



February 2023 MGFA Newsletter



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Register Today for the MGFA 116th Annual Convention & Industry Trade Show – March 13-15, 2023 in St Cloud

We are looking forward to welcoming MGFA members and our industry friends to the 116th Annual MGFA Convention & Industry Trade Show on March 13-15 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. This annual event is your opportunity to learn, network and visit a variety of industry providers in our trade show. We have pulled together a great agenda for you and hope to see you all in a few short weeks. Make sure to share the following information with your staff, board of directors and spouses and make your plans to attend today. The registration form and our tentative convention agenda are enclosed.

To secure hotel rooms at either of our convention hotels, the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn (\$109/night) or the Courtyard by Marriott (\$139-\$149/night), click on the following link:

<https://www.visitstcloud.com/mgfa-2023-convention/>. Each hotel is connected to the convention center via skyway.



116th Annual Meeting Notice – Minnesota Grain and Feed Association

The 116th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association will be held on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 10:15 a.m.** at the River's edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN. Members will review the association's fiscal year-end statement, hear from association leadership & staff, act on any resolutions brought before the delegates and have the opportunity to vote on 3 board of director positions due to expire at the meeting.



Convention General Session Speaker Spotlight – Tuesday, March 14 - Katie Pinke

You may be familiar with her name if you're a reader of AgWeek. Katie Pinke is the publisher and general manager at AgWeek, where she and her team create daily digital ag news, a weekly magazine, and a regional television show that showcases agriculture "from field to fork" and investigates important issues for the farming and ranching community.

On Tuesday morning, March 14, Katie Pinke will be our General Session keynote speaker where she will share her perspectives on rejoicing through crisis.

One moment can change everything. For Katie, those moments number a few – the most recent involves a skiing accident that left her son paralyzed from the chest down. In those moments of crisis, when the brokenness is all-consuming, she has learned to rejoice. Each conscious decision to rejoice ushers in a sense of empowerment and clarity that deepens her fight to move forward.



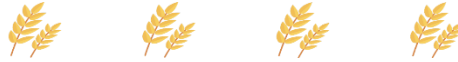
MGFA Board of Director Elections Set for March 14 at the MGFA Convention

During the MGFA Annual Meeting on March 14, 2023, delegates will have the opportunity to re-elect 3 members to the MGFA Board of Directors and elect 1 member to the board in the currently vacant position for a farmer director. The 3 board members currently seeking re-election & running unopposed are:

District 2 – Bob Heim, Heim Milling Company
District 3 – Mark Herberg, Farmer Director
At Large – Brian Yager, Munson Lakes Nutrition

Per last year's changes to the bylaws, the currently vacant position for a farmer director would be available to any farmer director in Districts 1 – 4.

If anyone is interested in running for a position on the MGFA Board of Directors or you know of a good candidate for any of these board positions, please have them contact the MGFA office at 952-758-3999.



Seeking Donations for the MGFA Silent Auction

The Minnesota Grain and Feed Association (MGFA) is seeking donations for the annual Silent Auction being held on March 14, 2023, during the MGFA Convention Industry Trade Show. This event is the primary source of funding for the MGFA Commitment to Agriculture Scholarship Program, which awards up to three \$1,000 scholarships every year to college students pursuing agricultural degrees.

Previous donations have included a variety of items including gift certificates, overnight hotel stays, golf packages, tickets to sporting events, themed baskets, artwork and more. At this time, we would like to kindly ask for your help by donating items for the upcoming auction. Cash donations for the scholarship fund would also be gladly accepted.

If you have an item you'd like to donate, please contact the MGFA office **before March 7, 2023** at 952-758-3999 or via email at laura@mgfa.org. Thank you!



Legislative Update

As you may have heard, the pace in St. Paul this legislative session has been fast and furious with both the number of bills introduced and the speed with which they are clearing committees. That becomes much easier to do when one party controls all of state government. This week, however, with the weather system that has moved through the state, the leadership in both the House & Senate announced they were cancelling committee hearings & floor sessions until Monday, February 27.



MGFA continues to monitor different pieces of legislation, including HF100 / SF73, the cannabis bill, which would legalize & regulate adult use marijuana. The bill's authors have stated the bill will be heard in 18 committees and so far has been heard in 8, including both House & Senate agriculture committees. While MGFA has not taken a position on the legislation, we will continue to watch it.

As mentioned in previous communications, MGFA is tracking the grain indemnity fund discussion and taking the time to speak with legislators and the MN Department of Agriculture on this issue. MGFA's policy position is that we do not support the creation of an indemnity fund, regardless of who funds it (producers and/or industry). Instead, MGFA would prefer modifications of the current statutes, support for a reasonable increase to grain bonds (which haven't changed in 20+ years) and an education/outreach component to producers on both grain contracts and deferred payment contract insurance. We expect a bill for the creation of a grain indemnity fund will be dropped and committee hearings to be scheduled in the very near future.

If members have any questions or concerns about the legislative session, please contact the MGFA office at 952-758-3999.



Submit Your Member News Items & Cover Photos for the Spring MGFA Magazine

The MGFA member magazine, *Mill & Elevator News*, contains an entire section that highlights news from our members. As work begins on the Spring edition on the magazine, we need your help gathering that news. We are looking for any of the following news items: major announcements, management changes, new construction or expansion projects, mergers or consolidations, anniversaries/milestones, employee retirements, awards or industry recognition, or other company news you would like to share. If you have any news you'd like to contribute to the Spring magazine, please email it to the MGFA office at info@mgfa.org by **March 10, 2023**.

The MGFA office is also looking for great photos for the cover of the Spring magazine. To keep our magazine member-centric, we invite all our member amateur photographers to submit your photos for the cover of the spring edition of the MGFA member magazine. We would love to see creative photos of your facility, your employees/co-workers or photos generally related to the grain and feed industry here in Minnesota.

If you plan to submit a photo, please note the following specs:

- Image size needs to be 8.75" x 11.25"
- Photos can be color or black & white
- Photo needs to be submitted by the original photographer
- Please provide a short write-up about your submitted photo
- We intend to give photo credit to the photographer, so we would appreciate a written note releasing your photo to be used on the cover of the MGFA magazine.
- Deadline to submit photos: **Friday, March 10, 2023**
- Submit photos to info@mgfa.org in a .jpeg file format.

We look forward to seeing your photos, so please send them in today!



Applications Now Being Accepted for MGFA's Commitment to Agriculture Scholarship Program

In an effort to financially assist students pursuing agriculture degrees at institutions of higher learning, the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association established a scholarship program, which is funded by generous donations from industry members and friends. The MGFA annually awards up to three \$1,000 scholarships to successful applicants.

Applicants must be:

1. The child of an elevator or feed mill employee whose employer is a current MGFA member, in good standing with the Association, OR
2. An employee/intern of an elevator or feed mill whose employer is a current MGFA member, in good standing with the Association

The student must be pursuing a degree in agriculture (preference will be given to those pursuing a degree in agribusiness) and have a minimum GPA of 2.75. The application for the 2023-24 Commitment to Agriculture Scholarship is available on our website. The deadline to submit an application is **April 22, 2023**.

If you know of a student who would be interested in receiving a scholarship, please share this information & encourage them to apply. Information can also be found on the MGFA website at www.mgfa.org.





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