**President’s Message**

Well, another harvest season is finished. Putting that last bin in the cold storage is always a great feeling. Now, on to weed spraying, mice baiting, broadleaf spraying, and so much more. The work never seems to end. It just changes. That is what I love about farming. The seasons come, and the seasons go. Some seasons are exciting, and others, like root and rock picking, you just cannot wait to finish. Right now, I am trying to figure out what trees come out and which ones stay in. I love planning new orchards. Along with all the planning comes the task of evaluating what equipment may need to be purchased or simply repaired. I am also trying to decide what new and exciting things we can do for our many customers.

While this can be a slower time of year, many things are happening in our industry. There are many meetings taking place to prepare for the winter activities that many of you participate in. Lots of planning is getting finalized for the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention. It looks like it will be a great show this year. A lot of work is also being put into the 2025 PA Farm Show. We are planning on completely revamping the Food Court booth with a new layout to be more eye-appealing and efficient. We have a new and exciting design for our Apple wall as well.

I am asking anyone with a little free time to please come out and have some fun with fellow growers and raise A LOT of money for our industry. Please sign up to volunteer on the SignUpGenius. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you there.

On a great note, Penn State just sent out a job posting today for Jim Schupp’s position. This is very exciting news because I just heard a few days ago that it could be March or later April before the position would open up. Yay!!!

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Until next time,

Corey McCleaf
SHAP President