



Cooperation in Nebraska

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NCC CONDUCTS 71ST ANNUAL MEETING

The Nebraska Cooperative Council hosted its 71st Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 17. Two hundred fourteen (214) people attended the event that was held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney.

See page 5 for photos.



NCC President & General Counsel Rocky Weber presented the 2015/16 Financial Report as well as the President's Report. NCC Board Chair David Briggs presented the Chairman's Report, NCC Board Vice Chair Dean Thernes presented the PAC Report, and NCC Board Secretary Bruce Favinger provided the Education Report.

Board election results were announced with Dave Beckman of CVA-York and Dean Thernes of Farmers Pride-Battle Creek both re-elected to the Board. In addition,

the Participating Members re-elected Mike Hechtner of Co-Bank to the board at their meeting on October 19, 2016.

The featured speaker for the Annual Meeting was Kris (Tanto) Paronto. Mr. Paronto is a former Army Ranger who was involved in the September 11, 2012, terrorist attack in Bengazi, Libya. He helped save over 20 lives while fighting off terrorists from the CIA Annex for over 13 hours. This was a very riveting presentation that was well received by the audience.

The final portion of the Annual Meeting was devoted to the Hall of Fame induction. This year Robert C. Andersen was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Bob, of course, was the long-time President of the Council until his retirement in February of 2016. (See page 4 for the full HOF story.)

After adjournment of the Annual Meeting, the member reception was held which provided a great opportunity for networking and allowing members to catch up with Hall of Fame inductee Bob Andersen.

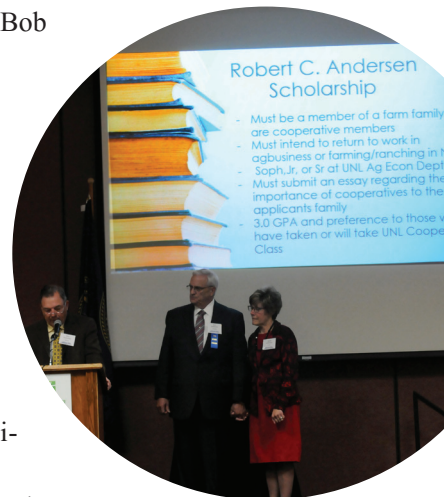
ROBERT C. ANDERSEN SCHOLARSHIP CREATED

During the NCC Annual Meeting, the Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation announced that the Foundation will be granting another scholarship by creating the Robert C. Andersen Scholarship.

This scholarship is being created to honor long-time Council President Bob Andersen upon his retirement this past winter.

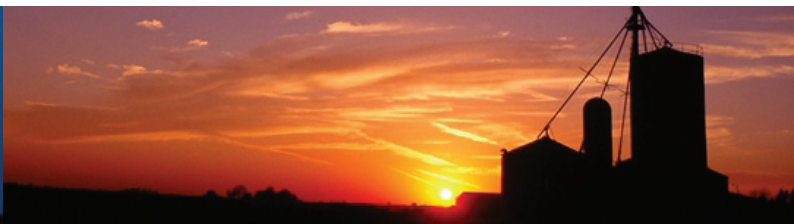
The scholarship will be provided to a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student and will be in addition to the current Michael S. Turner Scholarships at UNL and NCTA already being funded by the Foundation.

Specific requirements for each scholarship are listed on page 3. For the 2017/18 academic year, *(continued on page 3)*



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2016/17 EDUCATION PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

The first education program for the 2016/17 year was the Director/Manager Workshop that was held on November 18th in Kearney—the day after the Council’s Annual Meeting.

The workshop focused on “Cooperative Strategy in Consolidating Markets.” Dr. David Kohl, retired from Virginia Tech University, opened the program with a look at economic conditions both nationally and worldwide. As always, Dr. Kohl provided a very valuable and entertaining presentation.

Dr. Scott Downey from Purdue University then discussed marketing in consolidating markets. Dr. Downey provided a very intriguing and thought-provoking presentation regarding how cooperatives may need to evolve to meet member needs in the future.

Those two speakers set the stage for upcoming programs we will be hosting. We encourage our members to register and attend our remaining 2016/17 programs:

Director Certification Program on January 5 (Phases 1 and 3) and January 6 (Phases 2 and 4) at the Hampton Inn-Kearney for cooperative directors

Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar on February 1 at Embassy Suites-Lincoln for cooperative managers, key staff, directors, and Participating/Supporting Members

Cooperative Issues Symposium on February 2 at Embassy Suites-Lincoln for cooperative managers, key staff, directors, and Participating/Supporting Members

Board Officer Seminar on February 23 at Embassy Suites-LaVista for current cooperative board officers and those who aspire to be an officer in the future.



Ninety-eight (98) cooperative representatives attended the Director/Manager Workshop in Kearney on November 18. Facilitators Dr. Scott Downey (above) and Dr. David Kohl (left) addressed marketing in consolidating markets and economic conditions nationally and worldwide.

Director/Manager Workshop Participant comments:

“Awesome speakers - could listen to them all day. Very interesting”

“Good to have speakers and presenters who will challenge the group, which these did.”

“Keep getting good speakers. Good crowd and meeting. Keep up good work!”

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BOARD OFFICERS

David Briggs, Chair..... Alliance
Dean Thernes, Vice Chair Battle Creek
Dave Beckman, Secretary..... York

BOARD DIRECTORS

Bruce Favinger Hastings
Mike Hechtner, CoBank-Omaha..... Participating Member
John Oehlerking Elmwood
Doug Ohlson..... Imperial
Randy Robeson..... Brainard
Tim Rowe..... Gothenburg

PARTNER UPDATE

The Council works with many organizations and agencies during the course of the year. Many of these groups offer programs that may be of interest to cooperative members. Listed below are two programs that are being offered this winter:

2017 Nebraska Extension Precision Ag Data Management Workshop

For details and to register visit <http://agronomy.unl.edu/NEPADMWregister>

INTL FCStone Livestock Price Risk Management Academy

For details and to register visit <http://intlfcstone.cvent.com/d/wvq2jd>

NCC EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS *(continued from page 1)*

the NCC Education Foundation will award one \$2,500 Robert C. Andersen Scholarship and six \$2,500 Michael S. Turner Scholarships at UNL-CASNR and one \$1,500 Michael S. Turner Scholarship at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture-Curtis (NCTA).

Posters will be forwarded to cooperative managers by mid-December. The application forms can be found on the Council's website at www.nebr.coop/foundation/scholarships. The application deadline is April 15, 2017.

The NCC Education Foundation has a mission of enhancing educational offerings for the cooperative industry. The Foundation does this primarily through the Turner Scholarship program and the newly announced Andersen Scholarship.

Your charitable donation to the Foundation will help increase our presence with college students and create more awareness for cooperatives. Please consider supporting the youth of our state. For a donation form, go to www.nebr.coop/foundation/donations-memorials.

Requirements for the Andersen Scholarship

- Recipient must be a current undergraduate sophomore, junior or senior majoring in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics at UNL-CASNR; and,
- Must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better; and,
- Must be a member of a farm family that actively patronizes and are voting members of one or more of the Council's active member cooperatives; and,
- Must have the present intent to return to work in rural agribusiness or farming in the state of Nebraska following completion of his or her education.
- Preference will be given to a student that is currently registered for, is currently taking, or has taken the Agricultural Cooperatives class offered by the Department.

Requirements for the Turner Scholarships

- Recipients must be majoring in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics at UNL-CASNR or Agribusiness or Ag Production Systems at NCTA; and,
- Must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better; and,
- Must be a son/daughter of a parent/legal guardian who has been an active member, director, or employee for at least the prior 3 years of a cooperative which has been a member in good standing of the Council for the past 5 years.

"The scholarship program continues to be an important part of our effort to help youth understand the cooperative way of doing business and interest them in pursuing careers in the agricultural industry."

- Gerald Schmidt, NCC Education Foundation Board Chair

UNL CO-OPS CLASS IS EXPANDED

The Council has partnered with the University of Nebraska to offer a Cooperatives class at UNL for the past three years. Originally the class was one-credit hour and was taught by Council President Rocky Weber.

Since Dr. Greg McKee joined the UNL Ag Economics faculty in May of 2016, he has taken over the class.

The class has been expanded into a three-credit hour class. In the fall of 2016, there were 20 students enrolled. This class will be offered annually and will provide students with a better understanding of the cooperative business model.

Dr. McKee will also be working with students to develop internships at

cooperatives, and he will be arranging a 2-3 day study/tour so that students can travel to cooperatives to gain a better understanding of the value that coopera-

tives provide for their members. It will also allow students to learn more about career opportunities within cooperatives.



On October 28, 2016, Dr. Greg McKee (top left) conducted a panel discussion for students in his Cooperatives class. Participating were (top right - facing camera from L-R) CHS Board Director Don Anthony of Gothenburg (left) and Cooperative Manager Dale Piper (right) from Midwest Farmers Cooperative-Elmwood. They spoke about current issues facing cooperatives.

ANDERSEN INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



Robert C. Andersen of Lincoln became the 63rd person to be inducted into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Cooperative Hall of Fame. Bob was inducted into the Hall of Fame at ceremonies that were held during the Council's Annual Meeting on November 17 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney.

Bob Andersen began his career in cooperatives in 1974 after two years of service in the U.S. Navy and a short stint in the Farmers Home Administration. In Bob's early years as Executive Secretary of the Council, membership was a concern. Membership grew over 32% from 1973 to 1976 which strengthened the Council considerably.

With a well-respected organization in place, the Council continued on an upward trajectory under Bob's leadership. In the late 70's the Director Certification Program was added along with a multi-state education agreement with Iowa and CoBank. The 80's saw significant legislative involvement with ag input liens, "double jeopardy," and

crude oil overcharge refunds being important issues.

In the 90's the Council implemented a scholarship program and the Hall of Fame. In the 2000's the Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation was formed, and organized fly-ins to Washington, DC began.

In addition to the outstanding leadership that Bob provided for cooperatives, he also served on the boards of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council (LEAD), the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, Ag Builders of Nebraska, Ag 40, the Lower Platte South NRD, and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Bob's 42 years of cooperative leadership advanced and protected the farmer owned cooperative system and the interests of its 55,000 Nebraska farmers and ranchers.

Congratulations Bob!



L to R: NCC Board Chairman David Briggs, Jackie Andersen, and 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee Bob Andersen.



Bob Andersen (at podium), with his wife Jackie, thanks the NCC membership following his induction into the NCC Cooperative Hall of Fame.



2016/17 NCC Board of Directors and Leadership

Front row:

*Dave Beckman (Secretary), CVA-York
Bruce Favinger, CPI-Hastings
David Briggs (Chair), Westco-Alliance
Doug Ohlson, Frenchman Valley-Imperial
John Oehlerking, Midwest Farmers Co-op-Elmwood*

Back row:

*Tim Rowe, Country Partners Co-op-Gothenburg
Randy Robeson, Frontier Co-op Co.-Brainard
Rocky Weber, NCC President & General Counsel
Dean Thernes (Vice Chair), Farmers Pride-Battle Creek
Mike Hechtner, CoBank-Omaha*

ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS



ABOVE: Meeting participants watched the newly-produced Nebraska Cooperatives video which provides information on the co-op business model and value that co-ops bring to Nebraska's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. It was produced by the Council and the Cooperative Communicators & Public Relations Organizations (CCPRO) with funding provided by the CHS Foundation.

BELOW: Dr. Greg McKee is introduced to NCC members. Greg joined UNL in May of 2016 as the Agricultural and Rural Cooperatives Specialist in the Dept. of Ag Economics



ABOVE: NCC President & General Counsel Rocky Weber gives his first President's Report.



ABOVE AND AT RIGHT: Keynote speaker Kris (Tanto) Paronto, former Army Ranger, gave a riveting talk with a "never give up" message about the September 11, 2012, terrorist attack in Bengazi, Libya, where he helped save over 20 lives while fighting off terrorists from the CIA Annex for over 13 hours. The story has subsequently been made into a book and movie titled "13 hours" which he autographed for meeting participants.

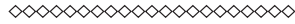


ABOVE: During the business meeting, Dean Thernes (at podium) gave the NCC-PAC report. Also pictured are (L-R) NCC President & General Counsel Rocky Weber and NCC Bd Chair David Briggs.



Members enjoyed beverages and hors d'oeuvres during the evening reception while catching up with cooperative friends from across the state.

Below are the minutes of the Council's 71st Annual Meeting. Council Management Policy provides that minutes must be provided 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 S. 13th Street, Suite 503, Lincoln, NE 68508) by December 26th if there are any objections/errors in the minutes as reproduced below. If not, they shall be deemed accepted as distributed.



**Nebraska Cooperative Council
71st Annual Meeting
November 17, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

The 71st Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council convened at 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2016, 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 others for sponsoring today's meeting.

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVES VIDEO

A short video developed by the Council, CCPRO, and the University of Nebraska IANR Media staff with support from the CHS Foundation was shown.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS FOR COOPERATIVES

Stan Mitchell, CFO at Farmers Cooperative in Dorchester as well as the President of the National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives (NSAC), presented Council President Rocky Weber with a complimentary membership in the NSAC.

2015/16 FINANCIAL REPORT

Rocky Weber, NCC President & General Counsel, presented the 2015/16 Financial Report. He reported that the Council's Board had reviewed and accepted the 2015/16 Financial Report and that a full-scope audit in accordance with the appropriate auditing standards had been conducted. Weber reported that the auditor expressed an unqualified opinion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Briggs 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.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) REPORT

Dean Thernes, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the PAC committee, presented the background of the PAC, voluntary contributions received to date, and the PAC interviews conducted in 2016 of Nebraska legislator candidates.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Weber provided the President's Report for the prior year which included the legislative program, regulatory issues, and educational programs as well as the challenges before farmer-owned cooperatives.

VOTING DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS

Doug Ohlson, Election Committee Chairman, reported on this year's Board election results as follows:

Producer Director: David Beckman, Board Chairman at York, was elected for a four-year term

Manager Director: Dean Thernes, President at Battle Creek, was elected for a four-year term

KRIS (TANTO) PARONTO

Briggs introduced the keynote speaker, Kris (Tanto) Paronto, who is a former Army Ranger from the 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment and private security contractor. On September 11, 2012 he was part of the CIA annex security team that responded to the terrorist attack on the U.S. Special Mission in Benghazi, Libya, helping to save over 20 lives while fighting off terrorists from the CIA Annex for over 13 hours.

Mr. Paronto's story is told in the book "13 Hours" written by Mitchell Zuckoff and his five surviving annex security team members which was made into a critically acclaimed motion picture of the same name.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

At this time Briggs and Weber inducted Robert Andersen into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Cooperative Hall of Fame.

ANDERSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Rod Schroeder, NCC Education Foundation Board member, announced that the NCC Education Foundation and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be annually awarding a Robert C. Andersen scholarship to an undergraduate sophomore, junior or senior student each year. This scholarship is in addition to the Michael S. Turner scholarships that are currently awarded.

ADJOURNMENT

Briggs declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Favinger, Recording Secretary



**CALENDAR OF
UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 2017

- 4** Nebraska Legislature convenes
- 5-6** Director Certification Program - Kearney, Hampton Inn
- 23** NCC Legislative Advisory Committee meeting - Lincoln

February 2017

- 1** Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar - Lincoln, Embassy Suites
- 2** Cooperative Issues Symposium - Lincoln, Embassy Suites
- 22** NCC Board Meeting - Lincoln
- 23** Board Officer Seminar - LaVista, Embassy Suites

NCC RADIO SPOTS

The Nebraska Rural Radio Network provides the Council with complimentary network air time to present updates on current cooperative issues. These messages are aired every other Friday if there is information of significant importance to share.

The radio spots air at approximately 1:15pm MT on KNEB and at 2:17 pm CT on KRVN and KTIC.