Notes from our President:

I would like to take a moment to say “THANKS” to those who attended the fall meeting in Minneapolis a few weeks back! Your participation and involvement, specifically at our meetings, are what make our Chapter strong! I hope the sessions were informative and you were able to network with peers in our cooperative accounting community during the day or while at Kieran’s or Timberwolves. Networking is one of the most valuable benefits of membership!

The Timberwolves were gracious enough to gift our Chapter with a team logo sweatshirt along with our ticket order. We performed a drawing for those who attended the game and will be mailing the sweatshirt to the winner, Daniel Dodd. Congratulations!

The Board will start planning soon for our spring 2016 meeting which will be out state (i.e. not in the Twin Cities) as is typical for every other spring meeting. As you consider our next meeting, I strongly encourage you to network with others in your organization and inspire them to join NSAC. Solid numbers and a vibrant base are critical to the success of the North Central Chapter. We need your help to ensure this happens – please ask others to join!

Jim Halvorsen has included a letter about joining one of the new committees we are initiating as a part of the Chapter’s structure. Please spend a few minutes to read his letter and I hope you consider joining a committee. These committees will provide a great developmental opportunity and the networking that comes with participation will be invaluable.

I encourage you to spend time at the NSAC’s National website as there is a wealth of great information on their site. It can be found at the following link:

http://www.nsacoop.org/

Furthermore, please consider attending one or more of National’s Cooperative Learning Networking (CLN) sessions which offer affordable and informative CPE credits. CLN’s can be found at the following link:

http://www.nsacoop.org/cooperative_learning_network.php

Finally, do not forget to place a hold in your calendar now for the NSAC National Tax, Finance & Accounting Conference for Cooperatives July 31 – August 3, 2016 in Washington DC. This will be a great event and I hope you can make it!

I wish you a happy holiday season and thank you for your participation in the North Central Chapter of NSAC!!

Ian O’Connell
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By John Dauwalter, Chapter Membership Chair

The North Central Chapter of the NSAC had 233 members as of October 2015. The NSAC membership grew by 15 individuals, and the North Central Chapter accounted for 10 of those new members.

There are many chapter and national benefits that are available to members. The Mission of the NSAC is to be the acknowledged leader in:
• providing accounting, tax and business education uniquely tailored to cooperatives;
• providing networking and professional development opportunities for our membership; and
• supporting cooperative business interests in standard setting processes enabling our membership to effectively serve cooperatives.

If you know others that can benefit from NSAC membership, please encourage them to join. The National Membership Development Committee currently has a campaign that gives away a tablet to any active member that sponsors five new NSAC members.

Committee Benefits – The Importance of Getting Involved

By Jim Halvorsen, Chapter Secretary

During the November 12th business meeting we discussed the new committee structure and the importance of getting involved in your local chapter. Unfortunately to date I only have three individuals that have turned in their chapter member survey indicating which committees they would like to be involved in. The Board intention in forming the committees really has three purposes. One, as a Board we recognize the tremendous amount of resources we have right within our own chapter. We feel, by establishing committees we can better utilize those resources, and in turn continue to provide quality, timely, and beneficial CPE credits to our membership. Second, committees will help in distributing the work load amongst the membership and will provide ongoing knowledge of what needs to be done and when it needs to be done. Having one or two people with all the knowledge related to important information such as what procedures need to be completed to obtain CPE credits can make for some challenging times when those members decide it is time to retire or leave the organization. Finally, the Board feels that you the member will benefit from being involved in committees. Being involved provides a great opportunity to network and get to know more about your associates. You will also benefit by learning more about NSAC and the benefits that the organization has to offer. The Board would like you to consider the below five committees:

• Finance
• Membership
• Spring Meeting
• Fall Meeting
• Communications and Social Media

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Board. Also attached to this newsletter distribution is the sign-up sheet for the committee’s. Please consider which committees would best suit you and return the completed form to Jim Halvorsen at jim.halvorsen@claconnect.com.

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As Ian mentioned, this year’s spring annual meeting will be 2-day event held outside of the metro area. The board is looking into a couple different choices. If you have any ideas, please contact one of the board members. PLEASE WATCH YOUR E-MAIL FOR INFORMATION IN THE SPRING OF 2016.

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For those of you that have planned events such as our meetings, you know that we are obligated to provide (in advance) the numbers of attendees to the facility. Our number last fall was GREAT at over 80 members, but only 20 had responded by the due date. Please take a look at the registration when you get it – check your calendar and if you can join us, please submit your form and payment to Matt. We appreciate the numbers we have enjoyed for so many years and hope you will continue to join us.

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We are always looking for new members for our group. Our semi-annual meetings provide up to date information for you, plus provide a venue for our CPAs to earn CPE credits for the year. If you didn’t join us for our fall conference, you missed a good one. We had almost 80 attendees again and some GREAT speakers. We learned about drones, the state of the economy, and the new required forms for health insurance. Some of our group even participated in a skit that talked about the differences between the generations in the workplace. It was funny how we all sort of related to our actual generation. Our meetings provide an opportunity to network with others in the co-op world. Look around your office or in your clients’ offices for others than can benefit from our group.

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Please feel free to contact any of our board directors with questions, suggestion, or comments.

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