

NCDEA Update

January 2006

NCDEA Annual Meeting Around the Corner

NCDEA's Annual Meeting is just around the bend. Please join us on Monday, January 30, 2006 at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston at 11 am. All are welcome!

The NCDEA Board of Directors will also be meeting on Saturday, January 28, 2006 between 1 pm and 5 pm and again on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 at 1 pm at the Hilton Americas Hotel. Those meetings will address regular association business and help us plan activities for 2006. All NCDEA Board Meetings are open for all to attend.

NCDEA Scholarship Fund Raffle

The NCDEA Don Aron Memorial Scholarship Fund is still in its development stage. In 2005, over \$3,000 was added to the fund from the proceeds of a Harley Davidson Motorcycle Raffle. Jeri Trebelcock, a District Employee from Wyoming won the raffle. This year, we will be raffling a Dell Notebook Computer and Kodak Easy Share Digital Zoom Camera Package. Raffle tickets are \$5 each during the NACD Annual Meeting on February 1, 2006. Contact Ernie Thurlow or Robert Dobbs for tickets. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds from this raffle should put us over the top and enable us to award a scholarship to a district employee, or immediate family member, majoring in conservation or related field later this year!

NCDEA Employee Choice Awards Program

By now, many of you may have learned that the NCDEA Employee Choice Award judging committee has recommended that no awards be presented for outstanding district employee or district official this year. The committee based their recommendation on the fact that the nominations, as written, did not meet the judging criteria.

The National Employee Choice Award criteria currently states that nominees must have demonstrated exemplary contributions and leadership to conservation programs of national significance.

The judging committee, while impressed with the contributions and successes outlined in the nomination forms submitted on behalf of conservation district employees and district officials this year, strongly stated that the nominations did not specifically highlight or identify contributions of a national scale.

The NCDEA Board realizes and understands your concerns regarding the NCDEA Employee Choice Awards Program. During our 2005 mid-year board meeting, the entire board and partnership advisors discussed this issue at length and noted in our minutes the emphasis of the awards program must be of national significance. Regional Representatives were empowered to work with states within their respective regions to ensure that nominations were complete and reflected judging criteria. Members of the NCDEA Board further reviewed nominations submitted and were in agreement with the recommendation of the judging committee.

We will discuss this issue during our board meeting on Saturday, January 28th, in Houston. The current awards program will be examined and plans put in motion to address NCDEA, regional and state concerns. Please join us at the meeting to make the national awards program a success in 2006.