



In-Grain

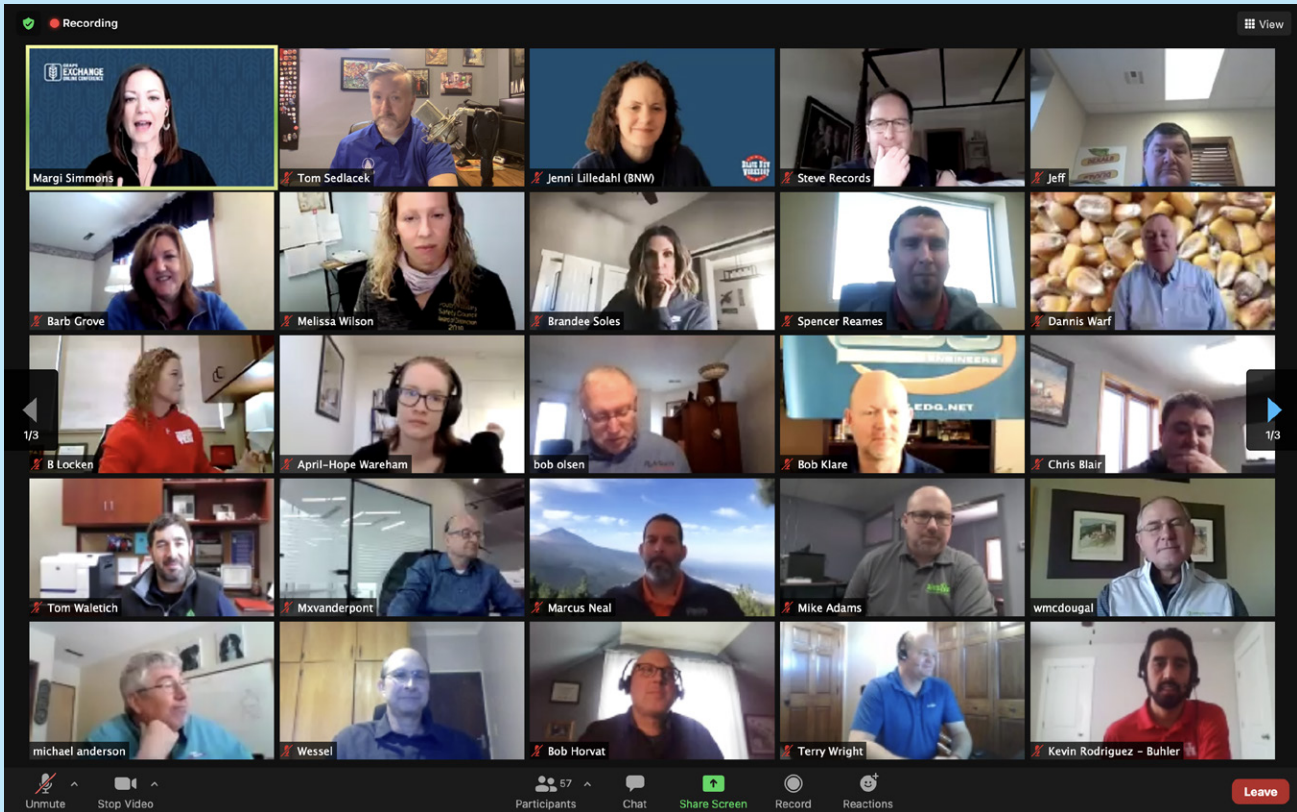
Grain Elevator and Processing Society

The Knowledge Resource for the Grain Handling and Processing Industry

March/April 2021

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GEAPS Delivers on Mission with Outstanding Virtual Conference *Article on page 4*



**GEAPS
EXCHANGE**
COLUMBUS • 2021

**GEAPS Continues Planning
for In-Person Conference
in August *page 2***

GEAPS Member Update

Thank you for being a part of GEAPS! As you will read in this edition, the last couple months have been very busy for GEAPS and we are excited to share some new programs and updates with you.

Facility Membership Model

At their January meeting, the International Board of Directors approved a new facility-based membership model. If you are the only member at your plant, nothing changes for you. You can still purchase an individual membership. If your facility has six members, your company can see over \$1,000 in savings. A similar model is also available for Associate member companies.

The goal here is to increase our membership. The bigger our overall network is, the more collective knowledge we have to share. We believe this new model will make it easier to get your co-workers involved in GEAPS. Look for more information on the new membership model during membership renewals.

Membership Renewals

GEAPS memberships run through June 30 each year. We hope you will stick with us for another year! Your membership dues will remain \$370, unless your company wants to take advantage of the new facility membership model.

New Learning Management System

We were thrilled to launch new technology for our distance education program earlier this year. Our entire catalog of courses will be available on-demand in the very near future. Courses last five weeks on the new platform, and now you can retain all the supplemental information – handouts, charts and other materials- even after the course has completed. We are also adding free content for members. Learn more on page 7.

Exchange 2021

We were thrilled with the success of our online conference in February and are even more excited about getting together in person Aug. 6-9. We are working with the city of Columbus to ensure a safe and productive conference for everyone. Check out the update on page 3.



In-Grain

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

- Grain Quality
- Facility Maintenance and Design
- General Operations
- Risk Management
- Human Resources

GEAPS Staff

Steve Records, executive director

Jay Bergland MCGOM, director of professional development

Whitney Bey, conferences manager

Adrienne Fjerstad-Miller, exposition director

Melissa Ferguson, training programs manager

Julia Kloehn, senior director of operations

Brittany Labatt, tradeshow sales manager

Deb Most, membership manager

Betsy Polis, director of member engagement

Tom Sedlacek CGOM, communications manager, editor

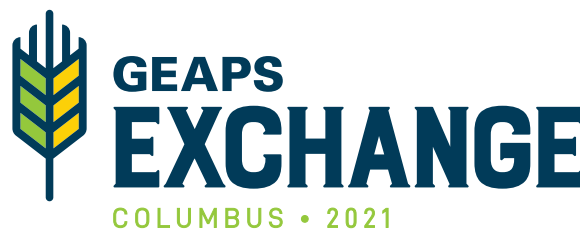


GEAPS Continues Planning for In-Person Conference in August

GEAPS is moving forward with planning for GEAPS Exchange 2021, Aug. 6-9 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. After cancelling our conference last year due to COVID-19, we will keep the core tenets of our show in place: an Expo Hall with the latest technology and services on display, education on relevant industry topics and networking events to help you build business relationships.

In preparation for the event, GEAPS is required to submit a risk mitigation plan to the Columbus Health Department detailing how we will keep attendees safe. GEAPS will work with the city to determine how many people use the Expo Hall or other events at a given time. Once the city approves the plan, we can move forward with planning all aspects of the conference.

As we have learned over the last year, the situation with COVID-19 remains fluid. A plan that is approved this spring could be updated as the landscape changes over the summer. This has been a challenging time for GEAPS and for the industry, and we appreciate your patience and support! To stay updated on the latest information, visit www.geapsexchange.com and sign up for email updates.



Exchange Exhibitors – Keep an Eye Out for Emails

Because we delayed the show from February until August, we must revamp the floorplan. This will also help ensure we are utilizing best practices to keep everyone safe. We are reaching out to companies to pick new booths based on your position on the priority list. Please keep an eye out for communications from GEAPS! If you have any questions about your booth, please contact conferences@geaps.com.

How the Columbus Convention Center Keeps Visitors Safe

- **Sterilizers on all escalators** - The escalator handrail sterilizers use UV-C lights to continually sterilize the escalator handrails in real time so you can hold on without worrying about touching common surfaces. The UV-C units are mounted on the bottom of the escalator handrail outside of view to prevent direct UV-C exposure.
- **Air purifiers in all elevators** - HEPA systems inside elevators pull air out of the cab and circulate clean air throughout.
- **Additional hand sanitizers** - The convention center has added hand sanitizer stations throughout the facility.
- **Touchless ticketing for parking** - Push buttons on ticket dispensers have been replaced with proximity readers. These readers eliminate the need to touch entry devices to obtain an entry ticket. You just reach towards the device and a ticket will be dispensed.



GEAPS Sweepstakes: Win an ATV or Cash Prize

GEAPS has a sweepstakes with a top prize of a TRACKER 800SX LE side-by-side all-terrain vehicle, an approximate retail value of \$17,000. The sweepstakes runs until June 1, 2021. If a minimum ticket level is not met the winner will get half the cash raised as the prize, currently over \$1,000.

GEAPS Executive Director Steve Records explained how the sweepstakes benefits the organization. "One of the biggest benefits of GEAPS is the connections we make, and the fun we have doing it," Records said. "This sweepstakes puts GEAPS in a position to continue building programs that deliver value to our network, and someone is going to walk away with a very fun new vehicle."

Tickets start at \$25, if you use the promo code INGRAIN in March you get a 40% bonus on tickets purchased!

<https://geaps.tapkat.org/winatracker800sx?promo=INGRAIN>



GEAPS Delivers on Mission with Outstanding Virtual Conference

GEAPS completed its first ever virtual conference in February, executing our mission to advance grain industry knowledge and information sharing through a network of global agriculture professionals. The event drew 340 attendees from seven countries and 159 companies together for education sessions, a virtual trade show and networking lounges.

For Tom Waletich, regional safety manager at Agtegra Cooperative, *Minneapolis Chapter*, it was his first time attending a virtual conference. He enjoyed the first leadership workshop, *Change is Fuel*, and how the speaker broke everyone into small groups in Zoom to help people open up to conversations.

“The workshop was a good reminder to think outside of the box and not be scared to try new concepts,” Waletich said. “I have reached out to several of the presenters requesting more information on equipment and procedures that they use for safety and maintenance projects.”

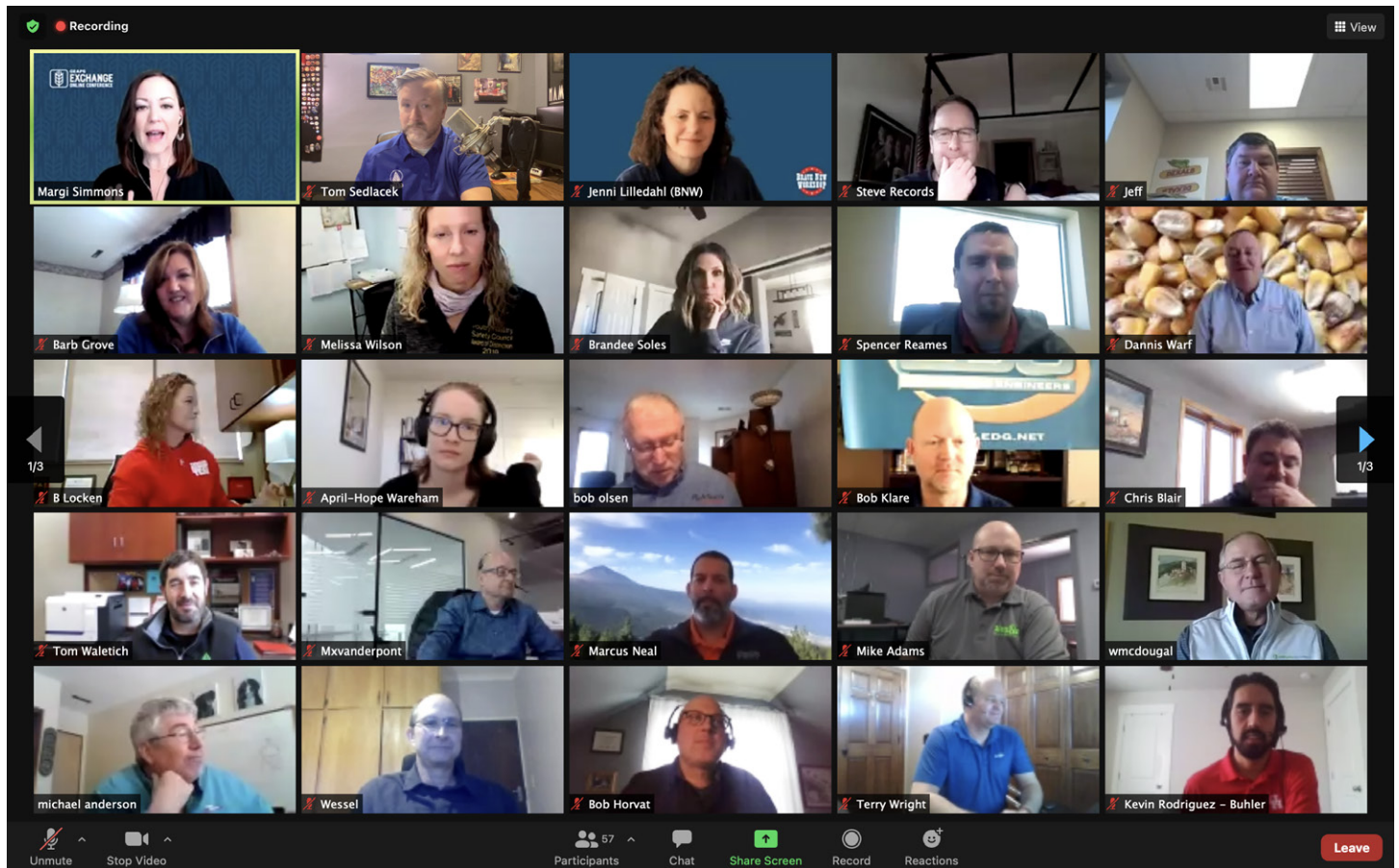
Cristian Valenzuela attended the virtual event from Chile, where he manages the biggest dry bulk export facility in San Antonio. He said

he learned about new products and technologies, while making new connections in the industry.

“I was looking for international conferences and exhibitions to improve my knowledge and find new state-of-the-art suppliers,” Valenzuela said. “GEAPS is a good way to achieve those targets and I expect to attend your conference in Columbus in August with three to four of our terminal tech staff.”

GEAPS International President Jeff Jones, MKC, is proud of the way GEAPS pivoted to produce the online event. His company had 16 employees attend.

“This conference was filled with opportunities for self-improvement and personal growth, as well as industry tips and tricks. I’m excited to take several of the ideas back and implement them with my team,” Jones said. “MKC put an emphasis on training like this. Our team has already had several conversations around implementing what we learned.”



In addition to the education, attendees exchanged 650 messages on the virtual platform and attended 309 appointments with exhibitors.

GEAPS First Vice President Barb Grove, Central Valley Ag Cooperative, was impressed by the energy of the opening keynote every morning and the positive energy in the sessions. Over the course of three days, she attended a balance of leadership and operations sessions that helped her grow in different ways.

"I loved the interactive nature of the education sessions. We were able to ask questions as they came up and interact with other attendees," Grove said. "One person's question or comment could spur conversation from others and it was a very supportive environment for feedback. I think there is a lot of opportunity for GEAPS chapters to build off this event and host more virtual chapter meetings. We could really drive engagement by embracing more technology."

Dr. Gretchen Mosher, Iowa State University, serves on the Exchange Education Programming Committee and helped plan the education for the event. She was pleased with the quality of the speakers and their ability to engage attendees in the digital platform. She agreed that there was potential for chapters to engage in virtual events.

"The Greater Iowa chapter has already been embracing technology for meetings and has used technology to facilitate guest speakers and other events," Mosher said. "As we move forward, I think the technology offers options for meeting planners, especially during the winter when the weather makes travel difficult."

GEAPS Executive Director Steve Records noted how the online conference delivered on GEAPS' mission to advance grain industry knowledge through a global network of agricultural professionals.

"Two-thirds of our attendees were GEAPS members," Records said. "It was excellent to see our network come together on this virtual platform, building their skills together. The conversations and the encouragement felt just like a GEAPS meeting on a grand scale. We are going to continue planning ways for the industry to connect virtually and we are very excited to host our in-person conference this summer."

GEAPS Exchange 2021 is scheduled to take place Aug. 6-9 in at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.

The 4 C's of an ICONIC Mindset




GEAPS EXCHANGE ONLINE CONFERENCE

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Key Takeaways




- Embrace and acknowledge the fact that you "don't know *everything*"
- Ask early and often
- Think "left-handed"
- Demonstrate humility and vulnerability
- Get out of your own way (*beware of that "pride" thing*)
- Lean into the ambiguity and unknown and put yourself last



GEAPS EXCHANGE ONLINE CONFERENCE

Break out of your comfort zone

- Reach out to an estranged friend or family member.
- Show a stranger a photo of your pet.
- Offer to pay for someone's order behind you at Starbucks.
- Sit beside a stranger and strike up a conversation.
- Borrow a cup of sugar from a neighbor you don't know.
- Try to buy something that's not for sale.
- Convince a meat-eater to go vegan for one week.
- Order something not on the menu.
- Try to acquire a good or service by barter.
- Call your credit card provider and request a lower interest rate.
- Ask for a back-of-house tour of a restaurant or hotel.
- Ask a stranger if you look like a celebrity.
- Attempt to withdraw bitcoin from your local bank.
- Ask for an opinion about your clothing from a stranger.
- Try to get on the intercom in a grocery store.
- Ask for a free or discounted ride on public transit.
- Try to convince a stranger that you know them.
- Ask a stranger for a breath mint or a stick of gum.



GEAPS EXCHANGE ONLINE CONFERENCE

Top-Attended Education Sessions

- **Opening Keynote: BE! ICONIC OR BE! GONE – BE! UNIQUE**
- **Virtual Idea Exchange**
- **Leadership Workshop: Change is Fuel**
- **Solving the Biggest Challenges in Agribusiness Through Innovation and Technology**



JOIN US

MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2021



**STAND UP 4 GRAIN
SAFETY WEEK**

WWW.STANDUP4GRAINSAFETY.ORG

Reinforce Your Safety Culture During Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week

SMALL CHANGES. BIG IMPACT. /// MARCH 29 - APRIL 2

Every year hundreds of employees are injured or die from preventable hazards while working in grain storage and handling. Safety doesn't need to be big to be effective. Commit to safety by making small changes in the workplace or how tasks are performed to make a positive safety impact. Join us for a series of free daily events to help keep your team safe!

Monday, March 29

Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week Kickoff

- Live, on-site safety demonstrations at the Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center
- Stand Up success stories
- Idea sessions

Learn how organizations and individuals benefit from this national, industry-wide focus on safety. The Central States Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at the University of Nebraska Medical Center will present live safety demonstrations and lead Q-&A. Have your respiratory protection handy for practical tips on selection, use and care during one of the demonstrations.

Tuesday, March 30

Free Webinar: Near Misses

- **Dennis Jarrett**, Vice President of Continuous Improvement, Teasdale Latin Foods
- **Daniel Gaither**, Director of Safety, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Office of Research, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana
- **Brian Grimm**, GHSC Board of Directors

Near miss reporting is a powerful tool to help us develop a proactive approach to safety – recognizing and fixing hazards before

harm is caused. Breakout sessions will delve deeper into common questions surrounding employee engagement/participation and management concerns of how to implement and effectively use near miss reporting.

Wednesday, March 31

Free Webinar: How Grain Quality Effects Safety

- **Dr. Kent Rausch**, University of Illinois
- **John Lee**, SHES Director, Feed and Grain Association of Illinois

Grain quality is a leading indicator of potential hazards which can result in devastating consequences for your employees. Learn how to keep your grain in good condition and what happens when grain is in bad condition, and the effect bad grain has on the safety of our employees.

Breakout sessions after the presentations will allow for in-depth Q-&A and discussion.

Thursday, April 1

Free Webinar: Bin Safety

Steve Wangler, Regional Operations Manager, CVA Coop

Working in and around grain bins poses a variety of different hazards. From loading and unloading grain, to performing bin

entry, learn what to watch for and ways to eliminate or correct hazards.

Breakout sessions give you an opportunity to engage further and exchange ideas with others on safe working conditions.

Friday, April 2

Free Webinar: Emergency Planning

- **Dr. Casper Bendixen**, National Farm Medicine Center
- **Jim Seibert**, Director of Safety, Education and Training, NGFA
- **Butch Hendrix**, Safety Director, Kokomo Grain

Emergencies happen when our systems, procedures and equipment fail. Whether working on a farm or in a commercial facility, how prepared you are to respond to the emergency may be the difference between life and death.

Industry experts will help us understand how to plan for different types of emergencies, introduce resources to aid in planning and preparation, and address common questions and obstacles to emergency pre-planning.



GEAPS Introduces New Hub for Training and Member Benefits

GEAPS recently implemented a Learning Management System to house our training programs and new member benefits. With this new platform, you can now take courses from the GEAPS Distance Education program, update your member profile and renew your membership with a single login to geaps.com. GEAPS International President Jeff Jones, MKC, was impressed by how the organization pivoted to implement the new technology amidst numerous challenges last year.

“The Board had identified a Learning Management System as a necessary tool for the long-range stability of our education programs,” Jones said. “Our situation changed dramatically last year. This became an immediate priority and our staff did a great job getting it up and running. Initial feedback has been very positive, and I look forward to watching it evolve in the coming months.”

The system was implemented in time for January courses this year and so far users have commented on how easy it is to navigate and complete courses. The platform is currently a home for distance education courses and in the future it will include free resources for GEAPS members – including full-length courses, on-demand hour-long Crash Courses and curated content from industry partners.

Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

DATE	TITLE
Apr. 15-16, 2021	International Board of Directors Meeting
Apr. 27, 2021	Membership Committee
Apr. 29, 2021	Chapter Resource Committee
May 14, 2021	International Executive Committee



IN MEMORIAM

GEAPS was saddened to hear of the passing of several members in recent months.

Greg Buric, Wm. Meyer & Sons Service, *Minneapolis Chapter*

Jack Coleman, Research Fumigation Co, *Gulf South*

Allan Crawford, Cargill, *Greater Nebraska Chapter*

Alan Geiken, *Non-Chapter*

Thomas Scott, JMI Covers LLC, *Minneapolis*

Lavon Thompson, Lifetime member, *Great Plains Chapter*





Vote for International and Associates Board Leaders

It is time to elect new leaders for the International and Associates boards. All active Regular and Associate members will receive a link to an online ballot with voting instructions via email in April. The deadline to vote is Tuesday, June 1. The following pages include profiles of all candidates. GEAPS will announce both election results in July.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



CHRIS BLAIR, NEW Cooperative Inc, Greater Iowa Chapter

Mr. Blair is the Region 4 Manager for NEW Cooperative Inc based at the Pomeroy, Iowa location. A GEAPS member since 2007, he has served in International and chapter leadership. He currently serves on the International Board of Directors, the International Executive Committee, and the Continuing Education Program Oversight Committee.

“As an active member for almost 15 years now, I want to continue my professional growth and share GEAPS’ mission and values with others in the industry. I can’t think of any other organization that gives you the ability to partake in education and networking in one place. I’m driven to help make sure we continue to find new ways to deliver the quality programs and networking opportunities to help all of us grow.”



INTERNATIONAL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



CASEY ABEL, Gavilon LLC, Golden Triangle

Mr. Abel is a safety manager for Gavilon LLC based in Saginaw, Texas. A member since 2019, he's been involved with GEAPS since his first GEAPS Exchange in 2010, primarily through his involvement with various GEAPS trainings.

Mr. Abel has spearheaded various safety initiatives that extend beyond Gavilon, helping educate grain industry employees, fire departments and farmers. Most notably, he facilitated a partnership with Oklahoma State University in which he coordinated safety events across the country, providing life-saving awareness of the hazards associated with confined space entries and rescues.

"I've always considered GEAPS to be the single greatest resource in the grain industry and I want to give back to an organization that initially sparked my career interest. Through networking, education and visibility into improvements in innovation and technology, GEAPS will continue making our industry safer and more efficient. We will continue to face the same challenges be it safety, mother nature, or market volatility; our success is predicated on our ability to share in our struggles and solutions. GEAPS provides the community, collaboration and resources required to move us forward. I am honored to be nominated for the International Board of Directors and hope to contribute to GEAPS for years to come."



JORI TEMPLETON, Temco, Columbia River

Ms. Templeton is a production supervisor at Temco in Kalama, Washington. A GEAPS member since 2017, she has served in International and chapter leadership. For 2020-21, Jori serves as a member of the Membership Committee and as vice president of the *Columbia River Chapter*. Outside of GEAPS, she serves on the Maritime Fire & Safety Association Board of Directors.

"I've been involved in the Columbia River chapter since January of 2017. I became the chapter vice president in June of 2019 and continue to occupy this role. I have brought great ideas for chapter meetings to the table over the past year and a half. I have also served on the Membership Committee since July 2019. I, along with some colleagues, have been trying to form a Young Professionals group. This group gives members who are new to the industry a chance to collaborate and get advice from people who have been around for a while. My goal is to get as many people involved in GEAPS as possible, so they can reap the benefits of networking and the resources that GEAPS provides."



R. SCOTT BRITTINGHAM, MCGOM, Mountaire Farms, Mid-Atlantic

Mr. Brittingham is a regional grain facilities manager at Mountaire Farms in Maryland and Delaware. He joined GEAPS in 2004 and has served in International and chapter leadership. Scott currently serves as treasurer of the *Mid-Atlantic Chapter* and was recognized as Chapter Member of Distinction in 2011 and 2014. He has been GEAPS' top recruiter for each of the past three years. For 2020-21, Scott also serves as vice chair of the Chapter Resource Committee and as director on GEAPS International Board.

Scott has spearheaded his chapter's outreach and financial support of the Future Farmers of America chapters in the Delmarva region. Scott also serves as a member of the Delmarva Chicken Association.

"I've been honored to serve on the International Board. As the top membership recruiter and someone who has taken full advantage of GEAPS' educational opportunities by earning the Master Credential in Grain Operations Management, I feel that I offer a unique perspective and would like to continue to serve, and to help support GEAPS' ongoing mission to be the knowledge and networking resource for the grain and processing industry."



ASSOCIATES BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



JAKE CROCKFORD, CGOM, IBT Industrial Solutions, *Great Plains*

Mr. Jake Crockford is an account manager for IBT Industrial Solutions in Wichita, Kansas. A GEAPS member since 2015, he has served in chapter leadership. He currently serves on the *Great Plains Chapter* Planning Committee as well as the Maintenance Seminar Committee and has presented several times at the Maintenance Seminar. He has earned a CGOM with a specialist credential in Grain Handling Equipment Maintenance.

“As we look around our meetings and zoom calls it becomes apparent very quickly that the grain industry is undergoing a changing of the guard. Because of this, I find myself quite often sharing knowledge and insights with others in the industry. I enjoy the continued involvement and education within the industry and picking up information wherever I can. I look forward to working with the Associate’s Board in advancing our vision to be the Knowledge Resource for the Grain Handling and Processing Industry.”



FRANCISCO ROBERT (ROB) DUERKSEN, PCL Construction, *Canadian Prairies*

Mr. Francisco Robert (Rob) Duerksen is an agribusiness manager for PCL Construction in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He has been a GEAPS member since 2015 and a member of the Canadian Prairies chapter for 11 years. He volunteers for Meals on Wheels and Big Brothers Big Sisters Manitoba and is an Associate member of the Manitoba Food and Beverage Association in addition to being registered with Engineers and Geoscientists Manitoba.

“I was born in Argentina, raised in Paraguay, have family and friends in Brazil and now live and work in Canada. I have traveled extensively and visited various countries on every continent except Antarctica. I have learned to embrace the power of diverse perspectives and the value that different cultures and geographies can bring to the table. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how globally intertwined we are and how dependent we are on each other. I hope to further GEAPS’ mandate to all its members world-wide, continuing its pursuit of being a broad-based, world-wide organization.”



COLE HALBLEIB, Extron Company, *Kansas City*

Mr. Cole Halbleib is a western sales manager for Extron Company in Prairie Village, Kansas. A GEAPS member off and on since 2015, he has served on the Education Programming Committee (EPC). He is a member of Kansas Grain and Feed, Oklahoma Grain and Feed, Texas Grain and Feed and National Grain and Feed.

“In an industry that is quickly evolving I believe that GEAPS has a tremendous opportunity to expand membership as well as provide valuable training and content to all members. If elected, I would focus on partnerships with other industry organizations in order to provide higher quality educational content and more networking opportunities to reinvigorate membership.”



JANICE KANTOLA, Premier Components, *Michigan/So. Ontario*

Ms. Janice Kantola is an outside sales manager for Premier Components in Alma, Michigan. A GEAPS member since 2005, she has served in International and chapter leadership. She currently serves as a director on the Associates Board, as secretary of the *Michigan/So. Ontario Chapter*, and as a member of the Membership Committee.

“Serving on the Associates Board has been very fulfilling, and I would like to be re-elected so I can continue my support for all GEAPS members, Regular and Associate, to ensure all members’ needs are heard and to support GEAPS as a great knowledge resource for all of us in the grain industry.”



ASSOCIATES BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



ANDREW LEWMAN, AGI AIRLANCO, *Kansas City*

Mr. Andrew Lewman is a sales development engineer for AGI AIRLANCO in Falls City, Nebraska. A GEAPS member since 2018, he has served in chapter leadership and is currently a director of the *Kansas City Chapter*. He is also a member of the International Association of Operative Millers.

“I joined GEAPS to network and connect with others from the grain industry. I’m looking forward to giving others the same opportunity to network and giving members access to education from grain industry pros.”



ANDREW MERKINS, Ibberson, *Minneapolis*

Mr. Andrew Merkins is a business development manager for Ibberson in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A GEAPS member since 2016, he has served in International and chapter leadership. After being chapter president in 2019, he is currently chairman of the board and serves on the Scholarship Committee. He is also a member of the Education Programming Committee (EPC). Outside of GEAPS, he volunteers for the IAOM golf event and tradeshow and is a member of the International Association of Operative Millers and the Food Processing Suppliers Association.

“GEAPS has helped my professional development greatly, from presenting at Exchange to being on the Minneapolis board. I want to give back to the next generation in our industry. We have many opportunities that help our industry become more successful. I’m committed to helping our industry be more successful for years to come. We feed the world, what other organization can say that proudly?”



MATTHEW SCHMITT, PE, CGOM, CGPM, Keen Project Solutions LLC, *Greater Iowa*

Mr. Matthew Schmitt is a structural engineer for Keen Project Solutions LLC in Ankeny, Iowa. A GEAPS member since 2014, he has served in both International and chapter leadership. He is the president of the Greater Iowa Chapter and vice chair of the Membership Committee. He is a current member of the GEAPS Associates Board of Directors. In addition to his volunteer leadership with GEAPS, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Ankeny Economic Development Corporation and is a member of their Salute to Industry planning committee. He is also a member of the Structural Engineers Association of Iowa (SEAIA), Knights of Columbus Council 15603 and Ankeny Economic Development Corporation.

“As the chapter president in 2019-2020, I helped to put on the first-ever live chapter webinar meeting. We also had our first successful daylong Maintenance Day, modeled after the *Great Plains Chapter*. In 2020-2021, I had the opportunity to serve a second term as chapter president and helped our chapter put on several virtual meetings throughout the year.”

continued >



ASSOCIATES BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



CHERYL STORCH, Custom Agri Systems Inc., Seaway

Ms. Cheryl Storch is an hr/safety/risk director for Custom Agri Systems Inc in Napoleon, Ohio. A GEAPS member since 2010, she has served in both International and chapter leadership. She currently serves as a director on the Associates Board and is the secretary/treasurer of the *Seaway Chapter*. She is also a member of the Continuing Education Planning Oversight Committee (CEPOC) and Grain Rescue Training Committee. In addition to her volunteer leadership with GEAPS, she is also a member of the Ohio Women in Ag Committee.

“GEAPS and the ag industry face tremendous pressures every day to stay current, be a relevant source of knowledge and to influence the world around us to support agriculture and our businesses. My focus as an Associate Board Member is to continue to grow the knowledge platform in a way that is most useful, relevant and up-to-date for our members and those looking to GEAPS for a quality learning experience.”



ALEX WESTLIND, P.E., The Weitz Company, Minneapolis Chapter

Mr. Alex Westlind is business development director for The Weitz Company in Plymouth, Minnesota. A member since 2007, he has served in both International and chapter leadership. He is currently a director on the Associates Board and has held officer positions for the Minneapolis Chapter including chapter president. He was a member of the Host Advisory Council for Exchange 2020 as well as the 2019-2020 Strategic Planning Committee. He is also a member of the American Feed Industry Association.

“GEAPS has always been an amazing community of caring industry professionals with tremendous industry knowledge. This network was, and still is, a major reason I am a GEAPS member. Volunteering for the Associates Board is a great way to give back to our community and I appreciate the opportunity to serve our members. 2020 was a difficult year for us all, and I look forward to helping find creative ways of engaging new and existing members, and continuously adding more value to our memberships.”

VOTE
TODAY

**Look for emails from
GEAPS to vote in April.
The deadline to vote is
Tuesday, June 1.**



Bernie Jansen, VAA LLC, Reflects on 35 Years in the Industry

Tell us about your company, and your career to this point.

VAA, LLC emerged from Van Sickle Allen & Associates (VAA) and Grain Facility Design (GFD). The companies started in 1978 and were founded by Dick Van Sickle and Chuck Allen. Van Sickle Allen was primarily offering civil and structural engineering for commercial and industrial projects while GFD was focused on ag related work.

The two firms merged to form the current company structure. I joined them in 1985 after graduating from Dunwoody College of Technology and spending six years working for a general contractor. I started as a drafting technician at VAA. We were relatively small at the time, only about a dozen people. After a few years I shifted to GFD and worked with Gene Haldorson using my previous experience on grain projects and slipform construction with a design build contractor.

Gene and I started handling project management duties for clients and eventually I started handling some of those relationships and work assignments on my own which led me to a project manager promotion. Together we helped build VAA's reputation in the ag industry and I kept moving up the ladder being promoted to associate, senior associate and named as a firm partner in 1998.

We added engineering disciplines for industrial architecture, electrical and mechanical to our existing service offerings of structural, civil, track design and general arrangement. I stepped back from ownership a few years ago and now serve as a senior project manager and help with business development.

VAA has evolved into a full-service engineering firm able to take on larger multidiscipline projects across the United States and Canada – adding structural marine design capabilities and a team to perform dust hazard analysis.

You've been involved with GEAPS since 1995. Why did you first get involved, and what do you get out of it today?

I was not involved with GEAPS during my first seven years at VAA. Again, we were small at the time so Dick and Gene were more involved with GEAPS. I was asked to lead other areas to help diversify VAA's ag work, so I focused on feed (AFIA), flour (IAOM), ethanol (ACE & FEW) and local co-ops (MGFA

and NDGDA). When Dick became less involved in GEAPS in the mid 90s I decided to join so we had good representation – those were some big shoes to fill. I could see how much he and Gene enjoyed being in GEAPS and they had always told me stories about their involvement.

I get so much from being a member, always wanting to learn about the latest industry trends and spending time with all the other wonderful people who are members. GEAPS Exchange allows me to see a lot of people in one place and joining in on some of the other activities is always fun. Being a member also goes a long way in garnering respect within our industry.

How has the grain industry changed since you've been a member?

- Safety has become the number one priority. This has always been a passion for me and VAA. My first project out of school was reconstruction of the Westwego terminal after an explosion. I was on site during reconstruction and saw first-hand the kind of damage a dust explosion can do.
- Consolidation of co-ops has driven larger-scale projects.
- Speed and size of facility operations has increased to serve increased volumes and transportation incentives.
- People have changed. Some have retired out of the industry or passed on.
- Design methods are more sophisticated now with 3D capabilities, 3D scanning and on-going technology improvements.

How has the pandemic affected VAA in general and your job specifically?

Most of our staff is working remote, so there has been less personal contact. We and our clients have travel restrictions, so it has been difficult to get to sites or client offices for visits. This has led to a lot of virtual meetings.

We have been missing in-person trade shows quite a bit and there has been an uptick in clients wanting to rush hand sanitizer projects through design. We have also been hiring quite a few people across the firm, especially on our structural, mechanical and general arrangement teams. The onboarding of new employees has been virtual which has been a change as well.





GEAPS Recognizes Safety Awards Winners

Of the 425 facilities that enrolled in the 2020 GEAPS Safety Awards Program, 354 facilities successfully completed the year without any lost time injuries or illnesses. Facilities in bold completed the entire year without a single recordable incident.

Congratulations to all these facilities for the commitment to safety!

Company Name

STATE/PROVINCE FACILITY LOCATED IN

Town that facility is located in ** +

** Denote number of years facility has received the award

* Denote if facility is top five (and ties) for cumulative in years receiving the award

+ Denote if facility is top five (and ties) in cumulative hours without a lost-time injury or illness

Agrex Inc
NEBRASKA
Superior¹⁶

Agtegra Cooperative
NORTH DAKOTA
Berlin - Berlin
Agronomy²
Eldridge⁶
Hague - Hauge³
Oakes - Oakes
Fertilizer⁵
Steele²
Strasburg³

SOUTH DAKOTA
Aberdeen - West
Terminal⁵
Aberdeen - Bath
Fertilizer³
Aberdeen - Grebner³
Alpena⁷
Andover³
Bowdle - West
Bowdle²
Bristol¹
Carpenter⁷
Chamberlain -
Chamberlain
Fertilizer⁷
Clark - Clark Air³
Columbia⁷
Faulkton - Cresbard
Harvest Facility³
Frederick⁵
Harrold³
Herreid³
Highmore -
Highmore Grain⁷
Highmore -
Highmore
Agronomy³
Houghton - Hecla
Corn Receiving²
Huron - Huron Corn
Receiving Facility⁷
Huron - Huron
Elevator &
Fertilizer⁷
Huron - Huron Air³
Ipswich - Ipswich
Farm Store³
Ipswich - Craven
Fertilizer³
Ipswich - Ipswich
Truck and Auto
Center³

Ipswich - Sun T
Grain³
Ipswich - Sun T
Agronomy³
Ipswich -
Prescription
Agronomics¹
Kennebec -
Kennebec Grain⁷
Kennebec -
Kennebec
Agronomy⁴
Kimball⁷
Kimball - Kimball
Fertilizer²
Langford⁵
Lebanon³
Leola - Leola
Elevator¹
Leola - Leola Truck
& Auto³
Mellette¹
Miller²
Northville²
Pollock²
Redfield - Redfield
Agronomy⁶
Redfield - Redfield
Elevator⁷
Redfield - Redfield
Energy Facility⁷
St. Lawrence¹
Stickney⁷
Tulare⁶
Warner³
Webster - Webster
Aerial²
Wessington Springs³
Willow Lake -
Willow Lake Ag &
Grain⁷
Wolsey - Wolsey
Grain Terminal²
Wolsey - Wolsey
Fertilizer⁶
Woonsocket -
Woonsocket
Agronomy⁷
Yale³

**Alabama Farmers
Cooperative**
ALABAMA
Decatur - AFC
Grain¹

Angelina Grain Elevator
LOUISIANA
Monterey -
Angelina 565⁶

Bunge North America
ARKANSAS
Arkansas City -
DeSoto Landing^{42*}
Blytheville -
Huffman^{34*}
Helena¹⁸
Osceola²⁴
Sherril - Pine Bluff¹⁹
West Memphis⁹

CALIFORNIA
Rancho Cucamonga²
Woodland¹

ILLINOIS
Albany²⁶
Fairmont City -
Bunge - SCF Grain,
LLC, Fairmont
City⁹
Grand Tower -
Fountain Bluff^{38*}
Hull - East Hannibal²²
Kankakee⁷
Kankakee -
Kankakee
Extrusion³
McLeansboro -
Bunge - SCF Grain,
LLC, McLeansboro⁹
Old Shawneetown -
Shawneetown⁷

INDIANA
Indianapolis⁸
Rushville¹⁰
Waterloo¹⁷

IOWA
Burlington -
Meekers Landing¹⁸
Council Bluffs⁶
Red Oak²

KANSAS
Atchison⁴

KENTUCKY
Hickman^{34*}
Owensboro¹⁶

LOUISIANA
Destrehan¹
Jennings -
Mermentau¹⁰
Jonesville³
Lake Providence¹⁹
Tallulah - Tallulah
Port⁴
Vidalia¹

MISSISSIPPI
Greenville⁵
Mayersville¹⁹
Vicksburg¹⁹
Yazoo City^{34*}

MISSOURI
Caruthersville¹⁷
LaGrange³⁴
Louisiana¹²
Portageville - Linda¹⁹

NEBRASKA
Crete²

NORTH CAROLINA
Teachey - Rose Hill²

OHIO
Delphos¹

TENNESSEE
Finley - Boothspoint²⁷
Memphis⁶

TEXAS
Muleshoe²

Bunge Canada
Fort Saskatchewan⁶
Wainwright⁹
Altona²
Russell - Harrowby¹⁶
Humboldt - Dixon⁷
Nipawin⁵

Cargill AgHorizons
MINNESOTA
Madison³
Savage - Savage
East³

**Cargill AgHorizons
Canada**
Beiseker¹⁸
Blackie²
Camrose¹³
Carseland⁹
Edmonton¹⁸
Fairview¹⁸
Leduc¹⁴
Lethbridge⁵
Manning¹⁸
Marwayne¹⁸
McLennan¹
Trochu - Equity¹³
Vegreville¹⁵
Vermilion¹⁸
Viking⁶
Elm Creek⁸
Elva¹³
Hamiota - Oakner¹⁴
Morris - Morris,
MB¹⁸
Nesbitt¹³
Plumas¹⁸
Swan River¹⁴
Winkler¹⁸
Sarnia¹³
Baie Comeau¹
Balcarres¹³
Birch Hills¹⁸
Canwood¹⁸
Clavet¹
Davidson¹³
Kindersley⁸
Moose Jaw⁶
North Battleford¹³
Raymore¹⁸
Ridgedale - Nicklen
Siding¹⁸
Rosetown²
Unity¹⁸
Wynyard¹⁸
Yorkton¹⁸

Cargill Inc
ARKANSAS
West Memphis⁶

COLORADO
Byers¹⁸
Cheyenne Wells²⁵
FLORIDA
Tampa - Cargill
Grain & Oilseeds,
Tampa¹⁶

ILLINOIS
Beardstown¹⁸
East Dubuque -
Dubuque³
East St Louis⁵
Florence⁶
Gibson City¹⁰
Gilman¹⁰
Havana - Havana N
& S¹⁸
Lacon²⁰
Meredosia¹⁸
Morris - Morris, IL¹⁶
New Boston¹⁸
Ottawa¹⁹
Seneca²⁰
Spring Valley²⁰

INDIANA
Linden²³
Portage - Burns
Harbor²¹
Tipton^{35*}

IOWA
Buffalo¹⁸
Council Bluffs³
Dubuque -
Shullsburg⁶
Muscatine⁶

KANSAS
Hutchinson -
Hutchinson East²⁰
Hutchinson -
Hutchinson West⁵
Kansas City - Katy¹⁹
Ogallah³
Salina¹⁴
Topeka - Topeka
Crossroads¹²
Topeka - Topeka
Gordon⁷
Wakeeny -
Wakeeny¹³

KENTUCKY
Hickman¹⁸

LOUISIANA
Reserve¹
Westwego¹
MICHIGAN
Decatur⁷

MINNESOTA
Alberta⁶
Maynard⁶
Pipestone -
Pipestone/
Splitrock¹²
Savage - Savage
West³

MISSOURI
Charleston - Buffalo
Island⁵
Forest City¹⁸
New Madrid¹⁸

NEBRASKA
Albion¹⁸
Carleton¹⁹
Gibbon¹⁸
Holdrege¹⁸
O'Neill¹⁸
Ord¹⁸
Shelton¹⁸

OHIO
Bloomingsburg¹
Chillicothe²
Cincinnati
- Cincinnati -
Kellogg¹⁹
Cincinnati -
Cincinnati - River
Road¹³
Circleville¹⁹
Lima²⁷

SOUTH DAKOTA
Emery¹⁸
Parker¹⁶

TENNESSEE
Halls - Hales Point²¹

TEXAS
Houston - Houston
Export Elevator⁶

WISCONSIN
La Crosse -
LaCrosse¹

**Central Valley Ag
Cooperative**
NEBRASKA
Laurel⁵

CHS Inc
MINNESOTA
Savage - Savage
Terminal⁸

Control Stuff Inc
MINNESOTA
Cologne - Control
Stuff Inc, Cologne⁶

The DeLong Co Inc
ILLINOIS
Crystal Lake -
Ridgefield¹
Hampshire²
Harvard - Chemung
East & West²
Joliet - Joliet
SuperCener North⁹
Maple Park - Troxel⁹
Marengo²
Minooka¹
Waterman⁹

KANSAS
Edgerton - Kansas⁷

NEBRASKA
Omaha²

NEW JERSEY
Newark⁵

NEW YORK
Clifton Springs⁴
Manchester⁴

OHIO
Lockbourne¹

WISCONSIN
Avalon⁴
Sharon - Sharon
Grain⁴

EcoLab
ARKANSAS
Bono¹

EGT, LLC
MONTANA
Carter - Tunis⁶
Chester⁴
Frazer - Kintyre
Flats⁵
Sidney¹

WASHINGTON
Longview³

**Farmers Grain Terminal
Inc**
LOUISIANA
Tallulah - Mound²¹
Waterproof¹

MISSISSIPPI
Belzoni²¹
Greenwood⁵
Hollandale⁹
Indianola²⁰

General Mills Inc
MINNESOTA
Minneapolis -
Elevator "T"⁷
Minneapolis - Soo
Elevator⁶

Green Plains Grain Co
IOWA
Essex¹

MISSOURI
Hopkins¹

**Joliet Container
Terminal, LLC**
ILLINOIS
Joliet - Joliet
Container
Terminal, LLC¹

The Kelly Group
ILLINOIS
Decatur - Kelly Group
Construction²

**Knobelsdorff
Enterprises**
MINNESOTA
Goodhue⁶

L.J. Irving Jr & Sons Inc
OHIO
Napoleon - L.J.
Irving Jr & Sons
Inc¹

The Mennel Milling Co
INDIANA
Mexico - Mexico
Elevator⁵

OHIO
Alger - Foraker
Elevator⁵
Jeffersonville -
Jeffersonville
Grain²
Kingston - Valley
Grain³
Nevada - Nevada
Grain²
Troy - Troy Elevator⁴
Upper Sandusky - C
& O Grain²
Upper Sandusky¹

Molson Coors
COLORADO
Center - Center
Farm¹

MolsonCoors
COLORADO
Longmont -
Longmont
Elevator¹³

IDAHO
Burley - Burley
Idaho Elevator¹¹

MONTANA
Huntley - Coors
Elevator¹⁶
Power - Powers⁶

WYOMING
Worland¹⁴

Mountaire Farms
DELAWARE
Dover¹
Frankford¹
Harrington -
Harrington Grain²
Millsboro -
Millsboro Grain²
Seaford - Seaford
Grain²

MARYLAND
Millington -
Millington Grain²
Queen Anne -
Queen Anne
Grain²
Ridgely - Ridgely
Grain²
Trappe - Trappe
Grain²
Westover¹

NORTH CAROLINA
New London - New
London Grain²

VIRGINIA
Eastville¹
Painter - Painter
Grain²

Perdue AgriBusiness
DELAWARE
Bridgeville -
Bridgeville Grain²
Seaford - Seaford
Grain¹⁴

INDIANA
Vincennes -
Vincennes Grain¹
Washington -
Washington
Grain⁷

KENTUCKY
Allensville -
Allensville Grain¹
Franklin - Franklin
Grain⁶
Livermore -
Livermore Grain⁷
Winchester -
Winchester Grain¹

MARYLAND
Berlin - Berlin Grain¹⁴
Bishop - Bishop
Grain⁷
Easton - Easton
Grain¹⁴
Hurlock - Hurlock
Grain⁷
Hurlock - Shiloh
Grain¹⁴
Linkwood -
Linkwood Grain¹⁴
Lothian - Lothian
Grain¹⁴
Lynch - Lynch
Grain⁹
NorthEast - North
East Grain¹

**Roberts - Roberts
Grain²**

NEW JERSEY
Bridgeton - South
Jersey Grain⁷

NEW YORK
Lakeville - Lakeville
Grain⁶

NORTH CAROLINA
Chadbourn -
Chadbourn Grain¹⁴
Cleveland -
Cleveland Grain²
Cofield - Cofield
Grain¹⁴
Elizabeth City -
Elizabeth City
Grain⁸
Greenville -
Greenville Grain⁵
Lumberton -
Lumberton Grain⁷
Pantego - Pantego
Grain⁷
Plymouth -
Plymouth Grain²

PENNSYLVANIA
Elizabethville -
Upper Dauphin
Grain¹
Greencastle -
Greencastle Grain⁹
Marietta - Marietta
Grain¹³
Marietta - Bainbridge
Grain³

SOUTH CAROLINA
Hamer - Hamer
Grain⁹

VIRGINIA
Chesapeake
- Perdue
AgriBusiness,
Chesapeake
Grain²
Kilmarnock -
Kilmarnock Grain⁴
Kinsale - Kinsale
Grain⁷
Tappahannock -
Tappahannock
Grain⁷

SCAFCO Grain Systems
WASHINGTON
Spokane - Grain
Systems²

South Beloit
ILLINOIS
South Beloit - The
DeLong Co Inc²

**Structural Restoration
Inc**
MINNESOTA
Farmington¹⁸

The Scouler Co
COLORADO
Idalia⁸
Sterling¹¹

IDAHO
Bancroft¹⁷
Grace⁷
Jerome¹³

ILLINOIS
Andres²

IOWA
Elk Horn⁹
Emerson⁴
Griswold⁹
Hancock²
Portsmouth⁷

KANSAS
Downs³
Goodland⁸
Minneapolis¹⁰
Pittsburg⁵
Salina³
Winona⁶

MISSOURI
Adrian⁵
Purdy - Butterfield⁵

MONTANA
Silverbow¹¹

NEBRASKA
Fremont⁶
Hershey¹¹
Holdrege⁵
Lamar¹¹
Madrid⁵
Sidney⁵
Venango³
Wallace - Grainton,
NE Elevator³
Wallace⁹

NEW MEXICO
Dexter⁴
Ontario⁹

Wear-Concepts Inc
MISSOURI
Liberty - Wear-Con
Liberty MO¹



★ ★ ★

MEMBER PROFILE

★ ★ ★

*April-Hope
Wareham*

Chapter and committees: *Columbia River Chapter*

Family: I have a husband, Norm, and two cats, Loki and Freyja.

Position and Company:

I am a production supervisor and Stevedore superintendent at Temco in Tacoma, WA. Temco is a Cargill/CHS joint venture, and I am a Cargill employee.

Years with company: 6.5

Years in Industry: 6.5

Interesting or unique fact about your facility/company:

Temco Tacoma is a large grain export elevator with the only roof structure of its type in the world. The roof is unique to our facility type and allows us to load grain ships during the notoriously rainy Pacific Northwest winters.

Past positions at Cargill:

- Production supervisor at the export elevator in Westwego, Louisiana
- Plant manager of the elevator and crop inputs facility in Shullsburg, WI
- Production supervisor trainee at our elevator in Seneca, IL
- Production supervisor intern at our Pipestone, MN elevator
- 2-month temporary assignment in operations management at our Tampa, FL, wheat and citrus pulp pellet elevator

Education:

- Univ. of Illinois – B.S. in Technical Systems Management – 2015
- Parkland College – A.S. in Science – 2013

Biggest influence on your career:

Cargill is a fantastic company and I have had the opportunity to work with dozens of talented and incredible people. The biggest influences on my career are all the moves I've made within Cargill. I've worked in both interior and export facilities in five different regions of the country, which has given me expansive knowledge of the grain supply chain.

Being a part of industry events has also had a huge impact on my career. In addition to being a GEAPS member, I am on the national board for WIMOs (Women in Maritime Operations).

How has GEAPS helped your leadership skills?

I've really enjoyed the virtual events that GEAPS has had to offer over the past year, especially the recent conference. That conference gave me many leadership takeaways. GEAPS has also been a fantastic way for me to network with other grain professionals, which helps develop leadership skills through collaboration and new ideas.

Finally, I had the opportunity to study Spanish with help from the Kaufmann scholarship through GEAPS, which has and will continue to help me to work with teams in Central and South America.

What are three of your favorite memories from GEAPS?

I really enjoyed the meetings and events I attended with the Gulf Coast Chapter back when I was working down there. There are so many companies and facilities in such a small area down on the lower Mississippi river that there was always someone new to meet or an old friend to get together with.

Another fun memory would have to be the holiday party with the Columbia River Chapter in 2019; it was our last big chapter event before COVID-19 and everyone had a great time with the white elephant gift exchange.

Finally, I enjoyed the recent GEAPS Exchange Online Conference. It was a unique experience and a good mix of networking and education, despite the virtual system. We were able to pull attendance from all over the world much more easily than if we'd been in person.

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

I'm not sure if he remembers this, but about five years ago, Robert Taylor told me I should give export a try. I moved down to Westwego, Louisiana, as a supervisor a few months later and haven't looked back. I really enjoy the fast pace and greater supply chain impact of working in export and I'm glad I took his advice and moved down to the Gulf.

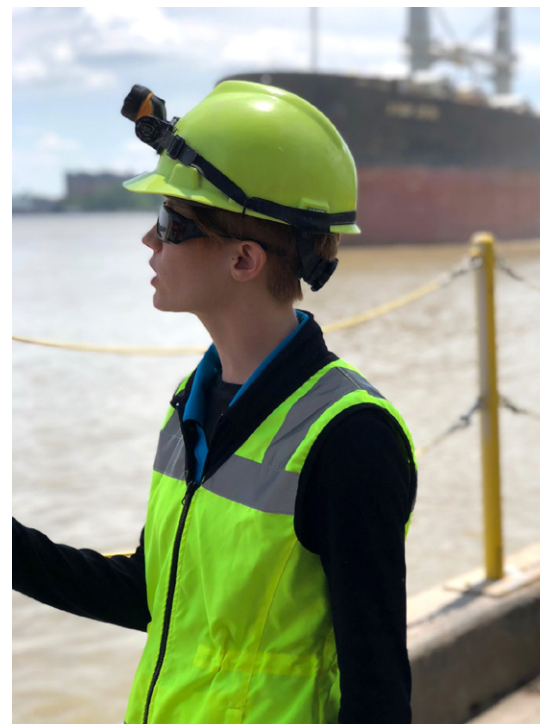
What is one industry-wide trend affecting your company right now? How are you reacting to it?

COVID-19 is affecting everyone in the food industry in different ways, but one thing is certain: no matter what, people and animals need to eat. Cargill, Temco, and the entire grain industry are working to keep supply chains running to keep food and feed in stock.

I am proud to work for a company that understands our people and their safety are our most important asset. We have been able to keep everyone employed at our facility safe through regularly updating and strongly enforcing COVID-19 safety protocols. We understand that it's not just about us. As an export elevator, many farmers delivering grain to elevators and co-ops in the Midwest rely on us. Our overseas customers rely on us, too, to help keep the grain supply chain moving. We are doing and will continue to do everything in our power to keep everyone safe and healthy while keeping up our responsibilities to our customers on both ends of the supply chain.

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

As an export elevator on the Puget Sound, we are entirely dependent on rail for all the grain we take in. We take shuttle trains from both the BNSF and UP railways. Many people, myself included, assume that an export elevator in Tacoma, Washington would mainly export wheat. However, due to our supply chain, we export mostly corn and soybeans. We also are one of the few export grain elevators in the U.S. with no draft limits due to our natural deepwater port. We load vessels to arrival (disport) draft limits, to maximum contract specification, or we load them completely full. We load around 2.7 million bushels of grain on many of our vessels. This takes us about three days.



New Members

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

Canadian Prairies

Scott Watson, Providence
Grain Solutions

Curtis Cornelsen, Norstar Industries
Ltd, *recruited by Regan Heaton, SCAFCO
Grain Systems*

Columbia River

Luke Potter, United Grain Corp,
*recruited by Timothy Wright, United
Grain Corp*

Cornbelt

Kent Buckert, Ursa Farmers Cooperative

Derrick Clark, Didion Milling Inc

Jeff Cravens, GSI

Jeff Fjelstul, Valley View Agrisystems,

Jordan Koster, Landmark
Services Cooperative

John Puckett, Valley View Agri-Systems,
*recruited by Randy Longbrake, 4B
Components Ltd*

Golden Triangle

David Krams, Lanier and Associates

Great Plains

Mitchell Persinger, The Scoular Co,
recruited by Gary Kearn, The Scoular Co

Great River

Gavin Mitchell, Landmark
Services Cooperative

Greater Iowa

Nolan Dodson, Heartland Co-op,
*recruited by Larry Hoffman, Heartland
Co-op*

Tanner Fjelstad, Todd & Sargent Inc

Ron Lutcavish

Shea Nelson, Todd & Sargent Inc

Greater Nebraska

Brea Ehmen, CCS Group, LLC

Gulf South

Ben Brown, Synergy Simple LLC

Willie Goldman, TUF-TUG,

Garry Primeaux

Chris Teague, ABB Motors and
Mechanical Inc, *recruited by
Douglas McCallum, ABB Motors and
Mechanical Inc*

Hoosier

Todd Wilhelm, UPL NA, *recruited by
Mark, DeSanthro, UPL*

Inland Empire

Asa White, Grain Handling Inc.

Intermountain

Patrick Standley, ABB Motors and
Mechanical Inc

Kansas City

AJ Feldhausen, Musselman & Hall
Contractors LLC

Cole Halbleib, Extron Company

Brandan McGehee, Agricultural
Claims Association

Sylvester Tate, Tyson Foods Inc

Michigan/So Ontario

Erin Allen, Michigan Agricultural
Commodities, Inc., *recruited by Bruce
Sutherland, Michigan Agricultural
Commodities (MAC)*

Joshua Kruse, Zeeland Farm Services

Mid-America

Steve Belt, Applied Power Products,
*recruited by Nathan Tostenson, Applied
Power Products*

Austin Haase, ABP Engineering LLC,

Brendan Hageman, AGCO

Mid-Atlantic

Philip Goldsby, Smith LaSalle, Inc.

Michael Lundine, Tyson Foods Inc,
recruited by Dennis Rice, Tyson Foods Inc

Glen Watson, Agulus, *recruited by
Darrell, Watson, WCU*

Mid-South

Gerald Bartlett, Ecolab Inc

Chris Stansbury, Alabama
Farmers Cooperative

Andrew Van Staaldunin, Tyson Foods
Inc, *recruited by Dennis, Rice, Tyson
Foods Inc*

Minneapolis

Peter Allen, ABB Motors and
Mechanical Inc

Ian Bjorgum, Ardent Mills

Rob Duffee, Pneumat Systems Inc

Madeline Glass, Ardent Mills, *recruited
by Adam Huber, Ardent Mills - Mankato*

Adam Huber, Ardent Mills - Mankato

Tom James, American Engineering
Testing

Joe Kiolbasa, Donaldson Co Inc,
*recruited by Karilyn Smith, Donaldson
Co Inc*

Anthony Lotton, Cargill Inc, *recruited by
Robert Horvat, Cargill Inc*

David Ruelle, Levrige

Non-Chapter

Gerhardus Dupper, AFGRI

North Iowa

Emily Reinhart, Northeast Iowa
Community College

Seaway

Becky Hartman, Webster Industries
Inc, *recruited by Dean Bogner, Webster
Industries Inc*

Cameron Meyers, Fumigation Service &
Supply Inc



Siouxland

Chris Hawkins, Ag Partners LLC

Todd Peterson, POET Design & Construction

Brandee Poland, Soles Enterprises Inc, recruited by Jeany Hesse, Raven Industries

Aaron Zahn, J&D Construction Inc

Thunder Bay

Eric Nadeau, Canada Malting Co Ltd, recruited by Ken Weaver, Great Western Malting Co

Twin Ports

Jonathan Ballmer, The Boldt Company

Vancouver

Randy Neal, CHS Inc, recruited by Darrin Rayl, Temco

Kelly Williams, Western Stevedoring
David Yam, Cargill AgHorizons

New Lifetime Members

Jeff Caskey, Non-Chapter

David Cooper, Great Plains Chapter

Oregon Trail Meeting Focuses on Mental Health

By Austin Uhrig, Westco, Oregon Trail Chapter

Earlier this year, we had an interesting meeting with a mental health speaker. We had a speaker back out and I reached out to a counselor in Sidney, and she lined me up with Kristen Rose, LPC, LIMHP of Sidney Regional Medical Center.

We ended up having a very open conversation and talked on many different points, much of it including recognizing stressors, what and how to ask someone if they need help and how to cope with stress. Our group was very dedicated to learning how to recognize an issue and asked a lot of questions on how to help their fellow employees. Most of our group is very close-knit to their fellow employees and I think that comes from the culture of our region. We all know each other. We might not be friends with everyone, but we certainly know when something bad happens. Bad news travels fast.

I think the inspiration for this subject came from our need to better lead fellow employees. We constantly want to get better at what we do and sometimes the issue isn't from physical desire or lack of knowledge, but more how they feel.

One of my personal takeaways was a discussion on work life balance. Kristen talked about how often times anxiety doesn't get a chance to take a break. Our fellow employees may have work or home life anxiety and when they transition from one to the other that anxiety carries over. Kristen explained that we're more or less tied to our jobs and we're not taking proper "me" time to reset ourselves; that anxiety builds and builds. It's important that if a person needs to take the long way home or to work, that they do that. If an employee is having an off day maybe they need to take a little longer lunch.

C
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CHAPTER NEWS

Great Plains The *Great Plains chapter* held a virtual meeting Jan. 8. The chapter talked about whether the next few meetings should be virtual or in-person. They decided for now, meetings will be virtual until the vaccine gets a little more distributed.

Greater Nebraska On Jan. 13, Greg Poppe of Poppe Enterprises gave chapter members an update on new labeling of grain fumigants.

Minneapolis Sean Tenerelli, Business Development, Superior-Lidgerwood-Mundy was a speaker at the Feb. 2 virtual meeting. Thirty-five members attended from across the nation.

Minneapolis On Jan. 6, Donaldson Company gave a virtual presentation on how the Internet of Things is being used to monitor

grain elevators, and specifically dust monitoring. Twenty-four chapter members attended.

Siouxland On Feb. 15 *Siouxland* hosted a virtual presentation by Cheyenne Wohlford, president and CEO, Custom Concrete Specialists (CCS). There were 30 total participants from five different chapters.

The presentation addressed the fact that many concrete elevators and terminals were built in the 50s and 60s with a life expectancy of 30 years. Many of these facilities are still active today - they have faced a lot of wear and tear and environmental elements and are deteriorating. This presentation addressed the importance of maintaining a facility, proper site inspection expectations, essential site reporting information and prospective repair methods. Numerous pictures of concrete structures with different levels of disrepair were shown. There was good discussion on identifying the issues as well as potential maintenance options.



GEAPS *In-Grain* is printed on paper stock sourced through eco-friendly paper manufacturers.

CALENDAR

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

C H A P T E R S

GREATER IOWA

June 1, 2021

First Annual Kevin Miles

Golf Tournament

GREATER NEBRASKA

May 21, 2021

Golf Outing

HOOSIER

May 25, 2021

Elections

Chippendale Golf

11 a.m.

MID-ATLANTIC

April 8, 2021

3D Scanning

Adam's Grill

MID-ATLANTIC

May 13, 2021

Power Trans

Heritage Shores

MINNEAPOLIS

April 7, 2021

Data Analytics

1 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS

June 7, 2021

Al Meier Spring Classic

Golf Tournament

Keller Golf Club

Noon

