

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## MACC VOICE

December 2015 Newsletter

### MACC Celebrates Member Accomplishments

With 110 members, it is impossible to be able to showcase each members' accomplishments, this past year. Therefore, we would like to highlight a few of our members and **congratulate these cooperatives for their contributions as cooperative businesses and their accomplishments in 2015; along with thanking our entire membership for its continued support in the past and for years to come.**



**farmCREDIT**  
MID-AMERICA

Because of their belief in securing the future of agriculture and rural America, **Farm Credit Mid-America** reaffirmed its support for Ivy Tech Community College's

Agriculture Program by making a \$70,000 commitment to endow scholarships at each of the college's seven agriculture campuses over the next six years. This commitment follows a previous \$70,000 donation to Ivy Tech in 2013 to fund enhancements to the ag classrooms, and underscores what it sees as the program having quickly proved its worth as a significant player in promoting farming and agriculture.



**Harvest Land Co-op** had 94 employees who participated in their Cultivating Communities program for the fiscal year 2015, volunteering

2,023 hours to various community organizations. Approximately \$9,150 was donated to 68 different organizations on behalf of their employees throughout their trade area. Giving back to the communities in which they do business: It's what they do.



The Board of Directors of **Beacon Credit Union** has announced that eight (8) \$500.00 student scholarships will be available to members or their children. The scholarship program is targeted to financially assist

students entering their freshman or sophomore year of college in furthering their education. Please visit <http://www.beaconcu.org/2016-scholarship/> for more information.



At the OSU game on November 21st, there was a Fan Fest outside of St. John's Arena before the game. **InHealth Mutual** invited people to attend

and meet Miss Ohio USA 2016 Megan Wise, and add a leaf to their "Tree of Thanks" to benefit the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. For every leaf donated, InHealth Mutual donated \$1 to the foodbank.



**Jo-Carroll Energy** celebrated October as Co-op Month, with 3 Member Appreciation Day events at their Savanna, Elizabeth and Geneseo offices.



A **Michigan Sugar Company** intern from this summer, Erica Gremel, had this to say "I am currently a junior at Michigan State University majoring in Crop and Soil Science with a minor in Agribusiness. The opportunity I had with Michigan

Sugar Company allowed me to gain knowledge of the entire growing area and see how each area is a little different. I had the chance to make on farm calls and meet shareholders, learn more about agronomics and weed control in sugar beets. Thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity as an intern."



In November, **OCLC's** weekly CONTENTdm collection series featured The Ohio Historical Society, in partnership with the Ohio National

Guard, who seek to preserve the history of Ohio's soldiers through In Their Own Words, an oral history project. For more information, please visit <http://bddy.me/1XrPTUN>.



This past April, **Rush Shelby Energy** lineman Keith Combs joined a crew of 13 other Indiana electric cooperative linemen traveling to Guatemala, as part of an international initiative to bring electricity to a developing area in Guatemala.



**Southern Loggers Cooperative** announced in June, that patronage dividend checks to its members for the year 2014 were being mailed out. Typically, they are not mailed out until

September but they knew their members could use the money! Back in April at their board meeting, the board of directors declared a 100% patronage dividend to the membership for 2014 to the tune of \$1,109,764.30.



As a part of their Sharing Success program, **CoBank** matched Nodak Electric Cooperative's donation to the Lake Region

Search and Rescue. Nodak Electric Cooperative in Grand Forks is part of a community-wide effort to help the search and rescue squad raise \$400,000 for a new home. Along with CoBank, Nodak Electric recently awarded the rescue operation a \$10,000 "Sharing Success" grant. Read more: <http://ow.ly/VshuR>

**MACC would like to honor the following member co-op retirees for their dedication and service to the cooperative community**



**Patricia Anderson** announced her decision to resign as Chief Executive Officer with Cooperative Elevator Co., effective July 28, 2015. Patricia started with the co-op in 1983 and had been CEO since 2004. Speaking on behalf of the elevator, Vice President of Finance Michael Wehner said, that under her leadership, the co-op saw tremendous growth and expansion in a number of areas, including new receiving stations in several areas of Michigan and

North Dakota. She also established many new relationships with buyers of cooperative products and was responsible for getting the dry edible bean processing plants Safe Quality Foods (SQF) level three certified.



**Tom Bostic** started working for the Marion County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association in 1970. He worked primarily in feed sales and service until 1974. In 1974, he became the manager of the New Bloomington Branch until 1981. In 1981, Tom was hired to be the manager of the Marion Landmark, Inc. In 2000, Marion Landmark, Inc. merged with the Mount Vernon Farmer's Exchange and the merged company became Central Ohio

Farmer's Co-op. After 45 years of employment with Central Ohio Farmers Co-op, Tom retired this year (2015). The Marion County Fair Board would like to thank Tom and Central Ohio Farmer's Co-op for their continued dedication and contributions for agricultural education.



United Producers, Inc. announced the planned retirement of **Dennis Bolling**, its President & CEO at the end of 2015. Dennis was named President and CEO of Producers Livestock Association in April of 1989, and continues in that capacity for United Producers, Inc. United Producers is a livestock marketing, finance and member services cooperative serving farmers in several

Midwestern states. Mr. Bolling has served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the National Livestock Producers Association, worked with the Governor's Task Force on Packer Retention, and chaired the finance panels for the Pork and Beef Strategic Planning projects in Ohio. In 1998, he received the John E. Fisher Cooperative of the Year Award from the Ohio Council of Cooperatives. Mr. Bolling received the Reginald J. Cressman Award, in 2015.



United Producers Inc. announced that **Ed Klinker**, Vice President of Corporate Marketing, is retiring at the end of 2015. Klinker, a Lancaster, Ohio native, joined UPI in September 2009 and was responsible for providing leadership for communications, member services, governance, government affairs, and sales programs. During Klinker's tenure the company won numerous awards for communication materials, established a Facebook page, launched a new website and delegate

newsletter, implemented a new tagline, established a relationship with Agri-Services Agency to provide insurance consulting services to its members and began providing in-house sales training. "I've had a wonderful career and worked with some great people," Klinker said. "I'm pleased I could finish my career in an industry and company that honors God, family values, and America."

**Cooperative leaders come with diverse talents and a spirit to serve their member's needs!** One of their common themes is that they recognize early that their customers are also their member/owners, which is unique in the business world. Additionally, each cooperative leader recognizes they are not alone. They are actually standing on the shoulders of their charter members who recognized the need and founded the cooperative.

Each of the retiring leaders we recognize today had a very astute understanding that the cooperative they were leading was built by those who came before them. They, also, understood that the cooperative should be left more capable to serve the needs of those who follow. Their role is to clearly understand how those original needs, important enough to found the cooperative business, will evolve over the life of their member owners.

I first met **Pat Anderson** when she had financial duties at Cooperative Elevator, some 20 years ago. I was working on a collaborative feed mill analysis in the Thumb of Michigan, and she was providing some of the data. As she became CEO and a true "servant leader" for her cooperative, I gained much respect for her focus in two areas: a) Building a profitable cooperative that served member needs, and b) Developing the staff that also served their member needs. I will always remember her focus on people and their development.

**Tom Bostic** and I also go back over a decade when he was the manager of Marion Landmark. I learned how to be a good mentor from Tom, as I watched him develop his staff through his unique personalized engagement. Tom helped me realize that treating everyone the same only works when everyone is exactly alike. Of course they are not, and a tailored approach is successful for most leaders. Lastly, I admired Tom for his engagement in his community.

**Dennis Bolling** is considered by many to be the founding father of the Mid America Cooperative Council. Certainly many other cooperative leaders played a key role to bring our council together, however, it was Dennis's early vision that started the idea. Dennis also played a key role in supporting our core Co-ops101 program as well as our Director Training. I also learned a great lesson as Mr. Bolling captained the United Producers ship through some difficult challenges with grace and a positive attitude. United Producers is a much stronger cooperative, today, because of Dennis's leadership.

**Ed Klinker** came on the MACC board and provide excellent guidance. I have learned the art of clear and direct communication from Ed, who has won several awards for his work. As a director, Ed provided excellent leadership for MACC in our program offering and method of communication. As a board member of MACC, I am very grateful for Ed's support and I will miss his council.

This week, MACC is conducting our **Board Chair Roundtable at Hoosier Energy, in Bloomington, IN**. Dr. Megan Gerhardt will discuss leadership approaches that work for each individual. The book we will reference is: "Start With Why" by Simon Sinek. Dan Kelley will also be instrumental in leading the discussion of methods for handling challenges in the boardroom. Dan has a unique gift and many years of experience of sorting through the member-director-customer role, that has unique challenges. We look forward to their participation in next year's program.

**As we close out 2015, I wish to thank all who participated in our MACC education programs and look forward to a bright new 2016.**