

GREAT LAKES SPRING ISSUE 2014



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I will likely regret saying this, but it looks as though the deep freeze is finally coming to an end. Hopefully, Mother Nature does not have any final winter surprises in store for us. For those that don't know me well, I grew up on a farm in Northern Illinois. One of my father's most fervent teachings was that grass is a weed and you should do everything in your power to kill it or let it die of natural causes. This ingrained philosophy has caused numerous 'conversations' with my wife through the years about the lack of moisture for our 'city' yard, which normally (read as always) resulted in me dragging the garden hose out. Getting on to my point, this winter was so bad I found myself telling my wife that I was looking forward to working in the yard when it finally warms up! Her resulting smirk of satisfaction was not lost upon me.

Your Board, Time and Place, and Program Committees met for our annual March meeting on the 14th. At this time we start to finalize plans for our quickly approaching June Chapter meeting. As a

reminder, our Chapter meeting will be held June 19-20, 2014 on Mackinac Island, Michigan at the Mission Point Resort. Keep an eye out for registration and resort information as a part of this newsletter and other communications that will be forthcoming. It looks to be an outstanding location to hold our meeting. Our thanks go out to Molly Hollister for her efforts in working through the details with the resort. Putting together a good program is also one of the main objectives of the March meeting; and through the efforts of the Program Committee of Andy Gusa and Teri LaFleur we should have another good Program slate for the Chapter meeting. The Committee is working on securing speakers as you read this newsletter. We thank Andy and Teri for their efforts with the Program this year. The process of preparing for the annual Chapter meeting always highlights for me the level of dedication and participation that the Great Lakes Chapter membership has shown throughout the years. If you would like to get involved, the Time and Place and the Program Commit-

tees are great ways to start. The Great Lakes Chapter has continued to grow during the year by adding 11 new members since last June! I have no doubt that the new members will find the Chapter as inviting and interesting as I have over the years. At the June 2013 meeting your Chapter offered a \$100 gift card incentive for all new members who attend the June Great Lakes Chapter meeting. The Board has decided to continue this offer for the June 2014 Chapter meeting. The offer is available for all new members who have joined since the June 2013 Chapter meeting. The main goal of this offer is entice new members to attend the Chapter meeting, we feel that once you get a chance to see what the Chapter is about we will see you there for many years to come. There is still time to join before this year's event, so if you know of someone that would like to join and can attend the Chapter meeting this would sweeten the pot a little.

IMPORTANT DATE

JUNE 19-20 2014

CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING
MACKINAW ISLAND, MI

AUGUST 3-6, 2014

NATIONAL MEETING,
SAN DIEGO, CA

MARCH 2015

BOARD MEETING

I would like to wish good luck to the Wisconsin and Michigan teams in the NCAA men's basketball tournament this year. Apparently, Illinois has decided to sit this year out! Have a good spring and I look forward to seeing everyone in June!
Nate Wenzel



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of February 28, 2014 the membership of our chapter was 128. Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the Great Lakes Chapter, since our last newsletter:

- R. Lynn Parins – Bon Briesen & Rober, SC
- Heidi Davidson – Hennen & Associates, PLC
- Rex Hite – Shoreline Fruit Growers
- Mechaela Hudak – Chequamegon Food Cooperative
- Becky Gibbs – Boyum & Barenscheer PLLP

I hope to see all of you at the Great Lakes Chapter annual meeting on June 19 & 20 at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. Our annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to network with other cooperative professionals, keep up to date on current issues affecting cooperatives, as well as pick up some CPE credits. In case that is not enticing enough, the board has also agreed to give a \$100 gift card to any members that have joined in the last fiscal year that attend our chapter's annual meeting.

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

As I write this, I noticed that today is March 20, the vernal equinox and, in theory, the first day of spring. After the long winter we have endured...I'll take 35 degrees and sunny as being "spring" weather!!

No need to ask if everyone is busy as we head toward April 15th. Whether you work for a cooperative or public accounting firm January 1 to April 15 is busy no matter what. I hope this finds all of you to be well and keeping up with your family and work lives.

We had our last National Board meeting in New Orleans on February 14, 2014. Our NSAC Board meeting follows the NCFRC conference and let me tell you....there is no better way to spend a Friday (Valentine's Day) afternoon in New Orleans (right before the NBA All-Star game and the first parades of Mardi Gras) than in a 4 hour NSAC Board meeting! That said, we

had a really good meeting and were updated on many aspects of our organization.

Center for Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Cooperatives

We met with Daphne Rixon, who is the executive director of this Canadian group. The long and short of it is that the NSAC continues to look for ways to expand its boundaries. We attend various international events looking to partner with other organizations to promote cooperatives. Daphne's group is relatively small, but she is working to network with the various cooperative organizations in Canada and bring some of their members to our NSAC meeting in San Diego. We discussed a variety of topics with an overall goal of looking at a possible NSAC chapter in Canada. Will this happen overnight? No....but we are looking at ways we can work together with our "neighbors" in the future.

UWCC Cooperative Survey

Lynn Pitman joined us and provided a preliminary look at the survey results. More will be coming on this as we move through the year.

Finance and Audit Committee Report

The NSAC had a good financial year in 2013. We basically broke even before taking into account investment income and that was ahead of both last year's results and budget. Our investments performed well and the amount of total equity will look to exceed \$1 million this year. The audited results are always published, so watch for them to be published in the TCA and discussed at the national meeting.

Education Director Report

Bill Erlenbush has been on the job for about 7 months and I believe you will agree that there have been a lot of great CLN opportunities provided for our membership. Bill has a great line up planned for 2014, so please make sure we all get the word out on the quality cooperative education opportunities that exist here at the NSAC.

Jeff Brandenburg

Great Lakes Directors

President

Nate Wenzel
Growmark, Inc
1701 Towanda Ave
Bloomington, IL 61702
309-557-6023
nwenzel@growmark.com

Vice President

Jeff Thompson
CRI/AgSource
135 Enterprise Dr.
Verona, WI 53593
608-845-1900 Ex 5257
608-845-1999 FAX
jthompson@agsource.com

Secretary

Andy Gusa
Cooperative Elevator Company
7211 East Michigan Avenue
Pigeon, MI 48755
989-453-4500
agusa@coopelev.com

Treasurer

Tyrone Lein
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
318 Susan Drive
Normal, IL 61761
309-862-3870
tlein@ag-auditing.com

Director

Eric Krienert
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
318 Susan Drive
Normal, IL 61761
309-862-3870
ekrienert@ag-auditing.com

Director

Jason Les
Mi Milk Producers Assn.
PO Box 8002
Novi, MI 48376
248-474-6672 ext 239
les@mimilk.com

Director

Randy Mahoney
Wipfli LLP
2901 E. Enterprise Ave.
Appleton, WI 54913
920-832-2409
rmahoney@wipfli.com

Director

Andy Jones
Premier Cooperative
501 W. Main St
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572
608-437-5536
andy.jones@premiercoop.com

Newsletter

Ralph Miller
1218 N. Jefferson St.
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 288-1008
rwmill1004@yahoo.com

Education

Dave Loyd
Growmark, Inc
15 Emerald Ct
Morton, IL 61550
309-826-1027
309-557-6139
dloyd@growmark.com

National Director

Jeff Brandenburg
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
8215 Greenway Blvd
Suite 600
Middleton, WI 53562
608-662-8600
608-662-9142Fax
jeff.brandenburg@cliftonlarsonallen.com

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Tax season is almost a wrap! My how the time flies these days. As I look back over the last eleven years, it is hard to believe that retirement has been so much fun. I think of the grandkids and wonder how they grew up so fast. My oldest one at 21 sure has turned into a fine young lady. The second one at age 18 is looking forward to August and San Diego. She keeps asking when we are leaving and how much money to take—enough to buy Grandpa a drink! The other three ate at the ages you just want to love them to pieces. We are due to head West to Waukee in May to see the dance recitals—yep, right there at the top of Grandpa's list of favorite things to miss!! Last year, we had to sit through both girls performances, one at noon and the other wasn't until six that night—made for a long day. So you wonder why it is not my favorite!

Make sure you plan on attending the June meeting at Mackinac Island. Molly has done a super job of lining up Mission Point Resort as the place to be the 19th and 20th. The wife and I enjoy the island and wherever the meeting is in Michigan, we like to spend a couple days there. If you have not been to Mackinac, plan now to spend an

extra day or two. I am pretty sure the weekend ahead of our meeting is their lilac festival with a big parade on Sunday. Judy is trying to line up luncheon at the Grand Hotel for Thursday or Friday so if you are interested let me know. Yes, there is a charge for just walking through the Grand but if you eat there, they will reduce your invoice by that amount.

The last time we had our meeting at Mission Point was some 15 years or so ago. That was the warmest it had ever been and at that time, they had no air conditioning—since then they had added it so no sweating in the class room this time.

There are many sights to see on the island and spend time walking around the outskirts of the city. If you bicycle, you will want to ride around the island—might take you an hour or two, depending if you stop and enjoy the sights. Make sure you visit all the fudge shops—that will take you two to three hours. Just make sure to bring your wallet or purse!

Please remember to send any announcements or promotions or deaths this direction so we can let all the members know what is happening. We do have a few retired mem-

I would expect to publish four issues a year—beginning with the first just after our annual meeting in June, one after the national meeting in August, one just prior to winter and then one after the national board meets in February. Other important notices will be sent at the board's discretion or the editor feels is necessary!!

See the attached registration information for both the meeting and the resort.

Great Job Molly!!

BOARD MINUTES

NSAC Great Lakes Chapter Schaumburg, IL – Hilton Garden Inn Board Meeting March 7, 2014 8:00am CST

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by president Nate Wenzel. Those present: Ralph Miller, Randy Mahoney, Andy Jones, Jason Les, David Loyd, Nate Wenzel, Ty Lein, Jeff Brandenburg and Andy Gusa. Also on teleconference were Jeff Thompson and Molly Hollister.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 2013 Teleconference meeting 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 \$18,740.92. \$600.00 was paid in participation incentives for new members to attend the June Chapter meeting in their 1st year as a member. The board voted and approved to continue the \$100 incentive for new members. Discussion and review only, no formal motion.

Education Report

David Loyd reported a good turnout of 17 people. Students requested more hands on training which was determined not to be practical for a one day seminar. It was decided to keep this year's seminar similar to last

year. This year it will be held in Saint Louis. David Loyd is looking for someone to take over as the Education Director. It was suggested that maybe the Mississippi Valley Chapter could trade off as the director.

Membership Report

Andy Jones reported the Great Lakes Chapter has 128 members. At our annual meeting Great Lakes had 119 members. We added 11 new members, added 2 transfers and lost 4. We also received a past due membership list. We made plans to contact these members.

National Director Report

Jeff Brandenburg reported that National had a good financial year in 2013. The TACC is going to be in San Diego this year. National will attend the International meeting again this year. They are investigating a Canadian NSAC Chapter. National is looking at Denver in 2015 for the TACC.

Newsletter

Ralph Miller issued 4 newsletters. Email addresses look good.

Time and Place

Jason Les and Molly Hollister reported several options for Mission Point Resort. The Thursday lunch was decided to be "On Your Own." Entertainment options were discussed. Room reservations need to be made by May 19th.

Program Chair

Andy Gusa reported that we have commitments for Audit and Tax Updates. We also could have a speaker from banking. Jim Byrum from Michi-

gan AgriBusiness would also speak on the new Farm bill and an Economic and Political update. After much discussion, the topics were determined. 1) Ask Jim Byrum if he could present to 100 minute session on Thursday. 2) Audit 3) Tax 4) Software conversion 5) Employment Law 6) Intangible Asset Evaluations and 7) Internal Controls.

Term Expirations

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

Other Business

Dates were decided for the upcoming Board of Directors Conference Call. On April 23rd at 9am CST or 10am EST. The board reviewed the Chapter Recognition Program form. We have 4 questions which the Great Lakes chapter do not get any credit. Everyone considered this a successful report.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15am

Lunch to follow for those that would like to eat before departing.

TREASURER'S REPORT

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER NSAC TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 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	1,230	1,120
A&A Seminar	1,888	743
Other	-0-	3
Total Other Revenue	3,118	1,866
DOWN PAYMENT ON (NEXT YEAR'S)/PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING	(450)	(550)
OTHER EXPENSES	(1,390)	(2,488)
PERIOD END FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 18,741</u>	<u>\$ 20,194</u>

Man, spring sure is slow in coming. Everyone seems to agree that they are ready for spring more than they have been in years. I've watched a couple of pre-season baseball games from Arizona & Florida on TV and it just doesn't seem like it will ever get warm enough in Wisconsin to play baseball. I'm saying now that I won't complain about any hot days that might come our way during the summer, but I'm also sure that when those hot days come I'll forget that I said I won't complain about them.

The following discussion of the fund balance is a repeat of what I discussed in the last newsletter, but I don't have anything new to add to the comments, so...from the last newsletter: "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

Agenda – Great Lakes Chapter Meeting June 19-20, 2014

Thursday, June 19

Pre-Session

9:30 am to 11:10 am ***Farm Bill & Economic Update***
James Byrum President, Michigan Agri-Business Association

General Session

12:45 pm to 1:35 pm ***Software conversion***
CRI/Agsource

1:35 pm to 2:25 pm ***Intangible Asset Evaluation***
Wipfli LLP

2:50 pm to 3:40 pm ***Accounting and Auditing Update***
Brian Brown, CliftonLarsonAllen

Friday, June 20

General Session

8:30 am to 9:20 am ***Internal Controls***
Nate Wenzel, Director Internal Auditing, Growmark Inc.

9:20 am to 10:10 am ***Employment Law***
Jason Les

10:30 am to 11:20 am ***Cooperative Tax Update***
Eric Krienert, CliftonLarsonAllen



**2014 – Annual Meeting – NSAC Great Lakes Chapter
June 19-20, 2014**

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Children: Name(s)	_____	Age(s)	_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

<u>Fees:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
\$150 each Attendee (6 CPE credits) Includes annual meeting programs, Thursday dinner and entertainment to be determined, Friday breakfast and all refreshment breaks.	_____	\$ _____
\$ 50 each Farm Bill & Economic Update (2 CPE credits) Additional Program Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Includes Hotel Continental Breakfast	_____	\$ _____
\$ 50 each Spouse/Guest & Children over 12 Includes Thursday dinner, Friday breakfast and entertainment to be determined.	_____	\$ _____
\$ 15 each Children 12 and under Includes Thursday dinner, Friday breakfast and entertainment to be determined.	_____	\$ _____
Total Enclosed		\$ _____

Make checks payable to Great Lakes Chapter of NSAC.
 Mail with completed registration form by **May 15, 2014** to:

Ty Lein, CliftonLarsenAllen
 318 Susan Drive
 Normal, Illinois 61761

Would you be interested in golfing Friday afternoon? ___ Yes ___ No

Make your Reservations at Mission Point Resort (www.missionpoint.com) by **May 19, 2014** to receive a NSAC Discount Rate.

CliftonLarsonAllen Acquires Illinois Agricultural Auditing Association

MINNEAPOLIS (April 1, 2014) – CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), a national certified public accounting and consulting firm, today announced it has acquired Illinois Agricultural Auditing Association (IAAA), a Normal, Illinois based accounting and consulting organization dedicated to the needs of agribusiness entities in the Midwest.

“IAAA has garnered a strong reputation serving cooperatives, agribusinesses and Farm Bureaus,” said CLA Regional Managing Principal Steve DeBruyn, CPA. “CLA is excited about the opportunity to leverage IAAA’s talents for our own clients as well as to expand our presence in Illinois to 13 locations with the addition of IAAA’s Bloomington/Normal and Springfield locations.

Joining CLA are more than 20 IAAA professionals, including principal Brian Brown, CPA. “IAAA was founded in 1924 to provide the highest level of service to grain elevators, farm supply retailers, seed companies, and many other agricultural membership organizations,” said Brown. “CLA’s depth of resources, talent and expertise will only enhance the services we provide. We look forward to growing our capabilities and agribusiness practice with CLA.”

“The combination of the two firms represents a perfect fit for CLA,” DeBruyn said. “IAAA’s emphasis on client service excellence as well as an industry-focused approach matches CLA’s culture and mission perfectly. The blend of skills across both firms allows us to continue to expand our capabilities and deliver maximum impact for our clients. With the addition of IAAA, CLA’s agribusiness and cooperatives group will have over 125 employees serving over 5,000 farmers, producers, processors and cooperatives across the country.”

About CliftonLarsonAllen

CLA’s 3,600 people are dedicated to helping businesses, governments, nonprofits, and the individuals who own and lead them. From offices coast to coast, our professionals practice in specific industries to deliver audit, tax, consulting and outsourcing capabilities best aligned with our clients’ needs. Integrated wealth advisory services address their personal financial goals, and our international resources help organizations successfully enter and compete in all markets, foreign and domestic. For more information, visit CLAconnect.com. *Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC.*

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
NSAC Great Lakes Chapter Conference**

June 19 & 20, 2014

Mackinac Island, Michigan



Make your reservations at Mission Point Resort by May 19th, 2014 to receive your NSAC discount

Tel: (800)833-7711

Website: <http://www.missionpoint.com/>

ROOM DESCRIPTIONS & RATES

Garden Queen Rooms – One queen bed in the main lodge \$109.00 single or double occupancy

Garden Double Rooms – Two double beds in the straits lodge \$109.00 single or double occupancy

Straits View Double Rooms – Two double beds in the straits lodge with garden & straits views \$119.00 single or double occupancy

Straits View King Rooms – One king bed in the straits lodge with garden & straits views \$119.00 single or double occupancy

Junior Suites – Two room unit with one king bed & sitting area with sofa in the straits & main lodge \$119.00 single or double occ.

Family Suites – Two bedroom unit with one king bed & two twin beds in the straits & main lodge \$149.00 single or double occupancy

Hot Tub Suites – Two room unit in the straits lodge with deck & outdoor hot tub \$179.00 single or double occupancy

Room rates do not include 6% sales tax, 2% local assessment, 10% resort levy.

A charge of \$6.00 per person will apply for luggage transfer from the mainland ferry dock to the resort and back to the mainland.

FERRY SERVICE TO THE ISLAND

As a carrier for Mission Point Resort, **Arnold's Transit Company** ferry service will offer the guests of **National Society of Accounts for Cooperatives** a discounted price per round trip ticket for adults & children. Complimentary parking or valet parking are available. Please visit the Arnold Line website for ferry schedule & plan your travel itinerary accordingly. http://www.arnoldline.com/mackinaw_city_schedule.htm.

HORSE DRAWN SHUTTLE SERVICE

With every ferry that pulls in the harbor, there is a shuttle available to take guests to Mission Point Resort, cash only.

EXPLANATION OF TRANSPORTING PERSONAL & BUSINESS ITEMS

- Upon arrival to the ferry dock, all vehicles & guests will be greeted by a dock porter
- The dock porter will ask each individual "where will you be staying?"
- Dock Porters will unload all luggage & business items and tag them with a Mission Point Resort tag
- All luggage & business items will be loaded onto a cart. The guest will receive luggage claim tickets for all items
- Upon arrival to the island, the cart with luggage & business items will be taken to the resort by horse drawn carriage
- Guests will have the option to walk to the resort or take a horse drawn shuttle service. The distance is approximately ½ mile
- Upon arrival to the resort, the front desk agent will ask for your luggage claim tickets
- All luggage & business items will be delivered by our bellman to your hotel room
- Upon departure, bellman will come to the sleeping room, tag items to say "Arnold Line, Mackinaw City"
- Items will be held in a secure holding area on the mainland until they are claimed with the ticket
- Essentially, you will be handling your items much less than if they were on the mainland!

RESERVATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Reservations can only be made by calling group reservations at (800) 833-7711.
- Guest room types are subject to availability. If room is not available at rate requested, reservations will be made at nearest available rate. All reservations must be made by **Monday, May 19, 2014**. Reservations requests received after the cut-off date will be based on availability.
- An advanced deposit of one night's room and tax is required to confirm your reservation. Mission Point Resort accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover. Credit card will be charged for the deposit at the time of booking.
- If paying by check, reservation will be held for 10 days pending receipt of the check.
- Reservations must be canceled in writing at least 14 days prior to arrival to receive full refund minus a \$10.00 handling fee.