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Cooperation in Nebraska

the Nebraska Cooperative Council Newsletter

December 28, 2021

ANNUAL MEETING

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council was held in Kearney on November 17, 2021. This year, the meeting returned to its more normal format after the covid disruptions in 2020. A total of 192 members and guests attended the meeting.

The meeting began with a special video recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Council. After the video presentation, Council Board Chair David Briggs of Alliance provided the Chairman's report and Council President Rocky Weber provided the financial report and President's report.

Following these reports, Election Committee Chair Dean Thernes announced that Evan Brandes and Bart Moseman were both re-elected for 4-year terms. Brandes is the Board Vice Chair of Aurora Co-op Elevator Company and Moseman is CEO of Farmers Co-op Elevator Company headquartered in Hemingford.

A copy of the minutes is linked [here](#). Per NCC governance, please notify the Council at debm@nebr.coop by January 8 if there are any objections/errors. If none are received, the minutes shall be deemed accepted as distributed.

Following the business session, Cooperative Supporter Awards were presented to Senator Brett Lindstrom of Omaha and Jon & Taryn Vanderford with 10/11 Pure Nebraska. Senator Lindstrom has been instrumental in introducing legislation on behalf of Council members in

2020 and 2021 regarding self-insured group health plans for cooperative members as well as statutory fertilizer and ag chemical liens. For the past three years, the Council has worked with Jon & Taryn to provide segments featuring local cooperative personnel discussing cooperatives. These segments run each week during October (Cooperative Month) on the Pure Nebraska program. The segments have helped inform the general public about the value of cooperatives to our state. If you missed the segments, they are on our website at <https://www.nebr.coop/nccinthenews/>.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held. Dale Piper, retired CEO of Midwest Farmers Co-op of Elmwood, and Gerald Schmidt, retired board member of Farmers Cooperative-Dorchester and Allied Producers Co-op in Westside IA, were inducted in 2021 (see Hall of Fame article).

The final portion of the meeting was an entertaining performance by Curtis the Mentalist. This intriguing presentation left many in the audience asking..."how did he do that?". It was certainly a presentation that entertained the audience.

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the Council hosted the popular member reception which allowed numerous networking opportunities for cooperative members and supporting industries.

THANK YOU ... We'd like to thank the following members and supporting organizations for co-sponsoring our Annual Meeting:

PLATINUM

CHS, Inc
CoBank
EBM Construction Inc
Marsh McLennan Agency
ProValue Insurance

GOLD

Austin Mutual Agribusiness
BNSF Railway
Crosby Guenzel LLP
Gallagher
Gardiner+Company
Land O'Lakes, Inc

SILVER

AGP
Associated Benefits Corp
Kelley Plucker, LLC
McPherson Concrete Storage
Systems, Inc
Olson Financial Group - Stifel
Investments
Olsson

BRONZE

GROWMARK, Inc
INSPRO, A Marsh & McLennan
Agency LLC Company

Lockton Companies
United Benefits Group

Milliman - Co-op 401(k) Plan
Nebraska Corn Board
Nebraska Rural Radio Assn
StoneX Financial Inc - FCM Division
The Cooperative Finance Assn

HALL OF FAME

On November 17, 2021, Dale Piper and Gerald Schmidt became the 68th and 69th members of the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame. This year's induction ceremony took place during the Council's Annual Meeting in Kearney. Thank you to Frontier Cooperative-Lincoln, Farmers Cooperative-Dorchester, and Allied Producers Co-op-Westside IA for their support of the induction ceremony.

Dale Piper spent his entire career working in the cooperative system and was the long-time CEO of Midwest Farmers Co-op in Elmwood. Dale provided significant leadership for the Council by serving on the Board from 1998-2007 and as Board Chair from 2003-2007.

Gerald Schmidt of Jansen served on cooperative boards for over 34 years, including 18 years as chair of Boards. He was also extremely instrumental in forming Allied Producers Co-op, a very successful value-added pork cooperative headquartered in Westside, IA. Gerald has been a lifelong advocate for the agricultural cooperative system.

[Click here](#) to view Dale's and Gerald's introductory videos and plaques that hang on the Hall of Fame wall in the Council office.



Pictured above with NCC Bd Chair David Briggs (far left) and President Rocky Weber (far right)

are 2021 Hall of Fame Inductee Dale Piper, his wife Laurie and sons Adam and Clint



2021 Hall of Fame Inductee Gerald Schmidt (center) is pictured w/ (L-R) NCC Board Chair David Briggs and President Rocky Weber.

COMPLETED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We have completed two of our 21/22 director education programs.

Director/Manager Workshop

The Council kicked off its 2021/22 director education programs on November 18th by hosting the Director/Manager Workshop (pictured above) in Kearney with 83 attendees. A special thanks to Farm Credit Services of America for hosting the noon lunch and breaks.

The theme for the workshop was “The Great Reset”, and focused on the significant social, cultural, political, and investment changes that are occurring. Charlie Arnot, CEO of the Center for Food Integrity, opened the program with an excellent presentation on the changing landscape of the food and fiber industry.

Steve Cabbage, Vice President of Farmobile, then discussed the wild, wild west atmosphere that exists within the carbon and data markets.

Ken Zuckerberg, Lead Analyst from CoBank, then discussed how cooperatives may fit in this new environment and be a part of the solution as agriculture faces increasing environmental challenges.

The day ended with a presentation from Kelsey Billings, Director of Government Affairs and Sustainability for the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. She provided an update on legislative and regulatory changes that are taking place in Washington, DC.

Leadership Luncheon Series

The Council introduced the Leadership Luncheon Series this year to allow directors and co-op staff to supplement their education through three one-hour virtual programs held on

December 8, 15 and 22.

The focus on this year's series was on Environmental, Social, and Governance or ESG. Leading the discussion during each of these programs was Dr. Richard Leblanc, internationally recognized professor of Governance, Law and Ethics at York University in Toronto, Canada,

A total of 34 directors and co-op staff participated in these webinars.



Charlie Arnot (pictured above) kicked off the Director/Manager Workshop on November 18th in Kearney.

UPCOMING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

There are multiple opportunities for cooperative directors and staff to participate in continuing education. Remaining programs include the Director Certification Program, Graduate Director Seminar, and Board Leadership Seminar. [Click here](#) for our 2021/22 education booklet which provides details on each upcoming program.

Don't Miss The Upcoming Peter Zeihan Webinar!

In addition to the above three programs for directors, we have just confirmed another offering for directors and co-op staff. We are once again working with our neighboring state councils in Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and South Dakota to offer a virtual program on January 12, 2022. The Webinar will feature Peter Zeihan, a nationally recognized thought leader, strategist and futurists. Click here for [details](#) on the program and the [registration form](#).

COOPERATIVE MONTH

The Council continued to utilize Co-op Month as a way to bring public awareness to the value that cooperatives bring to the state of Nebraska.

Activities this year included a [proclamation](#) signed by Governor Ricketts declaring October as Cooperative Month, interviews with medial outlets, and video segments on the 10/11 Pure Nebraska program. Rocky did interviews with both the Nebraska Rural Radio Association and Channel 10/11 highlighting the impact of cooperatives statewide. Each week during the month of October, the Channel 10/11 Pure Nebraska show featured a segment with cooperative employees. Links to all the interviews and video segments are on our [website](#).

SCHOLARSHIPS

For the 2022/23 academic year, the Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation (NCCEF) will provide 11 scholarships totaling \$31,000 for eligible students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis.

The deadline for submitting the online scholarship applications is April 15, 2022. [Click here](#) for all the scholarship information as well as the online application forms.

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation (NCCEF) was formed to provide new sources of funding to promote the cooperative business model. Since the 1993/94AY, the Foundation has provided 220 scholarships totaling \$282,600; provided support for the Nebraska FFA Cooperative Speaking Event; conducted Co-op 101 presentations on college campuses; and helped fund a Cooperative Intern Retreat. These investments will have a positive long-term impact regarding the value of cooperatives.

If you are interested in helping support these worthwhile projects, please [click here](#) to learn more about the Foundation and how you can contribute.

CO-OP 101's

The Council, through the NCCEF and the CHS Foundation has been able to return to offering live Co-op 101 presentations at college campuses. For the fall semester, the Council provided 10 presentations for 257 students at Northeast Community College-Norfolk, Southeast

Community College-Beatrice, Central Community College-Hastings, the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture-Curtis, and the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

NCC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

As announced at the Annual Meeting, re-elected to the NCC Board were Evan Brandes (Board Vice Chair of Aurora Co-op Elevator Company) and Bart Moseman (CEO of Farmers Co-op Elevator Company headquartered in Hemingford). Officers for the upcoming fiscal year were also elected by the NCC Board. Board Reorganization resulted in the re-election of David Briggs (CEO of Westco headquartered in Alliance) as Chairman, Dean Thernes (CEO of Farmers Pride headquartered in Battle Creek) as Vice Chairman, and Dave Beckman (Board Chair of CVA headquartered in York) as Secretary. In addition, standing committees have also been reorganized. [Click here](#) for the new committee makeup which becomes effective January 1, 2022.

THANK YOU PROVALUE INSURANCE!

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Council would like to recognize the Board of Directors and Management of ProValue Insurance (a Supporting Member of NCC) for its recent unsolicited donation of \$50,000 to the Nebraska Cooperative Council. The purpose of this donation was to provide support to the Council as it pursues its mission to defend, protect and enhance Nebraska's agricultural cooperatives through its various programs.

Responding to this generous donation, David Briggs, Council Chairman, stated that: *"On behalf of the cooperative membership of the Nebraska Cooperative Council, we appreciate this generous support from ProValue Insurance, a valued industry partner, which will reinforce the ability of the Council to continue to evolve to assist its member cooperatives in meeting the challenges of today and in the future."*

A sincere THANK YOU to ProValue Insurance for this substantial and meaningful support of the Nebraska Cooperative Council!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

NCC Education Programs

- January 5, 2022 - Director Certification Program Ph 1 - Kearney Holiday Inn
- January 6, 2022 - Director Certification Program Ph 2 - Kearney Holiday Inn
- January 12, 2022 - Peter Zeihan Program - Virtual
- February 2-3, 2022 - Graduate Director Seminar - Lincoln Embassy Suites
- February 16, 2022 - Board Leadership Seminar - Omaha Hilton

Other NCC Meetings

- January 24, 2022 - Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting - Lincoln Hruska Conference Room
- February 15, 2022 - Board of Directors Meeting - Lincoln NCC Board Room



Wishing you a safe, healthy and prosperous new year!!

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