



Fall 2018

Message from the President

Greetings from Wisconsin!



For those of you who know me, you know summer is my favorite season, but alas Fall is finally here. For those of you who don't know me, I hope we can get to know each other this next year as I serve as your President.

I have been a member of NSAC since 2009. When I started my career in public accounting 19 years ago I worked on one cooperative and knew very little about the industry. Since joining NSAC I have learned a tremendous amount about cooperatives through many individuals smarter than I and willing to share their knowledge and experience. I also began to work with more cooperatives and gain more knowledge through practice. I also became more involved with NSAC by joining the tax committee and have served as the Chair for the past three years. Over the past 15 years, cooperatives and their patrons have become a passion of mine and I am thankful I get to spend 100% of my career working with cooperatives and their patrons. I am grateful for the individuals who have developed me to the person I am today in my career and I hope that each and every one of you will consider bringing someone along to better understand the industry and get involved in some way.

On a more personal note, my biggest accomplishment to date are my two children. Nick is an amazing young man and I have always been proud of the person he is, considerate and always doing for others. He continues to do amazing things for others even with his passing. My daughter Kassie just celebrated her 13th birthday and I now I officially welcome a teenage girl to my house. For those of you who have or have had teenage girls I can imagine your thoughts right now, it will be an interesting ride. She is creative, full of energy, independent, and very outgoing as some of you experienced at the chapter meeting in Galina. Besides spending time with my kids, I love to travel with my partner in crime Brian, spend time with family and friends, go to Packer and Brewer games, and have recently took up golf. Golf is still a work in progress but I am told by the best it is all about having fun and will always be a work in progress. I also am a volunteer with the Blood Center of Wisconsin and actively promote the importance of organ, tissue, and eye donation in honor of my son Nick.

Now that you know a little about me, let's get onto more important chapter news. The chapter meeting was held mid-June in Galena, Illinois. This year we held a joint meeting with the Mississippi Valley chapter and preliminary feedback indicates those who attended enjoyed the joint meeting, especially the expanded networking opportunities. Galena was an excellent location and if you have not been there before the quaint, historic town is well worth a visit. No ghost sightings on our visit, maybe next time. The board also reorganized at the June meeting and I am pleased to introduce Kristen Emming as your Vice President and Nick Ajster as your Secretary. There were no new board members. Thank you to Todd Hoppe as he has agreed to be the Education Chair for our chapter. I would also like to thank David Loyd for his service this past year and we look forward to him continuing his service with the board.

As we look ahead at the national and chapter level there are a few things to note. The NSAC Annual meeting was held in Austin, TX from August 5th to 8th. The technical program was outstanding and the networking opportunities were abundant, there were so many people to connect with and enjoyed seeing returning faces and even some new ones. Austin was a wonderful city and we took in some BBQ, live music, as well as some bat watching. Yes I said bats! Austin has 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats that roost under the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge and they comprise the largest urban bat colony in the world. It was amazing to see so many bats take off for their evening pilgrimage to get food. Back to some local news. The next chapter meeting will be held in Wisconsin in June 2019. Tara Guler and Jared Kempel are jointly chairing time and place and program. They are already hard at work scouting a location and working towards making next year another successful meeting. If you have any ideas for next year's meeting please reach out to them directly.

I strongly encourage you to become as involved in our Chapter as possible and take someone under your wings and bring them along. Make the most of your membership and the great networking opportunities. The members in our chapter are personable, always willing to share their knowledge and experience, and you may find some lifelong friends.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for any reason, I can always be reached at Rebecca.smith@clacconnect.com.

Take advantage of Today because Tomorrow is not promised.

Get Involved In Your Chapter

The Great Lakes Chapter needs help on several committees:

Chapter Development Chair - Seeking an individual to chair the chapter development committee. The Chair as well as committee members coordinate with the national office as well as the national president, attend conference calls which include chapter leadership, organize the chapter development reception and meeting at the annual national meeting, maintain the chapter recognition program, and update chapter leadership manual, etc.

Chapter Development committee members - Seeking 2-3 individuals to work with the chapter development chair

Annual meeting assistance - Assists time and place as well as program chair in planning and preparing for the chapter annual meeting, pre conference and at conference opportunities available.

Education Committee members - Seeking 2-3 individuals to work with the education chair to plan training programs for the chapter outside of national training program.

Membership committee members - Seeking 2-3 individuals to work with the membership chair on recruitment and retention programs for the chapter.

Newsletter committee members - Seeking 2-3 individuals to work with the newsletter editor to publish chapter newsletters which keeps the membership updated on chapter activities and information from the national office.



Upcoming Events

Save the Date!
2019 Great Lakes Chapter Annual Meeting
June 13th & June 14th in Wisconsin

Cooperative Learning Network - Designed for Busy Professionals

There are several CLN learning opportunities coming up over the next few weeks and month. In just 60

minutes, you have access to in-depth coverage of an ever-changing array of current accounting topics uniquely tailored to cooperatives:

October 25 - Non-Qualified Equities and Redemptions

November 6 - Should I or Shouldn't I - Basics of Business Ethics for Coop Personnel

November 27 - 1099: Increased Reporting Pressure

December 4 - Personal Leadership Difference!

The 2019 TFACC National Meeting is in Denver, Colorado. Stay tuned for more information.

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

Message from National Director - Kent Erhardt

Greetings to one of the greatest NSAC chapters and its members.

In June I attended the Great Lakes Annual Meeting in Galena, IL. The meeting was a joint effort with the Mississippi Valley Chapter. This was a great location and program, and thanks and congratulations to those members on the committees that planned the conference. Thanks to all who attended the meeting and it was great to see many of you and your family members.

A big thanks to Ernie and Barb Potter for sponsoring the hospitality suite again this year. In addition to the professional education (CPE) provided, it is always great opportunity to network with other members each year, as our families have been together for many years and we have watched the kids grow up. It was also great to see several new members at the meeting. We sincerely hope that you see the value in being an NSAC Great Lakes member.

One of the benefits that I found as being involved in the NSAC Great Lakes chapter is the leadership opportunities, and leadership training. Congratulations to our new chapter officers and I appreciate the dedication of the many volunteers that step up to support the chapter and its members. Thanks again to David Loyd for service as the Chapter President this past year. Also, many thanks to Jeff Brandenburg for his leadership as National Director for the last six years, and as National President this past year. The Great Lakes Annual Meeting Planning Committee will be working on the next meeting which will be held in Wisconsin in June 2019. Please plan to attend, and please contact Rebecca Smith, our newly elected President, if you can help on the planning committee. We really believe that each new member's involvement can help provide valuable input and effort in making the chapter better each year.

Committee members are the backbone in making the chapter one of the best in the organization! The TF & ACC (National Convention) will be held in Austin, TX from August 5th through the 8th. I believe many have already registered but it is not too late if you have not already registered. The program agenda looks outstanding and can be viewed on the NSAC website. I hope to see you there.

I am also currently serving as the National Chapter Development Committee (CDC) chair. The CDC will be hosting a reception during the conference for all current officers, directors, and committee members. The reception is a small token of our appreciation to the many that are volunteering their time during the year. Details will be coming soon on the location and time of the reception. We also would like to extend the invitation to those that are thinking about becoming active in the chapter leadership, as committee members.

Chapter Committees: The standing chapter committees include, Membership, Education, Annual Meeting Program, Time and Place, Audit, and Newsletter, Please contact Rebecca Smith would like to become more involved in the chapter. We encourage you to get the most out of your membership.