



Mid-America Organic Association
417 Main Street Suite B
Boonville, MO 65233
660-672-8515
info@midamericaorganic.org
www.midamericaorganic.org

Our Vision: A healthy organic environment for all life
Our Mission: To inspire, support and empower through ecological organic principles

MOA 2016 MEMBERSHIP/DONATION DRIVE

Dear MOA Members,

It's time to renew your annual MOA membership for 2016! During this membership drive, we wanted to tell you how your membership fees are used by MOA; and, at the same time, alert you to some new membership benefits. The first exciting change reflects our growth and our new name: Mid-America Organic Association. MOA now serves not only Missouri, but also our neighboring states of Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Tennessee, Kansas, and Nebraska; we welcome anyone who shares our vision of a healthy organic environment for all life.

What has MOA done in 2016? We have definitely been on the move! In the years since MOA was founded in 1993 and then reorganized in 2007, we were never financially able to rent an office or pay any of our volunteer staff. As of August 2016 that changed...MOA has an office! We are located at:

417 Main Street, Suite B
Boonville, MO 65233
Phone: 660-672-8515

MOA also has a new administrative assistant...please help us welcome Meghan Dixon. Meghan served as MOA Secretary for many years as a volunteer: and now, MOA is pleased to announce that she works full time in a paid position for the organization. Meghan is available during our normal business hours of 8:30 AM- 5:30 PM Monday through Friday. We have already discovered the benefits of having a staffed office; several farmers have already stopped by to talk about transitioning to organic farming. MOA has also allocated a salary for Executive Director Sue Baird. Sue has run the organization for eight years as a volunteer. Working full time for MOA since July, Sue is excited that she will be receiving a paycheck soon for her tireless efforts on MOA's behalf.

Our new office also boasts a wonderful training center that seats 185 people! We are developing a monthly schedule of training sessions. If you have topics that you would like to see included; or, if you would like to co-host a training session at our new office facility, please contact us.

Also this year, MOA was written into a grant by MARDI to fund a new VISPS Verification Program. Accordingly, we have created the VISPS Program which will verify 1). "Non-GMO" farmers, 2). "Close-To" famers (who not only use Non-GMO farming practices, but also use no pesticide or herbicide chemicals, no urea on fields, but are allowed to use some fertility practices that are not allowed under the NOP regulations, and 3). "Transitional-to-Organic" Farmers, during which the farmers must adhere to the full NOP Regulations for 36 months prior to harvest of the organic crops. During the full 3-step program, we are making the connections between our farmers and markets for their crops. Funding from that grant was used to start these new offerings for our members.



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MOA has strived to keep the cost very low to encourage all of our members to sign up for VISPS verification. We view this verification program as a training tool to help farmers through the transitional years leading to the gold standard of becoming certified organic. Executive Director Sue Baird has written the standards and we have already signed up several farmers at the differing levels, MOA is excited to be able to offer this new program. For more details, contact the MOA office.

MOA is writing a book! We have begun work on a new publication that will highlight all of our member farmers. The book will list each member's farm and farming products. Contact information for input and equipment suppliers, restaurants, chefs, retail stores and other buyers of member products will also be listed. This resource publication will be available in hard-copy or downloadable pdf. In addition, MOA will be highlighting stories of member farmers in the book, and updating them quarterly on-line. This will be a valuable resource manual for member farmers and buyers trying to locate new foods. Stay tuned for a release date! And, if you want your farm to be included, join MOA now.

With our new name, MOA has also started work on revising our MOA website with the addition of some new features. A blog containing current news with comment sections will become part of the website allowing MOA to gauge member opinions on the "hot issues" of the day. A *Members Only* area will feature an "ask the experts" chat where your questions on subjects ranging from soil fertility to organic certification will be answered. MOA has experts that are committed to giving you the information you need on a timely basis. You will also be able to chat with other members. The monthly training sessions schedule will be posted as well. Our members will be able to stay connected to the organic culture and each other at www.midamericaorganic.org! The new website with all these features will take time and money but it is on MOA's priority list. Let joining or renewing your membership be your priority.

We have saved the best news for last....our annual MOA Conference. Every year it gets bigger and better, and 2017 is no exception. The conference will be held on January 26-28, 2017 at the Sheraton Kansas City at Crown Center! Details of the conference can be found on our exclusive conference website, www.moaconference.org. You will not want to miss this great networking event with over 54 training workshops, the MOA Organic Expo featuring over 100 vendors, the MOA Top Chef Competition, and a Meet the Buyers Reception. Past attendees state that this is one of the best organic agricultural events they have ever attended.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! At the 2016 Annual Meeting, members voted to increase the annual membership dues. The MOA Board of Directors has delayed taking action on the membership vote so they can determine how best to implement dues that are fair and equitable to all our members, while bringing in the income necessary for MOA to be a viable sustainable organization that can provide the services members want and need.



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Join or renew your membership now! Membership levels with benefits and associated fees are listed below. **Note: MOA is a 501©(3) organization, if you do not accept any membership benefits, your fee is fully tax deductible. If you do opt to take all or part of the benefits offered for the level of membership selected, the value of those benefits must be deducted. Please contact us to let us know your preference for your membership donation.*

Membership Level	Fee	Benefits
Consumer	\$100	Newsletter Members Only Website Access
Entry Member	\$250	3- Day Conference Registration - \$50 Discount + Consumer Benefits
Silver	\$500	3- Day Conference Registration - \$75 Discount + Consumer Benefits
Gold	\$1000	Choice of :one: 3-Day Conference Registration - \$125 Discount or Single Vendor Display Booth - 25% Discount + Consumer Benefits
Platinum	\$2000	Choice of :one: 3-Day Conference Registration - Free for 2 Individuals Single Vendor Display Booth - 50% Discount + Consumer Benefits
Ruby	\$5000	Choice of :one: 3-Day Conference Registration - Free for 3 Individuals Single "Red Carpet" Vendor Display Booth -Free + Consumer Benefits
Diamond	\$10,000	Choice of :one: 3-Day Conference Registration - Free for 4 Individuals Double "Red Carpet" Vendor Display Booth - Free + Consumer Benefits

MOA has wisely invested the beginning grant monies to start the programs discussed in this letter, but we NEED your support! Your membership fees and donations will ensure MOA's ability to move forward in providing our members with the services they need and deserve.



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It's easy to become a member. Just go to www.moaconference.org or return the MOA Membership Drive registration form with a check to:

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Please join us as we continue our mission of providing education and resources to our farmers, buyers and consumers of ecological organic and sustainably produced foods.

As always, MOA wants to hear from our members on any new programs that will benefit them. We consider you our partners in our mission to change our food systems, resulting in healthier environments and healthier lives for everyone.

Sincerely,

Sue Baird
MOA Executive Director

Jim Thomas
MOA Chairman, Board of Directors

Curtis Hostetler
MOA President



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MOA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I want to become a member/donor at the following level:

Consumer Member Level

Platinum Member Level

Entry Member Level

Ruby Member Level

Silver Member Level

Diamond Member Level

Mail completed form with check payable to:

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To register online, go to: www.moaconference.org