



SUMMER 2015

Hello,

I'm Keith Arnold, the new newsletter chair for the Great Lakes Chapter. Let me first start off with a....

Special Thank You to Ralph Miller!

The Great Lakes Chapter would like to take this opportunity for a special "thank you!" to Ralph Miller, our chapter's long-time newsletter editor.

Upon taking over as the new newsletter editor, the national office and many others told me that Ralph has set a very high standard for other chapter newsletters. Ralph has big shoes to fill indeed!

Thanks again to Ralph for all he's done for the Great Lakes Chapter!

I'm looking forward to serving as our chapter's newsletter chair. If you have suggestions for content, please feel free to email me at keith.arnold@landmark.coop.





Message from the President

Hi

My name is Andy Gusa and I'm your new president for the Great Lakes chapter. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as president for the next year. The Great Lakes chapter has quality members. I'm always amazed at the knowledge and participation from our members.

Speaking of quality members, we lost a good one when Eric Krienert moved to California. Eric was slated to be our next Vice President. Several people stepped up to make this a smooth transition. Ty Lein filled in for Eric's board position. Molly Costaris stepped up to serve as our Vice President. David Loyd took over as our new Secretary. I was happy to see so many people willing to help.

Other changes include Julie Luedtke volunteering for Time and Place: Jeremy Gritton for Program chair, a new education director John Tuttle and a new board member Rebecca Smith. Jeff Brandenburg, our national representative, has been very helpful with all my questions.

A little bit about me....I live in a little rural town called Ubly in Michigan. I work for the Cooperative Elevator Co. in Pigeon, MI. I have been with the Coop for 15 years. I spend a lot of my free time coaching. I coach volleyball and my kid's little league teams.

My wife Jeanne and I have 4 children. Jeanne works with the school as a para-pro so she can be close to the kids. Jeanne spends her time with Right to Life, coaching basketball and softball, and playing coed softball.

My oldest daughter Haili is 14 and is going into the 9th grade. Her activities include cross country running, volleyball, basketball, track, band, FFA, FCCLA and Quiz Bowl. I'm sure I missed something.

My daughter Josie is 12 and is my sports nut. Her favorite sport is whatever sport she is currently playing. Volleyball, Basketball and Softball top her list.

My daughter Maze is 10. Maze likes to bake. She is very compassionate and is very helpful. My son Utah is 9 and full of energy. Baseball, swimming and aggravating his sisters are his passions. When he is not running around, you can find him playing on the iPad.

I'm looking forward to this year. Our conference will be in Wisconsin in June. I enjoyed the national conference in Denver. My family enjoyed our first white water rafting experience. Our June conference in Itasca was excellent. Hopefully we'll have top notch speakers again in Wisconsin.

National Director's Update

Greetings from Wisconsin!

I hope you had a chance to join us for the national meeting in Denver. There were many great presentations and plenty of time for networking and learning. This was the first joint (no pun intended for those who spent some time in downtown Denver!) meeting with the NRECA group and the attendance was fantastic! It seemed many people arrived early and/or stayed late and there were many good suggestions for future meetings communicated. The program content received overall good feedback and everyone is looking forward to the 2016 meeting in Washington D.C. This will again be a joint meeting with the NRECA folks and looks to be another super event. Plans are already underway, so please mark your calendars and plan for 2016.



At the National Board meeting we discussed a variety of topics and heard all of the year end reports. Here is a summary of some of the items discussed:

Education Report

Bill Erlenbush has really put together a wide variety of programs this last year. There were 24 CLN's presented attended by over 1,100 participants. Determining the exact number of attendees is difficult as often 1 location will log in but several people will attend. If they do not request CPE, we do not know exactly how many attended. The CLN's and topics have been well received and he is looking to continue that in 2016 and will be speaking with the 2015 TACC presenters to do a 2015/2016 CLN. So if you did not have a chance to attend the national conference, please watch the CLN calendar as many of the sessions will be done as a CLN in the coming year.

Committee reports

A wide array of committee reports were accepted. In general, the committees were very busy in the past year and generated a lot of good materials and results for the members. Committee help is always needed, so if you have an interest, please review the various committees, find one that interests you, and volunteer to help. It is that easy!

Chapter Development

Continued efforts to increase membership have paid off this last year with almost all chapters showing a membership increase. We need to continue to focus on this area and the best way to attract new members is for current members to look for opportunities for others to join. Please get the word out to your contacts and friends in the cooperative industry! There were 6 chapters that qualified for a free national registration and there were several tablets distributed for new member sponsorship.

Financial and Audit

The year end financial statements were reviewed and also the investment reports. Your organization is strong financially and that will allow us to continue to provide for the needs of the members.

2016 TACC

Hard to believe, but the audit, tax and national planning committees are already looking at Washington D.C. and the 2016 national meeting. If you have ideas for topics, or wish to participate on a committee, please let Jeff Roberts at the national office know. We are always looking for more people on the committees and it is a great way to really learn what NSAC is all about. Our own Great Lakes Chapter member Rebecca Smith will be leading the tax committee this year and the national planning committee and the A&A committees are always looking for new members.

International - Canada

Efforts continue on an international committee with the focus on Canada. There are several folks that have volunteered to help with the effort and we will continue to work toward establishing relationships with CPA firms and U.S. Cooperatives with contacts in Canada in order to build our communication base.

2016 Budget

The 2016 budget was discussed. Keeping the organization financially strong, providing educational opportunities for the membership and working to expand the reach of the NSAC were all elements discussed in reviewing the 2016 budget.

Newsletter

A great big THANK YOU to Ralph Miller for his many years of putting together and distributing the Great Lakes Chapter newsletter! Going back to the days before computers....our newsletter has been the envy of all of the other chapters. Ralph's dedication to our chapter, and the NSAC, is amazing as he also serves as the newsletter sub-committee chair in efforts to help other chapters in their newsletter efforts.

Keith Arnold has some big shoes to fill....but thanks to him for taking on this task!

Silver Bowl

Congratulations to Tom Husek for receiving the Silver Bowl Award!! This is really a special award and thanks to Tom for all of his contributions to NSAC not only over the years...but also in the future!

In Closing

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your National Director!! Please keep a couple of things in mind. If you have thoughts/comments/ideas/suggestions on programs or ways to help our organization....please let me know. The Board appreciates all the input we can get from the membership. Two, if you have an interest in getting more involved in the NSAC, please speak with Andy Gusa or me and we would be glad to help get you started. The National Planning and A & A committees could really use your help. Finally, please consider attending the National Conference in Washington D.C. next year and encourage your co-workers and clients to attend. The meeting will again be combined with the NRECA, with not only the NSAC tracks available for our members but also the NRECA tracks. This year attendees had at least 7 different tracks to choose from and we noted many of the NRECA folks sitting in on various NSAC presentations and vice-versa. That is exactly what was hoped as the programs were put together! The hotel looks beautiful and is right downtown. Mark the date on your calendars!

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER - NSAC TREASURER'S REPORT For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013
JANUARY 1 FUND BALANCE	\$18,746	\$20,194
JUNE ANNUAL MEETING		
Registration Fees	7,605	8,265

Expenses	(8,724)	(10,996)
Net Income (Loss) From Annual Meeting	(1,119)	(2,731)
A&A SEMINAR REVENUE	0	1,888
MEMBERSHIP DUES & OTHER REVENUE	1,281	1,235
OTHER EXPENSES	(1,855)	(1,390)
DOWN ON (NEXT YEAR'S)/PREVIOUS		
YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING	1,000	(450)
DECEMBER 31 FUND BALANCE	\$18,053	\$18,746
The fund balance at Dec. 31 is held as follows:		
Checking	\$12,279	\$12,973
Certificates of Deposit	5,774	5,773
Total	\$18,053	\$18,746

Chapter Meeting Minutes

NSAC
Great Lakes Chapter
Chapter Meeting 57th Annual
June 18th and 19th 2015

The Great Lakes Chapter meeting was held at Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL on June 18th and 19th 2015. The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Thompson at 400pm.

Minutes:

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

National Directors Report:

Jeff Brandenburg, National Director for Great Lakes reported on several items. Jeff briefed the membership on the upcoming TACC meeting in Denver, CO and also mentioned next year's event would take place in Washington, DC. Jeff spoke about the importance of CLN's and appealed for presenters. A brief overview of the National finance's was reviewed; Jeff mentioned the financial health of the organization.

Membership Report:

Andy Jones reported that NSAC National membership was up by 35 members, from 1610 to 1645. The Great lakes Chapter membership also increased by 5 net members; up from 122 to 127.

5 year tenures: Nick Falk, Alan Zehr, Bob Biwer, Terri Hawk, Charles Woods, Julie Gray

10 years: Chad Lundgren, Kathleen Roberts. Jeff Koch.

20 years: John Tuttle, Joe Diglio, Alice Dettmann, Dan Welytok

30 years: Brian Brown

Education Report:

Dave Loyd gave a brief report about the last several education sessions. Dave was elected to the Board of Directors. Our new Education Chair is John Tuttle.

Newsletter:

Ralph Miller gave the newsletter report. Ralph mentioned that we need four newsletters per year to qualify for Chapter Recognition points. Ralph also mentioned he would be stepping away from being our Newsletter Chair. Our incoming Newsletter Chair is Keith Arnold.



Treasurer's Report:

Ty Lei, Treasurer, spoke about the Chapters finances and distributed his financial report. The fund balance is down from \$18,746 to \$18,053 and the Chapter is financially healthy. A motion was made to approve the report. Seconded, motion carried.

Nominating Committee:

President Thompson indicated the three Board positions would need to be filled and the nominating committee presented those nominated. Retiring Directors are Randy Mahoney, Jason Les, and Nate Wenzel. A motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot for their replacements: Molly Costaris, Rebecca Smith and Dave Loyd. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Recess:

A motion was made to recess at 430pm June 18th 2015.

Board Reorganization Meeting:

The Great lakes Board met at 730am June 19th 2015 to reorganize. Minutes from two previous Board meetings, April 22 and February 20th 2015 were approved.

New Officers of the Great lakes Chapter are:

President - Andy Gusa

Vice President - Molly Costaris

Secretary - Dave Loyd

The previous Secretary Eric Krienert accepted a new job in California, so he resigned his Great Lakes Board seat and will become a member of the Far West Chapter. The Board appointed Ty Lein to finish his term, which consists of one year.

Reconvened:

The meeting was reconvened at 800am by newly elected President Andy Gusa. President Gusa thanked retiring President Thompson for his service and presented him a plaque.

Internal Audit:

Kent Erhardt, Jason Les and Ernie Potter reported no irregularities in the Chapters finances.

2016 Annual Chapter Meeting:

A short discussion took place regarding next year's Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in Wisconsin. Our Time and Place Chair is Julie Luedtke and our Program Chair is Jeremy Gritton.

A raffle was held for one free TACC registration, with Keith Arnold being the winner.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 825 am.

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