

GREAT LAKES WINTER ISSUE 2013



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Wow, it felt like I stepped into a deep freezer this morning! We had wind chills down to -15 this morning. It's not even the first day of winter and I am wishing for some summer weather! Coincidentally, the first day of summer will be right around the time of the 2014 Great Lakes Chapter meeting. Through the efforts of our Time and Place Chair, Molly Hollister, we have secured the location and date for next year's Chapter meeting. The Chapter meeting will be held June 19-20, 2014 in Mackinaw Island, Michigan at the Mission Point Resort. It should prove to be a wonderful lo-

cation with numerous opportunities for things to do and sites to see. Our thanks go out to Molly for her efforts in working through the details with the resort.

The Time and Place and Program Committee's, and the Board, will be working diligently to put together an informative program and fun filled events for the meeting. The Board will meet in March to iron out details of the program. If you have any ideas of topics or items of interest for the program please feel free to contact either a Board or Committee member and share your thoughts. I look forward to meeting old friends and new

members at the meeting. I also am looking forward to some warmer weather!

As 2013 comes to a close, I wish you and your families a joyous Holiday Season!

Nate

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 7, 2014

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

JUNE 19-20 2014

CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

MACKINAW ISLAND, MI

AUGUST 3-6, 2014

NATIONAL MEETING,

SAN DIEGO, CA

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of November 30, 2013 the membership of our chapter was 124. Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the Great Lakes Chapter, since our last newsletter:

- Jeff Ware, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Austin Burby, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
- Pamela Snyder, Isthmus Engineering & Manufacturing Cooperative, Inc.

Each current member should strive to obtain at least one new member this next year. As you will see if you ever attend a chapter meeting or a national meeting, your peers in the cooperative world are ready to lend a helping hand. Attending the chapter and annual meetings are also

great (affordable) ways to obtain your required CPE credits. In addition, NSAC also provides webinars on a variety of topics throughout the year. Each member of NSAC receives one FREE webinar per year.

I encourage everyone to identify at least one prospect over the next three months that could benefit from membership in NSAC. Please remember that our members come from a variety of disciplines: attorneys, bankers, CPA's, insurance agents, actuaries, general managers & CEO's, human resources, IT providers, and others. Think of how many types of service providers a cooperative uses in a year. I'm sure that each would find benefit in a membership in NSAC. Please forward any

prospects you may have to me. The best way to contact me is via email at Andy.Jones@PremierCoop.com.

Andy T. Jones, Membership Chair

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Holiday Greetings from the warm confines of Wisconsin!

If you have seen the weather lately, you know that Wisconsin has been anything but warm! Seems like winter has arrived a few days early this year.

From a National perspective the next Board meeting will be held February 14 in conjunction with the NCFE annual meeting.

Seems like a really "romantic" day to be spending in a Board meeting, but it will be a good time to catch up on activities within NSAC.

I spoke with Tom Husek, who along with Gary Strain, took part in the ICA conference in South Africa. Tom shared that it was a great experience and they made connections with many cooperative folks from around the world. The 2014 conference will be held in Quebec, so please keep that in mind as I believe it would be a great opportunity for more folks from the NSAC to experience a truly international meeting of cooperatives.

There are also many educational

opportunities through the use of the CLN's. Bill has really "jump started" the CLN activity and there are programs scheduled that cover a wide variety of topics. These are really great for folks who are involved with cooperatives, whether they have been around a very short time...or a very long time! Who do you know that might benefit from one of the sessions, or better yet from becoming an NSAC member? A CLN invite is a great way to show others what NSAC is all about and is a very cost effective CPE alternative. In the next newsletter I will share more about the National Board meeting and the topics and matters we discuss. In the meantime, best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jeff

Editor's Note:

When I requested articles, I asked that they be short and sweet—by golly, all of them took me up on the

short part, as to the sweetness, I will let you readers decide on that!

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Christmas time already? How time flies when you are having fun. A couple of things come to mind this time of year—presents and taxes! I know some of you don't get involved in the income tax field, while some of us just think we do. After attending tax classes, it seems like tax time is just around the corner. After sending out a letter to the clients reminding them of the current year changes, tax season will soon be here!

As for the presents—this is the time of the year when the little ones come home to gather around the tree and can't wait until they can open those "big presents" as well as the small packages. Gosh, it seems like only yesterday my boys were all excited about which package to open first—now it is the grand kids! Of course before opening those little surprises, some of us have to do our shopping. I guess that is the worst part of Christmas, trying to decide what to get

Mrs. Claus each year. Sometimes she makes it easy, leaving little hints or pictures around the house. Most years though, it is just left up to me. As I tell most folks, maybe just a candy bar will do! I wonder what her expression would be if I wrap up a Snickers Bar in a big box? I can guarantee you this would be my last newsletter.

As you read the other articles, note that our June chapter meeting is going to be at Mackinaw Island. We were last there almost 15 years ago at Mission Point when they had the hottest days ever—at that time no air conditioning so the meetings were attended with fans to cool everyone off. Now, I understand they do have air and no better place to hold the meeting than on the island. It is going to be later than usual—June 19th and 20th so put those dates on your calendar. Judy and I try to get up there every year that the meeting is held in Michigan and we always enjoy the three

Molly for making the selection of this wonderful resort. The board will decide on the program at the March meeting in Itasca so if you have any ideas for a session or hot topics that you want covered, make sure you let one of the directors know—all their email addresses or phone numbers are included in this newsletter!

Any suggestions on how to improve the chapter meeting would also be appreciated. Heck, even the newsletter so any suggestions on that, let the board know or the editor! As always, a shout out to all our members, have a great Christmas and an even better new year!

Remember to get those email addresses updated to me so you don't miss out on the newsletter!!

BOARD MINUTES

National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives Great Lakes Chapter Teleconference Meeting October 17, 2013 10:00am CST

The meeting was called to order. Those present: Jeff Thompson, Teri LaFleur, Ralph Miller, Eric Krienert, Randy Mahoney, Andy Jones, Jason Les, David Loyd, Nate Wenzel, Ty Lein and Andy Gusa.

Minutes

The minutes of the March and June 2013 Chapter meetings were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ty Lein reviewed the current chapter fund balance of \$ 19,300.92, as well as expense items related to the June 2013 Chapter meeting. \$ 600.00 was paid in participation incentives for new members to attend the June Chapter meeting in their 1st year as a member. Discussion and review only, no formal motion.

Membership Report

Andy Jones reported the Great Lakes Chapter has 123 members. At our annual meeting Great Lakes had 119 members. We added 4 new members, added 2 transfers and lost 2. The national NSAC had 1519 at the annual meeting and are now at 1567.

National Director Report

Jeff Brandenburg emailed that there is very little information to pass along

until they have their national meetings.

Newsletter

Ralph Miller issues 4 newsletters after the board meetings. (Spring, Summer, Fall Winter) He submits the newsletter and photos to national. He currently sends the newsletter to our members. Please have an updated email address.

Time and Place

Jason Les reported for Molly Hollister who was not present. Downtown Grand Rapids was the primary search. Grand Rapids has Frederick Meijer Gardens and the President Ford's museum. The secondary search was Mackinaw Island-Mission Point. Molly was having a hard time finding hotels for our normal dates of June 12 and 13th. June 19th and 20th are also going to be an option.

Program Chair

Andy Gusa reported that we have commitments for Audit and Tax Updates. We also will have a speaker from banking. Most of the discussions for Program are done at the March board meeting.

Term Expirations

President Nate Wenzel reviewed the Director term expirations for Andy Jones and Jeff Thompson. Both were willing to serve a second term.

Education Report

David Loyd reported that the Madison location was a success with 17 attendees. In the future the Saint

Louis area is being considered. We are also looking into more hands on options during the training.

Other Business

Dates were decided for the upcoming Board of Directors Meeting in Itasca, IL. Those dates are March 6-7, 2014.

We discussed insurance bonding for our officers. We discussed a new signature card for our bank account. We discussed giving a copy of the bank statement to our current president. Ty Lein will re-search these options for feasibility. We will make a decision at our March meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am

TREASURER'S REPORT

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER NSAC TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Period Ended November 30, 2013 and Year Ended December 31, 2012

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
JANUARY 1 FUND BALANCE	\$ 20,194	\$ 19,693
JUNE ANNUAL MEETING		
Registration Fees	8,265	7,430
Expenses	(10,996)	(5,757)
Net Income (Expense) From Annual Meeting	(2,731)	1,673
OTHER REVENUE		
Membership Dues	1,060	1,120
A&A Seminar	1,888	743
Other	-0-	3
Total Other Revenue	2,948	1,866
DOWN PAYMENT ON (NEXT YEAR'S)/PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING	550	(550)
OTHER EXPENSES	(1,390)	(2,488)
PERIOD END FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 19,571</u>	<u>\$ 20,194</u>

As I write this report we are having a bit of a chilly snap weather-wise. It certainly isn't unusual to have cold temperatures in this part of the world, but it is a little early for them and I, for one, am not ready for it yet. But Mother Nature isn't going to bring warmer temperatures just because I would like to see them I suppose, so I better just grin and bear it! Plus I have to keep in mind that it could be a heck of a lot colder!

As for the fund balance, you can see that it continues to run quite strong. This past year we ended up with a sizeable loss from the June Annual Meeting. The Board has long held that subsidizing more Annual Meeting costs is a way to bring value back to the members. In the other revenue, attendance rebounded for the A&A seminar that we hold jointly with the Mississippi Valley Chapter. The Board and Education Director David Loyd tried moving the location of the seminar which had been held in Bloomington, IL for many years. The change in location seemed to help and in the future the location may be rotated from year-to-year to give more people a chance to attend. Included in last year's other expenses is a \$1,000 memorial for our good friend Michael McIntyre who passed away that year. The rest of the other expenses includes expenses for the board meetings and other miscellaneous items.

Respectively submitted,
Tyrone Lein
Treasurer