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Inside This Issue

NEWS

1 [Submit recommendations for NGFA Board and committees](#)

3 [NGFA accepting applications for 2024-25 Committee Apprentice Program until Feb. 1](#)

4 [Labor Department issues new contractor rule](#)

EVENTS

4 [Convention early bird rate ends Jan. 28](#)

SUPPLEMENTS

5 [Extra Supplements](#)



NEWS

NGFA Members: Submit recommendations for NGFA Board and committees

NGFA Chairman Greg Beck, senior vice president and chief administrative officer at CGB Enterprises Inc., recently appointed the 2024 Nominations Committee to make recommendations for election to the NGFA Board of Directors by member companies. These individuals graciously accepted his request to serve:

- Benjamin Smith (Committee Chairman), vice president of grain at Attebury Grain LLC
- Gary Beachner, president and CEO of Beachner Grain Inc.
- Jean Bratton, CEO of Centerra Cooperative
- Kevin Gray, CEO and general manager of Morrow County Grain Growers Inc.
- Todd Lafferty, co-CEO of Wheeler Brothers Grain Co.
- Jarvis Haugeberg, vice president of operations and marketing of Form-A-Feed

The Nominations Committee will work through early February to make final recommendations for election to the Board of Directors. Electronic ballots will be distributed to NGFA member companies in mid-February. Officers and directors newly elected or re-elected will be seated at the Board of Directors meeting on March 19 occurring in conjunction with NGFA's 128th annual convention in Orlando, Fla.

Board of Directors: Anyone wishing to be considered or make a recommendation for the Board of Directors should reach out directly to Committee Chairman [Benjamin Smith](#) or NGFA President and CEO [Mike Seyfert](#) no later than **Jan. 22, 2024**.

Committees: Anyone employed by an NGFA member company who would like to be considered for appointment to a committee can reach out directly to either the staff liaison listed below or President and CEO [Mike Seyfert](#) no later than **Feb. 1, 2024**.

The long-standing tradition within NGFA is for the chairman to meet in February with the other NGFA officers and staff to make appointments for committee chairmanships and membership. Chairman Greg Beck intends to follow this tradition and will meet with other officers and staff in February. Anyone who has expressed interest in or has been recommended for membership on a committee receives consideration.

Committees Background: NGFA announced in November 2023 the recommendations of the NGFA Committee Structure Task Force approved by the NGFA Board of Directors to align with the feedback from members during the five-year Long-Range Planning (LRP) process.

Committees that will meet for the first time in March include:

- **Sustainability**
 - Staff Liaison: [David Fairfield](#)
- **Feed** (This committee will include a Feed Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee and a Feed Manufacturing and Technology Subcommittee).
 - Staff Liaison: [David Fairfield](#)
- **Trade and Crop Technology** (This committee will include subcommittees for Crop Technology and Trade).
 - Staff Liaison: [Jess McCluer](#)
- **Ag Policy and Legislative Affairs**
 - Staff Liaison: [Stephanie See](#)
- **Transportation and Logistics** (This committee will include subcommittees for Rail Shipper/Receiver, Motor Carrier, and Waterborne).
 - Staff Liaison: [Max Fisher](#) and [Stephanie See](#)
- **Communications, Marketing and Membership** (This new committee will serve as a voice for members; support ongoing, high-quality marketing of the NGFA to members and other stakeholders; provide input on strategies to effectively refine the NGFA brand and promote member benefits, programs, and services using diverse communications channels; encourage a growing membership base by identifying prospective members and recommending recruitment strategies; and advise on the development of education and outreach programs and other member engagement initiatives).
 - Staff Liaison: [Rebecca Grubbs](#) and [Sarah Gonzalez](#)

NGFA has maintained the following committees, most of which will also meet in March:

- **Trade Rules**
 - Staff Liaison: [Charlie Delacruz](#)
- **Arbitration and Appeals**
 - Staff Liaison: [Charlie Delacruz](#)
- **Grain Grades and Weights**
 - Staff Liaison: [Jess McCluer](#)
- **Foundation Trustees**
 - Staff Liaison: [Rebecca Grubbs](#)
- **Rail Arbitration**

- Staff Liaison: [Charlie Delacruz](#)
- **Risk Management**
 - Staff Liaison: [Max Fisher](#)
- **Safety, Health and Environmental Quality** (This committee will meet in February before the convention).
 - Staff Liaison: [Jess McCluer](#)
- **Country Elevator Committee** (This committee will be renamed to better reflect its scope).
 - Staff Liaison: [Max Fisher](#)

Note: With the restructuring of the committees, NGFA member companies will be allowed to have multiple representatives serving on a committee; yet only one company representative will have a formal vote. For example, if a committee has multiple subcommittees, one company can have a representative on each subcommittee. However, the company will have to designate who will serve as the voting member on the full committee.

View the full document – [NGFA Committee Structure Task Force Recommendations](#).

NGFA accepting applications for 2024-25 CAP class until Feb. 1

NGFA is accepting applications to its [Committee Apprentice Program](#) (CAP) **until Feb. 1**.

Apply for the 2024-25 CAP class [here](#). Applicants will be notified by Feb. 16.

CAP is designed to develop future leaders within the industry and the NGFA by allowing early-career professionals (ideally between 5 – 10 years of work experience) to become apprenticed to an NGFA committee. Once appointed, apprentices participate fully in all committee activities, including meetings, conference calls and email exchanges. They are encouraged to learn the committee's issues thoroughly and to participate actively in discussions.

The CAP year runs from March Annual Convention to March Annual Convention. A limited number of apprentice positions are available – generally, one to three per committee, based on committee size. Those interested must apply for selection, including completing an application form and sending in a resume and letter of recommendation from the applicant's current supervisor.

Accepted applicants should be able to attend the following NGFA events:

- 128th NGFA Annual Convention, March 17-19, 2024, Orlando, Fla. CAPs receive a 10 percent discount on convention registration. The early bird registration rate will be extended for accepted CAPs.
- 2024 Summer Legislative Fly-In, June 3-5, 2024, Washington, D.C. This meeting includes the CAP DC Experience to introduce CAPs to how NGFA works for its members in Washington. The Fly-In is NGFA's annual advocacy day on Capitol Hill. CAPs will partner with NGFA staff, committee members and senior executive leadership to lobby lawmakers on behalf of the industry. Registration opens in late spring 2024. CAPs receive complimentary registration.
- CEC 2024, Dec. 10-12, 2024, Kansas City, Mo. All current CAPs and CAP Year 2 participants are invited to attend a complimentary lunch and leadership workshop. Registration opens in early fall 2024. CAPs receive a 10 percent discount on CEC registration.
- 129th Annual Convention, March 9-11, 2024, Carlsbad, Calif. Registration opens in early winter 2025. CAPs receive a 10 percent discount on convention registration.

Additional committee-specific meetings may be scheduled throughout the year.

Labor Department issues new contractor rule

A final rule published on Jan. 9 by the Department of Labor outlines new guidelines to be used when determining if independent contractors should be classified as employees. The rule, which was first proposed in 2022, restores past federal regulations regarding independent contractors.

Drawing criticism from business groups, the rule describes independent contractors as workers who, “as a matter of economic reality, are not economically dependent on an employer for work and are in business for themselves.”

The new guidelines go into effect on March 11 and may have a large cost impact on U.S. trucking and other industries that have small independent business owners contracting out their services, such as housekeeping cleaners, janitors, security guards, home health aides, and construction workers.

“More than 350,000 truckers choose to work as independent contractors because of the economic opportunity it creates and the flexibility it provides, enabling them to run their own business and choose their own hours and routes,” said American Trucking Association President and CEO Chris Spear in a press statement.

The new rule uses six factors to determine whether a worker is an employee or a contractor, as outlined by the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM):

- The degree to which the employer controls how the work is done;
- The worker’s opportunity for profit or loss;
- The amount of skill and initiative required for the work;
- The degree of permanence of the working relationship;
- The worker’s investment in equipment or materials required for the task; and
- The extent to which the service rendered is an integral part of the employer’s business.

EVENTS

Convention early bird rate ends Jan. 28

The early bird discounted registration fee for [NGFA’s 128th annual convention](#) ends on **Jan. 28**.

Join hundreds of industry members on March 17-19 in Orlando, Fla. at the Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate. Confirmed speakers include Scoular CEO Paul Maass; Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw; and Nathan Gonzales, the publisher and editor of Inside Elections.

During convention, NGFA members conduct association business including meetings of NGFA’s committees and Board of Directors. Attendees will hear from distinguished speakers at two morning general sessions, during which NGFA will distribute several awards to industry volunteers and announce the results of its most recent election.

Nightly networking receptions allow for making connections and enjoying time with friends and colleagues on the grounds of the beautiful Omni Orlando. Have fun to benefit the National Grain and Feed Foundation with opportunities to sign up for group tours of the Kennedy Space Center and Wild Florida. And good news for golfers – this year’s National Grain and Feed Foundation Golf Tournament

will be held at the Omni's International Course. A 9-hole par 3 course, hitting bays and night golf at Eagles Edge, and mini golf course make this the perfect resort to enjoy Florida's golf scene, and multiple pools, hot tubs, and a lazy river make this the perfect resort to enjoy Florida's springtime weather.

Go to ngfa.org/convention to register.

SUPPLEMENTS

Extra Supplements

Grain Journal: [Registration is Now Open for NGFA's 128th Annual Convention](#)

Deutsche Welle: [EU farmer protests: What's driving tractors to the streets?](#)

National Review: [FHWA Final Rule: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Target](#)

Reuters: [Tyson Foods, Cargill idle US beef plants due to snowstorm](#)

Agri-Pulse: [Global food commodity prices down sharply in 2023 \(log in\)](#)

Fox43: [How artificial intelligence is changing the industry of agriculture](#)

Fox News: [Sen. Tuberville quips there 'will be no immigration bill' ahead of Senate return](#)

Associated Press: [A new immigration policy that avoids a dangerous journey is working. But border crossings continue](#)

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