I’d like to begin this letter by giving my personal thanks to Nora Olsen and Bret Nedrow, Co-chairs of the PAA 2018 Local Arrangement Committee, as well as all the members of the LAC for their efforts in hosting the PAA annual meeting in Boise. The financial support of 48 sponsors was also important to the success of the meeting. I believe all attending PAA members would agree it was a memorable meeting allowing us to again join with our “PAA family” with 309 members representing 22 states, 7 provinces, and 12 countries in attendance.

The meeting program provided an excellent forum for sharing scientific information with presentations by Sanweh Huang, Global Outreach Speaker, as well six symposium speakers discussing the Impact of Quarantined Pests on the Potato Industry. Pam Hutchinson and members of the Plant Protection and Certification Sections did an
excellent job in organizing the symposium. An additional 86 oral presentations, and 37 posters were also given with 16 graduate students participating in the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition with five awards presented. For the graduate students there was also time to connect socially with the LAC arranging an escape room activity with lunch also being provided.

The Basque heritage of Boise was also celebrated during the meeting with a “block party” for PAA members allowing them to experience Basque cuisine and dancing. Carol Halseth’s beautiful quilt was also a highlight of the silent auction at the block party, with proceeds going to support the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Endowment.

Four Honorary Life Members were also inducted during the banquet ceremonies and Mohammed Khakbazen and co-authors were also recognized for the 2017 Outstanding Paper Award in the American Journal of Potato Research. Carrie Wohleb, Tim Waters, and David Crowder at Washington State University were also recognized for Outstanding Extension Project for their development of WSU Potato Pest Alerts, an e-newsletter. Vikram Bisht and Tracy Shinners-Carnelley gave an exciting presentation and invitation to all PAA Members to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This is the first time that Manitoba has hosted the annual meeting of the PAA, with the LAC already doing a great job of organizing for the meeting in Winnipeg.

With the passing of the PAA presidential gavel at Boise, I’d like to relay my deep appreciation to Shelley Jansky for all her efforts in facilitating the transition and interaction with our management company AMR, development of greater ties between PAA and the Potato Research Advisory Committee (PRAC), and her tireless efforts in updating the PAA website and improving PAA’s social media presence. Treasurer Larry Hiller, Secretary Carrie Wohleb, and Finance Chair Bret Nedrow have also contributed much time and efforts to the PAA, and I am thankful to have them, as well as Shelley as I transition to President. Their past experience in their roles will be helpful in my new role as President. I also have a stellar Board of Directors to work with, including newly elected Directors Jonathan Whitworth and Rebecca Sterner, President-Elect Kent McCue (who took a lead role in revising the PAA bylaws), and Vice-President Mark Pavek. Special thanks to outgoing Directors Mark Pavek and Andre Gagnon for their service to PAA.

PAA membership in 2018, is similar to that of 2017 with a total of 509 members with 68% representing individual members, 13% Honorary Life Members, 10% students, and 6% Sustaining and 3%
Emeritus status. An objective of this year is to increase membership numbers with an emphasis on sustaining members.

The American Journal of Potato Research (AJPR) in the first half of 2018 recorded 85 manuscript submissions which is on course in 2018 to exceed a total of 143 submissions received in 2017. Submitting authors, thus far in 2018, represented 20 countries indicative of the AJPR’s international impact. This international focus is also seen in the visits recorded by AJPR in 2017, with 71% being from outside of North America. Requests of Full-Text Articles from the AJPR from January to August of 2018 was 55,460. Much of the success of the AJPR can be attributed to John Bamberg, who just recently stepped down as Editor-in-Chief of the journal. Thanks and appreciation are extended to him for serving in that role for 16 years! Samuel Essah assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief this summer and will play a crucial role in the continued success of the AJPR.

We had our first Board of Directors meeting in October with much being accomplished, including the approval of the 2019 Budget. AMR contract renewal was also discussed with this being a primary agenda item in November’s meeting—my interactions with AMR personnel, and the feedback from others, have been positive with respect to their aid in helping to run the daily affairs of the PAA. An ad hoc committee was established, with Mark Pavek as chair, to continue to update the Standing Rules of the PAA. Kent McCue has very ably coordinated with the National Potato Council in oversight of the PAA Poster Session at the Potato Expo in Austin, TX in early January. Additional areas of focus in the coming year include:

- Increasing membership, with sustaining members being a primary focus
- Development of a slogan to be incorporated with our new logo
- Establishment of a PAA Early Career Award
- With AMR’s expertise, continue updating the PAA website to make it more attractive and user-friendly
- Continue to further strengthen the relationship between industry and the PAA

I’d like to end with my thanks to those members, both in the past and currently, who have contributed their time to ensure the PAA remains a relevant and strong advocate for science-based research. Membership participation is key to the continued viability and success of the PAA …stay involved or please consider becoming more involved in the activities of PAA!

Rich Novy, President
2018-2019
Administrator’s Note

It was a joy to attend my first PAA annual meeting this past July in Boise, Idaho. I enjoyed meeting many of you and many thanks for the warm welcome into the PAA family.

November and December are annual membership renewal months here at PAA. I encourage you to renew your 2019 membership as soon as possible to prevent a lapse. If you have any questions regarding the membership process, please contact Angela Richardson at paaoffice@potatoassociation.org or (734) 239-8022.

First Call For Papers, Posters & Awards To Be Presented At Our 103rd Annual Meeting

This is the First Call for Papers to be presented at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America, to be held July 28- August 1, 2019 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, CAN. PAA members are invited to present papers dealing with all facets of the potato industry. 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 can be submitted online at http://paa.apexabstracts.com

This website requires you to login. If you have not already setup an account (note this account is separate from the one you setup for your PAA Membership), click “Setup New Account” and follow the instructions to create a login. If you have submitted abstracts through this website before but forgot your password, click “Reset Password”. Once you are in the system, on the left side of the screen click “My Titles and Abstracts”, and 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. The maximum length of abstract text is 300 words. If you would like to save the abstract, without submitting, click on “Save Changes”. To go back to a saved abstract, login and click on “My Titles and Abstracts” and select the abstract you want to edit. Abstracts can be edited until the deadline, which is March 18, 2019. When you are ready to submit, click “Save and Submit”.

Further details about the presentations, such as the length of oral presentations and poster dimensions, will be provided on the abstract submission website and in the Second and Final Call for Papers in January. If you have questions, you can contact Carrie Wohleb, PAA Secretary, at cwohleb@wsu.edu
Nominations for Honorary Life Membership

One of the most significant ways to recognize outstanding contributions to the potato industry and to our organization 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 candidates for HLM to be presented at the 2019 103rd Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. 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 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: http://potatoassociation.org/membership/committees/honorary-life-member.

Completed HLM nominations and all supporting documentation should be submitted electronically in MS Word or PDF format to Past President Shelley Jansky, and are due by March 18, 2019. This is the First Call for Honorary Life Membership Nominations!

Shelley Jansky, 2017–2018 President

Outstanding Extension Project Award

PAA recognizes good potato work annually. 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 more complete information and instructions for nominating, see Outstanding Extension Project Award on the PAA website.

The recognition will be given at the 2019 PAA annual meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba July 28–August 1, 2019.
Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition

This is the First Call for the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition (FLHGSRAC) of The Potato Association of America to be held at the 103rd Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The purpose of the FLHGSRAC 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. Author(s) must be a graduate student at the time the abstracts are due March 18, 2019.

2. Graduate students must be members of The PAA and may not use their advisor’s ID. **Membership information is found on The PAA website at http://potatoassociation.org/membership

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 FLHGSRAC.

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 supplied by the LAC.

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, USDA/ARS Vegetable Crops Research Unit, 1575 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706 USA
Phone: 608-890-1165 ~ Fax: 608-262-4743 ~ E-mail: paul.bethke@ars.usda.gov
GETTING TO WINNIPEG

At Winnipeg’s James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, Air Canada, WestJet, Delta Airlines, and United Airlines provide daily direct flights to major hubs within North America. Winnipeg is also a stop for VIA Rail, if you are interested in including some rail travel as part of your trip to Manitoba.

AGENDA

The Schedule at a Glance is available at www.paaevents.org. A few highlights of the PAA 2019 agenda include the featured symposium “Changes and Challenges in Potato Marketing Sectors” on Monday afternoon, as well as the Tuesday evening social event at “Journey to Churchill” located in Winnipeg’s beautiful Assiniboine Park Zoo. The Agricultural Tour on Thursday morning will provide some insight into Winnipeg’s past and present role in the global grain industry.

THINGS TO DO

Whether you are looking for some after meeting hour’s activities, or plan to extend your stay in Winnipeg, there are numerous attractions for all interests. Explore Winnipeg’s iconic Human Rights Museum, the Historic Forks, Assiniboine Park Zoo, or the Royal Canadian Mint, just to name a few. Downtown Winnipeg has a great selection of restaurants including cuisines from around the world. There are also many craft breweries for those that like a taste of the local brew scene as part of your travels. Check out www.tourismwinnipeg.com for more information on the best of what Winnipeg has to offer. Manitoba is famous for many other outdoor activities like fishing, golf, and hiking. Be sure to check out www.TravelManitoba.com for more information to plan an extended stay while visiting us for PAA 2019.

Optional social activities will be planned for PAA 2019 Delegates and information will be updated at www.paaevents.org as it becomes available. Please check back often, as we will continue to add details as they become finalized.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us, or our event planner, Riel Dion at Ree@plannersplus.ca (204.257.5205)

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2019 meeting in Winnipeg!

- PAA LAC2019 Committee and Co-Chairs,

Vikram Bisht
(Vikram.Bisht@gov.mb.ca)

Tracy Shinners-Carnelley
(Tracy@PeakMarket.com)
Whew! It was a busy year, but it seemed like it was over almost as soon as it started. I have to admit that I felt a strong sense of relief when I handed the gavel over to our new president Rich Novy in Boise. There is a steep learning curve when a scientist takes the helm of an organization such as the PAA. This is not what we are trained to do, but the PAA has a tremendous support network in place. It has been fascinating to get an inside view into our organization. If you have any interest in becoming involved as a PAA leader, I encourage you to do so. There are many opportunities to serve.

The Executive Committee was actively engaged and involved in a wide array of activities throughout the year. We focused on three activities: the transition to AMR as our professional management company, extending our outreach to the potato industry, and updating our bylaws. Thank you to the officers, directors, and section chairs for participating in monthly conference calls, on-line discussions, and the annual meeting. These positions require a significant time commitment, but they are essential to our organization.

Our transition to AMR has been smooth, in large part because of our new administrator, Angela Richardson. The PAA is much more complex and layered than I ever imagined. Angela has tremendous experience and organizational abilities, and has guided us through the transition with apparent ease. In addition, much of our institutional memory is held by Larry Hiller, whose passion for the PAA have been inspiring. I leaned on both Angela and Larry often throughout the year, and both were patient and incredibly helpful.

The highlight of the year was the annual meeting in Boise, Idaho. Nora Olsen, Bret Nedrow and their LAC team organized an outstanding meeting. Attendance was high, the setting was beautiful, and the scientific program was packed with something for everyone. If you have ever organized an event of this magnitude, you realize how much time, thought and energy goes into it. Three cheers to the LAC is for an exceptional meeting. We look forward to Winnipeg in 2019.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the PAA as president. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know so many people dedicated to the advancement of the potato industry. Thank you for I year I will never forget.
2018-2019 Executive Committee

President: Rich Novy
Vice-President I: Kent F. McCue *
Vice-President II: Mark Pavek *
Secretary: Carrie H. Wohleb
Treasurer: Larry Hiller
Past-President: Shelley Jansky

* PAA’s transition to new bylaws resulted in the Vice President I and II designations. The President-Elect title is no longer being recognized.

Directors

Paul Bethke
Roy Navarre
Helen Tai
Rebecca Sterner
Jonathan Whitworth

Section Chairs

Breeding & Genetics: Ek Han Tan
Certification: Erik Hitchcock
Plant Protection: Kasia Duellman
Physiology: Yi Wang
Extension, Production, Management: Noah Rosenzweig
Utilization & Marketing: Addie Waxman

Meetings and Events

DECEMBER 2018

11-12: National Chip Program
Winter Meeting, Hyatt Place
Chicago/O'Hare Airport, Chicago, IL

23-25: Oregon Washington Annual Potato Conference, Kennewick, WA
http://www.potatoconference.com/

FEBRUARY 2019

5-7: Wisconsin Grower Education Conference and Industry Show
Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI

19: Northern Plains Potato Growers Association Research Report Conference, Grand Forks, ND
http://nppga.org/

20-21: International Crop Expo, Grand Forks, ND
http://nppga.org/

JANUARY 2019

9-10: Potato Expo, Austin, TX
http://potato-expo.com/

22-24: Idaho Potato Conference, Pocatello, ID
https://www.uidaho.edu/cals/potatoes/news/idaho-potato-conference