

# MAFMIC NewsBulletin

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2005 ISSUE

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By: Al Muehlhausen

We would like to welcome our new President, Wes Gainey, of Avon, Indiana. Wes has accepted the position of President to the Minnesota Association of Farm Mutual Insurance Companies, Inc. Wes, pictured here, was previously employed by the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies and was in charge of their Farm Mutual Conference. We are all looking forward to working with Wes and we welcome him to the MAFMIC family. Wes will assume the responsibilities of President on October 17, 2005.

**“WELCOME TO MAFMIC WES!”**

Wes Gainey ~ MAFMIC President

### BOARD SYNOPSIS

By: Kevin Strandberg, Secretary/Treasurer

The MAFMIC Board of Directors met at the MAFMIC office in St. Joseph, on September 9, 2005. Al Muehlhausen introduced Wes Gainey, new President of MAFMIC to the board of directors. The board gave Wes a warm welcome, and was pleased that he was able to attend the meeting to meet the board of directors. Wes is eager to get started as MAFMIC President.

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Strandberg gave the financial report. He indicated that even with all the happenings with MAFMIC this year, it appears we are staying relatively close to our 2005 budget.

Chairman Al Muehlhausen made a report regarding the NAMIC Leadership forum that he attended in early June.

He also discussed the fact that the Legislative visit to the capitol during the convention will not take place since the legislature will not be in session at that time. Al said we are planning to schedule a few legislators to make presentations to us at the Sheraton during the convention.

Greg Parent gave a report from the MAFMIC Policy Committee. He discussed the terrorism risk insurance issue and the identity theft reimbursement program.

The board approved the addition of Draw's Adjusting Service as an Associate member of MAFMIC.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Meeting is tentatively set to be held at the MAFMIC office on December 1-2, 2005. If you have an item that you would like the board to consider at this meeting, please contact your district director.

### NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE

It's that time of the year when the MAFMIC Nominating Committee begins the process of soliciting suggestions for Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of the association for the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee is chaired by the Immediate Past Chairman, **Gwen Batalden**, and consists of all current MAFMIC board members and all past chairmen. Each of these individuals is asked to place a name(s) in nomination for these positions. If you have a suggestion for the Nominating Committee, please contact your district director or **Gwen Batalden**.

### CONVENTION NOTES

**SPONSORSHIPS** ~ Letters have been sent to all MAFMIC members inviting them to participate in the sponsorship program at the 2006 Convention. Last year 57 township mutuals, statewide, associate members and individuals contributed to the program, resulting in a significant reduction in the convention registration fee. Companies sponsoring the convention are recognized in the convention program along with having their names on the sponsorship banner. As in the past, the companies will also have the opportunity to display their banners during the Monday **'Mutual Celebration'** Reception. We would like your company to consider participating in the sponsorship program for the 2006 convention. To date the following companies have committed to participating in the sponsorship program.

**Bird Island – Hawk Creek Mutual  
Bray-Gentilly Mutual  
Mound Prairie Mutual  
New Sweden Mutual  
Norwegian Mutual  
Pioneer Lake Mutual  
Plainview Farmers Mutual  
RAM Mutual  
Redwood County Farmers Mutual  
Viking Adjusting Service  
Western Mutual  
Western National Mutual  
W.J. Lehrke Company**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

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**CHOIR MEMBERS WANTED** ~ The MAFMIC Choir has once again been asked to assist with the Prayer Breakfast and possibly the opening session at the upcoming convention. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact the MAFMIC office at (320) 271-0909 or email us at [info@mafmic.org](mailto:info@mafmic.org).

**SEIPP SERVICE AWARD** ~ Please remember to submit your nomination for the 2006 Robert C. Seipp Service Award. A form was enclosed in last month's (September) NewsBulletin. The deadline for submission has been extended to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

[2006 Robert C. Seipp Service Award Application](#)



### Mardi Gras Masks!

Get your Mardi Gras Masks at the 2006 Convention. The Auxiliary will be selling mardi gras masks before the chairman's reception. Any proceeds made on this will benefit the Scholarship Fund. The masks will be for sale for \$3.00 each!. So don your Costumes & Masks for a great evening of fun!

**ROOM RESERVATIONS** ~ The 2006 Convention will be held at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis South (formerly Radisson South) on February 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. You will notice some upgraded services and nice changes to the hotel, including the addition of the Sheraton Sweet Sleeper beds in all of the guestrooms. One change that has been made in order to comply with internal operating procedures of the Sheraton is the process of making your individual guestroom reservations. You may note that this process has changed considerably from the Radisson's procedures.

While a room reservation form will once again be included in the Convention Registration Packet sent to all companies in early December, you will be able to make your room reservations in one of four ways.

1. The preferred method is via the Internet, if you have that capability. A link to Sheraton Reservations has been set up on the MAFMIC website ([www.mafmic.org](http://www.mafmic.org)) under 'Convention'.
2. Call Sheraton's world-wide reservation number (1-866-837-4278), but make sure that they know that you are with the MAFMIC group so that you get the group rates. We would recommend that you use this method only if you do NOT have special requests as these people are not familiar with the physical lay-out of the Bloomington facility.
3. Use the paper form included in the convention registration packet that will be sent out in December. MAFMIC will also include this form on our website (under 'Convention') when it is available.
4. Call the Sheraton direct at (952) 835-7800 and request 'in-house reservations'. This is the **least preferred** method by the Sheraton, however, and may require some patience as they have a very limited in-house reservation staff.

If you have any questions or problems with making your reservations, please contact the MAFMIC office.

### FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS

**Plan to attend** . . . the MAFMIC Fall Regional Meeting in your area. The meetings are being held the week of November 7<sup>th</sup> and are designed to be of interest to company managers, directors, staff and agents. Application has been made and approval is pending for 3.0 hours of continuing education credit. Registration forms have been sent to all member companies. If you are interested in attending, please contact your mutual manager. Cost is \$25 for pre-registration and \$30 at the door. Please help us out by sending your company's registration form to MAFMIC's office prior to October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Each day's program will feature information that is of interest and importance to township mutual personnel. Coffee will be served at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. The session will conclude with lunch. However, MAFMIC personnel will be available immediately after lunch for anyone wanting to visit with them. The agenda for the meetings is as follows:

Call to Order & Greetings – Al Muehlhausen  
Introductions & MAFMIC Updates – Wes Gainey  
Financial Statements & Tax Form 1120 – Jim Barla  
Marketing Update – Committee Members  
Legislative Updates – Marcus Marsh  
Audit Procedures – Mike Kuefler

As a reminder, the dates and locations of the meetings are as follows:

**November 7<sup>th</sup> – Best Western, Thief River Falls**  
**November 8<sup>th</sup> – Big Wood Event Center, Fergus Falls**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup> – Michael's Restaurant, St. Cloud**  
**November 10<sup>th</sup> – Ramada, Rochester**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup> – Jackpot Junction Hotel, Morton**

Join with your neighbors to share your concerns, problems and interests. We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Regional Meeting in your area!

**SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE** ~ Members of the auxiliary will be in attendance at the Fall Regional Meetings to sell tickets for the 2006 Auxiliary Raffle. This year the raffle includes an Amish Quilt, hand-crocheted tablecloth and \$100 Cash. The Scholarship is funded by the net proceeds from the Raffle, Cookbook, Silent Auction and Golf Outing and has allowed us to issue twenty-three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors over the past five years.

## 2006 SHORT COURSE

Next year the Short Course will be held at Cragun's Resort & Hotel on Gull Lake in Brainerd. Dates of the Short Course are March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Most people will require sleeping rooms for the nights of March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Rooms are available at the rate of \$73 per night per room plus tax. (Includes up to 2 people). Don't worry about the location of your room. All reserved rooms will be in the main lodge (under one roof) unless you specifically ask for a separate cabin. Please note that any meal options you chose will be an additional cost. If you like, reservations can be made by visiting [www.craguns.com](http://www.craguns.com) or clicking on the following link for the reservation form. [Cragun's Reservation Form](#)

**Don't Delay, Start Planning Today!**

### MARKETING MINUTE

*By: Paul Stueven*

**Annual Meeting Gifts - Agent's Gifts - Promotional Items** ~ If you haven't already started – it's not too late to think about what you are going to give as gifts or advertising items. Whether it is mugs, pens, toothpick holders, cards or almost anything else you can think of, Image Builders will be able to assist you.

The Marketing Committee recently started working with Image Builders for clothing and promotional items. The clothing is available as before, but now broader selections of promotional items are available.

We would like to encourage you to give Image Builders a try on your next order. Remember, any orders placed through Image Builders helps support MAFMIC. We are also encouraging you to use the "Come Home" logo on your promotional items and clothing.

You can contact Ann Roesler from Image Builders by phone at 1-800-324-8190 extension 104 or by e-mail at [ann@imagebuild.com](mailto:ann@imagebuild.com). You also can view the items available on the Image Builder website at [www.imagebuild.com](http://www.imagebuild.com).

### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

MAFMIC would like to welcome a new associate member approved for membership at the September Board Meeting.

**Drew's Adjusting Service**

Peter J. Drew, Owner  
8349 Ridgewood Road ~ PO Box 547  
St. Joseph, MN 56374  
Phone: (320) 363-1342  
Email: [drewsadjservice@aol.com](mailto:drewsadjservice@aol.com)

HONORED FOR 20 YEARS ~ At the September Board Meeting **Vicky Szal** was recognized for 20 years of service to MAFMIC. Vicky began working with MAFMIC in September of 1985. She is an Administrative Assistant. We want to thank Vicky for her many years of service!