***President’s Message***

Greetings everyone. I hope you are doing well this spring. Everyone’s trees are all planted and pruned, and you have kept up with all the sprays, and the crop looks amazing. Well, I know that not all of this is true, but a great thought, right?

As most of you know by now, Maureen Irvin is retiring and we are looking for our next secretary. That person will shadow Maureen for a year for a very smooth transition.

Now for an apple update. Some of you may know more than I, but I will share what I have heard. It is no surprise we have a surplus of apples. Movement has slowed some with all the moving parts of our world currently and I’m hopeful for positive results. I had the privilege of meeting with our US Ag Secretary, Brooke Rollins, and some Congressmen and Senators to discuss some of the issues that we are facing. One of the first topics discussed was labor. The administration recognizes that there is a problem and they are working on it. Crop insurance was a topic, and the administration would like to help us out more than we are currently being helped. The importance of land grants was discussed in that we would be able to have research dollars to keep us all moving in the right direction. Everyone’s concern is trade and how we are going to move our crops. Negotiations are underway to eventually move more agriculture products out of our country than before. I did stress that the administration should not forget about specialty crops, as a lot of times the focus is on grains. I’m very hopeful that this all works out in our favor. As I have mentioned before about the processing industry in PA needing to go through a reset, our country and the world may need to do the same.

Hope you all have a wonderful month, and the weather cooperates for spray thinning. See you next month.

Corey McCleaf
SHAP President