



In-Grain

Grain Elevator and Processing Society

The Knowledge Resource for the Grain Handling and Processing Industry

July/August 2020

Volume 40, No. 4

www.geaps.com



EDUCATION



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Get Involved in 2020-2021

Hello Fellow GEAPS Members,

I am thrilled to serve as GEAPS' 2020-2021 International president. I have gained a lot from my membership and I want to help you get the most out this opportunity, too. With the challenges facing the industry this year, our GEAPS network will be more valuable than ever.

GEAPS helped me grow my knowledge of the grain and milling industry. The opportunity to serve on a board and work my way through the chairs to this leadership position has been invaluable. The networking and education opportunities in GEAPS are by far some of the best training an individual can get.

However you are using GEAPS to advance your career, we hope you will take it one step further in the coming year. If you've never attended a chapter meeting, this is a great time

to start. Meetings are a great way to meet others in your area. Chapter leaders are planning a year full of great speakers and facility tours. If you are already going to chapter meetings, invite someone from your plant who has never gone before. A number of our chapters are working on virtual programs, so we can stay connected whatever the future holds.

If you've attended a webinar, consider taking your online training further with our distance education program. You can also expand your skills with our Hands-On Training or Grain Elevator Managers Course.

The history and success of this organization can be attributed to the many volunteers who have a passion for our industry. Getting more members involved is imperative to our continued success!

Sincerely,

Jeff Jones, MKC, *Great Plains Chapter*
2020-2021 GEAPS International President

With the challenges facing the industry this year, the GEAPS network will be more valuable than ever.

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GEAPS' vision is to be *The Knowledge Resource* by providing key information in these "core competencies:"

- **Quality Management**
- **Equipment Management**
- **Systems and Operations Technology Management**
- **Facility Operations Management**
- **Agribusiness Environment and Management Practice**
- **Human Resources Management**
- **Property and Casualty Risk Management**
- **Facilities Maintenance and Design**
- **Process Flow Operations**



GEAPS

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Steve Records, *executive director*

Jay Bergland, *continuing education programs leader*

Whitney Bey, *operations services and sales leader*

Adrianne Fjerstad-Miller, *exposition production and sales leader*

Melissa Ferguson, *continuing education programs leader*

Julia Kloehn, *operations and component relations leader, International secretary*

Brittany Labatt, *tradeshow services and sales leader*

Kristin Miller, *strategic marketing leader*

Deb Most, *member services leader*

Betsy Poliss, *conference and event services leader*

Tom Sedlacek, *marketing and communications leader, editor*

Kelly Stucki, *chapter and operations services leader*



Reserve Your Booth for Exchange 2021

Booth sales are currently open for GEAPS Exchange 2021, Feb. 20-23, 2021, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. The annual conference traditionally draws thousands of attendees. It's a great opportunity to meet with existing contacts and expand your customer base. Reserve your space today! Visit www.geapsexchange.com or contact GEAPS Sales Team at conferences@geaps.com.

Members, Companies Donate Exchange Fees to GEAPS

After GEAPS cancelled Exchange 2020 earlier this spring, we offered attendees and exhibitors several ways to use credits issued for registration fees. The following individuals gifted their credits back to GEAPS:

Sam Cebula, Pneumat Systems Inc
Jay Clinkinbeard, Edward J Heck & Sons Co
Andrew Heck, Edward J Heck & Sons Co
Todd Olson, Rahr Malting, Co
Scott Peterson, Rahr Malting Co
Dennis Reicheneker, Arizona Grain Inc
Timothy Sullivan, Tim Sullivan LLC

Thank You!

The following companies also generously donated their exhibitor fees back to the organization:

Edward J Heck & Sons Co • **MillerCoors** • **Seedburow**

GEAPS would like to extend a warm thank you to each of these individuals and companies. Thank you for your support!

Summer Learning Series to Draw Nearly 1,000 Attendees

Through the first six Summer Learning Series webinars, 738 attendees registered for the free online sessions. As GEAPS members, you have exclusive access to replays of the sessions in the Knowledge Resource Center on geaps.com. Log on to the website, click on Resources and then click on Knowledge Center. This online resource is a library of educational resources. Search by keyword or topic.

Tap into GEAPS' Network Through Chapters

One of the best ways to use your GEAPS membership is to meet new people in your region. GEAPS' chapters are a great way to make new friends and learn more about the industry. If you've never been to a chapter meeting, it's easy to get started - just head to geaps.com/chapters!

The chapters page shows you where each chapter is based in North America. Click on a chapter to see upcoming meetings and connect with chapter leaders. Bring someone from your plant to the meeting with you, even if they aren't a member! If you have any questions about GEAPS or joining a chapter, contact Deb Most at deb@geaps.com.

Why Join a Chapter?

- *Make new contacts*
- *Learn from expert speakers*
- *Tour facilities*
- *It's free with your membership*



GEAPS Moving Forward with Immersive In-Person Training Programs

GEAPS will offer two in-depth training programs this winter if conditions with the COVID-19 pandemic allow. If your training program could use more depth on maintenance and management, please share these opportunities with your training manager or HR department.



Maintenance Course Scheduled for December 2020

The Hands-On Training Program is Dec. 1-3, at the Hal Ross Flour Mill at Kansas State University. Over two and a half days you disassemble and repair a bucket elevator, bin sweep, distributors and conveyors. The program costs \$1,375 for members and \$1,725 for non-members.

“Like many of our member companies, we are in a unique position,” said Jeff Jones, MKC, GEAPS International president. “The Hands-On Training Program is one of our most valuable and immersive programs. Participants work on real equipment; it’s not something that can move online.”

A non-refundable \$500 deposit is required to secure your spot in the program. If the dates are postponed, the deposit will be used towards the future date. To learn more and sign up, contact Melissa Ferguson at Melissa@geaps.com.



Managers Training Program Scheduled for January 2021

The Grain Elevators Managers Course takes place over four days, January 19-22, 2021. It gives new and future managers a broad overview of responsibilities, including: maintaining grain quality, operation costs and personnel management. While the course features some hands-on components it may be adapted for an online format.

“Ideally, we will continue to hold the Grain Elevator Managers Course on-site at Kansas State University,” Jones said. “Protecting the safety of our participants is our top concern. Operations are still running around the world and people need this training. If moving online is the best and safest way to develop young leaders, that is the direction we will go.”

The Grain Elevator Managers Course costs \$670 for GEAPS members and \$1,000 for non-members.

To learn more about these programs, register and to keep informed of the latest updates, visit www.geaps.com/practice.



online resources

WEBINARS

Partnering/Team Integration – Building an Effective Construction Project Team

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m. CST • Greg Franzen, Faithful+Gould

Partnering, or team integration, is the process of aligning the goals and expectations of all construction project stakeholders with project requirements. Join us to learn the basic partnering process and review the characteristics of high performing project teams. We will review the purpose and contents of a typical partnering meeting and discover some of the components necessary for a team to succeed.

Franzen has served as a business development leader for more than 20 years. His role has involved many private, public and community presentations and interviews with public entities relating to construction projects and bond referenda. Franzen understands construction management and is a strong problem solver. He facilitates partnering meetings for the US Army Corps of Engineers and has a unique ability to guide project teams to the discovery of common goals and work together to the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.



Crisis Communications

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. • Lani Jordan, Lani Jordan Strategic Communications

GEAPS Provides Scholarships for Current, Future Industry Workers

GEAPS offers a pair of scholarships each year to current and future grain storage and processing workers. The Harold Reese Memorial Scholarship is open to any full-time students studying a grain-related field and current professionals looking to take a GEAPS/K-State Distance Education Course.

GEAPS International Executive Committee reviewed scholarship applications at their June meeting and rewarded the following individuals with a distance education program course through the Harold Reese Memorial Scholarship:

- **Roselle Barretto**, Kansas State University, *Great Plains Chapter*
- **Colt Benfer**, Kansas State University
- **Rañia Marie Buenavista**, Kansas State University, *Kansas City*
- **Thomas Embry**, KDJ Sales & Service, *Cornbelt*
- **Myla Lewis**, University of Minnesota Crookston
- **George Obeng-Akrofi**, Iowa State University
- **Noah Ormond**, Louisiana State University

Henry Kaufmann Memorial Scholarship

April-Hope Wareham, Temco, *Columbia River*, received the Kaufmann Memorial Scholarship, which provides financial assistance toward tuition and required books for full-time agribusiness professionals and students who wish to study a foreign language to enhance their careers. She works with a number of Spanish-speaking coworkers and contractors. She will use the scholarship to study Spanish at Tacoma Community College.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Steve Myers, Bunge Milling, *Kansas City Chapter*



It has been an honor serving as GEAPS International President. We have had some successes during my time as president that I am very proud of. This has been a challenging year for the grain industry and I am proud of the way we adjusted to adversity and the pandemic to provide new programming for our members.

We accomplished a lot in the last year that will set us up for future success. Last summer

we welcomed Executive Director Steve Records to the organization. He's spent a lot of time talking to members and volunteer leaders to get a feel for where GEAPS is as an organization and helping us refocus our vision for the future.

With Steve's help, we conducted an in-depth member survey last year and had regular meetings with a strategic planning committee. With that data and input we crafted a new mission statement and did some really productive strategic planning.

We also had the honor of reaching the \$4 million endowment goal for the GEAPS Foundation. This was a big step for GEAPS. Our organization, along with 16 companies and over 50 individuals, made contributions to the fund. It ensures that we will have financial resources to provide education programs into the future.

With a solid plan and resources in place, we planted seeds for the future of our membership. We announced partnerships with the National Professional Agricultural Students and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences organizations to extend our reach within college ranks. Partnering with these organizations gives us an opportunity to promote our training programs to students and open a pipeline for our member companies to recruit new talent. Together, we have laid the groundwork for a very successful future. I look forward to seeing the work that Jeff, Barb and our future leaders will do to capitalize on this momentum.

Not everything was rosy and successful this year. COVID-19 came on quickly and we had no choice but to cancel Exchange 2020. We are hard at work planning for Exchange 2021 in Columbus, and I want to take a moment to praise the hard work of past leaders, my fellow volunteer leaders and staff.

We took a financial hit cancelling Exchange 2020. As an organization, it hurts, but we are very fortunate for the advance thinking and planning of the leaders that came before us. They did a great job insulating us from catastrophes like this. It is up to me, Jeff and the rest of the Board of Directors to ensure GEAPS remains financially sustainable into the future. This includes rethinking the ways we have always done things and carefully considering financial exposure in future years.

One of the reasons I am confident we are going to be able to achieve this goal is because we have a talented staff working for GEAPS. This has been a challenging year for many of them as they adjusted to working remotely. They have adapted to the new work environment and new virtual programming remarkably well.

The Summer Learning Series is a great example of this flexibility. We lost nearly 40 hours of training at Exchange 2020. That's unfortunate, but we put together eight hour-long sessions that anyone in the grain industry can use, and that remain available as a benefit for our members on geaps.com. The expanded reach of these programs beyond just those who could attend Exchange in Minneapolis positions us as a knowledge resource and opens to the door for more potential members to join. The generosity of our sponsors also helped offset some of the financial losses from cancelling Exchange.

The Summer Learning Series is just one of the new education programs we are working on. We have been working on some really exciting new programs that Jeff will talk about.

Thank you for being a part of GEAPS. It has been a challenging year for GEAPS and the industry, but we will survive COVID-19 and any other challenges that lie ahead. Thanks to the careful planning of our volunteer leaders and staff, we will emerge from these challenges stronger than ever.



NEW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeff Jones, MKC, *Great Plains*



It is a great honor for me to serve as GEAPS International President. I am excited to carry the torch for an organization that provides knowledge and resources for the world's grain storage and milling industries.

Getting to this point has been invaluable for me. GEAPS has provided me many opportunities to grow my knowledge of the industry.

I am a better employee because of my involvement in GEAPS, and I encourage you to get more involved.

Steve mentioned our strategic plan earlier; we have four key goals for the future. Everything we are working on at the moment works towards accomplishing one or more of the following:

- Grow Membership
- Increase Member Engagement
- Advance Professional Development
- Grow Resources

Growing membership is critically important. We have seen membership numbers decline in recent years. In addition to the partnerships Steve mentioned, we are working to recruit more regular members and expand the number of companies with members. Some of the ways we plan to accomplish these goals are by piloting new pricing models for companies and first year members.

Chapters will also play an important role in our recruitment strategy and in increasing member engagement. We are implementing a chapter recruitment incentive, which will reward chapters for retaining and recruiting members. We want to give chapters more tools to plan virtual events that will keep members engaged even while we have to be socially distant.

While we help chapters deliver premium programming we are also improving and expanding the programs we deliver to the industry. We will continue to offer and iterate on our distance education, Hands-On Training and Grain Elevator Managers courses.

We are close to announcing a new on-demand format for short courses, which will deliver what has traditionally been distance education lectures in an hour-long format. We are also developing a custom training program that will allow companies to determine a number of days and topics, and we will bring the instructors to their facility. These programs are two ways we are trying to make our professional development more flexible and easier to use.

All of these initiatives tie into our final objective – growing resources. Growing resources doesn't just mean money. We need to be a more mission-focused organization. We must consider all the resources that help us build our network and advance knowledge sharing.

To make sure GEAPS has the strength to endure the pandemic and future hardships it is important to be prudent stewards of our resources. We need to create new programs to diversify our revenue sources. We must utilize the GEAPS Foundation to offer the best possible training to the industry. We will work to increase our industry outreach and build strategic partnerships to create opportunities to share knowledge and cross-train.

I am continually amazed at the willingness of our peers to provide knowledge and the passion we have to deliver the mission and vision of GEAPS. As an industry we are working to feed the world. As an organization, we are a knowledge resource.

We are all facing challenges, and I encourage you to get more involved in GEAPS. Volunteer to become a leader for your chapter. Bring someone from your company who isn't familiar with GEAPS to a meeting. Ask your HR department how you can include GEAPS programs in your standard training. GEAPS has played a big role in my professional success, let's put more of our peers in a position to excel.



GEAPS Welcomes Four New International Board Members

GEAPS announced the 2020-2021 International Board elections results at the Annual Meeting, July 22.

Filling four open seats on the Board are:

- **Casey Jones**, MKC, *Great Plains Chapter*
- **Tim Kramer**, Bunge North America, *Kansas City*
- **Chuck Kunisch**, Michigan Agricultural Commodities, *Michigan/So. Ontario*
- **Mervin Rapp**, III, CGOM, CHS Inc, *Gulf South*

Members elected **David McKerchar**, MCGOM, Parrish & Heimbecker, *Canadian Prairies* to the office of second vice president.

International Board officers for 2020-2021:

- President **Jeff Jones**, MKC, *Great Plains*
- First Vice President **Barb Grove**, CGOM, Central Valley Ag Cooperative, *Great Plains*
- Second Vice President **David McKerchar**, MCGOM, Parrish & Heimbecker, *Canadian Prairies*
- International Board Chair **Steve Myers**, Bunge Milling, *Kansas City*

In addition to these changes on the board, **Bob Horvat**, Cargill, *Minneapolis*, transitioned to the office of treasurer. He succeeds **Mark Fedje**, General Mills, *Minneapolis*, who stepped down after filling the role since 2014.

THANK YOU
FOR
VOTING!

International Board Directors



Casey Jones



Tim Kramer



Chuck Kunisch



Mervin Rapp

International Board Officers



Jeff Jones
President



Barb Grove
First Vice President



David McKerchar
Second Vice President



Steve Myers
Board Chair



Associates Board Election Results 2020-2021

GEAPS announced election results for Associates Board director seats at the Annual Meeting July 22.

The Board will install the new leaders after their September meeting. Elected to three-year terms as Associates Board directors are:

- **Dustin Drake**, Drake Inc, *Greater Nebraska*
- **Josh McClure**, PMI Nebraska, *Greater Nebraska*
- **Marcus Neal**, Interstates, *Kansas City Chapter*
- **Laura Schulz**, Painters USA Inc, *Golden Triangle*

Associates members elect the Associates Board to represent their collective interest in advancing GEAPS' mission. The Associates Board serves as an advisory council to the International Board. The Associates Board president, vice president and secretary represent the group on the International Board of Directors.

Associates Board Officers for 2020-2021:

- President **Vincent Marze**, WL Port-Land Systems, *Seaway*
- Vice President **Todd Morey**, AGI AIRLANCO, *Kansas City*
- Immediate Past President **Regan Heaton**, SCAFCO Grain Systems, *Inland Empire*

Associate Board members will elect a secretary at their September meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!

Associates Board Directors



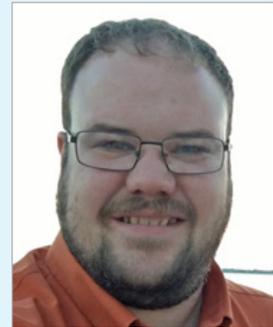
Marcus Neal



Laura Schulz



Josh McClure

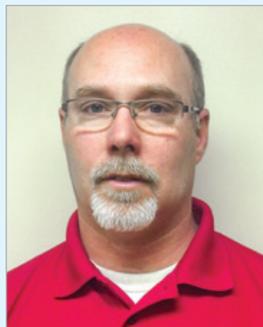


Dustin Drake

Associates Board Officers



Vince Marze
President



Todd Morey
Vice President



Regan Heaton
Immediate Past President



2020-2021 LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

GEAPS International President Jeff Jones, MKC, *Great Plains*, made the following leadership appointments for 2020-2021.

GEAPS STANDING COMMITTEES

Chapter Resource

Gil Garcia, AGI CMC, *Hoosier*, chair

R. Scott Brittingham, MCGOM, Mountaire Farms Inc, *Mid-Atlantic*, vice chair, International Board liaison

Continuing Education Program Oversight

Matt Hanson, Maxi-Lift, *Non-Chapter*, chair

Andrew Knapp, APTIM, *Hoosier*, vice chair

Chris Blair, NEW Cooperative, *Greater Iowa*, International Board liaison

Exchange Educational Programing

Tom Rodman, Cargill, *Columbia River*, chair

Kayla Schmitz, Ecolab, *Hoosier*, vice chair

Barb Grove, CGOM, Central Valley Ag Cooperative, *Great Plains*, International Board liaison

Membership

Jacob Elder, Proximity Malt, *Mid-Atlantic*, chair

Matthew Schmitt, CGOM, Shive-Hattery, *Greater Iowa*, vice chair

Tim Kramer, Bunge, *Kansas City*, International Board liaison

INTERNATIONAL BOARD LEADER APPOINTMENTS

International Third Vice President

David McKercher, MCGOM, Parrish & Heimbecker, *Canadian Prairies*

Executive Vice President

Steve Records, GEAPS Staff

International Secretary

Julia Kloehn, GEAPS Staff

International Treasurer

Bob Horvat, *Minneapolis*

International Director Member of the Executive Committee

Chris Blair, NEW Cooperative, *Greater Iowa*

GEAPS Representative to National Grain and Feed Association Board

Jeff Jones, MKC, *Great Plains*

GEAPS representative to the Technical Committee for NFPA 70 Panel 14

Karl von Knobelsdorff, Knobelsdorff, *Minneapolis*

Board Approves Budget with Conservative Eye for 2020-2021

GEAPS International Board of Directors met online July 15-16 to approve the organization's annual budget, evaluate the strategic plan for the next three years and to look at future years' planning for Exchange.

With revenues down for fiscal year 2020-2021, the Board approached new strategic tactics conservatively. They discussed potential membership models and ways to attract new Regular members. For Exchange, the Board reviewed current plans for Exchange 2021, Feb. 20-23 in Columbus, Ohio.

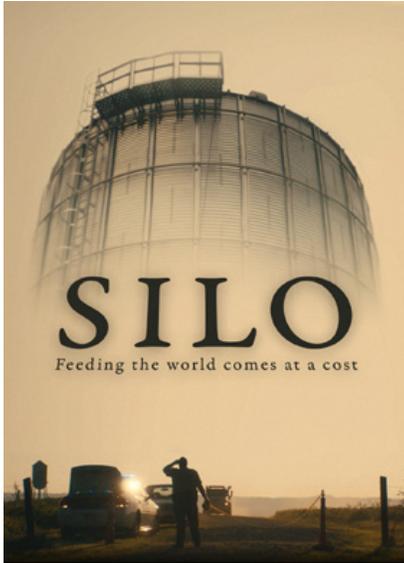
"As of right now, Exchange 2021 is processing as originally planned," said Steve Myers, GEAPS International President, Bunge Milling, *Kansas City Chapter*. "The Board will continue to monitor the development of the pandemic and regulations in the city of Columbus. We will continue to plan for the conference with the health and safety of our attendees as the top concern."

Exchange 2021 will look very different from past years. There will be more safety precautions in place and GEAPS is looking at ways to incorporate social distancing in education sessions and the Expo Hall. Registration for the conference has been pushed back to mid-November.

The board will meet next in September.



Four GEAPS Members Win Grain Tubes for Local Fire Departments



As part of the members-only screening of SILO earlier this year, four GEAPS members won grain tubes for their local fire departments. **Turtle Plastics** donated the potentially life-saving equipment.

After watching the film, Corey Hopkins, senior safety consultant at DEKRA, noted the varying opinions on rescue techniques and levels of training. He said having the proper equipment is critical. His donation went to the Spencer Iowa Fire Department. They are close to completing construction of a training facility for many departments in northwest Iowa and needed the equipment.

“Unfortunately, we continue to see engulfments all over the country on a regular basis,” Hopkins said. “In recent years, there have been more good outcomes from some of these rescues and I think that can be attributed directly to the relationships that GEAPS fosters. The more we communicate the risks to growers and train first responders, the more we can avoid these tragedies.”

April-Hope Wareham, *Columbia River Chapter*, is production supervisor at Temco, in Tacoma, Washington. Since she works at an export facility with no long-term storage and no bin entry, she worked with Cargill to find a good fit for the donation at the company’s facility in Emery, South Dakota.

“Emery’s facility has a few employees who also work for the fire department,” Wareham said. “I appreciate what the filmmakers are doing setting up screenings with safety discussions and panels afterward. It’s one thing to have a grain rescue tube at your local fire department, but as the film shows, it’s another thing entirely to know how to use it and to prevent needing to ever use it in the first place.”

Wareham said a well-made film like SILO is a great icebreaker for safety discussions, and that at her facility they invite local fire departments over once a year so they are familiar with the facility in case of an emergency.

Departments Who Received Donations:

- Amity Community Volunteer Fire Department, Franklin, IN
- Barnum Volunteer Fire Department, Barnum, IA
- Emery Fire Department, Emery, SD
- Spencer Fire Department, Spencer, IA

If you are interested in setting up a SILO screening for a company or GEAPS chapter event, contact GEAPS Executive Director Steve Records for more information.



Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

| DATE | TITLE | CITY | CONTACT | EMAIL |
|----------------|---|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| July 28, 2020 | GEAPS Membership Committee Meeting | Virtual | Deb Most | deb@geaps.com |
| July 29, 2020 | GEAPS Continuing Education Programs Oversight Committee | Virtual | Jay Bergland | jay@geaps.com |
| Sept. 10, 2020 | GEAPS Educational Programming Committee Meeting | Virtual | Betsy Polis | betsy@geaps.com |





★ ★ ★

MEMBER PROFILE

★ ★ ★

Laura Schulz

Chapter and committees:

Golden Triangle Chapter, Educational Programming Committee since 2016, Associate Board Member since 2019

Family: Son, Levi

Position and Company:

Regional Vice President, Painters USA Inc.

Years with company: 2

Years in Industry: 9

Interesting or unique fact about your facility/company:

Painters USA is a woman-owned business and WBENC certified.

Past positions:

Estimator/project manager for McGill Restoration 2017-2018. Vice President of Operations at CCS Group, LLC 2012-2017

Education:

Bachelors of Science Degree in Political Science from University of Nebraska at Omaha

Biggest influence on your career:

My father, Robin Schulz, taught me everything I needed to know about construction. From customer service, crew management, work ethic,

estimating, problem solving and so much more is all derived from following his lead.

How has GEAPS helped your leadership skills?

I have attended three GEAPS Leadership Conferences. While skeptical at first, I learned a ton. Playing to employee's strengths, designing positions around a vital member of a team and how to more effectively communicate with all of my staff are some of the many things I have learned through this amazing workshop.

What are three of your favorite memories from GEAPS?

My very first GEAPS experience was at Exchange 2014 in Omaha, Nebraska. Fred Norwood introduced me to so many people in one night. He told me that he wanted to make sure I came back every year, which I have.

Four years in a row, we took the CVA clan to dinner at the expo. Spending time with Terry and Nicole Collins, Wes O'Bannon, Barb Grove and the gang will always remind me of how much fun one can have while working.

In New Orleans, I was able to coordinate a very different education session. Instead of having one speaker, we had four speakers on a panel discussing contractor selection and management. Justin Myers, Terry Collins, Casey Jones and Jim Gales were informative and comical. It was my favorite session I have been a part of so far.



What is the best advice you have received from another GEAPS member?

Regan Heaton told me that if you can't enjoy what you do most of the time, you shouldn't do it.

What is one industry-wide trend affecting your company right now? How are you reacting to it?

The COVID-19 pandemic is obviously the most prevalent trend in our company at the moment. We are reacting to it in several different ways. The safety and wellbeing of my employees are my top priority. While Texas continues to increase in numbers, following CDC guidelines, limiting interactions with other trades and reducing crew sizes is vital to our continued operation. On the other side, we offer sanitation services to clients with confirmed cases as well as preventative measures.

What is something unique about the grain industry in your region?

Living in Nebraska most of my life and moving to Texas two years ago, I find it surprising how short the corn is down here.



How has GEAPS impacted your career?

What impact has GEAPS had on your career? Who have you met through our network? What skills have you built through chapter meetings and training programs? GEAPS wants to know! **Contact Tom Sedlacek at (507) 351-7445 or tom@geaps.com and share your story today!**



New Members

*Welcome these new members who joined GEAPS recently.
Italics denote Student Members.*

Canadian Prairies

Spencer Brason, Manco Control Systems Inc

Brent Doerksen, Community Electric Ltd

Jason Findlay, Vector Construction Ltd

Mike Myers, Cargill AgHorizons Canada, *recruited by Robert Taylor*

Filippo Porpiglia, Crane Steel Structures Ltd

Craig Senchuk, Hi Tech Installations Ltd

Laraib Uppal, Celco Controls Ltd

Columbia River

June Moran, Temco

Cornbelt

Benny Larson, Landmark Services Cooperative

Adam Mussman

Brian Nesbitt, Nesbitt Construction Co Inc

Golden Triangle

Christopher Bush, Rice Belt Warehouse Inc

Great Plains

Michael Hinton, AgTrax

Great River

David Frett, River Valley Cooperative, *recruited by Hobart Stutt*

Gulf South

Russell Boudreaux, CHS Inc

Erik Cooper, Zen-Noh Grain Corp, *recruited by Eric Slater*

Jason Creech, Performance Contractors Inc

Kevin Green, Farmers Grain Terminal, Inc

Randall Magee, MMR Constructors Inc

Jason Smith, Joly's Metal Works Inc

Inland Empire

Brent Schukay, Ritzville Warehouse Co

Intermountain

Daniel Barnes, The Scoular Co

Kansas City

Manoj Kumar Pulivarthi, Kansas State University, *recruited by Kaliramesh Siliveru*

Mid-Atlantic

Joe Grippi, Bayer

Sylvie Routh, Mountaire Farms of Delaware Inc, *recruited by R. Scott Brittingham*

Mid-South

Jordan Colclasure, Riceland Foods Inc, *recruited by Jeff Madden*

Steve Henderson, Self Employed, *recruited by Hubert Farrish*

Lambert Marshall, Bearskin Grain LLC

Keith Priest, Riceland Foods Inc, *recruited by David Meins*

Minneapolis

Joseph Dunn, Ardent Mills

Shaun Mitchell, Egan Co, *recruited by Paul Meier*

Non-chapter

Al Blackmon, Jr, Hydro-Klean LLC

Steve Brown, VITAKRAFT SUN SEED

Mary Cassity, Cargill

Allen Childs, Farmers Grain Terminal, Inc

Jessica Etheridge, White Commercial Corp

Karissa Hastings, Precision Pulley and Idler (PPI)

Pat Hinner, AGRA Industries Inc

Justin Hofstetter, C-TEC AG, *recruited by Greg Wurst*

Hayden Kuyf, REL Group

Tom McClamroch, Perry Equipment

Brad Metz, KAAPA Grains LLC

Terri Anne Meyer, Bird-B-Gone

Markus Narins, Rice Lake Weighing Systems

Luke Poynor, ADM

Seaway

Kearsten Huffman, Mole Master Services Corp, *recruited by Dan Bruenderman*

Siouxland

Chase Eickholt, Younglove Construction LLC, *recruited by Kenny Gubbels*

Karl Pittmann, Younglove Construction LLC, *recruited by Kenny Gubbels*



Planning Virtual Events for the Coming Year

With COVID-19 continuing to impact our daily lives for the foreseeable future, chapter leaders are working on planning virtual meetings to keep you connected to the GEAPS network. For some chapters it's a big adjustment.

According to Karilyn Smith, Donaldson Co Inc., *Minneapolis Chapter*, her chapter had never put a focus on virtual events before COVID-19. "We really value being able to put a face to a name to create new connections and friendships while attending meetings," Smith said. "Given the times, we are trying to come up with ideas for virtual meetings to be more interactive, while still adding value – not distractions."

For *Minneapolis*, weather plays a role in meeting planning as well. Smith said that during the spring and summer the chapter is looking at parks and golf courses as venues to allow for social distancing. In the winter when the bitter cold and snowy roads can be a hindrance for in-person events the chapter will plan more virtual offerings.

"Our biggest fear is that virtual meetings won't be as highly attended," Smith said. "Everybody loves lunches or events out of the office. We hope to secure topics that really grab the attention of our members for the virtual meetings."

Tips for planning a virtual meeting

- **Pick a speaker** – The nice thing about a virtual meeting is you aren't limited to speakers who can travel to your region. Check out all the options in the GEAPS Speakers Bureau at geaps.com/speakers
- **Choose a platform** – There are a number of online meeting platforms. Zoom and Microsoft Teams both have free versions. If you are just getting started, you can use GEAPS' Zoom account. To learn more contact Kelly Stucki at Kelly@geaps.com.
- **Have a plan to engage attendees** – Keep your attendees focused. Plan ahead with polls, or have the speaker ask questions and read responses from the chat. You could also have someone monitoring the chat and guiding the discussion.
- **Keep sessions short** – The longer sessions are the more likely you are to lose your audience. Plan an engaging topic and have lots of breaks.

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CALENDAR

An extensive and up-to-date calendar can be found on the GEAPS website.

CHAPTERS

GREATER IOWA

September 15, 2020

Dryer Maintenance

Dr. Charles Hurburgh, Iowa State University

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

November 17, 2020

Site Safety with Contractors

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

February 2, 2021

Annual Maintenance Day

Ag Info Center

Nevada, IA

March 16, 2021

HR Panel - Employee Recruitment
and Retention

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

June 1, 2021

1st Annual Kevin Miles Golf Tournament

Location: TBA

IA

MID-ATLANTIC

August 11, 2020

Annual Crab Feast

Suicide Bridge Restaurant

Hurlock, MD

