



Golden Growers
Cooperative

Memberandum

Volume 29, Number 1

February 2023

PLEASE ATTEND the Golden Growers ANNUAL MEETING, Thursday, March 23rd DoubleTree Conference Center, 825 E. Beaton Drive, West Fargo, ND

The Agenda Includes:

9:00 a.m. Short Courses

- John Hejl, Casselton Fire District Chief
- Angie Johnson, NDSU Ext, Grain Bin Safety
- Pat Pithey, Cargill Corn Merchandising

10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting:

- 2023 Election Results
- Review of the Financial Statements
- Reports by the Chairman and Executive Vice President

10:45 a.m. Guest Speaker Matthew Jensen, Manager Ag Development, BNSF Railway

11:45 a.m. Lunch followed by our members only Q&A session



Golden Growers is pleased to announce Matthew Jensen as our annual meeting guest speaker.

Mr. Jensen is BNSF Railway's Manager for Agricultural Development within our region.

Changes in management within Class I railroads, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain issues, and workforce have combined to cause serious challenges for railways and the industries that rely on them. Matt will address these issues in his presentation at the GGC Annual Meeting.

GGC Board increases Method A incentive payment for 2023

At their December meeting, the GGC Board *increased Method A incentive payment for 2023 from \$0.05 to \$0.10 per bushel.*

This significant move was done in an effort to attract more Method A pool participation and to avoid dropping below the 25% threshold that would require different allocations of income between Method A members and Method B members. To give members time to make adjustments, Annual Delivery Agreements (ADAs) for 2023 may be submitted through March 31, 2023. *Any corn delivered prior to having a Method A agreement in place will not be counted.*

The Board also voted to submit an amendment to the bylaws that would reduce the Method A income allocation threshold from 25% to 15%, effective as of January 1, 2023.

Why is the Board recommending a Bylaw Change?

Presently, Bylaws require AT LEAST 25% of income to be allocated to Method A pool participants. At the time the Bylaws were written, there were concerns about availability of corn. The 25% level was selected as a way to encourage direct delivery of corn by our members. In addition, the MN 308B statute requires at least 15% of the membership to be 'patronage' members.

Falling below the 25% threshold would result in significant complexity for GGC and our accountants. Additional expenses could easily exceed \$200,000 per year. Approval of the amendment to reduce the threshold to 15% would help avoid these major costs.

How will Elections be Conducted for 2023?

In 2022, Golden Growers members approved an amendment to our Bylaws related to how board candidates are nominated and how elections are conducted.

Because of those changes, members who intend to run for the Board must submit a petition signed by at least 10 members no later than February 21, 2023. GGC provides a member list to members intending to run along with a petition.

Ballots and return envelopes will be distributed along with the Notice of Annual Meeting.

Our accounting firm, Eide Bailly LLC, has agreed to receive and tally the mailed ballots. Having an independent firm receive and count the ballots will give members assurance of election accuracy.

For 2023, Golden Growers members will elect the following Directors: 3-year Term for At-Large Director (currently held by Brady Koehl); 3-Year Term for Central District (vacant); 2-Year Term for North District (vacant); and a 3-year Term for South District (currently held by Richard Bot)

In addition, members will vote on a proposal to Amend the Bylaws, effective January 1, 2023.



Four Directors will be Elected/Re-Elected in conjunction with the March 23rd Annual Meeting

Along with the notice of Annual Meeting, members have the opportunity to re-elect and elect Directors to serve on the GGC Board of Directors. *Directors MUST be nominated by petition and all votes will be by mail.*

Current directors up for re-election for 3-year terms are: **Brady Koehl, Hancock, MN (At-Large Director)** and **Rick Bot, Minneota, MN (South District)**. Board Chair **Mark Harless (North District)** will reach his term limit and **Chris Johnson (Central District)** has decided not to run for re-election. We are so thankful for the leadership Mark and Chris have provided to our cooperative. Due to Bylaw changes approved in 2019, the North District director position will be filled as a 2-year term. The Central district position is for a 3-year term.

*If you are interested in serving on the Board and want to be listed on the ballot for your District, you must file a petition with signatures of at least 10 members from your District no later than February 21st so ballots can be timely printed and mailed. Candidates may be nominated from the floor, but their names will not appear on the ballot. For more information, visit www.goldengrowers.com or contact **Scott Stofferahn**, 701-281-0468 or scotts@goldengrowers.com.*

GGC Board Allocates 2022 Income and announces payment to retire equity credit

On February 15, 2023, after a review of the 2022 end of year financial statements, the Board of Directors allocated income of **\$8,292,870** to the members of Golden Growers Cooperative. The Board also approved the retirement of a portion of allocated equity credit in an amount of **\$0.16** per patronized bushel for a total of **\$2,478,477**.

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February 2023 Memberandum Newsletter



Golden Growers Cooperative
1002 Main Ave. W. Suite 5
West Fargo, ND 58078

Golden Growers K-1 Tax Forms

You should have received your 2022 K-1 tax form in the mail. Unlike 1099s, issuing K-1 tax forms requires Golden Growers to close the year, begin our annual audit, and complete our tax return. Because we understand the need to timely issue a K-1 for our farmer members, our K-1 is issued as soon as is humanly possible. Thank you for your patience. If for some reason, you do not receive your K-1 tax form, give our office a call.

Notify GGC of Changes!

Please remember to notify GGC immediately of address, phone number changes, or to report the death of a member. Call us at 701-281-0468 or email scotts@goldengrowers.com.

Important Dates:

February 21 - Last day to file GGC Board Nominating Petition
March 16 - Last day to submit transfer requests
March 22 - GGC Board Meeting
March 23 - GGC Annual Meeting
March 31 - Last day to submit ADA for 2023

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