

voice

Your Co-op Community News from Mid America Cooperative Council

october 2007



MACC Mission:
*To Promote, Foster and
Enhance the Values of
Cooperatives*

MACC Membership Meeting

Learn from two outstanding speakers at the December 7 MACC membership meeting in Dublin, OH.

John Florian, Ohio Credit Union League, will share the unique ways in which Ohio Credit Union Leagues market the cooperative advantage. John will be joined by Dr. Brent Hueth, University of Wisconsin, who is conducting an ongoing study of the impact of cooperatives in American society.

You can register for the membership meeting by visiting www.macc.coop.

Co-op summit

The October 30 Indiana Co-op Summit will bring together MACC, the Indiana Cooperative Development Center, Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, and other Indiana Cooperatives. The goal of the Summit is to create a connection among cooperatives from all sectors in Indiana.

For more information, go to www.icdc.coop and click on "Indiana Co-op Summit."

CFO/Controller Roundtable Conference

Learn – and earn! – at this year's Chief Financial Officer/Roundtable Conference, November 7-9, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Indianapolis.

You will **learn** about human resources issues, risk management, the continuing effects of Sarbanes-Oxley, capital markets, and accounting software.

And, you will **earn** 8 CPE credits through NSAC, the National Society of Accountants of Cooperatives, thanks to a partnership with MACC.

"This conference is a great opportunity to share ideas with other attendees," said Gary Godfried, title, Southwest Landmark Co-op.

"The risk management panel discussion and health savings account presentations are timely topics, which I believe will be of great interest."

We've designed the conference to make the most of your valuable time. It begins with a reception at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, and wraps up with a roundtable discussion at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 9.

Highlights of the conference include:

- Human resources challenges – presented by Gary Swango, Director of HR, GROWMARK. Learn more about health savings accounts and how to establish and correctly use an incentive pay program.
- Price risk management solutions – presented by Ryan Sherwood (crop nutrients) and Jim McCallie (energy), both of FC Stone. These supply inputs are at an all-time high, and so is their price risk to ag supply cooperatives.
- Sarbanes Oxley update – presented by Mike McIntyre, attorney-at-law, Okemos, MI. Mike will share what your cooperative board needs to know to stay out of hot water.
- Capital markets impact on finances – presented by Brain Klatt, capital markets, CoBank. How does the increase in mortgage rates affect your cooperative?
- Accounting software up close and personal – in a new roundtable format, representatives from AgVantage, Summit Software, and E-Markets will show you how their products will help you manage your finances more effectively.

Cost of the conference is \$145 for MACC members, \$195 for non-members. Visit www.macc.coop for a registration form, which you can then fax to 317-726-2630. For reservations at the Embassy Suites, call 1-800-Embassy (362-2779).



Ask (from left to right) Brenda Albers & Darren Langhals of Advanced Agri-Solutions or Gary Gottfried, Southwest Landmark about their CFO Conference experiences.



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OSU Cooperative Endowment

The Ohio State University's Cooperative Endowment Fund supports meaningful work in the field of cooperative development.

This Fund generates around \$30,000 each year, which is used to partially fund a graduate assistant and to provide seed money for the cooperative development center in Piketon, OH.

- A committee of MACC members and OSU graduates meets annually to review the Fund. A recent meeting identified two key activities:
- Contribution to a research paper presentation, "Applying and Measuring Social Capital among Agricultural Cooperatives." This paper measures **how ag co-ops create social capital** more actively than investor-owned firms in the global food system.
 - Support of the Ohio Cooperative Development Center's activities, including **establishing new co-ops** and **supporting other start-up co-ops** in rural Ohio.

www.macc.coop



Thoughts from Rod

I would like to share with you some inspiring words from *Success Built to Last: Creating a Life that Matters* by Jerry Porras, Stewart Emery, and Mark Thompson.

This book is based on personal interviews with more than 200 people who have made a difference, defined by 20+ years of significant success in their careers.

As the authors looked at what made these people so successful, they found common threads. "Success in the long run has less to do with finding the best idea,

organizational structure, or business model than with **discovering what matters to us as individuals.**" When we do this, the authors believe, we can **create a life that matters.**

"Builders are people who feel compelled to create something new or better that will endure throughout their lifetime and flourish well beyond. Builders often see themselves simply as people trying to make a difference doing something that they believe deserves to be done, and they recruit the team – build the organization – needed to get it done," according to the authors.

As you build your team, remember that you can help your team members discover what matters to them and strengthen your organization with their passion, creativity, and integrity.

Rod Kelsay
 Executive Director

Mark Your Calendar Now! Upcoming training sessions

Indiana Co-op Summit

October 30 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds, Danville, IN

CFO/Controller Roundtable Conference

November 7-9 in Indianapolis

MACC Membership Meeting

December 7 in Dublin, OH

Director Training, 2008 with David Barton

February 12 in Springfield, IL
 February 13 in Vincennes, IN
 February 14 in Wabash, IN
 February 15 in Dublin, OH