



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 12, No 1, January 2008

Letter From the President

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and that we all can keep in our hearts the spirit represented by them, Good Will and Peace on Earth. The legacy of all great religious leaders throughout the ages are Humanitarianism, Kindness and Assistance. And now we start a new year, another opportunity to continue this legacy.

Here and in the next few months, you will receive information about the upcoming PAA Annual Meeting in August in Buffalo, N.Y. This will be a wonderful meeting in an excellent locale. Don Halseth and Joe Siczka are doing a great job. The Call for Papers is out. I sincerely hope that graduate student attendance will increase after last year and I encourage all advisors to encourage students to participate in the Frank L Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition.

These past four months have been busy for your Executive Committee (EC). We met through telephone conferences in October and December, and our next is scheduled for January. We have conducted much business through e-mail including housekeeping motions to keep The Association moving forward.

Updates:

Two major issues confronting the EC are to delineate the Contingency Fund and develop new LAC Guidelines. Discussions on the new guidelines are continuing. After careful scrutiny of the records for the past 20 years since the Fund was approved, it was calculated that the Fund currently has assigned to it over \$20,000. In order to define and limit this Fund, and to discourage dependency on it, the EC passed the following six points during its 23 October teleconference:

1. LACs that are short in paying their debt can petition the Executive Committee for funds to cover that debt with a written request and full explanation for shortfall. This request can not exceed \$10,000. If the Executive Committee and the membership at the Business Meeting decide that the request is not justified, the request may be lowered or even denied.

2. Direct the Treasurer to verify the current amount in the Contingency Fund and the Speakers Fund.

3. Direct the Treasurer to list the amounts in these Funds in the Report as done previously.

4. When the Contingency Fund is in excess of its limit, it should not accept any further contributions until the Fund is expended below this limit.

5. When the Contingency Fund is in excess of its limit, LACs are free to submit their contributions to the PAA in any manner so wished and if not specified, it will go into the Speakers Fund.

6. Since the Contingency Fund appears to be currently over \$20,000, raise the limit to \$20,000.

The IRS requirements for the past four years have been fulfilled and the EC authorized to spend \$3,000 for audits to be conducted for the past four fiscal years. The EC has also considered recommending to change The Association's business to a Calendar Year basis. This will require a By-Laws change.

Dates

February

5-7: Wash State Potato Conf, Moses Lake, WA. Info: 509-766-7123

7-8: NB Potato Conf & TS, Grand Falls, NB, CAN. Info: <http://www.potatoesnb.com/conference/overview.asp>

15-16: Intl Potato Tech Expo, PEI. Info: <http://www.masterpromotions.ca/potato.asp>

March

5-8: USPB Chip Sem, Orlando, FL. Info: macjohnson@uspotatoes.com

12-14: USPB '08 Ann Mtg., Denver, CO. Info: Robin Vest, rvest@uspotatoes.com

25-28: "Potato Science for the Poor – Challenges for the New Millennium," Cuzco, Peru. Within the 2008 framework of the Intl Year of the Potato, CIP & the United Nations Food & Agric Org Info: Dr. Pamela Anderson, p.anderson@cgiar.org

July

6-10: 17th Triennial Conf of the EAPR. ARO-Palace & Transilvania Univ, Brasov, Romania. Info: E-mail: EAPR2008@potato.ro; Congress Web: <http://www.EAPR2008-Brasov.com>

Events for the Potato Processing Industry: <http://www.potatopro.com/events.aspx>

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Second Call for Papers

This is the SECOND and FINAL CALL for PAPERS to be presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America. This meeting will be held August 10-14, 2008 at the Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara Hotel, Buffalo, New York, USA.

PAA members are invited to present papers dealing with all facets of the potato industry. Applied research and Extension-oriented submissions suitable for an industry/grower-oriented half-day Tuesday afternoon session are encouraged. Graduate students who are PAA members are encouraged to enter the Frank L Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition.

Authors are required to submit abstracts for papers they wish to present, whether orally, as a poster or in the Frank L Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition. The abstracts for all papers (oral, poster and Graduate Student Research Competition) presented at the Annual Meeting will be published in a post-meeting issue of the *American Journal of Potato Research*. Abstracts of papers listed in the meeting program, but not presented, will not be published in the *AJPR*.

At the annual meeting, all oral paper presentations will be of a uniform 15-minute length. Authors should plan a 12- to 14-minute presentation with the balance of time devoted to questions. Computer projectors will be available for PowerPoint presentations. Please bring your PowerPoint presentation on a portable USB drive.

Display boards (4 feet wide x 3 feet tall / 122 cm wide x 91 cm tall) will be provided for the poster papers. Authors of posters must be present, and the poster available for viewing, for the entire designated "Authors Present" poster portion of the program. The poster paper abstract will not be published in the *AJPR* if the author or poster does not fulfill the time commitment.

Abstracts will be accepted until March 21, 2008. Submit abstracts as an e-mail attachment to loretta.mikitzel@gnb.ca with "PAA Abstract" as the e-mail subject. Abstracts submitted after that date will be returned to the author.

Abstract submission checklist:

1. Combination of title, authors and body *not to exceed* 2,000 characters, including spaces
2. Underline the name of the presenting author
3. Include the PAA Membership Number of one author
4. Presentation Method (oral; oral – graduate student; poster)

5. Section (breeding, plant protection, etc.)

6. For formatting guidelines, visit <http://www.umaine.edu/paa/08abstractsub.htm> before submitting your abstract.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is March 21, 2008. Please direct questions to the undersigned:

Loretta Mikitzel
New Brunswick Dept. of Agriculture and Aquaculture
39 Barker Lane
Wicklów, NB Canada E7L 3S4
Phone: (506) 392-5199
Email: loretta.mikitzel@gnb.ca

Call for 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 of the PAA this award is given to deserving individuals and is considered by many attendees the highlight of the banquet.

PAA members are encouraged to nominate candidates for HLM to be presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Buffalo, New York. 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 which may be appropriate. HLM awards can be given to individuals outside of the PAA.

Nominations must be submitted using the official HLM nomination form available on the PAA Website: <http://www.umaine.edu/paa/hlmform.htm>.

The selection procedure and desired candidate information is also available on the Website. Completed HLM nominations and all supporting documentation should be submitted, preferably electronically, in MS Word or PDF format to the Past President, Sam Thornton, and are due by March 21, 2008.

Call for Papers

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All members should take the time to think about their colleagues and their service to the industry to see if they might qualify for HLM in the PAA. This is a wonderful award and recognition, but it can not happen without going through the nomination process.

This is the SECOND & FINAL CALL for Honorary Life Membership Nominations!

Sam Thornton, Past President
sam.thornton@syngenta.com

Frank L Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition Papers

This is the SECOND & FINAL CALL For Papers to be entered in the Graduate Student Awards Competition (GSAC) to be held at the 92nd Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America.

The purpose of the GSAC 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*.

General Information

1. The author must be a current (or recent) graduate student at the time the abstracts are due March 21, 2008.

2. First place winners from previous PAA meetings are not eligible to participate.
3. Research reported must have been done while a graduate student.
4. The paper must be orally presented. Poster papers and symposium presentations do not qualify for the GSAC.
5. Students are required to submit abstracts for papers they wish to present in the Competition via e-mail. Abstracts will be accepted until March 21, 2008.
6. No new students may register after the deadline or at the meeting.
7. Winners will be announced and honored at the annual banquet. Free banquet tickets will be provided by PAA for all graduate students participating in the GSAC.

General Criteria for Judging: Papers and presentations will be judged on the following basis:

- A. Quality of research and content: 60%
- B. Effectiveness of presentation: 40%

Five awards will be presented in the amount of \$350 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, \$150 for 3rd place, \$100 for 4th place, \$100 for 5th place.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Kathy Haynes, Chair
PAA Grad Student Awards Competition
USDA/ARS: Veg. Lab.
10300 Baltimore Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: 301-504-7405
E-mail: haynesk@ba.ars.usda.gov

President's Letter

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The transition of the AJPR to being published by Springer has occurred. As of the first issue in 2008 (vol. 85), Springer will be handling publication. Some details are still being worked out. I wish to recognize the immense efforts of John Bamberg and Lori Wing plus the people at Springer to accomplish this task. The last issue of 2007 has been sent out.

Membership is still a major issue. Although The Association's Sustaining Memberships have not declined the past few years, Individual Membership has. We all need to address this. In an effort to increase visibility and membership, as well as exchanges in ideas and

communication, the EC is discussing points of interest and cooperation with the National Potato Council and the U.S. Potato Board. These two organizations are planning a joint Business Meeting and Seed Seminar, and hopefully Chip Seminar, in January, 2009 at San Antonio, TX. PAA members have always been active in the Seed Seminar and the Certification Section meets there. One future consideration is to have a PAA meeting in conjunction with this. The idea of companion meetings between like-interested groups could be a way for the future.

Alexander Pavlista
President, 2007-2008

Welcome to New York State for the 92nd Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America

We will host our meeting at the Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara Hotel August 10-14, 2008. The United Nations has decreed 2008 as the 'International Year of the Potato' and we look forward to a productive, friendly and entertaining meeting and social events based on that theme. Our meeting will follow the traditional schedule of a Sunday evening reception where friends and new friends can meet and socialize. Monday morning begins with a welcome and a symposium presented by the Utilization and Marketing Committee, followed by concurrent sessions in the afternoon and all day on Tuesday. To entice grower attendance, we will have a concurrent session Tuesday afternoon focused on production and management. Wednesday will be dedicated to tours to Niagara Falls and an Agricultural tour to Wyoming County. Thursday morning will finish concurrent sessions, the Annual Business Meeting in the afternoon and the meeting concludes with the evening Awards Banquet. Our meeting website (<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/PAA2008/>) will be posted in February and will contain specific information on registration, functions, tours and updates on the 2008 annual meeting as it evolves.

There will be many things in which to see and participate. There will be a Golf Scramble on Sunday morning at the South Shore Country Club in Hamburg, NY. A "Silent Auction" will be held on Monday and there will be a "Live Auction" on Tuesday evening. Please be thinking about things to bring to our auctions – it is all for a very good cause. You can also volunteer to sing or play music, tell a joke, do a magic trick...or other entertainment for our "Spud-Light" Variety Show Tuesday evening, during a "wine-cheese tasting social" and "Live Auction" after the poster session. Please contact Don Halseth at deh3@cornell.edu to get on the talent roster.

Buffalo, incorporated in 1832, is a city full of history, vibrant arts and culture, and natural beauty. New York State's second largest city with 1.2 million residents, Buffalo resides on the eastern shores of Lake Erie. Due to Buffalo's rich cultural heritage, visitors will find the city full of surprises. Buffalo is world renowned for its architecture, including five homes built by Frank Lloyd Wright. History buffs will discover the terminus of the Erie Canal on Buffalo's waterfront, President Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration site, and stops on the Underground Railroad. The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is considered to house one of North America's top collections of contemporary art. The city's theater district features no less than 14 theaters and

performance spaces. A stroll through the Elmwood & Hertel Avenue districts will reveal funky shops and hip restaurant & dining establishments. The Chippewa Entertainment District in downtown is another destination for those searching for a great pub, distinctive dining or live music. For those who would like to take a self-guided walking tour of historic downtown Buffalo, there is a 2.5 mile tour with 28 stops. Depending upon the pace, it takes between 90 minutes and two hours to complete. Visit <http://www.walkbuffalo.org> for more information. To get an insider's view of Buffalo's architectural treasures and cultural gems, find information on more than 20 tours and excursions at <http://www.buffalotours.org>

Upstate New York has many scenic natural resources – Niagara Falls, the Finger Lakes Region, and rolling hillsides of farmland. Agriculture is still the number one industry in the state and within 50 miles of Buffalo one can observe vineyards, dairy, grain, vegetable crops, and potato production. Western New York's Niagara Wineries Trail offers a range from premium wines to fruit wines and even one place with wine ice cream (<http://www.niagara.winetrail.org>). If you have the time, other interesting regions of upstate NY include: the Adirondacks with Lake Placid, two-time host of the Winter Olympics; Lake George, "Queen of American Lakes" (<http://www.lakegeorge-adirondacks.com>); the Leatherstocking Region with Cooperstown and the National Baseball Hall of Fame (<http://www.visitcooperstown.com>); the 1000 Islands with the famous Boldt Castle (<http://www.visit1000islands.com>); and the very scenic Finger Lakes (<http://www.visitfingerlakes.com>). More information is available at <http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com> and <http://www.iloveny.com>

Buffalo is easily accessible by air, train or car. Its international airport is serviced by 13 airline companies (Air Tran, American Eagle, Comair/Delta, Continental, Continental Express, Jet-Blue, Northwest, Prior Aviation, Southwest, United, United Express, US Airways, and US Airways Express). Amtrak offers modern, convenient train travel, including Empire Service and Maple Leaf trains. By car Buffalo is easily reached via the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90), and from Canada via the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz and National provide car rentals at the Buffalo airport.

92nd Annual Meeting Program, cont.

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Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara, The Hotel of Western New York (<http://www.adamsmark.com>) This modern hotel with 486 deluxe guest rooms is located one block from Lake Erie, walking distance to downtown Buffalo and only twenty-five minutes from Casino Niagara and Niagara Falls. It is 15 minutes from the Buffalo/Niagara International Airport. Address is 120 Church Street, Buffalo, NY 14202, phone 716-845-5100. Toll-free reservations may be made by calling 1-800-444-2326 and please identify yourself with The Potato Association of America. Conference rate is \$109 plus taxes (currently 13.75%) per day. Please reserve your room soon, our block of rooms cannot be held beyond Friday, July 18, 2008. Guest amenities include complimentary fitness center, indoor pool, free internet access, 24-hour room service, and complimentary airport shuttle.

Buffalo Tour Options arranged by the PAA-LAC: Please note that registration for the Agricultural tour is done on the general registration (on-line, fax or mail) option for the 2008 annual meeting and registration for the other five tour offerings are to be submitted directly to Gray Line of Niagara Falls/Buffalo (by fax or mail using the form following this section).

TOUR OFFERINGS:

Buffalo's Best-History, Architecture & the Olmsted Crescent
Mon., Aug 11, 2008 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

See the best works of architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, H.H. Richardson, Louis Sullivan, E. B. Green and more. The work of Frederick Law Olmsted, North America's greatest landscape architect and designer of the Niagara Falls State Park and NYC's Central Park will be prominently presented as you view the elaborate parks and parkway network which he designed to ring the central city. Highlights of the tour include a one-hour tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House and the option of visiting the Albright-Knox Art Gallery or the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Museum. Other sites to view along the way include: the Buffalo Zoo, Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Wilcox Mansion - Theodore Roosevelt's Inaugural Site, and Buffalo's Theater District. \$40.00 per person.

Erie Canal and Locks Tour
Tues., Aug. 12, 2008 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

Journey to historic Lockport, NY for a two-hour, narrated cruise on the Erie Canal. This relaxing, enjoyable experience will educate your group about the Canal's history and lore while locking up and down the 50 ft. Niagara Escarpment. Following the cruise you will enjoy a luncheon buffet at the Canalside Emporium, an 1840 warehouse renovated to

provide a casual yet elegant Canal Town atmosphere. Next you will visit Murphy Orchard, known to be a stop on the Underground Railroad, for a farm tour and visit to their market. The tour includes a two-hour cruise, buffet lunch and farm tour. \$55.00 per person.

Roundabout Niagara - A tour of Niagara Falls, NY & Ontario, Canada

Wed., Aug. 13, 2008 (9:00 am – 3:30 pm)

This tour includes both the US and the Canadian side of the Falls (appropriate citizenship papers/travel documents required). You will head to the U.S. side of the Falls to visit Goat Island and Terrapin Point for a view of the Upper Niagara River Rapids and the American Falls from the brink. Then to Niagara Reservation State Park and the Prospect Point Observation Tower where you will descend into the Niagara Gorge and board the Maid of the Mist for an unforgettable cruise to the base of the Horseshoe Falls. Following lunch (on your own) continue to Table Rock, the Floral Clock, and the Whirlpools (time permitting) before returning to the hotel. \$45.00 per person.

Niagara USA – A tour of Niagara Falls, NY

Wed., Aug. 13, 2008 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

This tour is designed for those unable to cross the border into Canada but who wish to enjoy the wonders of Niagara USA. You will head to the U.S. side of the Falls to visit Goat Island and Terrapin Point for a view of the Upper Niagara River Rapids and the American Falls from the brink. Next you will descend to the base of the Bridal Veil Falls via elevator at the Cave of the Winds. You can get as close to the rushing waters as you wish while traversing the stairways and overlooks that make up this unforgettable experience. Lunch at Top of the Falls overlooking Terrapin Point follows. Then off to Niagara Reservation State Park and the Prospect Point Observation Tower where you will again descend into the Niagara Gorge and board the Maid of the Mist for an exhilarating cruise to the base of the Horseshoe Falls. Following a stop for souvenir shopping you will return to the hotel. \$59.00 per person.

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Thurs., Aug. 14, 2008 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)

Step back in time with a visit to historic, picturesque Niagara-on-the-Lake with free time to shop, stroll, and enjoy this quaint village. Features that make this peaceful town unique are a remarkable number of historic sites and restored buildings, tree-lined streets flanked by gorgeous flower gardens, and fascinating shops. Lunch will be on your own

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PAA 5th Annual Silent Auction

100% of the proceeds will benefit the PAA Endowment Fund

- * Location: Buffalo, New York USA
- * Bidding Starts: Monday, August 11th at Noon
- * Bidding Ends: Monday Evening, August 11 at 8:00 PM

Donated items will be accepted at the Registration Table Sunday (8/10/08) and continuing through Noon on Monday (8/11/08)
Don't forget...all donations are *tax deductible!*

Some item ideas (and past hits) are: "potato" related items, quilts, crafts, hats, hooked rugs, Christmas items, regional items, and anything really cool, but it doesn't have to be "potato" related!

Please share this information with family, friends, and sponsors who would like to support the Auction and the PAA Endowment Fund.
Questions? Jan Mosley, 541-737-9711, janet.mosley@oregonstate.edu

More information on the auction will be in future PAA Insider issues, through e-mails and on the PAA meeting website: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/PAA2008/>

***** ATTENTION ***

Don't forget about the "LIVE AUCTION" to be held on TUESDAY (8/12) after the poster session.
Have something special you want to be held for that, bring it with you, mail, or have someone else bring it, and specify to Don or Joe that's what you want it for.

News from the Home Front

Well, a new year is upon us and it's already one month old. How time flies when you're having fun. I hope everyone has been having a good 2008 so far. Maine is enjoying a real Northeast winter which it hasn't seen in years...lots of snow and cold, I'll take it over the heat any day.

1. OK, now onto PAA Business. I sent out renewal notices for the entire year before the end of 2007 to try and have everyone's membership dues paid before the first of the year and we went under the Springer Journal contract. I want to thank everyone who did respond and sent in their payment early, especially since it was right around the holidays. For those who have not yet, I will be sending out a FINAL renewal notice to give you a final chance to get your dues paid. NOTE: I am able to hold your account open longer since I am in control of everything, however, with the Springer system, that automatically kicks your name out of their system if you are more than a month behind on payment. [For the Jan/Feb issue you must have paid by Dec. 31, 2007] They do not care if you have already paid to June, they are on a calendar year system. Everyone goes from Jan-Dec as of 2008.

2. You will no longer be making claims to this office starting with Vol. 85, 2008. You will be sending them directly to Springer Journals in Massachusetts. All the info about this will be found inside the Journal.

3. If you want any back issues BEFORE 2008 you will still be purchasing them through this office. I have a good supply of most years and will be posting them on the website at a future date. If you are looking for a lost issue, you will be able to check first to see if there are copies available. You may print the order form off from the PAA website: <http://www.umaine.edu/PAA/puborderform.htm#>

4. As a reminder, please don't forget to send me address updates, especially e-mail. This will help stop so many messages from coming back. I also want to remind everyone who gets concerned about receiving two of the same e-mails if you are signed on to receive both PotatoNet and PAA messages, then you will receive a message at both addresses if I send out to both. Just go ahead and delete one if the subject line is the same. Some of you have asked me to delete their name so you didn't continue to get two of the same message, however, I do not send out PAA messages that refer to our business only to the PotatoNet group. If I remove your name you will be missing out on information that you really should know about. So the best way to handle this is to just hit your 'Delete' key.

If any one needs any assistance with anything, please let me know. You can call [207-581-3042], fax [207-581-3015] or e-mail [jumpotato@maine.edu] and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Happy Rest of 2008!! ~ Lori ~

92nd Annual Meeting, cont.

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at one of the fine restaurants in town. You will enjoy a winery tour and tasting at Reif Estate Winery, winemakers for 13 generations producing internationally recognized ice wines, VQA wines, and innovative varietals. A visit to the Tax and Duty Free Shop at the border follows prior to returning to your hotel. \$34.00 per person.

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Agriculture Tour

Wed., Aug 13, 2008 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

Highlights of the agricultural tour include a stop to the largest potato farm in NY, mixed vegetable operations and the produce segment of a Top-5 supermarket. The McCormick Potato Farm in Wyoming County is a state of the art operation that produces, stores and markets potatoes for long-term utilization as chips all along the Eastern seaboard. The Eden Valley is the site of mixed vegetable production for the fresh market. We will drive by many agricultural enterprises including dairy, small grains, field corn, vegetables, vineyards, fruit orchards and maple syrup

production. \$40.00 per person. [REGISTER ON PAA GENERAL REGISTRATION FORM]

A note of caution about regulations traveling into Canada from the U.S.: Those interested in the Roundabout Niagara and Niagara-on-the-Lake tours will be impacted by these requirements. Upon entering the U.S., Canadian and U.S citizens ages 19 and older will need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate. Children ages 18 and under will only be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. Passports and trusted traveler program cards - NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST - will continue to be accepted for cross-border travel. All existing nonimmigrant visa and passport requirements will remain in effect and will not be altered by this change. For further information, please visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr>

Questions? Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs: Don Halseth (607-255-5460 or deh3@cornell.edu) and Joe Siczka (631-298-4423 or jbs5@cornell.edu), Cornell University.



Henry De Jong is a spry 75 year old Honorary Life Member of the PAA, who enjoys biking. Henry is utilizing his biking experience in a way to help increase the PAA Endowment Fund. He is seeking sponsors for his 88 mile round-trip bicycle ride from his home in Niagara-on-the-Lake to the PAA meeting site in Buffalo, NY. Henry's ride will be on the Canadian side along the entire length of the Niagara river! (not taking anything away from Henry, while it's a long bike ride the Niagara is a relatively short river).

Funds collected from the sponsorship will be added to the PAA Endowment Fund. As most of you know the Endowment Fund was established to provide a base for future



and current needs of the PAA. After hearing about Henry's offer, Past President Larry Hiller committed a \$100 contribution and a challenge of \$10 for each individual who sponsors Henry at \$100 or more. Larry and Henry are providing a great incentive to help increase the Endowment Fund. US tax deductible contributions should be made to Cornell University- PAA LAC and sent to Donald Halseth, Department of Horticulture, 15D Plant Science Bldg., Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853. Let's see how deep Larry's pockets are.

2007-2008

PAA Background

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Alexander Pavlista
President-Elect
Chuck Brown
Vice President
Phil Nolte
Secretary
Loretta Mikitzel
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Al Bushway
Past-President
Sam Thornton
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Robert Gareau

Annual Meeting:
August 10-14, 2008
Adam's Mark Buffalo

PAA Insider published quarterly-Jan, Apr, Oct, Dec. Lori Wing, Editor, Potato Assn of America, 5719 Crossland Hall, Rm 220, UMaine, Orono, ME, 04469-5719 USA. Ph: 207-581-3042; Fax: 207-581-3015; Email: umpotato@maine.edu

Members in the News

Dr. Robert Bernard O'Keefe, 81, of Scottsbluff, died Saturday, January 12, 2008, at his home with his beloved wife Gracie at his side.

Robert "Bob" O'Keefe was born Feb. 17, 1926, to Dr. Everett and Helen O'Keefe in Alliance. He graduated from St. Agnes Academy in Alliance and the Univ of Nebraska in Lincoln. Bob served in the Navy Air Corps during WWII. He married Darlyne May McCormick on Oct. 8, 1946, and together they had eight children. His wife Darlyne died in 1979. Bob married Wilma "Gracie" Hesselgesser in Gering on Dec. 15, 1984 and they traveled the world assisting other countries with horticultural endeavors.

He was employed by the Nebraska Certified Potato Growers Cooperation before returning to the Univ of Nebr where he was a Prof of Horticulture for 30 years and Acting Chair of the Dept of Horticulture from 1969 to 1971. Bob was leader of the Potato Improvement Program at the Panhandle REC in Scottsbluff, Nebr and retired from the Univ of Nebr in 1988. Potatoes have been first and foremost in all

of his endeavors. He was associated with the release of more than seven varieties. As a researcher and extensionist, Bob helped improve the Nebr potato industry and engineered its national importance despite its relatively small size. His accomplishments in connection with tools used in the chipping process are well-known to the industry. After retiring from the University, Bob continued his work on his beloved "potato" as a consultant to King's Foods of Canada.

Bob was very active in The Potato Association of America. He was a member of the Certification Section, Chair of the Breeding & Genetics Section, President (1980), Chair of the Annual Meeting in Nebraska in 1979 and Chair of the organizing committee for the North American Potato Variety Handbook Committee. In 1990 he was selected to be an Honorary Life Member of the PAA.

Robert's smile and laughter over a "Good Irish Joke" will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Alexander Pavlista
President, 2007-2008

Sustainable Agriculture Standard Notice

Beginning in April 2008, the Leonardo Academy (LEO) and Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) will begin public discussion and through consensus develop a national standard for a 'certified sustainably grown' label. All stakeholders are invited. The result will be a set of practices adopted by the American National Standards Institute, a

member of ISO. SCS has already written a 90-page Draft Standard covering all aspects of field production, environmental impact, labor and community. Visit <http://www.leonardoacademy.org/Projects/ansi.htm> to learn more about the project and how to participate.

Audio Clip from The Potato Museum

Thought you might be interested in the audio clip of an interview with Meredith and Tom Hughes of The Potato Museum on New Year's Eve for "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio in the U. S.

The link is:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17728968>

and then click on "Listen Now"

Meredith Hughes

The Potato Museum/The FOOD Museum

On-Line

thepotatomuseum@yahoo.com