

MACC COOPERATOR

News from the Mid America Cooperative Council

Happy Spring! We hope your cooperative is enjoying good weather and renewed excitement for the year ahead. We're excited to share updates from the Mid America Cooperative Council.



Mr. Doug Miller Shares Rural Electric's Approach to Director Training at MACC Annual Meeting

The Mid America Cooperative Council hosted its 2024 Annual Member Meeting virtually on Thursday, April 11, 2024, to recognize the Council's accomplishments, welcome new and returning directors, and share ideas about director development.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation, "Electric Cooperative Approach to Director Education," by Mr. Doug Miller, Vice President, Statewide Services of [Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.](#) (OREC). Mr. Miller addressed the significance of cooperative director education,

particularly in the context of the 5th Cooperative Principle -- Education, Training, and Information.

As a statewide association of 25 electric cooperatives that serve more than 380,000 homes and businesses, OREC offers vast education and training opportunities to electric co-ops across the state.

From biannual conferences to new director orientation, and more, Miller highlighted the importance of helping directors understand their unique responsibilities and the business environment of their



co-ops. OREC supports directors, including by hosting certificate classes offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which serves 831 distribution cooperatives and 63 generation and transmission cooperatives.

MACC and CFAES Center for Cooperatives Exploring Director Development Program for Mid America

At the 2024 Annual Member Meeting, MACC's directors shared that the board and management team at the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Center for Cooperatives at Ohio State are exploring developing an annual, foundational development program for cooperative directors in the Midwest.

The goal of the program would be to help directors build a strong foundation in cooperative governance to be better leaders throughout their leadership journey. The in-person, regional training would explore key governance areas like director responsibilities, financial planning, CEO and board management best practices, and more, to give directors a regular opportunity to grow their skills and network with peers.

CFAES

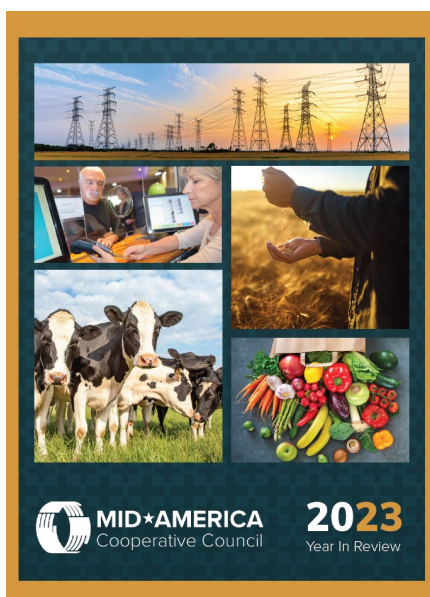
Mid America Co-op Director Development

Cultivating knowledge and skills in cooperative governance across a director's leadership journey through a regionally centered and connected program.

Please reach out!

Contact Hannah Scott, program director for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Center for Cooperatives at Ohio State University, to share your feedback at scott.1220@osu.edu.

**Can you help us identify the greatest training needs for co-ops in our region?
Do you have ideas about how to make a development program a success?**



Read MACC's 2023 Year in Review Online

Hosting or teaching 12 different events or trainings, engaging approximately 160 event participants, bringing experts from across the country to MACC members, and launching a new website --- these are just a few of highlights from the Council in 2023.

Learn more about the Council's activities in 2023 in the MACC 2023 Year in Review available [online here](#).

MACC Board Welcomes New Directors and Elects 2024 Officers



Heather McCann
Chair
Dairy Farmers of America



Michael Minnihan
Vice Chair
CoBank



Brock Burcham
Treasurer
Farm Credit Mid-America



Erin Cumings
Secretary
Nationwide



Chuck Squires
Director
Co-op Elevator Co.



John Marihugh
Director
United Producers Inc.



Jennifer Weaver
Director
GROWMARK, Inc.



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Cooperative Council

Board of Directors

Voting for directors is an important opportunity for members to help shape the council. Results of the 2024 Director Election were announced at the Council's Annual Member Meeting on April 11, 2024. The board was pleased to welcome new and returning leaders, Erin Cumings, John Marihugh, Jennifer Weaver, and Heather McCann, who will help guide the Council's mission and activities. Following the annual meeting, directors elected officers to leadership positions for 2024.

- **Chair** – Heather McCann, Senior Director of Public Affairs, Governance and Administration with Dairy Farmers of America
- **Vice Chair** – Michael Minnihan, VP - Senior Relationship Manager, Regional Agribusiness with CoBank
- **Treasurer** – Brock Burcham, Regional Vice President Agricultural Lending with Farm Credit Mid-America
- **Secretary** – Erin Cumings, Senior Consultant, Business Program Management, Sponsor Relations with Nationwide Insurance
- Chuck Squires, Risk & Government Relations Manager with Cooperative Elevator Co.
- John Marihugh, Vice President; Strategy, Communications & Member Services with United Producers, Inc.
- Jennifer Weaver, Lead Trainer, Professional Development with GROWMARK, Inc.

More about MACC

The Mid America Cooperative Council is a multi-state non-profit founded upon the cooperative principles and committed to promoting, fostering, and enhancing cooperatives. MACC is a member organization of cooperatives, co-op support organizations, and individuals supportive of the Council's mission across Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. Learn more by emailing knowledge@macc.coop, visiting macc.coop, or signing up to receive emails about MACC programming and newsletters from MACC at macc.coop.



Upcoming Trainings for Your Co-op

Welcome to Co-ops Online

Training: This interactive, online training introduces participants to the co-op business model, explores co-op principles, dives into the roles and responsibilities of member-owners and directors, and encourages employees to consider themselves ambassadors for their co-op and the larger co-op community.

This training is designed for new and early-tenure co-op team members and team members ready to learn more about the co-op difference.

- Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 9-11 a.m. Eastern
- Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 9-11 a.m. Eastern

WELCOME TO CO-OPS



WELCOME to the BOARD



Welcome to the Board Online

Training: Participants will learn about the co-op board's role, responsibilities of directors, crucial skills directors use as they lead their co-ops, and resources they can use to continue their learning journey. Does your co-op have newly elected directors? Are you considering a new training program for your co-op's directors? Is your co-op developing members for future board leadership positions?

This training is designed for future board members, newly elected directors, early-tenure directors, and leaders ready to learn more about the co-op model!

- Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 9-11 a.m. Eastern

Visit macc.coop for details and registration!

Online events are hosted by the CFAES Center for Cooperatives at Ohio State via Zoom. Participants can join via the Zoom application on a computer or mobile device or by telephone. Unless otherwise noted, events will not be recorded. Registrants will receive Zoom connection details via email prior to the event. Events will be presented with automated closed captions. If you wish to request traditional CART services or other accommodations such as interpretation, please contact Hannah Scott at scott.1220@osu.edu or 614-247-9705. Requests made two weeks in advance will generally allow us to provide seamless access, but the university will make every effort to meet requests made after this date.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES Center for Cooperatives OSU South Centers

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Mid America Cooperative Council, Inc. is managed by the Center for Cooperatives in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. Learn more about the [CFAES Center for Cooperatives at Ohio State](https://www.cfaes.osu.edu).