

**Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc**  
**Annual Meeting / Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI / Jan. 27, 2016**

President Kathy Vander Kinter called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. Kathy welcomed the membership and sponsors and thanked H&S Mfg for sponsoring the breakfast prior to the meeting.

**Roll Call of Directors**

Kathy Vander Kinter-President, Cole Olson-VP, Troy Meyer- Sec/treas, Adam Danzinger, Dick Kraus, Isaac Lemmenes, Bryce O'Leary, Matt Digman and Maria Woldt-Exec Director

**Agenda Approval:** Motion made by Bryce O'Leary, second by Daryll Manthe

**Minutes** of the Jan. 21, 2015 annual meeting were distributed (Page 8) and summarized by Troy Meyer. Motion to approve minutes made by Robert Hoerth, second by Jon Orr.

**Treasurer Report:** A financial summary was distributed as a portion of the Meeting Handbook (page 10). 2015 Financials were summarized by treasurer Troy Meyer. Bryce O'Leary moved to approve Financial Report, seconded by Daryll Manthe.

**Executive Director's Report:** (Woldt) WCO membership is approx 140 for 2015, which was about a 50 member increase compared to 2014. WCO also enjoyed 35 sponsors for 2015. Sponsors help drive the financial stability of our organization.

The board is currently considering the establishment of a Leadership Program which would embrace Policy, Media Training and Community Outreach for our members. (talking to your legislators, etc)

Also discussed possibility of an "employee of the year" program for member operators. May be a tool for team building among our various member employee bases.

Maria was recognized by Kathy and others on the board for the great job she has done again this year for WCO!

**Committee Reports -**

**Special Projects** - Matt Digman presented a informative summary of the new Safety Certification Program. WCO is hoping to expand on the successful kick-off to the program last year. We currently have 15 certified operator members. The next event will be on March 18, 2016 in Arlington, WI at the Ag Research Station. OSHA compliance, Operating after a serious accident and Handling emergencies will be discussed (see back cover of today's annual meeting program for details). He

explained that 1 key individual from a WCO member is required to attend the WCO safety training session but all employees are encouraged to attend. At least one qualifying session must be attended every other year to maintain your certified status. Certification status will be noted on the WCO website for potential customers to see! A “badge” is being developed for display. Please register by March 11! The program is open to all members and is FREE of charge.

Member Survey information was discussed. Matt said he will adjust questions on the survey based on the feedback he received on this year’s survey and comments at his survey session yesterday. Also would like to possibly interface with the [NASS Survey](#).

**Scholarship** - Maria reported that there were 3 - \$1,000 scholarships awarded in 2015. Recipients were: Scott Lenius, Kaila Wussow and Alan Osterhaus - Congratulations! Winners were recognized via press releases to Wis farm publications and the WCO website. Scholarship amounts will remain at \$1,000 each x 3 for 2016. We encourage any eligible candidates to apply, see the website for details. It was noted that first semester grades are reviewed as GPA of 3.0 is required. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2016!

**News/Media** - Troy commented that the 3 newsletter per year format has worked well, therefore we will continue. Maria has done an excellent job of modernizing the look and providing valuable information. Generally the February issue involves information on Safety Certification and Annual Meeting / Trio follow-up, the July issue keys in on trade shows and harvest information and the November edition is the “lead-up” to the “Trio Conference”. WCO has made key efforts to increase it’s presence through social media, events and promotion displays/materials. Remember - now is a good time to review your operation’s member profile and update if necessary!

**Education/Conference** - Kathy reported that trade show and conference is looking strong for 2015, appears that we have record attendance. We encourage everyone to fill out the session surveys please as they are vital to accessing topics of the current conference and choosing topics for next year. Every survey submitted puts you in a drawing for a \$100 gift card donated by Meyer Mfg. - winner to be drawn at lunch today. Member Max Weiss noted that WCO may want to consider a program to compensate board members for expenses. Member Seth Berg mentioned that he felt Dr Bernie from OH State was an excellent speaker. Jon Orr from USCHI agreed that employee issues were a great use of session time along with education on business mgt.

**Recruitment/Nomination** - Cole Olson reported that 2 seats are coming open this year on the board. Cole read a summary of the by-laws relating to the board member requirements. Dick Kraus is closing his second term and is ineligible for re-election. Bill Arneson has been nominated to for this position as “at large director”. Adam Danzinger has completed his second term as Corporate Representative as well. There are 3 candidates via for this position currently: Jim Kappel from Degelman, Chuck Rabitz

from Denmark State Bank and Josh Harkenrider from New Holland. Each candidate was given a moment to introduce themselves to the membership.

**Election of Directors** - Kathy led a call for additional nominations... A call for nominations was given on the floor - none were given. Jon Orr moved to close nominations with a second from Max Weiss. Voting members received a ballot and were allowed to vote at this time. Daryll Manthe and Robert Hoerth were appointed to collect and count ballots.

President Kathy Vander Kinter acknowledged outgoing board member and “past President” Dick Kraus his extensive work with WCO dating all the way back to 2002. Dick has been a great asset to the group and has contributed on many fronts! Thank You Dick!

Also Recognized was outgoing Corporate Director Adam Danzinger. Adam has contributed extensively to the group especially in the area of the Education Committee - Thanks Adam!

**Safety / Regulation** - Dick gave an IOH update. The climate has been quiet on the IOH front. Dick asked the attendees of the meeting if they had any recent experience on IOH issues locally. Isaac Lemmenes, Bill Arneson and Matt Digman provided couple comments on there local perspective. Cheryl Skjolaas has a session at 2:30 today on Regulation Update, please attend! Roy Lemmenes noted that there is a 30,000# axle limit in place but that does not include bridges.

**Election Results** - Election results were given by President Kathy Vander Kinter. Bill Arneson will be the new “At Large” Director. Chuck Rabitz will take the reigns in the Corporate Director position. Jon Orr moved to destroy the ballots, second from Cole Olson.

**Call for new business**, none given.

**New Business** - Shelly Minick has recently opted to resign from her position with WCO as of the end of February. Kathy thanked Shelly for all her contributions, she has been a great asset. The board has formed a committee to make decisions of distributing her workload and find a replacement.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Bryce O’Leary, second by Matt Digman- meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Troy Meyer  
Secretary