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Member Opportunities

NAEGA Annual Meetings – March 19-21

[Hotel room blocks are now available at the Sheraton by clicking here. Please book your room as soon as possible to guarantee a space.](#)

All NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend and participate in all NAEGA meetings and events. A preliminary schedule of events is available below:

NAEGA Annual Meetings and Events – March 19-22			
<i>All events to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA</i>			
Date	Time	Event	Location
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	12:00-3:00pm	Contracts Committee Meeting RSVP here	Grand Cocteau
	3:15-5:30pm	Joint NGFA Biotechnology and NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting RSVP here	Nottoway Room
	6:00-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: CoBank Welcome Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	9:00-11:30am	NGFA Convention: Grand Opening Plated Breakfast Featuring Juan Luciano, Chairman and CEO, ADM <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Grand Ballroom A/B/C
	12:00-5:00pm	NAEGA Members Lunch with Member and Board Meeting to follow RSVP here	Nottoway Room
	1:00-4:00pm	NGFA Convention: Congressional Facility Tour RSVP here	TBD
	6:30-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: Bunge North America Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	7:30-8:45am	Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspections and NGFA Grain, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting RSVP here	Nottoway

	12:00-4:00pm	Regional Industry Workshop RSVP here	Rhythms 1
<i>Wednesday, March 22</i>	8:00am-3:00pm	NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar RSVP here	Maurepas Room

NAEGA Committee members should also consider making plans to attend their Committee meetings on March 19-21. The following Committee events have been scheduled, including Joint meetings with NGFA Committees:

NAEGA Committee Meetings			
All Committee Meetings to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA			
Date	Time	Event	Location
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	12:00-3:00pm	Contracts Committee Meeting RSVP here	Grand Cocteau (5 th Floor)
	3:15-5:30pm	Joint NGFA Biotechnology and NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting RSVP here	Nottoway Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	12:00-5:00pm	NAEGA Members Lunch with Member and Board Meeting to follow RSVP here	Nottoway Room
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	7:30-8:45am	Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspections and NGFA Grain, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting RSVP here	Nottoway

Agendas for the NAEGA Annual Member, Board and Committee Meetings will be distributed in the coming days.

NAEGA Member Promo Rate for NGFA Convention

All NAEGA member personnel are invited to take advantage of a special \$250 promotional rate for the NGFA Convention. In addition, spouses are invited to attend for a special rate of \$200. This special rate includes the CoBank Welcome reception on Sunday, March 19 and all events on Monday, March 20, including the Grand Opening breakfast and the Bunge North America Reception.

Events Included in NAEGA Promo Rate			
All events to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA			
Date	Time	Event	Location

<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	6:00-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: CoBank Welcome Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	9:00am-11:30am	NGFA Convention: Grand Opening Plated Breakfast Featuring Juan Luciano, Chairman and CEO, ADM <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Grand Ballroom A/B/C
	6:30-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: Bunge North America Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room

If you are interested in taking advantage of this special promotional rate, please use the following codes during registration.

[Register here for the NGFA Convention](#)

Member personnel code (\$250): NAEGA2017
NAEGA Spouse Code (\$200): NAEGASPOUSE

NOLA Regional Industry Workshop – March 21

[Please click here to register for the New Orleans Regional Industry Workshop.](#)

NAEGA and NGFA will host a New Orleans Regional Industry Workshop on Tuesday, March 21 from 12:00-4:00pm in the Rhythms 1 Room of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. The Regional Industry Workshop will bring together members of industry and government to discuss safety, security and operational issues affecting the NOLA Port-Range. The Federal Grain Inspection Service has confirmed that they will attend the workshop. Past workshops have also included members of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the National Cargo Bureau.

A preliminary agenda is available [here](#).

NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – March 22

[Register now for the Contracts and Best Practices Seminar in New Orleans.](#)

NAEGA will hold a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar on Wednesday, March 22 in New Orleans, LA following the Annual Meeting events on March 19-21. The Seminar will take place from 8:00am-3:00pm in the Maurepas Room of the Sheraton New Orleans.

NAEGA’s New Orleans Seminar will be led by NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla and Contracts Committee Chair Andrew Marting. Seminars are an interactive opportunity to review commercial and official practices to improve predictability, reduce risks, resolve trade barriers and facilitate the profitable trade of grains and oilseeds. Topics of this seminar will include a review of the global contracting environment, industry wide standards, guidelines and model contracts,

commercial compliance with international conventions and case studies of commercial topics. Sam and Andrew will also be discussing proposed changes in 2017 to the NAEGA 2 contract. In addition, issues specific to the NOLA Port-Range will be discussed. A preliminary agenda includes:

- Open dialogue on current contracting practices as they relate to trade risks.
- A "Road Map" of the NAEGA II Model Contract
- PENDING: Review of the 2017 revisions to the NAEGA II Model Contract.
- Perspectives on the global contracting environment in GAFTA, FOSFA and other contract models and practices.
- Case Study Exercises on:
 - o Calculating laytime, despatch and demurrage.
 - o Contract Terms.
 - o Arbitration and other alternatives for dispute resolution.

The cost of the seminar is \$250 per person.

U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade – March 30

NAEGA member personnel are invited to “Save the Date” for a meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade on March 30. Time and location are to be decided. The U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade is an off the record broad based open forum that convenes as needed to discuss U.S. agriculture's interests in trade. A formal invite will be available in the coming weeks.

ASP Users Meeting – May 24

All NAEGA members who utilize the NAEGA-NGFA Alternative Security Program (ASP) are invited to attend the Spring ASP Workshop in Washington, D.C. Coordinated by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), this Spring’s meeting will be held at the offices of the American Chemistry Council on May 24, 2017. Along with presentations by the USCG on ASP compliance, the workshop’s agenda will include discussion of the new TWIC reader rule and an update from the Federal Aviation Administration on unmanned aerial vehicles and managing airspace security. More information, including an agenda, will be available soon. Please contact [Ryan](#) if you are interested in attending.

NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum – Cancun – May 24-26

All NAEGA members are invited to attend the 24th Annual NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum in Cancun, Mexico on May 24-26. This year’s forum will take place at the Hotel Secrets The Vine in coordination with the Mexican feed mills association CONFAB. A preliminary agenda and further information on hotel reservation and registration will be available soon.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

Please let us know if you are interested in attending or hosting a NAEGA Seminar! Click [here](#) for more information the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!.

Next Contracts and Best Practice Seminar: New Orleans, LA – [REGISTER HERE](#)

PENDING SEMINARS: Tokyo, Vancouver, Minneapolis and Kansas City.

Internships

Information on working for NAEGA as an intern can be found [here](#).

Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member's Only Page](#).

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Action Reports

Recent Actions:

DBTG Executive Committee Meeting

On January 10-14, 2017 NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter traveled to Gijon, Spain to represent NAEGA in the Executive Committee meeting of the International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG). At the Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Cotter gathered information on the value of the NAEGA-DBTG Memorandum of Understanding and the future of the relationship, including his eventual retirement from active participation in the DBTG.

Read [more](#) about Jerry's travels and the NAEGA-DBTG relationship [here](#).

U.S. Government Transition

Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade: NAEGA continues to closely follow the U.S. government transition through its leadership role in the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade. Last week NAEGA participated in a meeting of the Dialogue at the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington, D.C. featuring remarks from Ambassador Darci Vetter, the most recent Chief Agricultural Trade Negotiator and Joe Glauber, Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). During the meeting, members of the Dialogue discussed common communication messages focused on trade negotiations and the value of access to foreign markets. The Dialogue developed a communication communication pamphlet to coordinate messaging, [which can be found here](#), and drafted a [Purpose Statement](#) to outline future coordination amongst Dialogue participants. The next meeting of the Dialogue will take place on March 30. Participation from the Trump Administration is currently being sought.

Cabinet Nominations and Confirmations: NAEGA continues to monitor the Cabinet nominations. Nominations hearings are currently ongoing. NAEGA understands the following nominations and confirmations have been made:

Cabinet Position	Name	Status
Vice President	Mike Pence	Elected
Secretary of State	Rex Tillerson	Confirmed
Secretary of Treasury	Steve Mnuchin	Confirmed
Secretary of Defense	James Mattis	Confirmed
Department of Justice-Attorney General	Jeff Sessions	Confirmed

Cabinet Position	Name	Status
Secretary of the Interior	Ryan Zinke	Confirmed
Secretary of Agriculture	Sonny Perdue	Nominated
Secretary of Commerce	Wilbur Ross	Confirmed
Secretary of Labor	Alex Acosta	Nominated
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Tom Price	Confirmed
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Ben Carson	Confirmed
Secretary of Transportation	Elaine Chao	Confirmed
Secretary of Energy	Rick Perry	Confirmed
Secretary of Education	Betsy DeVos	Confirmed
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	David Shulkin	Confirmed
Secretary of Homeland Security	John F. Kelly	Confirmed

High-level Offices	Name	Status
Director of Office of Management and Budget	Mick Mulvaney	Confirmed
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency	Mike Pompeo	Confirmed
Ambassador to the United Nations	Nikki Haley	Confirmed
Admin. of the Small Business Administration	Linda McMahon	Confirmed
Admin. of the Environmental Protection Agency	Scott Pruitt	Confirmed
Admin Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Serv	Seema Verma	Confirmed
Deputy Commerce Secretary	Todd Ricketts	Nominated
Secretary of the Army		
Trade Representative	Robert Lighthizer	Nominated
National Aeronautics and Space Administrator		
Director of National Intelligence	Daniel Coates	Nominated

Assistants to the President	Name	Status
White House Chief of Staff	Reince Priebus	Appointed
Senior Advisor	Jared Kushner	Appointed
Counsel to the President	Don McGahn	Appointed
Special Advisor on Regulatory Reform	Carl Icahn	Appointed
Economic Policy and National Economic Council	Gary Cohn	Appointed
Counselor to the President	Kellyanne Conway	Appointed
Deputy National Security Advisor	KT McFarland	Appointed
National Security Advisor	Michael Flynn	Appointed
National Trade Council	Peter Navarro	Appointed
Special Rep. International Negotiations	Jason Greenblatt	Appointed
Senior Counselor and Chief Strategist	Stephen Bannon	Appointed
Press Secretary	Sean Spicer	Appointed
Director of Strategic Communications	Hope Hicks	Appointed
Director of Social Media	Dan Scavino	Appointed
Homeland Security & Deputy Nat'l Security Advisor	Thomas Bossert	Appointed
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers		
Director of the Office of Science		

Selected Ambassadors	Name	Status
US Ambassador to China	Terry Branstad	Nominated
US Ambassador to Israel	David Friedman	Nominated
US Ambassador to Mexico		
US Ambassador to Canada		
US Ambassador to Cuba		
US Ambassador to the EU		

Selected Ambassadors	Name	Status
US Ambassador to the UK	Woody Johnson	Nominated
US Ambassador to Japan	Bill Hagerty	Nominated
US Ambassador to Russia		

Upcoming Actions:

IGC MCC and ISF Meetings – March 5-8

On March 5-8 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin and International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) secretariat Katy Lee will travel to Zurich, Switzerland and London, England. In Zurich, Gary and Katy will attend the International Seed Federation’s (ISF) plant breeders meeting. Following that, they will travel to London to participate in a meeting of the International Grains Council’s (IGC) [Market Conditions Committee \(MCC\)](#) and meet with industry and government stakeholders.

A Notice to Post for this upcoming travel is available [here](#).

Pending Decree 177 Meeting with AQSIQ – March 9-10

On March 9-10 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin is planning a pending meeting to Beijing, China to meet with officials at AQSIQ to discuss U.S. compliance with Decree 177. Over the past few months NAEGA has been working closely with USDA FAS and industry stakeholders to ensure U.S. industry compliance with Decree 177 facility registration requirements. In Beijing Gary will discuss U.S. efforts at compliance and educate AQSIQ officials on the U.S. grain export system.

High Level Dialogue on Asia-Pacific – March 12-17

On March 12-17 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin will attend the High-level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region in Vina del Mar, Chile. With the U.S withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), NAEGA is currently monitoring and analyzing developments for promoting trade in the Asia-Pacific region. The High-Level Dialogue will include representatives from Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and China in a conversation to discuss the future of Asia-Pacific trade.

A notice to post for this upcoming travel is available [here](#).

Buenos Aires – IGTC Working Visit – March 12-26

Consistent with advancing NAEGA UES objectives, International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Secretariat Katy Lee will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina on March 12-26 to conduct her second working visit of 2017. As part of implementing the IGTC 2017 Business Plan, Ms. Lee will work closely with IGTC member CIARA-CEC in meetings with industry and government stakeholders to promote IGTC policy files and initiatives.

A notice to post for this upcoming travel is available [here](#).

DBTG Operational Seminar – March 27-31

Ryan Olson and Jerry Cotter will travel to Gijón, Spain March 26-31 to attend the Dry Bulk Terminals Group (DBTG) Operational and Technical Seminar. This Spring seminar is the first of DBTG's two main meetings this year to facilitate discussion on issues such as operational safety and efficiency, technical analysis and innovation, environmental matters, operational training, maritime security, and other industry issues. More information about the Seminar, including the provisional meeting program and registration forms, can be found on the [DBTG website here](#). A notice to post for this travel will be available soon.

Pending Actions:

NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:

Jones Act Proposed Revocations and Modifications Comments

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking comment on proposed modification and revocation of headquarters' ruling letters (HQ) relating to the application of the coastwise laws to certain merchandise and vessel equipment that are transported between coastwise points. CBP is planning to update HQ 101925 to bring it more closely in line with new U.S. law passed following the letter. A copy of the request for comments can be found here and in the February 8, 2017 edition of the Customs Bulletin. Comments are due on April 18, 2017. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you would like to provide input.

NAFTA and China Policy Teams

NAEGA staff are recruiting member personnel to participate in policy teams focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement and China. The Board of Directors requested the creation of these policy teams during the January 31 Board meeting in Miami, Florida. Policy teams will monitor unfolding trade policy changes related to the U.S. government transition, including:

- **NAFTA Policy Team:** Work with NAEGA staff to monitor a potential renegotiation of NAFTA. Develop policy requests for a revised NAFTA agreement and communicate with U.S., Canadian and Mexican government officials the value of an efficient open North American marketplace.
- **Asia-Pacific Policy Team:** Work with NAEGA staff to monitor U.S. government trade relations with China. Topics include advising and communicating NAEGA positions on Decree 177, production technologies and U.S. trade policy developments.

Please contact [Ryan](#) if you have any questions or are interested in participating in these policy teams.

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In the News

Trade Facilitation Agreement Ratified

After ratification by Chad, Jordan, Oman, and Rwanda in late February, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has officially ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) following confirmation by over two-thirds of WTO members. The agreement includes measures to quicken the movement of goods during all stages of trade and calls for improved collaboration between customs and international authorities. It is estimated that the TFA will shorten average import time by almost half, and export time will see an even more significant improvement.

More information on the agreement is available [here](#) and [here](#).

If you would like more information, or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

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Calendar & Member Notices

Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2017

March

- 7** – International Grain Council’s (IGC) Market Conditions Committee (MCC) meeting – London – Gary attending
- 7** – Australian Grains Industry Conference Asia – Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 9** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual
- 9** – Australian Grains Industry Conference Asa – Shanghai, China
- 12-17** - High-level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region – Vina del Mar, Chile – Gary attending
- 12-26** – IGTC Working Visit – Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 14** – IGTC Management Council – Virtual
- TBD** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual
- 15-31** – IGTC Working Visit with CIARA-CEC
- 19-21** – NGFA Convention – New Orleans, LA
- 19** – NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting – 12:00-3:00pm – Grand Cocteau, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

19 – NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting – 3:15-5:30pm - Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

20 – NAEGA Annual Member and Board Meetings – 12:00-5:00pm – Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

21 – NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee Meeting - 7:30-8:45am – Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

21 – NOLA Regional Industry Workshop – 12:00-4:00pm – Rhythms 1 Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

22 – NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar 8:00am-3:00pm – Maurepas Room – New Orleans, LA

29-31 – DBTG Operational Meeting – Santander, Spain – Jerry and Ryan Attending

30 - U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade – Location and time TBD

April

5-11 – IPPC CPM-12 – Incheon, South Korea

6-7 – PENDING – Decree 177 Mission to China – Beijing, China

10-12 – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Calgary, Canada

10-14 – IGTC Working Visit with Eastern Africa Grains Council – Nairobi, Kenya and other EAGC member countries

17-23 – Eastern African Grains Council (EAGC) Annual General Meeting – Nairobi, Kenya

18 – CBP Jones Act Comments Due

24-25 – Global Low Level Presence (GLI) Meeting – Location TBD

May

1-2 – NGFA 2017 Trade Rules Seminar – Kansas City, Missouri

8-12 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

22-24 – ISF World Seed Congress 2017 – Budapest, Hungary

24 – Spring ASP Workshop – American Chemistry Council – Washington, D.C.

24-26 – NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum – Hotel Secrets The Vine – Cancun, Mexico

June

TBD – IMO Council – London, UK

TBD – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

5– 8 – 46th International Grains Council Session, IGC International Grains Conference and IGTC meetings– London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

26-27 – NAPPO International Symposium for Risk Based Sampling – Baltimore, MD

27 – IPPC Industry Advisory Group on ePhyto Hub – Washington, DC

July

10-12 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

19-21 – PNWER Annual Summit – Calgary, Alberta, Canada

24-28 – IMO Council Session – London, UK

August

1-3 – Australian Grains Industry Conference Australia and associated meetings – Melbourne, Australia

7-11 – IGTC Working Visit with GTA – Sydney, Australia

17 – APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology - Vietnam

September

11-15- IMO CCCC – London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

October

TBD – IGTC General Assembly – Location TBD

November

13-17 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

TBD – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

December

3 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference

6-8 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

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