

2019 AFA and AFAEF Committees

Annual Meeting Program – Chairman John Wainscott, retired Weyerhaeuser

The Program Committee plans and administers all aspects of the AFA Annual Meeting including selecting meeting locations and dates, general session speakers, menus, and recreational activities. The committee also solicits meeting sponsors and exhibitors and develops registration and promotional materials.

Communications—Chairman Tracy Farley, U.S. Forest Service

The Communications Committee is a standing committee that oversees the strategic communications plan to promote AFA's mission and vision. The Committee provides guidance on the implementation of the marketing and communications tactics, which include maintaining the integrity and increasing the usage of AFA's brand, providing content ideas for partnership wide communications as needed and promoting best practices through various media modes, including social media, e-newsletters and print newsletters.

Executive – President Robert Gray, PotlatchDeltic

The Executive Committee is comprised of 15 AFA members - four officers and 11 other members elected by the Board of Directors who exercise control and management of the affairs of the association. The Executive Committee meets no less than quarterly to review the policies, programs and projects of the association and to consult with the Executive Vice President.

Landowner Education – Tabitha Holloway, Arkansas Forestry Commission

The Forest Landowner Education Committee plans and coordinates workshops, field days, programs and conferences across the state that may have an interest to or benefit for forest landowners. This committee reviews previous year's events and discusses potential topics that may be of interest or value to forest landowners for future programs.

Forest Practices – Chairman Ricky O'Neill, Neeley Forestry Service

The Forest Practices Committee focuses on issues related to sustainable forestry with particular emphasis on Best Management Practices. The committee also reviews the impact of environmental regulations on sustainable forestry applications related to endangered species, herbicide application, non-point source pollution and more.

Forest Protection – Chairman Jeffrey Richardson, Weyerhaeuser

The Forest Protection Committee focuses on issues related to forest health with particular emphasis on fire suppression and invasive species. The committee's interests also include issues related to law enforcement on private forestland and they work closely with AFA's Witness Reward Committee.

Government Affairs and Taxation – Chairman Tammy Waters, Domtar

The Government Affairs and Taxation Committee reviews and evaluates a wide range of public policy and tax issues on the local, county, state and federal levels. The committee also makes recommendations on contributions to political candidates, and develops strategies for AFA legislative activities and special events.

Membership – Chairman Bryan Davis, Davis Dubose Knight Forestry and Real Estate

The Membership Committee develops strategies to increase AFA membership. Committee members serve as advocates for the association in the field and help identify and recruit potential new members.

PLT Steering – Chairman Betsy Spetich, Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality

The PLT Steering Committee meets twice a year to evaluate and direct the Project Learning Tree program in the state. The group evaluates previous year's programs and events and provides input and suggestions to improve future workshops and programs involving PLT in the state. This committee serves strictly in an advisory role to the Director of Forestry Education.

Tree Farm – Chairman John Cook, Arkansas Forestry Commission

Members of the Tree Farm committee develop strategies that define the value of being a Tree Farmer and the merits of forest certification. They do so by engaging landowners through a variety of communication, education and outreach tools. The committee is also responsible for completing required inspections, inspector training, coordinating third party assessments, and program membership recruitment.

Wildlife and Biodiversity – Chairman Ricky O'Neill, Neeley Forestry Service

The Wildlife and Biodiversity Committee's mission is to serve the Arkansas Forestry Association and the forestry community by identifying, developing, and promoting sustainable, biologically diverse, and cost-effective wildlife and fisheries management policies and programs on Arkansas's forest lands.

Witness Reward

The purpose of the Witness Reward Program is to assist in the curtailment of incendiary fires, unlawful dumping and vandalism, arson or theft of forestry equipment, timber or hunting club property by providing cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person or persons charged with such a crime. The committee reviews all recommendations for monetary rewards, certifies the facts and determines whether a reward is in order.