

Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc
Annual Meeting / Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI / Jan. 21, 2015

President Kathy Vander Kinter called the meeting to order at 7:35 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, Daryll Manthe, Adam Danzinger, Dick Kraus, Isaac Lemmenes, Matt Digman and Maria McGinnis-Exec Director

Minutes of the 2014 annual meeting were distributed and read by Troy Meyer. Motion to approve minutes made by Max Weiss, second by Bryce O'Leary. A financial summary was also distributed as a portion of the Meeting Handbook. 2014 Financials were summarized by treasurer Troy Meyer. John Orr moved to approve Financial report, seconded by Bryce O'Leary.

Committee Reports -

Newsletter/Media - Troy reported that WCO has undergone some major changes with branding and image for 2014. Since taking over as Exec Director, Maria has helped with updating the WCO logo, website upgrades, promotional items and professional nature which the organization projects itself to the membership and public. We are even on Facebook and Twitter!

Fae Holin, after years of dedicated service to WCO editing, publishing and distributing our newsletter has stepped down. Troy recognized Fae for all of her assistance over her long tenure, Fae has been a great asset to the organization. Maria McGinnis has taken over duties involving the newsletter. She is very involved with article accumulation, editing and print coordination. The newsletter also has a new name - "Custom News"!

Blake Nickelbien from Twohig, Rietbrock, Schneider & Halbach spoke relating to WCO tax exempt status w/IRS. WCO filed for 501C5 status in February 2014 and it was approved in October. All tax return files were brought up to date in 2014. Blake explained that WCO will be filing 990's on May 15th annually from this point on. Blake is also working with WCO on its new safety certification program which is being kicked off in March of 2014. Bylaw update - work will be forthcoming on changes to the bylaws to reflect some of these recent progress with WCO. Kathy thanked Blake, George, Troy and others at the Law office for being such great supporters of our organization.

Exec Director's Report - Maria McGinnis reports on the present state of WCO. Discussion of new website capabilities and improvements. WCO already has over 400 followers on Facebook! Maria reported on the Board's decision to invest \$21,000 in a

mutual fund plan through Kim Havens at Havens Financial. We will put the funds in a money market initially and then move \$1,750 per month into a mutual fund option for 12 months.

Special Projects - Matt Digman presented a informative summary of the new Safety Certification Program. Matt explained the goal was to add value to member business's, potential reduction in insurance rates, safer work environment for your members - customers - and the public. Safety Education also keeps competition fair. Matt reviewed the program Charter. 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. The individual or individuals who attend are to take the information back and train the balance of his/her coworkers at home. At least one qualifying session must be attended every other year to maintain your certified status. Flyers are printed on the annual meeting program outlining the upcoming event March 20, 2015 at Fox Valley Tech in Appleton. Safety on the road, safety in the field, handling emergencies and safety checks and maintenance will be discussed. All are encouraged to attend. Certification status will be noted on the WCO website for potential customers to see! The program is open to all members and is FREE of charge.

David Anderson from Vincent, Urban, Walker & Assoc. gave his perspective on the certification program. He has coordinated with Chub Insurance to provide a 10% premium discount for Certified Members. He explained discounts may apply to other companies as well as the program gains traction.

Scholarship - Maria reported that there were 7 applications received in 2014. 3 - \$750 scholarships were awarded to Kelsey Woldt, Nate O'Leary and Taulchen. Winners were recognized via press releases to Wis farm publications and the WCO website. Congratulations winners! This year the board has voted to increase the scholarship amounts to \$1,000 each x 3. We encourage any eligible candidates to apply, see the website for details.

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.

Recruitment/Nomination - Daryll Manthe reported that 2 seats are coming open this year on the board. Daryll is closing his second term and is ineligible for re-election. Bryce O'Leary has been nominated to for Daryll's position as "at large director". Cole Olson from the "SW District" is ending his first term and has agreed to run again. A call for nominations was given on the floor - none were given.

Safety / Regulation - Dick gave an IOH update. This has been going on a 3 year process. Last year USCHI hired lobbyist, Jason Bautnecht to represent the interest of the Custom Harvesters. Jason met with Kathy, Roy Lemmenes and Dick in Madison. All 3 testified at a joint hearing on the topic. A series of meetings has taken place statewide to educate the public on the new IOH regulations. We can legally haul more weight now than we could prior to the law taking affect Jan 1, 2015. Another big part of the ruling is the AG CMV designation. There is still questions looming for these vehicles in terms of licensing and red fuel. Jason is still working on behalf of the Custom Harvesters to get a “general” or “blanket” permit option for custom operators so a permit wouldn’t be required for each individual job. This option is under review as we speak, we expect information soon. it was noted that permits are now required as of 1/15. Jason also said we should focus on “key items” if we want to address portions of this law - he is working with chairperson Jerry Petrowski.

Cheryl S reported that the state has only received one permit application to date. We would have to demonstrate that the permit process is an unreasonable burden in order to pass the proposed “multi-jurisdiction” / “blanket” change to the current bill. Townships may be in favor to save time with permitting process.

Election Results - election results were given by President Kathy Vander Kinter. Bryce will be the new “At Large” director and Cole will maintain his position for the “SW” district. Dick Kraus moved to destroy the ballots, second from Max Weiss.

Call for new business, none given.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Joe Manthe, motion seconded - meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Troy Meyer
Secretary