

Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting
Chula Vista Resort
Wisconsin Dells, WI
January 22, 2014

President Robert Hoerth called the meeting to order at 8:00AM. Robert welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked H&S Manufacturing for sponsoring the breakfast. Robert continued to thank the many committees and individuals that it takes to put the conference together. Robert asked if Troy Schneider from Twohig Law Office could give the group a legal update. Robert continued on welcoming Maria and presenting her to the membership as the newly hired WCO Executive Director. Maria gave a brief overview of herself and her excitement for our organization.

- **Roll Call of Directors**

Robert asked that all Board Members introduce themselves to the members

Present:

Robert Hoerth, President
Daryll Manthe, Vice President
Kathy Vander Kinter, Sec/Treasurer
Dick Kraus
Matt Digman
Cole Olsen
Adam Danzinger
Troy Meyer
Kevin Shinnars
Maria McGinnis, WCO Executive Director

- **Nominations**

Daryll Manthe, Chairman of the Recruitment/Nomination Committee reported that the following candidates have agreed to accept nomination

General Member: South-East Region: Ike Lemmenes
North Region: Kathy Vander Kinter (2nd term)

Corporate Member: Troy Meyer, Meyer Manufacturing (2nd term)
Taylor Wiesensel, AG Bag
Josh Harkenrider, New Holland

Daryll explained that both Kathy and Troy are current board members and each is eligible to serve one more three year term.

Daryll asked for any other nominations. Being none nominations were closed and Ike told the membership about himself and his company.

Ballots were distributed to General members and the results were as follows:

Southeast Region: Ike Lemeness
North Region: Kathy Vander Kinter
Corporate Member: Troy Meyer

- **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous annual meeting from January 23, 2013 were distributed to members as they entered the room. Kathy presented to the minutes to the group. A motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed to approve the secretary's report.

- **Financial Report**

Kathy gave an overview of the financial report from Jan 1, 2013 through January 16, 2013. We experienced an approximate \$10,000 gain in 2013. Kathy urged members to see her after for a copy of the complete report. A motion was moved and seconded to approve the financial report as given

- **Committee Reports**

Education

Adam addressed the membership on the importance of filling out the session evaluation forms as it provides feedback to the committee to plan for next year's conference. Adam thanked Meyer Manufacturing for donating a \$100.00 Visa gift card as a prize for the drawing.

Safety

Dick discussed the CPR/First Aide Training project that will be coming up prior to spring planting. Dick encouraged members to stay up to date by checking the WCO website and responding to emails.

Dick shared with members the need to self certify their CDL's to remain in compliance with the DOT. Member Jon Orr stated that there has been a 12 month delay in the need to carry the fed med card but that CDL carriers still needed to certify what tier they are operating under by January 31, 2014.

Dick updated the members on the progress of the IOH group. The bill changed numerous times in the drafting stage. The bill should be published tomorrow with a public hearing to be held on January 28, 2014. Dick pointed out some of the points in the bill to include increasing the axle weight limitations by 15%, lighting and marking requirements for width as well as bring back the no passing Ag equipment in a no passing zone. Dick gave an overview on the history of this IOH project from how it began as to where it is now. Dick stated that a lot has changed since his involvement in the study group. Dick will answer questions from the audience later in the meeting.

News/Media

Troy reported that the newsletter has been well received by WCO members and we will continue with a 3 newsletter per year format. Troy took the opportunity to thank Fae for all her hard work and countless hours dedicated to the production of the newsletters.

Troy also recognized Maria for the press releases in the papers about the conference and her being hired on as executive director. Maria will be getting the WCO name out there to the new media in the future.

Scholarship

Kevin gave a brief history of the scholarship history. Kevin reported there were 6 applicants this year for the scholarships but only three to be given out. The first year there were two applicants and two scholarships awarded at \$500 each. Last year, second year into this, we had 3 applicants and three \$500 scholarships to be awarded. This year our third year, award winners will be receiving \$750.00 each. Kevin explained to the membership the criteria the applicants must meet as well as eligibility requirements. Scholarship Award Recipients include:

Dustin Oesau
Mike Sankey
Erin Harris

The deadline to apply for 2014 is April 1st.

Special Projects

Matt entertained the group with his story on the hunt for Maria as our Executive director and all the things that went into creating her position. Matt described the process and how the criteria was developed to get to where we are today.

- **Old Business**

Open Discussion on Implements of Husbandry Bill:

Dick opened it up to the membership for their input on the bill as well as whether we as a group wanted to take a position on the issue.

*A member suggested we put something on the website with the legislators contact information so individual could contact their legislators independently.

*Jon Orr a USCHI member described a possible interest for USCHI to get a lobbyist into Wisconsin to get the axle weight limit increased even more so combines and choppers would meet the weight.

*A member suggested a possible position paper. Troy Schneider will check to see if this would jeopardize or 501c5 status. Who would decide what that position would be? Board? Membership? The Board would vote on a position and publish to the membership if we decide to take this route.

New Business

Matt brought the group's attention to an idea the Special Projects committee has been working on. A volunteer certification program for custom operators that could ultimately save the operator money on his/her insurance premium is the latest task. The project is in an early stage as the group plans to work closely with PNNAW to learn from them on their certification program. The group has been in contact with Kevin Erb and is gathering more information at this time.

Maria provided to the membership, our idea to give the website a makeover with a new design and a fresh logo. She stressed that this will give the organization an updated image and shows others we are up to speed on current issues.

Election Results were given and all nominees were thanked for running for a board position.

A motion was moved and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned 9:10AM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Vander Kinter
Secretary