

GREAT LAKES SUMMER ISSUE 2014



VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello Great Lakes Chapter! If don't already know me, I am Jeff Thompson, your new Chapter President. A little about me: born and raised in North Dakota, I graduated from UND with a Bachelor of Accountancy and then promptly moved to the Madison, WI area. I began work with Cooperative Resources International in June 2001 and am still currently employed with CRI. I officially joined NSAC in 2004, and I am extremely happy to be your President this year.

Farming and cooperatives were always very important to my family, with my entire family being heavily involved in almost every local/county/state co-op. As a young kid, I remember walking in downtown Willow City, ND with my grandfather, watching as he would aggressively approach people (yikes!) he knew had not attended the latest "co-op meeting".

He would lecture them right on the street, reminding them "this is your cooperative" and "nothing happens without action from members".

Many of us in the Great Lakes Chapter of NSAC still work for cooperatives, or for companies that directly service co-op's. Although I am not going to lecture you like my grandfather would have (whew), his message is very important to us at NSAC...this is our organization, and nothing happens without us taking action. Our members being active in our chapter has given Great Lakes the distinction as one of the best chapters in NSAC. I hope to continue that throughout the year as your President.

For many years, I had not attended the NSAC national conference, TACC. After attending just once, I realized the mistake I had made. I encourage ALL of us to take the trip to San Diego this year to attend this excellent con-

ference; you won't regret it. It may be late to make arrangements for this year's conference if you already haven't, but please consider this in the future. I also hope that during my year as President, we can see our member numbers grow. Hopefully this year I will be sending lots of welcome letters to new members of the Great Lakes Chapter of NSAC!

Thanks for the privilege of serving as your new President.

Jeff Thompson

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 17-18 2014
ACCOUNTING SEMINAR
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

AUGUST 3-6, 2014
NATIONAL MEETING,
SAN DIEGO, CA

MARCH 2015
BOARD MEETING

JUNE 2015
ANNUAL MEETING, ILLINOIS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Andy Jones reported that NSAC National membership increased from 1,519 to 1,610 in the current year. Membership of the Great Lakes Chapter is currently 122 vs. 119 last year. Andy recognized the following membership milestones:

5 years – Brian Haraga, Rebecca Smith, Sharon Ballweg and Stephen Bisher.

10 years – Nancy Bliz and Chad Rensi.

20 years – Greg Line and Robin Gloschen.

30 years - Laura Reed and Bert Johnson

40 years - John Dilland and Robert Beerup

National has an incentive to recruit a new member. If you recruited a new member in the last year, you will be entered in a drawing for a new iPad.

The Great Lakes chapter has 13 new members-(1 new & 2 transfers): Todd Hoppe, Karen

Kerber, Brynn Groezinger, Jeff Ware, Austin Burby, Pamela Snyder, R. Lynn Parins, Heidi Davidson, Rex Hite, Mechaela Hudak, Becky Gibbs, Marie Stewart and Carla DeWalt
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

Hard to believe it, but the year is half over! I hope you and your families had a great 4th of July.

If you were at the annual chapter meeting in Mackinac, MI, I am sure you will agree that everyone involved did a great job of planning not only the CPE, but also all of the meals and logistics that go into a successful meeting experience. Our hats off to the entire team for a job well done and we are looking forward to visiting the Land of Lincoln next year!

As was reported at the meeting, the National Board is getting ready for our in-person meeting in San Diego. Over the past few months we have continued to work with our Canadian cooperative friends to see if there are opportunities to work more closely together in the future and perhaps even have a Canadian Chapter of the NSAC. You may have read the accounting licensing bodies are consolidating and there is a lot of activity happening within the profession in Canada. We are still in the early stages of discussion with the cooperative folks in Canada and it is

hard to tell what the efforts will bring.

That said, the Board is committed to working to establish international relationships so that as we move forward we have a voice not only with cooperatives here in the United States, but also around the globe.

I hope you have seen some of the CLN's that are coming up in the next couple of weeks. There is one on Crisis Management and also a Boot Camp for Directors. As you review the sessions that have been presented in 2014, I am sure you will agree the Bill is really putting together a wide variety of subject matter and presenters. So here is my question for you...who are you telling about these programs? If you work at a cooperative, my hope is that you might organize viewings for your personnel (and Board) and encourage others within your organization to get involved and join NSAC. If you are in public accounting or work as an advisor to cooperatives (attorneys, lenders, consultants) are you forwarding these sessions to your clients to let them know some of the learning opportunities that exist? Keep in mind that each of these sessions as tailored for coop-

eratives and taught by people involved with cooperatives. I know of no other place where you can get this sort of access to cooperative learning at the price the sessions are offered...what a value! We have a great deal to offer our members for the ultra low price of under \$200 per year. Let's all really get the message out about NSAC and the role it can play in helping cooperatives succeed not only today, but also in the future. August will be here before you know it and I look forward to seeing all of the Great Lakes folks in San Diego! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National Director and please continue to forward your thoughts, comments and suggestions to me. We have a lot to be proud of in the Great Lakes Chapter and, working together, we can continue to create many opportunities for not only our membership, but for all of the organizations we serve.

Jeff Brandenburg

[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

Secretary

Eric Krienert
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
318 Susan Drive
Normal, IL 61761
309-862-3870
eric.krienert@CLAconnect.com

Treasurer

Tyrone Lein
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
318 Susan Drive
Normal, IL 61761
309-862-3870
ty.lein@CLAconnect.com

Director

Nate Wenzel
Growmark, Inc
1701 Towanda Ave
Bloomington, IL 61702
309-557-6023
nwenzel@growmark.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
rwmliller1004@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@CLAconnect.com

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It cannot be July! Where in the world did May and June go? Thanks to Molly and her helpers, the chapter meeting on “the island” was a great place. The programs offered up by Andy and Teri were excellent so if you missed this meeting, you should be ashamed. I know the travel distance for those in Wisconsin created problems but a little vacation time spent in northern Michigan would have been well worth the time. Seems like whenever Michigan hosts the chapter, there has to be a visit to Mackinac Island. The wife and I have made that a side trip and each year, “the island” seems to have something new to offer. Generally, when it is just the two of us, no golf is allowed. This time I persuaded her to let me carry the clubs on the boat so that Joe, Bert and Jim could make some money. Yes, they made enough to cover their bar tab. Wonder if it would have been a different story had the Grand Hotel course front nine was not under repair—probably five to six holes out of the nine had some work being done. I will say that the back nine was more enjoyable but also more costly to play. Those other three must have at least ten years on me and yet they still make me hit from the back tees! More strokes the

next time!

It is always nice to visit with those that attend not only the chapter meeting but the national as well. I understand that Greg Heino may have attended his last chapter meeting due to the firm losing some co-op clients--sure hope he can round up some new clients or at least attend the Wisconsin meetings in the future. Whether you work with cooperatives or not, I believe the interaction with your peers plays a big part in your professional development. The best way I found is not only on the golf course, but by attending the chapter or national meeting. Remember, even if you leave the cooperative field, let me know your email address and you can still receive the quarterly newsletters. Just a few comments about the chapter recognition program (CRP). As I noted at our chapter meeting, this year the Great Lakes had the highest point total. I would rather see all the chapters make the minimum for the free TACC registration. Having served on the Chapter Development committee for the past few years, I see first hand what other chapters are doing and what they are not doing. Why some chapters do not have a newsletter is by me. How do they communicate with other members or let their membership know what is

down to the involvement of the members from the git go. If the members are interested and get on the different committees of the chapter, they will realize what a great bunch of people. Just ask Ernie, Greg, Joe or Larry or any member that has over ten years with this chapter and they will all tell you what a great group it is—that is why the Great Lakes is the greatest chapter—its members!! I am really looking forward to the national meeting in San Diego come August. We had asked the granddaughter if she wanted to go to Charleston last year or wait until this year—so for her graduation gift, she chose California. So Judy and her will visit the zoo and Sea World, while I sit in meetings. If I can just find her a boyfriend while out there—Judy said no to that!! Have a great summer and keep those articles and pictures coming!!

BOARD MINUTES

National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives Great Lakes Chapter 56th Annual Meeting

The Great Lakes Chapter meeting was held at the Mission Point Resort at Mackinac Island, MI, on June 19th and 20th, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Nate Wenzel at 3:45 pm. Included in President Wenzel's opening remarks were special thanks to the Time and Place (Molly Hollister) and Program Chairs (Andy Gusa & Teri Lafleur) for their work on this Chapter Meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the 55th annual meeting were included in the materials given at registration. After allowing time for review, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 55th annual meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ty Lein, Treasurer, spoke briefly about the treasurer's report distributed to attendees. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Education Report

David Loyd gave a brief report on the education class in Madison. 18 people attended. The next annual training will be held in St Louis with help from the Mississippi Valley chapter.

National Director Report

Jeff Brandenburg gave a brief summary of the upcoming TACC National NSAC Conference in San Diego, California and encouraged all members to attend. Next year's national meeting will be in Denver, CO with NRECA.

The joint meeting will hopefully give NSAC more bargaining power. Brandenburg also mentioned that Bill Erlenbush, our national education director, is putting out CLN's every couple of weeks. CLN's are a great value at \$56 per session.

Keep recruiting new members. The new people help build the depth of talent per Brandenburg. Great Lakes received 24 points on the Chapter Recognition Program. This was the top score with 2nd place having 23 points.

The International reach out will be in Quebec this year. NSAC is hoping to get a new chapter from Canada.

Membership Report

Andy Jones reported that NSAC National membership increased from 1,519 to 1,610 in the current year. Membership of the Great Lakes Chapter is currently 122 vs. 119 last year.

Andy recognized the following membership milestones:

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dak, Becky Gibbs, Marie Stewart and Carla DeWalt.

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.

Nominating Committee

President Wenzel indicated that Andy Jones and Jeff Thompson finished their first term and were elected to a second. A motion was made and seconded for the above Board changes. Motion carried.

Other Business

None.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 4:00 pm.

Board Re-organizational Meeting

Started Board Re-org Meeting at 4:00pm on June 19th. New Officers were elected. Chapter Officers Briefing was completed. The Board approved the minutes from the March and April's Board meeting. The meeting was reconvened on Friday June 20, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. by newly elected President Jeff Thompson(Randy Mahoney represented Jeff).

Here are the board members their years on the board:

Eric Krienert	2 nd year
Jeff Thompson	4 th year
Andy Jones	4 th year

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Andy Gusa	5 th year
Jason Les	6 th year
Randy Mahoney	6 th year
Nate Wenzel	6 th year

President's Comments

The newly elected President thanked Great Lake Chapter members for their past and current service. President representative Mahoney thanked Nate Wenzel for past service as Pres. of the Great Lakes Chapter. A plaque will be given to past president Nate Wenzel.

Newly Elected Officers

The President representative reported on the results of the Board re-organizational meeting on June 19, 2014.

President – Jeff Thompson

Vice President – Andy Gusa

Secretary – Eric Krienert

Treasurer -- Ty Lein agreed to serve another year

Internal Audit

Due to the records being left behind, no audit was performed. Next year's internal review of the financial records will be for 2 years.

2014 Annual Chapter Meeting

We had short discussion on planning the next annual chapter meeting in Illinois. The Time and Place Chair volunteer was Alan Zehr. The Program Chair volunteer was Nick Ajster.

A raffle for one free registration to 2014 TACC Nationals was held. Andrew Ruck won.

TREASURER'S REPORT

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER NSAC TREASURER'S REPORT

For the **Period Ended June 30, 2014** and
Year Ended December 31, 2013

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
JANUARY 1 FUND BALANCE	\$ 18,746	\$ 20,194
JUNE ANNUAL MEETING		
Registration Fees	7,505	8,265
Expenses	(8,724)	(10,996)
Net Income (Expense) From Annual Meeting	(1,219)	(2,731)
OTHER REVENUE		
Membership Dues	460	1,230
A&A Seminar	-0-	1,888
Other	-0-	5
Total Other Revenue	460	3,123
DOWN PAYMENT ON (NEXT YEAR'S)/PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING	1,000	(450)
OTHER EXPENSES	(1,855)	(1,390)
PERIOD END FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 17,132</u>	<u>\$ 18,746</u>

I hope those of you who had the opportunity to attend the June Annual Meeting in Mackinac Island enjoyed the sessions and the venue. Mackinac Island is a unique place to visit and I know I enjoyed myself. Thanks again to Molly Hollister and Andy Gusa for doing a great job on the seminar.

As can be seen above, we incurred a loss of about \$1,200 on the Annual Meeting. Those of you who have been long-time members know that we usually budget losses on the Annual Meeting as a way to give value back to the membership. The fund balance currently sits at about \$17,000, however we have not put on the A&A seminar yet and we will continue to generate another \$700 or so in dues revenue the rest of the year.

Have a great summer all!

Respectively submitted,
Tyrone Lein
Treasurer



YES JEFF THAT WAS SEAGULL, NOT CHICKEN!!

WHO IS THAT GUY STANDING BEHIND JEFF?

WHO IS THAT ON THE LEFT?



OUR PAST PRESIDENT, NATE WENZEL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE NEXT SLIDE IS SUPPOSE TO BE.



MOLLY HAD FORGOTTEN TO TELL EVERYONE THAT IT
WAS NOT CHICKEN

BUT A NEW MEAT FOUND ONLY ON MACKINAC ISLAND—
SEAGULL SUPREME!!



GREG, ERNIE AND ALAN WITH THEIR SPOUSES ENJOYING THE WONDERFUL MEAL THAT MOLLY ORDERED—HOW WAS THE CHICKEN (SEAGULL) GUYS?



WHO IS THAT MASK MAN? COULD THAT BE OUR NEW BOARD SECRETARY?

WONDER HOW HE ENJOYED THE "CHICKEN"?