

# GREAT LAKES SPRING ISSUE 2015



VOLUME 2015, ISSUE 4

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello Great Lakes Members. Our chapter meeting in June will be in Itasca, IL this year at Eaglewood Resort and Spa on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

The agenda is also looking very strong this year, and I am very excited about the speakers we are inviting. Your chapter has excellent people in charge of our upcoming June meeting; Nick Ajster has done a great job on getting our speakers lined up, and Alan Zehr secured us a great place to meet this year in Itasca. Thanks to both of these members for their hard work.

Thanks for your time, and I look forward to seeing you all in Itasca IL in June!

Jeff Thompson

### IMPORTANT DATES

**APRIL 20, 2015**

**BOARD MEETING  
TELECONFERENCE**

**JUNE 18-19 2015**

**ANNUAL MEETING,  
ITASCA ILLINOIS**

**AUGUST 2015**

**NATIONAL TAX, FINANCE &  
ACCOUNTING CONFERENCE  
FOR COOPERATIVES (TF&ACC)  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**Check out page 6 and 7  
for information related  
to our chapter meeting  
in June.**

**Great Lakes Directors**

President

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

Vice President

Andy Gusa  
Cooperative Elevator Company  
7211 East Michigan Avenue  
Pigeon, Mi 48755  
989-453-4500  
[agusa@coopelev.com](mailto:agusa@coopelev.com)

Secretary

Eric Krienert  
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP  
318 Susan Drive  
Normal, Il 61761  
309-862-3870  
[eric.krienert@CLAconnect.com](mailto:eric.krienert@CLAconnect.com)

Treasurer

Tyrone Lein  
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP  
318 Susan Drive  
Normal, Il 61761  
309-862-3870  
[ty.lein@CLAconnect.com](mailto:ty.lein@CLAconnect.com)

Director

Nate Wenzel  
Growmark, Inc  
1701 Towanda Ave  
Bloomington, Il 61702  
309-557-6023  
[nwenzel@growmark.com](mailto:nwenzel@growmark.com)

Director

Jason Les  
Mi Milk Producers Assn.  
PO Box 8002  
Novi, Mi 48376  
248-474-6672 ext 239  
[les@mimilk.com](mailto:les@mimilk.com)

Director

Randy Mahoney  
Wipfli LLP  
2901 E. Enterprise Ave.  
Appleton, Wi 54913  
920-832-2409  
[rmahoney@wipfli.com](mailto:rmahoney@wipfli.com)

Director

Andy Jones  
Premier Cooperative  
501 W. Main St  
Mt. Horeb, Wi 53572  
608-437-5536  
[andy.jones@premiercoop.com](mailto:andy.jones@premiercoop.com)

Newsletter

Ralph Miller  
1218 N. Jefferson St.  
Dixon, IL 61021  
(815) 288-1008  
[rwmiller1004@yahoo.com](mailto:rwmiller1004@yahoo.com)

Education

Dave Loyd  
Growmark, Inc  
15 Emerald Ct  
Morton, Il 61550  
309-826-1027  
309-557-6139  
[dloyd@growmark.com](mailto: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@CLAconnect.com](mailto:jeff.brandenburg@CLAconnect.com)

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

### JOB OPENING

Still no responses for the editor position of your local newsletter. I am sure the board of directors have received some "resume`s". I hope I did not scare some applicants off with the requirements noted from our last newsletter. It has been rewarding to say the least and as they always say, I got far more from it then I gave to it.

I think being a part of the best Chapter in NSAC over the past thirty five plus years has brought many memories that will endure for many years into the future. From the many locations in Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan to the activities and golf, I will be forever grateful that I got to enjoy them with so many wonderful people.

Even before taking over the newsletter from Greg several years back, the companionship has always been the number one item that I feel has united the chapter into such a great organization today. I believe that any member could reach out to any other chapter member and ask them a question and if they did

not have an answer, that they knew someone that did.

Many times the golf has led to a lot of discussion about cooperatives—whether that was a member bounce or non-patronage out of bounds or who was paying dividends at the end of the round.

As I mentioned earlier, the members I have met over the years have been too many to even count, but each one has given me more then I gave them—with the exception of Diglio, Hartmann and Johnson. I think of my mentor Bob Beerup to Florian Van-Dyke to the ever present Ernie Potter—each was a big part in developing the chapter and I just hope I helped a "little" along the way.

Yes, I will continue to be a member as has Ernie and take part in the chapter and national meetings but I think it is time to get the younger generations involved and keep the Great Lakes Chapter viable for many years to come.

I would ask each of you to attend a chapter meeting and even the national. I believe there is no better group of NSAC members than in the Great Lakes Chapter.

Sure the other chapters have members that I respect and know many that are far more knowledgeable than I, but overall the members in this chapter can't be beat.

So if you can, attend the chapter meeting in June in Itasca and see if what I've said isn't true.

# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

## **GREAT LAKES CHAPTER NSAC TREASURER'S REPORT**

As for the fund balance, it is little changed since the last newsletter and is still running strong.

Ty said we still have money in the bank and I sure hope the “audit committee” agrees with him at the annual meeting—no excuses this year on not having the records.

Respectively submitted,  
Tyrone Lein  
Treasurer

**National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives  
Great Lakes Chapter  
Teleconference Board Meeting  
October 16, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Thompson at 10am.

Jeff Thompson, Nate Wenzel, Andy Jones, Andy Gusa, Jeff Brandenburg, Alan Zehr, Ralph Miller, Nick Ajster, Ty Lein, Eric Krienert, Jason Les and Randy Mahoney were on the call.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the 56th annual meeting were included in the email materials. After allowing time for review, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 56th annual meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ty Lein, Treasurer, spoke briefly about the treasurer's report distributed to attendees. Report is as of July. All resort expenses are on 14 line. Meeting attendance was down a little. A&A seminar got canceled. Fund balance is currently \$17,392. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Education Report**

Nate gave an update on the cancelation of the July basic and advanced education sessions. Decision was made to cancel as only 3 signed up. Discussed the idea of going to and bi annual schedule or doing as an extra day with our annual chapter meeting.

**National Director Report**

Nothing but what was in the news letter. Mid year meeting in February at NCFC. First national planning meeting will be today. Any suggestions are welcomed. Joint with NRECA. Canada is a strong emphasis, several directors went to an international meeting in Quebec. If you know if any Canadians associated with coops, get their names to Jeff to bring to the national committee. Nation board is trying to organize cooperative training.

**Membership Report**

Andy Jones reported that Membership of the Great Lakes Chapter is currently 120.  
1 member past due. Andy will follow up to see if they are still going to be a member

**Newsletter**

Ralph Miller indicated that we need four newsletters per year to qualify for the corresponding points needed for the new Chapter Recognition Program-currently Ralph produces four per year. Ralph also reminded the membership that current email addresses are needed.

1 so far this year, 3 more to go to meet our goal. Ralph needs to send it to national to distribute if it has pictures. Ralph is looking to transition out of the news letter role at the end of next annual meeting. We need to get the word out to find a new volunteer.

**Other Business**

**Nate Jason and Randy are leaving the board**

**Molly is interested in Jason's role. Several names were mentioned for replacements in IL and WI.**

**Annual Meeting**

**Time and Place**

June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Spots – Alan will look for several spots and costs and email those to the board for discussion

**Program**

Nick said we will have an A&A and Tax update. Perhaps an NGFA member could give an update on food safety. Something on fraud. IT security, Equity management. Rotating tax, A&A roles.

Some discussion regarding budget

**March meeting**

Jeff will try to get a hotel locked. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in March. Switch to Friday Feb 20th.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 11:11am.and email those to the board for discussion

The summer meeting of the Great Lakes Chapter meeting will be June 18 and 19, 2015 in Itasca, Illinois at the Eaglewood Resort and Spa. The resort is located 35 minutes from downtown Chicago includes an 18 hole golf course, a state of the art spa, a fitness center, an indoor swimming pool, bocce ball courts, and a six lane bowling alley. The area has many activities to offer. For the person looking for shopping Eaglewood is located just minutes from Stratford Square Mall and Woodfield Mall. If you're looking for a more laid back shopping your 20 miles from the Village of Long Grove, which is known for its antiques, luncheons and shopping. For the younger ones Stratford Mall has an indoor glow in the dark mini golf and an arcade with a bowling alley. Eaglewood is located within 30 minutes of Brookfield Zoo and just 10 minutes from K1 Indoor go-cart racing. For those that like more restful activities, we will be 15 minutes from the Morton Arboretum, and 45 minutes from the Chicago Architectural boat tours in downtown Chicago. Hope to see you all in Itasca this June.

See attached registration form and hotel contact information. You will note that the registration fees have increased slightly—but realize this includes 6 hours of CPE, meals, breaks and entertainment. The board has budgeted a deficit for this meeting to help Ty get the bank balance down. Should you have any questions, please contact a board member or Ralph.

Alan Zehr  
Time and place

# 2015-Annual Meeting-NSAC Great Lakes Chapter

## June 18-19, 2015 Itasca, Illinois

### ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN (ages 4-12)NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

#### FEES:

\$175	Attendee (6 CPE credits) Includes annual meeting, programs, Thursday dinner and entertainment, Friday continental breakfast and refreshment breaks.	_____	_____
\$75	Thursday early session (2 CPE units) Session includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch	_____	_____
\$50	Spouse/Guest & children over 12 Includes Thursday dinner, Friday breakfast buffet and entertainment	_____	_____
\$25	Children ages 5-12 (under 5 free) Includes Thursday dinner, Friday breakfast buffet and entertainment	_____	_____
		Total Enclosed	_____

Make checks payable to Great Lakes Chapter of NSAC.

Mail with completed registration form by May 15, 2015 to:

**How many would like to bowl Thursday evening?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you be interested in Friday afternoon golf?**    Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_

Ty Lein  
CliftonLarsenAllen  
318 Susan Drive  
Normal, Illinois 61761

Make reservations at Eaglewood Resort 1-877-285-6150 by May 16, 2015 to receive the NSAC discount rate.