

COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

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ANNUAL MEETING AND DIRECTOR/ MANAGER WORKSHOP

The Council's Board of Directors has approved a revised format for the 2014 Annual Meeting which also impacts the Director/Manager Workshop. The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19th rather than the traditional Friday prior to Thanksgiving.

The Annual Meeting will be condensed while still maintaining the business session, guest speaker, Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and membership welcoming reception. The Annual Meeting will be held on the afternoon/evening of Wednesday, November 19th at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

In addition, we will piggy-back the Director/Manager Workshop to the Annual Meeting so the DMW will be held on Thursday, November 20th at Kearney. Having these events held back-to-back will enable managers and directors to reduce travel and attend two programs in one trip. Full details regarding both of these events will be forwarded to the membership in early October.

These dates as well as those of the other education programs we have planned for 2014/15 are included in the Calendar of Upcoming Events on page 2.

NCC-PAC INTERVIEWS STATE SENATOR CANDIDATES

The NCC-Political Action Committee has scheduled interviews for 35 state legislative candidates. The interviews were held July 10 in North Platte and will also be held July 22-23 in Omaha and July 24 in Lincoln.

During the interviews, PAC members had the opportunity to hear from candidates and learn more about the issues important to the candidate. In addition, the interviews allowed time for committee members to provide a "Co-ops 101" for the candidates. By sharing information, the candidates have a greater understanding of



Prior to the start of his NCC-PAC interview, District 10 candidate Matt Williams (left) of Gothenburg, visits with NCC President Bob Andersen and NCC-PAC Committee member Ron Hunter of Edison.

the co-op business model and the issues that are important to co-ops. Through this interaction, candidates are often surprised to learn of the size and scope of Nebraska's farmer-owned cooperatives.

The NCC-PAC, established in 1999, is a very important part of the Council's legislative program. Through these interviews, candidates gain a greater understanding of co-op issues and are aware of the importance of the co-op system prior to serving as a state senator.

UPDATES

NCC Education Foundation Awards Scholarships

NCCEF scholarships for the 2014/15 academic year have been awarded to 5 students—4 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) each receiving a \$1,750 scholarship and 1 at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. This year's recipients are:

- **Kevin Donoghue**, son of Dan & Susan Donoghue of Columbus, will be a sophomore at UNL majoring in agribusiness. The Donoghue's are members of Frontier Co-op Co in Brainard and Central Valley Ag Co-op N/S in O'Neill.

- **Alex Frerichs**, son of Wayne & Judy Frerichs of Lodgepole, will be a freshman at UNL majoring in agribusiness. The Frerichs' are members of Crossroads Co-op Assn in Sidney, Panhandle Co-op Assn in Scottsbluff, and Frenchman Valley Farmers Co-op in Imperial

- **Corey Schindler**, son of Dale & Renee Schindler of Elgin, will be a senior at UNL majoring in agribusiness. The Schindler's are members of Central Valley Ag Co-op N/S in O'Neill.

- **Damon Steinbrink**, son of Robert & Linda Steinbrink of Loomis, will be a senior at UNL majoring in ag economics. The Steinbrink's are members of CHS Agri Service Center in Holdrege and All Points Co-op in Gothenburg.

(continued on page 2)

Updates *(cont. from page 1)*

• **Rien Franzen**, son of Robert & Janet Franzen of Gurley, will be a second-year student at NCTA majoring in ag production systems and agribusiness. The Franzen's are members of Frenchman Valley Farmers Co-op in Imperial.

"Co-ops 101" for Community Colleges

During the spring semester, Council staff provided 13 *Co-ops 101* presentations at SCC-Beatrice (3 classes), NCTA (4 classes), CCC-Hastings, CCC-Columbus, and NCC-Norfolk (4 classes) for a total of 195 students and instructors. The Council has been able to provide these programs through a grant from the CHS Foundation.

Summer Ag Teachers Convention

The Council and the CHS Foundation joined together to sponsor a break during the Nebraska Ag Teachers Summer Convention held June 2-5 in Kearney.

During the break, Ed Woepfel provided remarks on behalf of the Council. In his remarks, he thanked teachers for their role in preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders and discussed the recent merger activity of Nebraska cooperatives.

At the meeting, Woepfel also provided copies of cooperative videos and curriculum to new teachers and new programs that had joined the ranks in the past year.

PSC Maintains Schedule A and E Rates

On May 20, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) voted to maintain the current Schedule A and E rates following a hearing earlier in the month. These schedules govern the maximum rates for state licensed grain warehouses for Receiving and Handling (R&H) grain, as well as Storage and Insuring (S&I).

Following review, the Council's Grain-Adhoc Advisory Committee and Board concurred that no changes be made to the Schedule A or E rates, and prior to the hearing, a letter was forwarded to the PSC indicating this.

Title 195 - Chemigation Regulations

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality is seeking input into proposed changes to chemigation regulations that are allowed following the passage of LB 272 during the 2014 legislation session.

The initial meeting is scheduled for July 23rd at the NDEQ office. The Council will be involved in this, as well as future meetings regarding chemigation.

Nominating Committee

The Council's Board has appointed a nominating committee charged with developing a slate of candidates for Board positions. Members of the committee and the co-ops they represent are Dean Thernes of Battle Creek as committee chair, Ron Velder of Dorchester, Dale Piper of Elmwood, Tom Hansen of Edison, and Chris Cullan of Hemingford.

The committee will be conferring this month and will provide the candidate slate to the Board. Information regarding the candidates and the election process will be provided to all members this fall prior to the Annual Meeting.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2014

- 19 NCC Board/Committee Meetings; Annual Meeting; Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony; and Membership Reception - Kearney Holiday Inn
- 20 Director/Manager Workshop - Kearney Holiday Inn

January 2015

- 6-7 Director Certification Program - Kearney Hampton Inn

February 2015

- 4 Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar - Lincoln Embassy Suites
- 5 Cooperative Issues Symposium - Lincoln Embassy Suites
- 26 Board Officers Seminar - LaVista Embassy Suites

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:

July 18; August 1, 15 & 29;
September 12 & 26

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.