



# PAA INSIDER

## February 2017

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### Letter from the PAA President

January and February are always busy travel months for me, going from one industry meeting to another seems like one long non-stop trip. During all that windshield time this year I have been doing a lot of thinking about the term “resiliency” as it relates to both individuals I know, and PAA as an organization. I don’t often have much use for Wikipedia, but the definitions that website provides can be thought provoking, so bear with me as I use their words to illustrate some important points about our association.

Wikipedia defines personal resilience as “an individual’s ability to successfully adapt to life tasks in the face of highly adverse conditions.” I can’t help but think of our administrator Lori Wing when I read that definition. As many of you know by now, Lori suffered a stroke in late December, and has been undergoing rigorous rehabilitation at the hospital in Bangor, Maine. She is making tremendous progress, but still has some tough hurdles to overcome as she fights to regain her health. That has not stopped her from showing a lot of resilience, and a firm insistence that she will be coming back to work soon. I am inspired by the determination she is showing, and hope to see her at the annual meeting in Fargo if her health will allow. I know her spirits have been lifted by the many expressions of support and encouragement she has received from PAA members, and I ask that you continue to keep her in your thoughts and prayers. It just goes to show that we collectively are more than an association of scientists that work on potatoes. PAA really is a family that cares about each other, and that is one of the many things that makes our association great.

As an organization, PAA has also had to show a lot of resilience during this time that Lori has been out of the office. The Executive Committee had to spring into action very quickly, and with the help of Leigh Morrow and Greg Porter were able to identify someone that could step into the office in Orono to cover some of the day to day tasks that Lori has handled all these years. We consider ourselves very fortunate that Barbara Harrity was willing to take on that responsibility, and very blessed to have found someone with her skills and dedication. I am also very thankful that Larry Hiller has been willing to step up in his role as Treasurer, and take on the task of keeping membership renewals and other financial procedures running during this difficult time. I also want to thank all of the members that have shown so much patience in dealing with any delays caused by this transition.

Wikipedia also defines organizational resilience as “a proactive and determined attitude to remain a thriving enterprise despite the anticipated

### Important Dates

**March 15-16:**

[2017 Northeast Potato Technology Forum, Fredericton, NB](#)

**March 17:**

Early registration deadline for the [EAPR 20th Triennial Conference](#)

**March 24:**

Honorary Life Membership nominations and abstracts for 101st PAA Annual Meeting due

**June 23:**

[PAA 101st Annual Meeting early registration deadline](#)

**July 9-14:**

[EAPR 20th Triennial Conference](#)

**July 23-27:**

[PAA 101st Annual Meeting](#)

### Nominations for Honorary Life Membership

One of the most significant ways to recognize outstanding contributions to the potato industry and to our organization, the Potato Association of America, is the awarding of Honorary Life Membership (HLM). This is the highest award bestowed upon an individual by the PAA. Each year at the Annual Meeting, this award is given to deserving individuals and is considered by many attendees the highlight of the banquet. PAA members are encouraged to nominate

and unanticipated challenges that will emerge.” None of us anticipated the challenge of having our one full-time staff member out of commission due to a medical emergency, and yet I think we have stepped up to meet that challenge over the past few months. The bigger challenge in front of us going forward is how we adapt and thrive in our second 100 years as an association. This challenge includes dealing with the fact that few of our members have the time available to spend in the volunteer positions that are so vital to the operation of PAA. As I indicated in October, we have been in active conversations with several businesses that manage professional associations like ours, with the goal of having a transition plan worked out by the end of 2017. The businesses we are in discussions with would not only provide the administrative services we need, but also deliver accounting and conference services, taking over many of the activities that currently consume a lot of time for the Treasurer, Secretary and Local Arrangements Committee. Look for more information on this topic as we move closer to the annual meeting in Fargo this summer.

We have also been working to revise the PAA bylaws based on the feedback received from members on the initial draft that was provided last summer. We plan to provide a version of these documents for your review within the next month so that you will have plenty of time to provide comments prior to a vote on acceptance. Revision of the constitution and bylaws into a document more in line with current laws for non-profit organizations is an important step that has been needed for some time. It will also allow us to streamline some of the cumbersome language dealing with the responsibilities of officers and directors, as well as consolidate some of the standing committees for more efficient operations.

As you can see we have lots of things to discuss at the annual business meeting this summer. I hope to see you all in Fargo at the 101st meeting! In the meantime, I encourage you to be part of the conversation as we discuss how best to move PAA forward. Feel free to contact any member of the Executive Committee if you have concerns, comments or questions that need to be addressed.

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## The 101st Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America

The 2017 LAC is excited to host the 101st Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America, July 23-27, in Fargo, North Dakota. The theme of our meeting is “The Center of Potatoes.”

The conference hotel is the Holiday Inn, known for their hospitality, service and culinary skills. All meeting and sleeping rooms at the Holiday Inn were refurbished in 2016 and the PAA-negotiated rate is \$115/night. There is complimentary high-speed internet in each guest room and common areas, indoor pool, fitness center, restaurants, a lounge and casino. The hotel is conveniently located directly across the street from West Acres, the largest shopping mall between Minneapolis and Seattle, and at the intersection of Interstate 94 and Interstate 29. The hotel is just five minutes from the Fargo International Airport with airline connections through Chicago, Denver and Minneapolis on Delta, American and United airlines. Reservations can be made by contacting the Holiday Inn at [www.holidayinn.com/Fargo](http://www.holidayinn.com/Fargo) or by phone (701.282.2700 or 800.315.2621).

candidates for HLM to be presented at the 2017 101st Annual Meeting in Fargo, North Dakota. Nominated individuals should have made significant contributions to the potato industry and/or the PAA.

Contributions may come from activities related to research, extension, education, production, processing, marketing, utilization or any of the other facets of the potato industry that may be appropriate. HLM awards may be given to individuals outside of the PAA.

Instructions for HLM nomination, selection procedures and desired candidate information can be found on the [PAA website](#).

Completed HLM nominations and all supporting documentation should be submitted electronically in MS Word or pdf format to Past President Loretta Mikitzel, and are due by **March 24, 2017**.

Loretta Mikitzel, 2015-2016 President  
[loretta.mikitzel@gnb.ca](mailto:loretta.mikitzel@gnb.ca)

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## Outstanding Extension Project Award

PAA recognizes good potato extension work annually; however it was missed for a few years. This is an appeal to seek nomination(s) for the **Outstanding Extension Project Award**. Please forward your nomination(s) with a brief description of the project work by the individual or a group, and a note as to why the nominee deserves to be recognized.

For complete information and instructions for nominating, see [Outstanding Extension Project Award](#) on the PAA website.

The recognition will be at the 2017 PAA annual meeting at Fargo, North Dakota, July 23-27.

Be sure to mention that you are with the *Potato Association of America*. Shuttles will be available for travel to the downtown area full of great restaurants and extensive beer selections.

The Annual Meeting will follow a condensed schedule similar to the models used the past two years. Registration begins on Sunday, July 23rd. Sunday afternoon will include some local tours, an opportunity to attend the Redhawks minor league baseball game and for graduate students to learn to make lefse. Sunday evening will feature the President's Reception, A Taste of North Dakota featuring only products from our state, as the official kick-off to the meeting.

Sessions start on Monday morning with concurrent sessions. A symposium planned by the Extension, Production and Management Section on new technology will follow in the afternoon to be held at the historic Fargo Theatre in downtown Fargo. Concurrent sessions will continue throughout the day on Tuesday followed by a poster session. Tuesday evening will be an offsite dinner with a Midwestern Scandinavian theme and a live auction. Wednesday morning will feature more concurrent sessions.

The Annual Business Meeting will take place in the afternoon and will lead into the Banquet and Awards on Wednesday evening at the Holiday Inn. This will conclude official business. On Thursday, those who want to participate will have the opportunity to take a tour of NDSU or other tours. More information on the city of Fargo and sister city Moorhead can be found at [www.fargomoorhead.org](http://www.fargomoorhead.org).

The registration website is now live on PAA website and can be accessed with the following link: [z.umn.edu/paa17](http://z.umn.edu/paa17).

Early registration is **June 23**. The group code is PAS. More information is available on the registration site.

We look forward to bringing you to Fargo for yet another spectacular and fun meeting. Plan now to attend PAA 2017 with us.

Gary Secor, Andy Robinson and Susie Thompson PAA LAC 2017 Co-Chairs

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## Call for Papers, Posters & Awards

This is the Call for Papers to be presented at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America, to be held July 23-27, 2017 in Fargo, North Dakota, USA.

Authors are required to submit abstracts for papers they plan to present, whether orally or as a poster. At least one author must be a current member of the PAA. Graduate students who are PAA members are encouraged to present oral papers and enter the *Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition*. Authors of invited papers for the Symposium are also requested to submit an abstract.

### PAA Abstract Submission

Abstracts for the Annual Meeting will be submitted online at <http://paa.apexabstracts.com>. The online submission will ensure

Vikram Bisht, Past-Chair, PAA Extension  
Section.  
[vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca)

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## 2016-2017 Executive Committee

**President:** Mike Thornton

**Pres-Elect:** Shelley Jansky

**Vice-President:** Rich Novy

**Secretary:** Carrie Huffman  
Wohleb

**Treasurer:** Larry Hiller

**Financial Officer:** Bret Nedrow

**Past-President:** Loretta Mikitzel

**Editor-in-Chief:** John Bamberg

**Directors:** Andre Gagnon, Kent McCue, Mark Pavsek, Asunta 'Susie' Thompson, Paul Bethke

## Section Chairs

**Breeding & Genetics:**

Joe Kuhl

**Certification:**

Mia Kirk

**Extension, Production & Management:**

Ken Frost

**Physiology:**

Sastry Jayanty

**Plant Protection:**

Ken Frost

**Utilization & Marketing:** Bret  
Nedrow

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## Reminder

If you haven't yet renewed your PAA membership, please do so soon.

abstracts are not lost through email, allow oral presentations to be uploaded, and greatly improve the efficiency of making the program.

To submit your abstract, go to <http://paa.apexabstracts.com>. Click "Setup New Account." Follow the instructions on this page to create a login for the abstract submission page. Once you are in the system, on the left side of the screen click "My Titles and Abstracts." Then click "Add New Title/Abstract." The abstract text can be written in the box provided or you can copy and paste your text from a word editing document. If you would like to save the abstract, but not submit, click on "Save Changes." Once you are ready to submit you can click on "Save and Submit." Abstracts can be edited until the deadline, which is **March 24, 2017**. To go back to a saved or submitted abstract, login and click on "My Titles and Abstracts" and select the abstract you want to edit.

If you have questions about the abstract submission process you can contact Carrie Wohleb, PAA Secretary, at [cwohle@wsu.edu](mailto:cwohle@wsu.edu)

## Presentation Guidelines

All oral paper presentations will be 15-minutes. Authors should plan a 12- to 14-minute presentation with the balance of time devoted to questions. This year you will be able to upload your oral PowerPoint presentation before the meeting online at <http://paa.apexabstracts.com>. Display boards will be provided for posters. Poster presenters will be notified about the allowed dimensions for posters via email several weeks prior to the meeting.

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## Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition

This is the **second and final call** for the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition (GSRAC) of The Potato Association of America to be held at the 101st Annual Meeting in Fargo, North Dakota.

The purpose of the FLH GSRAC is to promote graduate student participation in PAA through presentation of research papers at the Annual Meeting. Participants are also encouraged to submit manuscripts for publication in the *American Journal of Potato Research*.

1. The author must be a current (or recent) graduate student at the time the abstracts are due **March 24, 2017**.
2. Graduate students **must be members** of the PAA and may not use their advisor's ID.
3. First place winners from previous PAA meetings are not eligible to participate.
4. Research reported must have been done while a graduate student.
5. The paper must be orally presented. Poster papers and symposium presentations do not qualify for the GSRAC.

6. Students are required to submit abstracts for papers they wish to present in the competition.
7. No new students may register after the deadline or at the meeting.
8. Winners will be announced and honored at the Annual Banquet. Students who participate in the competition will receive a free banquet ticket for themselves supplied by the LAC.

Membership information is found on the [PAA website](#).

### **General Criteria for Judging:**

Papers and presentations will be judged on the following basis: (a) abstract--16.6%; (b) organization--16.6%; (c) effective use of time--16.6%; (d) effective use of visuals--16.6%; (e) presentation style--16.6%; (f) impact of the research--16.6%.

Up to five awards may be made at the discretion of the committee in the amount of \$500 for 1st place; \$400 for 2nd place; \$300 for 3rd place; \$200 for 4th place; \$100 for 5th place. For more information, contact:

Paul Bethke, Chair PAA, FLH Grad Student Research Award Competition  
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608-890-1165 ~ **Fax:** 608-262-4743  
**E-mail:** [paul.bethke@ars.usda.gov](mailto:paul.bethke@ars.usda.gov)

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