



AUTUMN 2015

Message from the President



Winter is on its way. I enjoyed the mild weather this fall in Michigan. We had a great year for crops. I wish the Grain commodity prices would rise for the farmers. One thing about farmers-if they have it, they will spend it. On the flip side, I have enjoyed paying \$ 1.85/gallon for gasoline. It was the cheapest tank of gas in a long time.

My kids also enjoyed the fall. All 4 of my kids ran cross country. The weather for most of the meets was great. One daughter played volleyball and all 3 daughters are currently playing basketball. As if I don't get enough sitting at work, I spend a lot of my free time sitting in the bleachers.

The Great Lakes chapter is in good shape. Our balance sheet is in good shape. Our membership is slightly growing. Our members are very active. I'm glad to be part of the Great Lakes chapter.

Julie Luedtke, our Time and Place chair, announced that our Annual Meeting on June 16th and 17th will be held at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Jeremy Gritton and Randy

Mahoney, our Program chairs, have many quality speakers line up. I'm looking forward to seeing many members in June.

Upcoming Events

**NSAC Great Lakes and Mississippi Valley Chapter Joint Meeting
January 13-15, 2016**

Please join the Great Lakes and Mississippi Valley Chapters for our combined mid-year educational session covering Basic Cooperative Accounting and Advanced Cooperative Accounting.

This event will take place at the GROWMARK, Inc. offices located at 1701 Towanda Avenue in Bloomington, IL.

Don't miss out on a chance to earn 16 CPE credits. If you attend both days you can save \$100.

Cooperative Learning Network

There are quite a few CLN learning opportunities coming up over the next few weeks and months:

- Jan 14 - Equity Management: *Creating a Policy that is Right for Your System*
- Jan 28 - *Dealing with Difficult People*
- Feb 4 - *ACA Form 1094-C*
- Feb 10 - *Private Company Council - Why It's Important to Coops*
- March 10 - *Accounting Update*
- March 23 - *Social Media*
- April 6 - *Merger & Acquisition Issues for Coops*
- April 14 - *Economic Update*
- May 10 - *Coop Law for HR*

You can find out more about these events and register by visiting the NSAC's the following link:
<http://www.nsac.coop/events.php>

National Director's Update



Greetings from a really warm Madison, WI!!!

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving!

Our next national director's meeting will be held in conjunction with the NCFC's annual meeting February 10-12. The NCFC meeting has a wide variety of topics and sessions and we have the NSAC national board meeting at the conclusion of their sessions. If you are attending we look forward to seeing you there!

Plans are well under way for the 2016 year and the TFACC which will be held July 31 to August 3 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington D.C. The hotel is right downtown within walking distance of some of the great things to see in D.C. If you have not been to the Nation's capital before....now would be a great time to combine the annual NSAC meeting with some R&R. The meeting will be held with the folks at NRECA again this year and the feedback from 2015 was very positive. There will be some changes in 2016 to incorporate suggestions made and things learned from the 2015 event, but overall the programs and content will be bigger and better than ever.

So what can we do to make NSAC better? All of us can look to our friends, co-workers, clients, contacts and connections and bring at least one new member into NSAC in 2016. We have continued to grow our numbers over the years and there is no reason we cannot continue to do that in 2016. The other thing is to get involved. Attend the chapter annual meeting (in Wisconsin this year) or reach out to the directors with ideas/thoughts/comments/suggestions to help the Great Lakes Chapter continue to be the "greatest" chapter within the NSAC. Also think about getting involved at the national level. There are a wide array of committees looking for members and all it takes is to raise your hand and volunteer! I know you will find

the rewards of serving at the local or national level are great and allows you a chance to "give back" to the organization in your own unique way.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your national director! It is much appreciated and I thank all of you who forward thoughts/ideas/suggestions throughout the year. Have a great Christmas and New Year's (hard to even believe they are that close!) and be sure to take the time to enjoy the Holidays with your family and friends.

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER - NSAC TREASURER'S REPORT For the Period Ended September 30, 2015 & Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2015	2014
JANUARY 1 FUND BALANCE	\$18,053	\$18,746
JUNE ANNUAL MEETING		
Registration Fees	9,500	7,605
Expenses	(11,469)	(8,724)
Net Income (Loss) From Annual Meeting	(1,969)	(1,119)
A&A SEMINAR REVENUE	0	0
MEMBERSHIP DUES & OTHER REVENUE	700	1,281
OTHER EXPENSES	(2,058)	(1,855)
DOWN ON (NEXT YEAR'S)/PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING		1,000
PERIOD END FUND BALANCE	\$14,726	\$18,053
The fund balance at Dec. 31 is held as follows:		

Checking	\$8,952	\$12,279
Certificates of Deposit	5,774	5,774
Total	\$18,053	\$18,746

From the Treasurer...

It has certainly been unseasonably warm so far this fall and winter, which is fine unless you are a snow enthusiast or are in the home heating business. In some parts of Illinois that I've been to there are people that have had to mow their grass in December! All I know is that I'm going to enjoy it while it's here because winter can always come roaring in with a vengeance.

As for the fund balance, you will notice that the balance has dropped from the end of last year. Part of that is timing because we will be receiving another \$500 - \$600 in membership dues by year-end. But part of it is that there hasn't been an A&A seminar the last couple of years. We will be putting on an A&A seminar in January, 2016, and we will likely try another one next June/July. Another part of the drop is that we've been using money from the A&A seminar to "fund" losses on our annual meetings. Depending on how successful the A&A seminars are in 2016, we may have to pare back a bit on some of the annual meeting costs. We will also have to consider the costs of our board meetings which is the biggest part of the Other Expenses.



Having said this, the fund balance continues to be strong, we just need to tweak things a bit to keep the fund balance at a healthy level. The board will continue to look at these issues and will act in the best interests of our membership.

Happy Holidays everyone!

Respectfully submitted,
Tyrone Lein
Treasurer

Chapter Membership Report

As of October 31, 2015 the membership of our chapter was 124 - up 2 members since last year at this time. Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the Great Lakes Chapter:

- Josep Barenys - Michigan Milk Producers Association
- Rodney Powell - Pearl City Elevator Inc.
- Pete Toonen - Foremost Farms, USA
- Lynn Pitman - University of Wisconsin Center

- for Cooperatives
- Cassie Kurek - CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
- Karen Voss - Ursa Farmers Cooperative Co.
- Scott Crowder - Central Ohio Farmers Coop, 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. You should have received an email from the national office with a promo code to utilize your free CLN.

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.

Andy T. Jones, Membership Chair

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