**President’s Message**

Spring is in full swing in Arkansas. So are the allergies as service vehicles are turning yellow with pollen. I hope you and your team are ready for a profitable spring and summer.

We owe a huge thanks to Dallas Hopper for his service as President during 2016. He did a great job leading, giving tirelessly of his time. Thank you also to the entire Board and those who served on the various committees. I appreciate you and look forward to continuing to work with you this year.

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**How’s Your Saw?**

As the late Stephen Covey taught, Habit 7 of highly effective people is to “Sharpen the Saw.” Don’t be like the exhausted woodcutter in Covey’s parable. “I don’t have time to sharpen the saw,” the man says emphatically. ‘I’m too busy sawing!’† You’ll never have time to sharpen your saw, so don’t wait for that to happen. Make time to sharpen your saw.

Attendees at one of our recent regional schools took a day to sharpen their saws. Participation overall was up slightly from last year, and they enjoyed a wealth of information. Topics included control of mosquitoes, small flies,
spiders, bed bugs, fleas, ants, rats, and roaches, as well as safety and insecticide resistance. It’s our intention that the training offered by your Association is more than a piece of paper to let you renew your certification!

In addition to the great work behind the scenes by the Conference Committee and Marilyn Porterfield with Best Association Management, our schools and conferences wouldn’t be possible without the support of our sponsors. Companies like Bayer, Oldham, Nisus, FMC, Univar, Winfield, SGI, Diversified, BWI, and IPM Solutions made the schools possible. By the time you receive this, Dr. Bob Davis with BASF will have conducted the termite treating school for this year. We so appreciate his time and experience leading this training. Thank you, sponsors!

The September School is shaping up to be one of the best yet. Stoy Hedges and many other industry leaders will be teaching, to help you serve your customers and build your business. We will be back in North Little Rock at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel. Keep looking for details, and I urge you to take advantage of early registration pricing to secure your spot!

This year’s Association officers look forward to serving all the professionals in our industry. We need your involvement to do that effectively. Stay informed and engaged on legislative issues. (See following articles on current legislation and NPMA’s Legislative Day by Dwight Reynolds and Mark Hopper, respectively.) Join us for quarterly General Membership meetings, where we discuss events and issues affecting our businesses. Finally, let me know if you learn of something of which we need to be aware... or how else we can improve.

Vance Walker
APMA President

†Covey, Stephen R., The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1989), 287

Six APMA members attended NPMA’s Annual Legislative Day on March 12-14 in Washington, DC. Justin and Zach McCauley along with David, Dallas, Mark and Conner Hopper attended meetings dealing with legislative issues pertaining to the pest management industry. Speakers included members of NPMA’s legislative affairs staff as well as noted political journalists Mark Halperin, Bret Baier and Charlie Cook. Senator Marco Rubio spoke to the group of about 400 PMPs about our industry’s importance in dealing with health issues such as Zika and other vector born diseases.

The Arkansas APMA delegation traveled to Capitol Hill to promote the issues facing our industry. In a meeting with Sen. John Boozman, the group discussed the following:

Modernization of the Endangered Species Act - Legislators are encouraged to support comprehensive ESA reform to better protect endangered and threatened species by implementing a process that best utilizes government resources and sound scientific decisions.

NPDES Permits (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) - Legislators are urged to support S. 340 and H. 953 which eliminates NPDES permits for already lawful pesticide applications.

EPA Reforms - Lawmakers are asked to support Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act (H.R. 1029), which streamlines the pesticide registration process.

Tax Reform - Legislators are strongly encouraged to work for a tax policy that lowers the corporate tax rate to stimulate economic growth and additional hiring in our businesses which are tasked with protecting our nation’s public health, property and food supply.

Mark Hopper
Hopper Environmental Services

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HB1725 was introduced by Representative Dan M. Douglas. This bill would transfer additional control and authority of the Plant Board to the Governor and the Department of Agriculture. Any new director of the Plant Board would be appointed by the Governor and “serve at the pleasure” of the Governor. Essentially all funds and control of the Plant Board would be placed in the hands of the Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture.

Most of this process has already taken place with regards to the plant board move; this is the legislative act that will make it permanent if voted on and approved.

HB1551 was introduced by Representative Richard Womack. This bill would significantly limit the Plant Board’s ability to enforce occupational licensing standards and would allow private individuals to perform services without training or other certifications.

This bill did not make it out of committee in this form.

HB2176 was introduced by Representative Austin McCollum. While he titled and submitted as a new bill, it contains similar language to Womack’s HB1551.

HB2159 was also introduced by Womack and cosponsored by McCollum and 2 others. The bill is similar to HB1551 and HB2176, but contains less drastic language than the original bill. It would create an Occupational Regulation Oversight Subcommittee. This committee would review 10 different occupations per year to evaluate whether licensing regulations and statutes are burdensome. Key evaluation points would include a public safety clause and a comparison of other states’ regulations of the same occupation.

As currently written, this committee would only have the authority to make recommendations that would then need to become bills. They would then have to withstand legislative and public scrutiny.

Your APMA will continue to monitor and review legislation that could potentially impact our industry.

A special thanks to Justin McCauley and Jerry Hyde, who have actively assisted in monitoring these legislative initiatives.

Dwight Reynolds/Secretary Treasurer
Chairman Government Affairs Committee
APMA News
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Lynn Hopper
Memorial Scholarship Application

First Name _____________ Middle ___Last __________________________
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Age _____ Year of Graduation ______ ACT Score ______
Parent/Guardian ____________________________________________
Occupation of Father _________________________________________
Annual Income of Father _______________________________________
Occupation of Mother _________________________________________
Annual Income of Mother _______________________________________
How much financial assistance do you qualify for? _____________
Explain any special reasons for financial need in your case
(Attach to Application)
College ____________________________ Intended Major ______________
Does a family member work in the pest management industry? Y/N
If so, who and where do they work _____________________________

Eligibility/Criteria
1. Applicant must have a 2.5 GPA or GED equivalent.
2. Applicant must plan to carry a minimum of 12 hours each semester (of fall & spring semesters).
3. Applicant must be seeking a degree in School of Business with a minor in Pest Management.
4. Applicant must be a resident of the State of Arkansas and planning to work in the Pest Management industry in Arkansas for 2 years after completion of degree.
5. Applicants that are family members of a pest management firm that is a member in good standing of the APMA will be given first consideration.
6. Three letters of recommendation are required and must be from individuals who have known the applicant for 3 or more years. Letters should be submitted with application.
7. An essay of applicant’s future plans should be submitted with application. Applicant will not be considered without essay completed and submitted with application.
8. Applicant must be willing to meet in Little Rock to be interviewed by selection committee if so asked.
9. Applicants that have been awarded this scholarship in the past are welcome to apply again.
10. The selection committee can make a decision based on applicants. There may be times when they have a candidate that may or may not meet all the criteria. The committee reserves the right to make that adjustment for that year. It must be a unanimous decision.
11. Application deadline is February 1st of each year.
12. Applicant must maintain a GPA of 2.5 for the year (cumulative of fall & spring semesters), and provide a transcript at the end of the year.

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Bobbie Jo Hyde
Tim Adams

2017 Calendar of Events

**General Membership Meetings (11:00 am)**
April 21
July 21
September 19
(to be held during September School)

**Board of Directors Meetings (9:30 am)**
April 21
July 21
September 18
(to be held during September School)

All General Membership and Board Meetings to be held at the at the Hampton Inn & Suites 1301 S. Shackleford Rod., Little Rock, AR 72211

**Last Minute Recertification**
June 7
Hampton Inn & Suites

**September Recertification & Trade Show**
September 19-20
Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock
For more details on events, please visit wwww.arkansaspest.org
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