

## **30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CFA CONFERENCE REPORT**

CFA held it's 30<sup>th</sup> at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kansas City, MO., July 9-11, 2009. President Bart Vance and Sally hosted 3 days of events and meetings starting with the opening reception with over 100 attending and culminating with our closing banquet with over 80 people attending. For those of you who missed it, you missed one of the best ever. For those of you who made it, I am sure you can attest to that fact. We had 59 member firms registered and 37 member firms sponsored conference events. 9 Past Presidents and 9 Elmer E. Short winners attended. CFA had speakers from Dairy Farmers of America, National Cotton Council and John Lewis, CFA counsel. We also discussed and reviewed and revised some CFA guidelines. President Vance initiated discussion and approval of the establishment of a CFA Scholarship Fund. After membership approval, we had over \$3600 given or pledged to the fund before leaving KC. A GREAT IDEA from a GREAT President!!

Vice President Curt Gasper hosted the annual CFA Golf Tournament at beautiful Hillcrest Country Club with 12 teams and great fun. Results will be posted soon. Sally Vance hosted our non-golfer outing with a tour of historic KC with emphasis on the early mobster days, followed with lunch at historic Webster House. Both of our extra curricular activities were extremely well received and talked about over the entire conference. Another hot conversation topic was, "Where are we going to eat bar-b-que next?" and the attendees were all fat and happy!

The highlight of the event came on Saturday night, when Wayne Larson with Zeeland Farm Services, Inc., Winnebago, IL was presented with CFA's highest honor, the Elmer E. Short Award. This is given to a member in recognition of outstanding and valuable contributions to the Association. Mr. Larson has previously served CFA as a Board member and as a Past President. Congratulations, Wayne.

New officers and directors were introduced at the closing banquet. New President Curt Gasper, Commodity Specialists Co., Shawnee Mission, KS is thinking of going west for next year's 31<sup>st</sup>. Members can see some pictures from KC, get a full report of the conference and view some of the programs in the member's only section on the web site soon. Please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions to make our site better. Keep checking for details and developments and news from CFA!!

Start thinking about making plans NOW to attend our 31<sup>st</sup> next July at another GREAT LOCATION!