

# COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

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## Annual Meeting

The Council's 68th Annual Meeting was held in Kearney at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center on November 22, 2013. A total of 169 people attended the meeting and Hall of Fame luncheon.

Speakers included National Council of Farmer Cooperatives' President Chuck Conner of Washington, DC; State Senator Paul Schumacher of Columbus; and Colonel Mark W. Tillman, pilot and commander of Air Force One.

The business included the financial report, Chairman's report, PAC report, Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee report, and the President's report. In addition members elected/re-elected, respectively, Carl Dickinson,

President of United Farmers Co-op in York, and Bruce Favinger, Bd Chair of Cooperative Producers Inc. in Hastings to the NCC Board of Directors.

The morning session concluded with the Legal, Tax & Accounting Workshop presented by attorneys from the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony capped off the Annual Meeting. This year, Dr. Roger Ginder of Ames, Iowa, and Bill Henry of North Platte were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

See pages 3&4 for additional photos of the Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame ceremony.

## Education Programs Underway

The Council's director education programs began this week with the Director/Manager Workshops in Ogallala on Dec. 11 and in York on Dec. 12. All cooperative managers and local directors should have received our educational brochure in late October which provided details about all the programs.

Other scheduled programs for 2013/14 include:

- Jan. 7 Director Certification Program Phases 1&3 in Kearney
- Jan. 8 Director Certification Program Phases 2&4 in Kearney
- Feb. 5 Cooperative Issues Symposium in Lincoln
- Feb. 6 Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar in Lincoln
- Feb. 26 Board Officer Seminar in LaVista



NCC Board Vice Chair Randy Robeson (at podium), shares a light-hearted moment with the membership during the business session. As Chair of the committee, he also provided an update on the NCC-Political Action Committee. Also providing reports were (L-R) Bruce Favinger - Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee Report; Robert Andersen, - Financial Report and President's Report; and David Briggs - Chairman's Report.

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## President's Message



During the next few months, the Council will be conducting our educational programs for directors and managers. As cooperatives in the state continue to evolve, the responsibilities upon local management teams become greater; understanding these responsibilities and preparing for the future success of the cooperative should not be taken lightly by management teams.

Last month, the Council's 68th Annual Meeting was conducted in Kearney. I thought we had a number of excellent, thought provoking presentations during the meeting (see Annual Meeting article on page 1). We were also proud to welcome Dr. Roger Ginder and Bill Henry into the NCC Cooperative Hall of Fame.

We continue to receive strong positive reports from members about the Thursday evening reception preceding the Annual Meeting sponsored by the Crosby Guenzel LLP and the Council. Our intent is to provide a networking opportunity among the cooperative members and stakeholders.

During the Annual Meeting, the voting delegates approved proposed changes to the Council's By-Laws revising the definition of "Participating Member" and "Supporting Member." I believe these clarifications will prove positive for members in the future and parallels the mis-



**The Council welcomes the following new 2013/14 members:**

**Supporting Member-Silver Level**  
**ACE Agribusiness/Pennmillers**  
**Wilkes-Barre, PA**

**The Cooperative Finance Assn**  
**Kansas City, MO**

sion of Nebraska's only non-profit trade association dedicated to farmer/rancher owned agricultural cooperatives.

Next month, the Nebraska Legislature will convene its 60-day legislative session. The big issues before the legislators include Medicaid expansion, prison reform, state aid to education, Water Sustainability Funding Task Force, and the Grand Island/Kearney Veteran's Home. The issue of the One Call Notification is expected to be addressed this session due to the interim hearing which was conducted on November 12.

In closing, I want to extend my wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year to each of the respective cooperative management teams and their families.

In the cooperative spirit, I remain....  
Robert C. Andersen

## Board Members Elected



During the Annual Meeting, two members were re-elected/elected to the NCC Board. Bruce Favinger (left), Bd Chair of Cooperative Producers Inc. in Hastings, was re-elected. In addition, Carl Dickinson (right), President of United Farmers Co-op in York, was elected to replace Dave Schneider of Waverly who chose not to seek re-election. Our thanks to Dave for his service on the board.

## Co-ops 101 for College Students

This fall, the Council has continued its efforts to reach out to college students with Co-ops 101 presentations. Colleges that hosted presentations this fall have been Southeast Community College-Beatrice (2 classes); Central Community College-Hastings; Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture-Curtis; and Central Community College-Columbus. For the 2013/14 academic year, a total of 95 students and teachers have attended this presentation.



*On September 20th, Ed Woeppel (standing) provided a Co-ops 101 to students at Central Community College in Hastings. Bob Fifield (not pictured), manager of Cooperative Producers Inc. in Hastings informed students about career opportunities at cooperatives.*

## 2013 Cooperative Hall of Fame Inductees

Dr. Roger Ginder of Ames, Iowa, and Bill Henry of North Platte were inducted into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame on November 22, 2013. The induction ceremony was held in conjunction with the Council's Annual Meeting luncheon in Kearney.

Roger and Bill become the 58th and 59th members to be inducted into this distinguished group of cooperative leaders. Each received a framed certificate commemorating their induction into the Hall of Fame. In addition, they will be recognized with a plaque detailing their contributions to cooperatives which will be permanently displayed at the Council office.

**Roger Ginder...** Roger grew up on a farm in central Illinois and received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Southern Illinois University. After serving as an Ag Marketing Specialist at the University of Delaware, Roger moved to the University of Kentucky where he received his Ph.D in 1978. That same year, Roger began his service at Iowa State University, a position he maintained until his retirement in 2010.



During that time, Roger was very instrumental in creating and delivering a model Director Certification Program for

cooperative directors. This program was a partnership of the councils and universities in Iowa and Nebraska and CoBank.

**Bill Henry...** Bill began farming west of Gothenburg in 1959. Throughout his farming career, Bill has been a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of cooperatives. He was elected to the Board of Farmland Service Co-op in 1985 and served as Secretary of the Board from 1987 to 1998. Bill was elected as Chairman of the Board in 1998 and served in that role until 2004.

Bill was very instrumental in the consolidation of Farmland Service Co-op and All Points Co-op in 2004. He served as Vice Chair of the merged



cooperative until his retirement in 2007.

In addition to his service to cooperatives, Bill has served on the Dawson County Public Power Board for 25 years, and he has served as his local school board president for 12 years.



*As his wife Sharron looks on, Bill Henry (left) accepts his Hall of Fame Certificate from NCC Bd Chair David Briggs.*



*Dr. Roger Ginder and his wife Rochelle enjoyed Dr. Mike Turner's (at podium) Letterman-style "Top 10" introduction prior to Roger's induction into the Hall of Fame.*

## Scholarships Available for 2014/15 Academic Year

For the 2014/15 academic year, the NCC Education Foundation will award four \$1,750 scholarships at UNL-IANR and one \$1,000 scholarship at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

Posters and brochures/application forms were forwarded to cooperative managers on November 25. Additional application forms can be found on the home page of the Council's website at [www.nebr.coop](http://www.nebr.coop) or by contacting Deb at the Council office at 402/475-6555. Completed applications must be returned to the appropriate college by **April 15, 2014**.



# Annual Meeting Photos



*Chuck Conner, President of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in Washington DC, spoke about federal issues affecting cooperatives in 2014.*



*Annual Meeting participants are pictured above.*



*Senator Paul Schumacher of Columbus, vice chair of the Legislature's Revenue Committee, spoke about the Tax Modernization Committee's recent statewide public hearings and the TMC's findings and recommendations.*



*LEFT: John Oehlerking, NCC Board member, used the cow bell to signal to meeting participants that break time was over.*



*RIGHT: Participants enjoyed fellowship during the noon luncheon followed by Col. Tillman's presentation and the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.*



*David Briggs, NCC Bd Chair and Manager of Westco in Alliance, gave his Chairman's Report during the Business Session.*



*Colonel Mark Tillman, retired pilot and commander of Air Force One from 2001-2009, was the speaker during the noon luncheon. Col. Tillman was at the controls of Air Force One through numerous national events, most notably he protected the President on September 11, 2001 by keeping him out of harms way and connecting the flying oval office to the nation's first responders.*

The minutes of the Council's 68th Annual Meeting are provided below. Council Management Policy provides that minutes must be mailed to all meeting participants. If no written objections are received within 10 days of mailing, they are deemed to be accepted and shall be the official record of the meeting. If a written objection is timely received, action will be taken at the next meeting. Please notify the Council (134 South 13th Street, Suite 503, Lincoln, NE 68508-1901) by December 22 if there are any objections/errors in the minutes as reproduced below. If not, they shall be deemed accepted as distributed.

## NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL 68th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES November 22, 2013

### CALL TO ORDER

The 68th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council convened at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, November 22, 2013, in Ballroom I of the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Kearney. David Briggs, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, presided.

### SPECIAL THANKS

Briggs thanked the Participating & Supporting Members and other sponsors for providing today's refreshment breaks.

### CHUCK CONNER

Briggs introduced the first speaker, Chuck Conner, President/CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. A question and answer period then followed.

### SENATOR PAUL SCHUMACHER

Briggs introduced the second speaker, Senator Paul Schumacher, Vice Chair of the Revenue Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. A question and answer period then followed.

### 2012/13 FINANCIAL REPORT

Robert Andersen, NCC President, presented the 2012/13 Financial Report. He reported that the Council's Board had reviewed and accepted the 2012/13 Financial Report and that a full-scope audit in accordance with the appropriate auditing standards had been conducted. Andersen reported that the auditors have expressed an unmodified opinion.

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

David Briggs, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, presented the Chairperson's Report. He introduced the Council's directors and recognized the committee members and membership for their support of Council programs.

**EXCELLENCE IN COOPERATIVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (ECEC) REPORT**  
Bruce Favinger, Chair of the ECEC, presented the background of the ECEC, the importance of education, and future programming. Included within same was the decision to seek to elevate the Council's educational programming by using regionally or nationally recognized speakers based upon topics or issues.

### POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) REPORT

Randy Robeson, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors and Chair of the PAC committee, presented the background of the PAC, voluntary contributions received to date, and the 2014 Nebraska Legislator elections.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Robert Andersen provided the President's Report for the prior year which included the addressment of legislative and regulatory issues and educational programs as well as the challenges before the association.

### BREAK

A short break was observed.

### VOTING DELEGATE CAUCUS ELECTION RESULTS

Upon reconvening the morning session, Chairman Briggs reported the results of the Active Member Voting Delegate Caucus as follows:

Producer Director: Bruce Favinger, Board Chair at Hastings, was re-elected for a four-year term.

Manager Director: Carl Dickinson, President at York, was elected for a four-year term.

Dave Schneider, Manager at Waverly, was recognized for his service on the Council's Board of Directors.

**LEGAL, TAX & ACCOUNTING WORKSHOP**  
Briggs introduced Attorneys Rocky Weber, Bill Kutilek, and Tom Jeffers with the Crosby Guenzel, LLP law firm. The attorneys addressed the following issues:

- \* Federal Regulatory Issues
- \* Capitalization and Reorganization Issues
- \* Waiver of Damage Provisions in Contracts
- \* Joint Venture Exit Agreements
- \* PTO Accumulation Under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act
- \* General Legal and Accounting Issues Related to Cooperatives
- \* Questions and Answers

The attorneys then answered questions from meeting participants.

The Legal, Tax & Accounting Workshop concluded at 11:45 a.m.

### LUNCHEON

The membership luncheon commenced at 12:00 p.m. with President Andersen presiding.

### COLONEL MARK TILLMAN

Andersen introduced the keynote speaker, Colonel Mark Tillman, retired pilot and commander of Air Force One from 2001-2009. A question and answer period then followed.

### HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

Andersen introduced the two (2) candidates selected for induction into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame: Dr. Roger Ginder of Ames, IA and Bill Henry of North Platte.

### ADJOURNMENT

Andersen declared the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Favinger, Recording Secretary

## NCC MISSION STATEMENT

*To defend, protect and enhance the agricultural cooperative movement through pro-active programs in education, legislation, government affairs, communication, and regulatory issues.*

# By-law Changes

During the election caucus held at the Council's Annual Meeting, delegates considered By-law changes regarding Participating & Supporting Members. Specifically, the changes would:

A. Define a Participating Member to include only entities which provide products and services to producer-owned cooperatives that operate as either a federated or centralized agricultural cooperative or on a mutual company basis (a company in which the customers are also the owners and are therefore entitled to receive profits in the form of dividends or allocations based upon the amount of business done with the company).

B. Define a Supporting Member as those entities that do not operate on a cooperative or mutual company basis as defined above, that serve as producer-owned cooperatives, farm organizations, financial institutions, and others.

C. Amend the membership application process to enable the Council's Board of Directors to determine the membership classification for the membership and to, at their sole discretion, reject any application for membership.

The amendments were recommended by the NCC Board of Directors and were approved by the voting delegates at the election caucus.

**THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES:**

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

[Principals adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance in 1995]

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS...

### January 2014

- 7 Director Certification Program, Phases 1 & 3 - Kearney, Holiday Inn
- 8 Director Certification Program, Phases 2 & 4 - Kearney, Holiday Inn
- 8 Nebraska Legislature Convenes
- 27 NCC Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting - Lincoln, Embassy Suites

### February 2014

- 5 Cooperative Issues Symposium - Lincoln, Embassy Suites
- 6 Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar - Lincoln, Embassy Suites
- 20 NCC Board Meeting - Lincoln, Cornhusker Marriott
- 26 Board Officer Seminar - LaVista, Embassy Suites

### April 2014

- 15 NCC Scholarship Program Application Deadline

## NCC RADIO SPOTS

Every other Friday, the Nebraska Rural Radio Network provides the Council with complimentary network airtime to present a 3-4 minute update on current cooperative issues. This allows the Council another method of communicating with our members.

The radio spots air at approximately 1:15pm MT on KNEB and at 2:17 pm CT on KRVN and KTIC. Our scheduled air times over the next few months are:

- December 20
- January 3, 17 & 31
- February 14 & 28
- March 14 & 28

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**BOARD OFFICERS**  
 David Briggs, Alliance ..... Chair  
 Randy Robeson, Brainard ..... Vice Chair  
 Bruce Favinger, Hastings ..... Secretary

**BOARD DIRECTORS**  
 Dave Beckman ..... O'Neill  
 Carl Dickinson ..... York  
 Mike Hechtner, CoBank - Omaha ..... Participating Member  
 Ron Heerten ..... Ainsworth  
 John Oehlerking ..... Elmwood  
 Dean Thernes ..... Battle Creek

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