



2020, Quarter 1

Message From the President

Hello Great Lakes NSAC members!

Spring is here with hopes everyone is seeing some nice weather! It seems this is a very different spring than many of us anticipated, so hopefully you're at least seeing some sunshine to help brighten the spirits!



The winter found the Great Lakes Board in Schaumburg, IL for our regular meeting. There was lots of great discussion and planning for the June chapter meeting, which unfortunately will be put on hold. The Board has decided to cancel the annual meeting due to the uncertainty with the Coronavirus and the impact it is having on group events. This was not an easy decision, as we all look forward to the opportunity of socializing and networking the annual meeting provides for the Chapter.

The Board is currently exploring options regarding virtual correspondence to conduct chapter business and will keep you as posted as possible. A big thank you to Jolene Wisinski, our Time and Place chair, and Keith Arnold and Terry Hopman, Program co-chairs, for all of the hours and work they put in to what would have been our 2020 annual meeting.

If you are itching to get more involved with NSAC, there are lots of opportunities on our committees. Please feel free to reach out to me, or any of our board members, if you are interested and we'll be sure to put you in touch with the right person to help get your feet wet!

Best wishes for good health and a prosperous spring!
Kristin

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Items of Interest

- Under Development



National Director Report

Spring is in the air! Flowers are beginning to emerge in St Louis, the 2020 baseball season is in limbo and your NSAC National board has been busy planning for the upcoming year.

One of the new initiatives is the NSAC [Member Forum](#). You may have seen several emails from the National Office regarding this new networking and communication tool /platform which should help us as we move forward with national as well as chapter activities. If you have not received an email yet, please let Jeff Roberts in the National office know at Info@nsaccoop.org.

As we continue to improve the communication process at the National level, the new platform will also assist us with Chapter communication and various committee activities. Please also consider becoming involved with a chapter committee. We sincerely hope to expand our committees this year, and for those that attended the annual meeting, many of our members were recognized who have been, or are currently involved in chapter leadership. Also, we would like for all members to consider becoming involved, rest assured that there are many resources to consult within the GREAT Lakes chapter. The chapter committee options include Newsletter, Annual Meeting Planning & Time and Place, Education, Membership, and Social Media.

Speaking of membership, please consider asking others to join who might benefit from being an NSAC member. The membership application can be found on the website. The chapter has a new program that is designed to attract and retain new members. Please also refer to the Membership Chair's report.

We are excited about the upcoming Tax, Finance & Accounting Conference for Cooperatives (TFACC) held August 2-5 in Portland, Oregon. Hope you can attend.

While we realize that not everyone can attend the TFACC, there are many other ways to stay connected. The Cooperative Learning Network (CLN) is an excellent CPE source, and the CLNs are "FREE" with your mem-

bership.

The National Website includes both National and Chapter information. If you are not able to access the website, please contact Jeff Roberts in the national office. Info@nsaccoop.org

The NSAC is also proud to be able to offer college scholarships. Please see the website for more information and the application.

The Chapter Newsletters are also a key to communication with our members. The quarterly newsletter helps the chapter leadership communicate key initiatives, provide member news, provide minutes, financial reports, membership information, as well as provide information for the next chapter annual meeting. If you or someone on your staff is not receiving the quarterly newsletter, please contact our editor, Rebecca Smith, Rebecca.Smith@claconnect.com.

And last but not least, is The Co-operative Accountant (TCA) quarterly publication. The board and the editor, Frank Messina, are looking at options regarding electronic distribution, if you would select this option at the time you renew your membership. The new TCA format is very appealing, while maintaining the same quality you have enjoyed and expected over the last 71 years. Frank is always looking for articles to include in the TCA and works diligently to assemble the publication each quarter. If you have written a contemporary accounting, finance, or tax article, or have read a relevant article, please let Frank know as others might also enjoy reading. Frank can be reached at fmessina@uab.edu.

VOLUNTEERS make the DIFFERENCE, and this is true for any organization. If you would like to learn more about becoming more involved at the Chapter or National level, please contact Kristen Emming, our Chapter President or Nick Ajster the VP. We are looking to expand chapter committees this year, so please let us know if you can assist.

Thanks again, your National Director, Kent W. Erhardt

2020 Annual Meeting

After much discussion the Board of Directors has decided to cancel the annual meeting that is scheduled for June 11 and 12 in Holland, Michigan as a result of the COVID19 pandemic and its lingering impact. We are currently exploring an opportunity for members to connect virtually to catch up with each other, address chapter business that is essential such as board nominations, and discuss any other chapter or other matters. If you have already made your hotel reservations please ensure you contact the hotel directly to cancel your reservation in accordance with their cancellation policy. Due to COVID19 all cancellation fees have been waived and the chapter is receiving a full refund of deposits. We are going to miss seeing you all in person this year and look forward to seeing everyone in 2021 at the annual meeting. More details on the 2021 annual meeting will be forthcoming as soon as they are available.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart” - Elizabeth Andrews

Help Wanted

We are seeking additional member involvement on the following committees:

- Chapter Development = Coordinate with the national office as well as the national president, maintain chapter recognition program, update chapter leadership manual, attend calls with chapter leadership
- Education = Plan training programs for the chapter outside of the national training program
- Membership = Member recruitment and retention including membership campaign and Great Lakes Hall of Fame
- Newsletter = Publish chapter newsletters which keeps the membership updated on chapter and national activities.
- Social Media = Develop and maintain chapter’s social media account

Why get involved? Additional engagement and connection to the chapter, networking, positive contribution provides a sense of accomplishment and pride, and fun. So why not?

If interested please contact Kent Erhardt at kerhardt@cobnak.com

Q1 Anniversaries

Alicia Beard—1
Bob Beerup— 46
Bob Biver—10
Jeff Brandenburg— 34
Joe Diglio—25
John Dilland - 46
Kent Erhardt— 30
Damian Girten—20
Terri Hawk—10
Bert Johnson—36
Andy Jones—13
Rod Kelsay— 8
Mike Lensmire—34
Sam Miller— 18
Curt Larson - 19
Julie Luedtke— 7
Chad Rensi— 16
Larry Romuald—34
Shelly Sowers—2
Dennis Tonak—19
Dan Welytok—25
David Wozniak—1
Allan Zehr—10

Membership Report



Membership totals remain consistent year over year. As of February 29, 2020, and February 28, 2019, we had 115 members in the Great Lakes Chapter.

Even though we will not be holding the annual meeting this year, we will be awarding one new member with a \$150 cash prize. Also, if you referred someone during the year, you will be entered for a \$100 cash prize. Both prizes will be drawn in mid-June and will relate to any new membership between June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020. So make

sure to keep referring new members!

The Chapter would like to extend a warm welcome to all new members. As a friendly reminder, if the annual renewal of your dues is approaching, please begin the process of renewing your membership.

If you have any questions regarding membership, you can contact Membership Chair Jeremy Gritton at jgritton@wipfli.com.

*“Coming together
is the beginning.
Keeping together
is the progress.
Working together
is success.”
- Henry Ford*

Great Lakes Hall of Fame Nominations

The Hall of Fame honors members who have selflessly contributed to both the success and growth of the Chapter during their time as a member. The criteria for nomination is the nominee must have at least 10 years of service to the Chapter and must have served as a Board of Director or on an active committee for at least three years. You can nominate yourself or someone else by submitting the following information to the membership chair or a board member. Nominee name and why they are deserving and how the nominee contributed to the success and growth of the chapter. We are currently accepting nominations through January 2021 for recognition at the June 2021 annual meeting. Send nominations to Jeremy Gritton at jgritton@wipfli.com.

Membership Campaign

First Timer Prize—\$150 cash prize. Each NSAC GL Chapter member who is attending the Great Lakes Chapter annual meeting for their first time will be entered to win a \$150 cash prize. Entrants do not need to be new to NSAC, just new to the annual meeting. One prize will be awarded per annual meeting. Must be present to win.

New Member Referral Prize—\$100 cash price. For every new member referred to NSAC GL Chapter during the year, the referring NSAC member will be entered to win a \$100 cash prize to be drawn at the Great Lakes Chapter annual meeting. One prize will be awarded per annual meeting. Must be present to win. Year runs from June 1 – May 31. The referred member must indicate the referral source on his/her membership application.

Treasurer Report

Hello all. I hope things are well with everyone. We in southeast Wisconsin are having typical weather this time of year with lots of ups and downs, highs in the 70s one day and in the 40s the next day. The fund balance continues to run strong. We have a great Great Lakes Chapter and a healthy fund balance is one of the keys.

Tyrone Lein

	3 Months Ended <u>3/31/2020</u>	Year Ended <u>12/31/2019</u>
JANUARY 1 FUND BALANCE	\$ 26,645	\$ 26,650
JUNE ANNUAL MEETING		
Registration Fees	-0-	10,360
Expenses	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(9,839)</u>
Net Income (Expense) From Annual Meeting	-0-	521
OTHER REVENUE		
Membership Dues	240	1,180
A&A Seminar	-0-	-0-
Other	<u>-0-</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Other Revenue	240	1,184
DOWN PAYMENT ON (NEXT YEAR'S)/ PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING	-0-	(500)
OTHER EXPENSES	<u>(1,398)</u>	<u>(1,210)</u>
PERIOD END FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 25,487</u>	<u>\$ 26,645</u>

Upcoming CLN

Bringing Data into Focus

Thursday, May 14, 2020

11:00 AM EST / 10:00 AM CST / 09:00 AM MST / 08:00 AM PST

[MORE INFO](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)

Recognition that Works!

Thursday, June 04, 2020

02:00 PM EST / 01:00 PM CST / 12:00 PM MST / 11:00 AM PST

[MORE INFO](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”
- BB King

Past CLNs can be accessed at https://nsacoop.org/cooperative_learning_network.php

NSAC

The National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives (NSAC) is comprised of professionals actively involved with the financial management and planning of cooperative business. NSAC strives to provide accounting, tax and business education uniquely tailored to cooperatives, supports cooperatives in business interests, and offers networking and professional development opportunities.

From the Editor



I hope you enjoyed the newsletter, my first addition as editor. The newsletter's purpose is to share information with members and keep all of us informed within the chapter including some highlights from national. Since this is the members newsletter I would like to incorporate as much as I can from chapter members in each quarters newsletter. Please send me your ideas for future newsletters and any thing you would like to share with others. Maybe an interesting article you read or authored, a significant event in your personal or professional life, the possibilities are endless. And we always love photos so include those as well. Send your information to me at Rebecca.Smith@claconnect.com. I hope you took something valuable away from this edition; I look forward to sharing some new items in upcoming newsletters such as a member spotlight, get to know your chapter leadership, and education updates.

Rebecca Smith

Officers and Board of Directors

Kristin Emming - President and Board Member

Nick Ajster—Vice President and Board Member

Ty Lein—Treasurer

Mark Juedes—Secretary and Board Member

Molly Costaris—Board Member

David Loyd—Board Member

Julie Luedtke - Board Member

Rebecca Smith—Board Member

We are here to serve you, please do not hesitate to contact any officer or board member.