



Cooperation in Nebraska

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**Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts
addresses the 73rd Annual Meeting
of the Nebraska Cooperative Council**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In November, a week before the Council's Annual Meeting, I was betting that the delayed harvest would result in a small turnout for both the Annual Meeting and Director/Manager Workshop the following day. I was pleasantly surprised, however, when over 200 persons were in attendance at the Annual Meeting and over 80 individuals attended the next day's Workshop.

A few days later I received an email from one of our Participating Members that read in part: *“Congratulations on another successful annual meeting. While the stress of the industry is apparent, the culture of the Nebraska Co-ops amongst the managers and board members may be one of the best in the nation.”*

While I was gratified in receiving the compliment on the Annual Meeting, I was more gratified in the recognition that the leadership of the respective cooperatives in Nebraska is collectively recognized as strong, resilient and confident. There is no glossing over the challenges to the agricultural economy for our farmers and our cooperatives. If, however, the culture of the Nebraska cooperatives is strong, resilient and confident, then, as in other times, our cooperatives will face the current challenges and as a result remain a force to continue to advance, strengthen, enhance and maintain the cooperative business model in Nebraska for the mutual benefit of their farmer owners.

This positive culture is also reflected in the support of all of you for the Council and its legislative, regulatory, and educational missions. While the financial support of all of the Council's members is vital to our mission, it is the support that so many of you show by sharing your time, talent, information and feedback that is critical to the Council's and by extension each Council member's success.

Christmas is a good time to count blessing, so: THANK YOU to all of you who serve on our Board of Directors, to those who serve on the PAC, LAC, ECEC, Hall of Fame and Legacy Initiative Committees. THANK YOU to those of you who serve on the Board of Directors of the NCC Education Foundation. THANK YOU to those Managers who participated in the Cooperative Week Proclamation and Press activities. THANK YOU to those who attend the Council's education programs and generously support the scholarship and other activities of the Education Foundation.

THANK YOU to those Managers who call me frequently

to discuss issues and matters critical to your cooperatives. THANK YOU to the Cooperatives that invite me to their Annual Meetings, Board Retreats, and Board Meetings. THANK YOU to the Members who welcome me for a quick visit at the Co-op. THANK YOU to those who call and give us a heads up on emerging issues and to those who respond when I send out a request for information or a request for action with our Congressional Delegation or State Legislators.

Your commitment and support, your **“CULTURE”**, is unrivaled compared to what I know of other state cooperative councils. I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to work with all of you, learn from all of you and to serve all of you. I am also fortunate to be able to work with Ed, Glenda and Deb in support of the greater cooperative effort in Nebraska.

I wish all of you a heartfelt Merry Christmas, and I look forward to meeting the challenges that 2019 will bring with the confidence that comes from the enormous wealth of your active support. It is, after all, your **“CULTURE”**!



NEW FORMAT FOR NEWSLETTER

Communication is vital to any organization, and the Council continues to seek ways to ensure that we can most effectively communicate with you, the member. We know that due to generational differences and technology advancements, people consume information in much different ways than ever before.

In order to meet the changing needs of our membership and still provide timely information, we will be changing the format of our “newsletter.” Beginning in January, we will no longer be sending out quarterly newsletters. Instead we will be sending out periodic electronic updates. These updates will be shorter in nature and provide more timely information. Our goal is to provide a more concise and timely flow of information to our members.

The key is to provide you with clear, concise information when you need it. As always, your feedback will be helpful as we update our communication strategy.

COUNCIL HELD 73RD ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER

The Nebraska Cooperative Council hosted its 73rd Annual Meeting on November 14 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney. A total of 206 members and guests attended this year's event.

Governor Pete Ricketts kicked off the meeting with remarks regarding the state's economy and issues that will be addressed in the upcoming legislative session. He also addressed the property tax issue and how it may be addressed over time.

NCC President & General Counsel Rocky Weber presented the 2017/18 Financial Report as well as the President's Report. NCC Board Chair David Briggs presented the Chairman's Report, NCC Board Vice Chair and PAC Co-Chair Dean Thernes presented the PAC Report, and NCC Board Secretary and Chair of the Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee provided the Education Report.



Over 200 attended this year's meeting - a great crowd especially considering this year's late harvest

The results of the Board elections were announced with Tim Rowe, Bd Chair of Country Partners Co-op headquartered in Gothenburg, and Randy Robeson, CEO of Frontier Co-op Company headquartered in Brainard, both re-elected for 4-year terms.

Our keynote speaker was Chad Williams, a former Navy SEAL who served on multiple deployments on SEAL Teams One and Seven. Williams provided great insight on the training and discipline that makes SEAL teams so elite.

The final portion of the meeting was devoted to the Hall of Fame induction. This year Ed Foster, long time cooperative manager from Gothenburg, was inducted into the Hall of Fame. See page 4 for full details.

The Annual Meeting adjourned and was followed by the member reception which provided everyone time to catch up with Ed Foster and to network with other cooperative leaders.

Minutes for the meeting can be found on page 6.



NCC President Rocky Weber



Keynote speaker Chad Williams



ECEC Chair Dave Beckman (at podium) provided the Education Committee report



The membership enjoyed the reception following the Annual Meeting/Hall of Fame which provided time for fellowship with statewide co-op friends.

FOSTER INDUCTED INTO 2018 NCC HALL OF FAME

Ed Foster of Gothenburg has become the 66th inductee into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame. Ed was inducted into the Hall at the Council's Annual Meeting held on November 14 at Kearney.

Ed grew up near Ericson, Nebraska, and after graduating from Kearney State College moved to Gothenburg and began his career at Farmland Service Co-op in Gothenburg in 1971. He started at the service station and moved quickly to become Assistant Office Manager then Office Manager in 1977. After a short stint as Controller, Ed was named General Manager of the cooperative in 1985. Ed continued in this role for 28 years until his retirement in 2013.

During his tenure the cooperative merged to create All Points Cooperative, made several acquisitions, built a 150 car shuttle train loading system, a 100 ton train car dry fertilizer storage station, added 3 million bushels of grain storage, and improved grain receiving

capabilities. This was all done through Ed's thoughtful analysis to realign how products and services were offered to better fit patrons' needs. Under Ed's leadership, sales and operating revenue increased from \$42 million when Ed began at Farmland Service to \$264 million when he retired from All Points.

In addition to his leadership and vision at work, Ed also served on many local, state, and national boards during

his career. These included service on the boards of United Benefits Group/Co-op Retirement Plan for 12 years; Farmland Industries PAC; CHS Round Table Advisory Board; Servi-Tech Board; NIK Board; and the Nebraska Cooperative Council Board and its Legislative, PAC and Hall of Fame committees.

Congratulations Ed!



Following his induction into the Nebraska Cooperative Council and with his wife Virjean by his side, Ed Foster (at podium) thanks the membership.



Pictured with Ed & Virjean Foster are NCC Board Chair David Briggs and NCC President Rocky Weber.

APPLY NOW FOR 2019/20 SCHOLARSHIPS



Applications will be accepted for the NCC Education Foundation Scholarships at UNL, UNK, and NCTA until April 15, 2019. The online application forms can be found on the Council's website at www.nebr.coop on the Foundation - Scholarship page.

PARTNER UPDATE:

The Council works with many organizations and agencies during the course of the year. Listed here are programs they offer that may be of interest to our members:

INTL FCStone Winter Grain Merchandiser Risk Academy (West Des Moines: February 26-27)

For details and to register visit <https://www5.intlfcstone.com/WinterGrainMerch>

INTL FCStone Summer Grain Merchandiser Risk Academy (Chicago: July 24-25)

For details and to register visit <https://www5.intlfcstone.com/SummerGrainMerch2019>

NCC COMPLETES FIRST EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE SEASON

The Council's first education program of the year--the Director/Manager Workshop--was held on November 15th in Kearney. A total of 81 people attended the day-long workshop.

This year's workshop focused on two topics. The first of these was the 199A tax law changes and how this will impact cooperatives and their members.

Dr. Greg McKee from UNL kicked off the discussion by providing a background on 199A tax law and what the changes may mean.

Dr. Phil Kenkel from Oklahoma State University then addressed how cooperatives may evaluate the changes to 199A and how to calculate these changes.

Dennis Gardiner from Gardiner Thomsen CPAs provided insights as to an accountant's view of 199A and the discussions they were having with their clients.

The afternoon was dedicated to cyber security and the risks cooperatives face. Dan Hanson with the Marsh & McLellan Agency provided an excellent overview of the risks faced by cooperatives and how cooperatives may reduce these risks.



Director/Manager Workshop participants learn about cyber security risks from Dan Hanson with the Marsh & McLellan Agency.

NEW MEMBER

The Council welcomes the following new Supporting Member:



REGISTER NOW!

Four NCC education programs remain for this winter. Managers, be sure to register your directors and key staff:

Director Certification Program on Jan 8-9 in Kearney. Four separate phases make up DCP with each phase being a day-long program. After completion of Phase 1, directors can take the remaining phases in any order. *Pre-registration deadline: Dec. 26*

Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar on Feb 6 in Lincoln for managers, key staff, and all board members. *Pre-registration deadline: Jan. 23*

Graduate Director Seminar on Feb 7 in Lincoln for directors who have completed all 4 phases of DCP. *Pre-registration deadline: Jan. 23*

Board Leadership Seminar on Feb 21 in LaVista for board leaders of Nebraska's cooperatives. Attendance is limited to 4 board members from each cooperative. BLS continues to be our highest rated program. *Pre-registration deadline: Feb. 7*

For more details about the programs, please refer to the education booklet which was mailed to all directors and managers in October. The booklet is also linked at <https://www.nebr.coop/education-programs/>

DON'T FORGET YOUR YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION

The NCC Education Foundation continues to look for more ways to serve the mission of encouraging students to pursue higher education in agriculture and agribusiness fields. This coming year, the Foundation is pleased to announce that they will be offering a new scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Kearney for agribusiness students.

If you would like to help the Foundation extend its mission through a donation, the form is available at <https://www.nebr.coop/foundation/donations-memorials/>



Below are the minutes of the Council's 73rd Annual Meeting. Per Council Management Policy, please notify the Council (134 S. 13th Street, Suite 503, Lincoln, NE 68508 or ncoopc@nebr.coop) by December 30 if there are any objections/errors in the minutes as reproduced below. If none are received, they shall be deemed accepted as distributed.



NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL
73rd ANNUAL MEETING
November 14, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council convened at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 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.

GOVERNOR PETE RICKETTS

Briggs introduced the special guest speaker, Governor Pete Ricketts. A question and answer period then followed

2017/18 FINANCIAL REPORT

Rocky Weber, NCC President & General Counsel, presented the 2017/18 Financial Report. He reported that the Council's Board had reviewed and accepted the 2017/18 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

David Beckman, 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, presented the background of the PAC and voluntary contributions received to date, and indicated that PAC interviews with Nebraska senator candidates were conducted in 2018.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rocky Weber delivered the President's Report in which he detailed the work of the Legacy

Initiative Committee and provided a summary of the Legacy Committee Research. Weber also recognized the NCC Staff for their service to Nebraska's agricultural cooperatives.

VOTING DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS
 Kent Taylor, Election Committee Chairman, reported on this year's Board election results as follows:

Producer Director: Tim Rowe, Board Chairman at Gothenburg, was elected for a four-year term

Manager Director: Randy Robeson, CEO at Brainard, was elected for a four-year term

CHAD WILLIAMS

Briggs introduced the keynote speaker, Chad Williams, a former Navy SEAL who entered the world of the military's most difficult training known as BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL training). Out of a class of 173 men that all vowed they would die before ever quitting, Chad would be 1 of only 13 that would make it through to graduation day.

Having served his country proudly through multiple deployments on SEAL Teams One and Seven. Today, Chad is a best selling author and frequent guest on major news networks such as Fox News Channel, Anderson Cooper 360, CNN News Room and more.

Chad delivered an inspirational and moving address that focused on the guiding principles of life by which he lives which were drawn from his military training and experience.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
 David Beckman, Recording Secretary

**CALENDAR OF
 UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 2019

- 8-9** NCC Director Certification Program - Kearney
- 9** Nebraska Legislature Convenes
- 28** NCC Legislative Advisory Committee meeting - Lincoln

February 2019

- 6** NCC Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar - Lincoln
- 7** NCC Graduate Director Seminar - Lincoln
- 18** NCC Board of Directors meeting - Kearney
- 21** NCC Board Leadership Seminar - LaVista

April 2019

- 15** NCCEF Scholarship Application Deadline

May 2019

- 2** NCC Board of Directors conference call

June 2019

- 20** NCC Board of Directors meeting - North Platte

November 2019

- 20** NCC Board/Committee Meetings, Annual Meeting, Hall of Fame Ceremony & Membership Reception - Kearney
- 21** NCC Director/Manager Workshop - Kearney

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.