab, call 616-827-6500

## Michigan's 2007 NACAA AM-PIC goes GREEN!

The planning team is proud of their efforts taken to make our conference more environmentally friendly. A lot of pre-conference discussion occurred about how to reduce, reuse and recycle. Although, we did not meet our goal of a totally "paperless" conference, the flash drives, donated by the Soybean Promotion Committee and the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, made it possible to give you the conference proceedings in digital format. We encourage you to use that drive to get more information from colleagues while you are here.

The changes we have made to this year's conference to make it "greener" are not revolutionary but rather simple: reduce paper, recycle what we can and compost after at least one meal. But, we hope future conference planners will find inspiration in what we have started and expand our efforts into their meeting arrangements.

As you partake in conference proceedings be sure you take advantage of the recycling stations in DeVos Convention Center to recycle your morning newspaper, waste paper and plastic water bottles!



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