Six people gained ACAS certification since last year’s meeting. This includes Art Goetsch - Professor at the Dairy Goat Research Center in Langston, OK., Stacey Gunter - Research Leader with USDA-ARS at Woodward, OK., Mike Looper - Dept. Head at the Univ. of Arkansas, Luis Tedeschi - Professor at Texas A&M University, Terry Engle - Professor at Colorado State University and Fernando Diaz-Royon - Dairy Nutritionist with GPS Dairy Consulting in South Dakota. It should be noted that an ACAS member directly recruited all these new members.

Results of the ACAS Elections were as follows. The Nominees for President- Elect were Patrick French and David Casper. Patrick French was elected President- Elect. Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer were Jim Chapman and Luis Solorzano. Jim Chapman was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Randy Walker will move from President-Elect to President at the ACAS Business Meeting and Andy Cole will move from President to Immediate-Past-President at that time.

Dr. John Wagner of Colorado State University agreed to serve on the Animal Nutrition Discipline Committee. He will replace Ernest Keith who retired.

A mid-year conference call of the ACAS board members was held on January 6, 2017. During the call Kenneth Cummings provided the committee with an evaluation form that was assembled a few years ago to use in evaluating Highly Qualified Individual applicants. Although not an official ACAS document, it provides an excellent template for the Discipline Committees to use in evaluating potential ACAS members. It was also reported that in the 2016 ARPAS member survey the membership was asked why so few ARPAS members applied for membership to ACAS. The results were as follows: Exam – 28%; Lack of Benefits – 45%, Cost + other – 27%.

Several of the Discipline exams still need to be revised, updated, or written. We continue to look for volunteers that can make the time to write these exams. Anyone interested in helping to write revised or new exams are free to contact the ACAS President and/or one of the Discipline Directors.

In May, 2017 the ACAS membership was presented with a series of amendments to the ACAS Constitution and Bylaws. In brief, the amendments made the Discipline Committee Chair positions appointed by the ACAS President with approval of the Executive Committee, rather than elected by members of the discipline. The Board of Directors and ARPAS Executive VP felt the change was needed because of the small membership in some of the disciplines. The amendments were approved by the membership by a vote of 43 for the amendments versus 1 against the amendments.
The 2017 annual ACAS meeting will be held in conjunction with the ASAS and ARPAS meeting in Baltimore at 2:00 pm on July 10, immediately after the ARPAS business meeting.

The 2018 annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the ADSA and ARPAS meetings in Knoxville, TN., June 24-27, 2018.

I wish to thank Cornicha Henderson for all her excellent help, as well as Kenneth Cummins, Marita Arana, and members of the executive committee for their help and suggestions.
2018 ARPAS Symposium Report

By Andy Cole, PhD, PAS, ACAN – incoming President-Elect of ARPAS

The 2018 ARPAS symposium will take place in conjunction with the ADSA meeting in Knoxville, TN, July 24-27, 2018.

The topic and speakers have not been determined.

We are hoping to have some sponsorship involvement for the symposium to help cover travel costs for invited speakers and to cover publication costs of any invited papers in PAS.