



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH February 23, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Plans are set for the NAEGA Member Appreciation Luncheon, Annual Membership and first Board of Directors meeting of 2015 – in San Antonio, Texas – March 16, 2015

We look forward to working with you in San Antonio, Texas next month!

All NAEGA member personnel are welcome for the entire afternoon on March 16th at the Hyatt Regency. At the Members Meeting each member attending is entitled to one vote on all membership matters; like election of the Board of Directors. No registration fee is required. Please let us know if you plan to attend! NAEGA members are also encouraged to invite guests whom they think would benefit from NAEGA membership.

Beginning at 12:00 PM on Monday, March 16 the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 123 Losoya St, San Antonio, Texas:

- We will start at noon with a member appreciation luncheon for NAEGA member personnel and their guests.
- An annual meeting of all NAEGA members will be conducted concurrent with lunch.
- A meeting of the Board of Directors elected at the Members Meeting will immediately follow.

The NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 15-17, 2015 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention at the Hyatt. A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention is available for \$275.

A schedule of events for the entire 3 days can be found [here](#).

If you have not made room reservations yet, we understand the nearby Emily Morgan Hotel has space. You can reserve guest rooms at the Emily Morgan hotel at a NGFA rate by clicking [here](#).

Member Opportunities

- Learning Journey to Cuba – March 1-4, 2015
- IGTC meeting in Singapore – March 5 and 6.
- NAEGA Annual Meeting and NGFA Convention, San Antonio, Texas — March 16, 2015

Action Reports:

- Japan Wheat Testing for RR GMO
- Senior Advisor Meeting
- US Grain Standards Act – Joint NAEGA/NGFA Grades Committee Meeting

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Information for your consideration

- Canadian National Rail *Expeditors* 2-24 11:44 am
- US-Canada International Trade Crossing
- West Coast Port Labor Dispute

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Opportunities

Learning Journey to Cuba – March 1-4, 2015

Registration for the U.S. Coalition for Cuba (USACC) U.S. Agri-business group visit to Cuba is now closed. Scheduled for March 1st through March 4th, 2015, the travel will likely be the first major U.S. business delegation to Cuba since U.S. President Obama announced changes to the Administration’s policy toward Cuba in December 2014. USACC has titled the travel mission as a **“Learning Journey to Cuba”** and notes the Cuban government has already indicated they welcome the visit. More information about USACC can be found at: <http://www.usagcoalition.com/>.

International Grain Trade Coalition meeting in Singapore – March 5-6, 2015

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend the upcoming International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) meetings in Singapore. Meetings will start on Thursday, March 5th and run through March 6th at the [Intercontinental Hotel](#), 80 Middle Road, Singapore 188966. Participation via web conference will also be available.

Roundtable discussions of recent developments of the structure of the IGTC and policy strategies will take place. You are also invited to attend a reception on the night of March 5. To RSVP for the reception, please click [here](#). If you or a colleague from your company would like to participate in these meetings, please contact the NAEGA office or IGTC Secretariat, [Marcel Bruins](#). A copy of the draft agenda can be found [here](#). Currently, anticipated participants in the meetings include the following:

Rosemary (AGEA)
Diana Felner (Bunge)
Jaine (GAFTA)
Geoff (GTA)
Andrew Connor (USGC)
Jim Everson (CGC)
Gary Martin (NAEGA)
Jon Hixson (Cargill)
Cathy Liu (COFCO)

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Ricardo Calderon (APPAMEX)
Gloria Gabellini (COCERAL)
Ellen Han (New Hope)(probably)
Wang Jiandong (Executive Manager of Newhope Liuhe Procurement Center)
Gerald Masila, (Executive Director of the Eastern Africa Grain Council)
Tiago Dos Santos Moreno (ANEC / Cargill)
Marcel Bruins (IGTC)

See you in San Antonio!

The 2015 NAEGA Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Director’s meeting will coincide with the National Grain and Feed Association’s Annual Convention. NAEGA meets on March 16th, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency at 123 Losoya St, San Antonio, Texas.

NAEGA is hosting Marcel Bruins, Ricardo Calderon of APPAMEX and Senior Advisors Hawk, Miller, Cotter and Duffy at its meetings and the NGFA Convention. Our Guests will join an estimated 30 NAEGA member company representatives and NAEGA staff as we address our successes and plans for the future.

While we understand the Hyatt Regency is sold out of guest rooms, the nearby Emily Morgan Hotel is likely available and can be booked by clicking [here](#).

[Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the NAEGA Member’s Only Page.](#)

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

Japan Wheat Testing for RR GMO

NAEGA received this [letter](#) from US Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack regarding our November 2014 request that USDA work with Japan to end the testing of US wheat for the RR gene. the NAEGA, NGFA and USW associates are working together to encourage the USDA to convey confidence to the Japanese that field escape of Genetically Engineered (GE) wheat was an isolated incident with no impact to commercial channels, and there is no longer any real purpose to continuing tests on shipments of US wheat.

Secretary responded by agreeing that Japan’s requirement to test every shipment should be rescinded and indicated the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is taking the lead in conveying to the Japanese that the GE wheat event in Oregon was an isolated event. The Secretary is hopeful that the Japanese government will resolve this issue without the need for years of data revealing zero findings.

Senior Advisor Meeting

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NAEGA Senior Advisors meet via conference call to discuss plans for the upcoming meeting in San Antonio and the Market Access Program. Each advisor discussed areas they were working on and potential activities for the remainder of the year. Arvid Hawk, Jerry Cotter, W.Kirk Miller and Warren Duffy all plan to join us in San Antonio and look forward to your questions and advice regarding their on-going service to NAEGA.

US Grain Standards Act – Joint NAEGA/NGFA Grades Committee Meeting

The NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee met jointly with the NGFA Grain Grades and Weights committee to discuss the reauthorization of the US Grain Standards Act. A topic of the upmost importance in the reauthorization to the two committees is the role of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). Many discussions and ideas have been floated on how best to incorporate private inspection service to accentuate the FGIS in order to create competition and efficiency in the inspection services. NGFA and NAEGA intend to be influential on any legislation to reauthorize parts the US Grain Standards Act, which expires on September 30, 2015.

Thank you for your investment in NAEGA! – We very much appreciate and need your company’s many contributions to the ongoing success of NAEGA. Invoices for NAEGA’s 2015 Membership Dues were mailed to member representatives and payment is now due. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:

2015

Mar. 23 – Comments to USDA on Monsanto’s petition to deregulate Genetically Engineered corn for increased ear biomass: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/BRS_20150120b.pdf

Apr. 15 – Comments to US Coast Guard on cyber security: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-17/pdf/2015-03205.pdf>

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

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Information for your Consideration

Canadian National Rail

After five months of negotiations between Canadian National (CN) Rail and its employees represented by Unifor, Unifor President Jerry Dias **announced** the union will be commencing strike votes early next week. The union, which represents approximately 4,800 CN employees, set a strike deadline close to the end of March with no firm date set.

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CN [clarifies they proposed](#) “a three-year agreement, with three per cent wage increases in each year and benefit improvements fully in line with what the company negotiated recently with the United Steelworkers, Teamsters Canada locomotive engineers, and the Teamsters Canada-Rail Canada Traffic Controllers.”

However, CN and Unifor [announced](#) a tentative labor agreement late on February 23. Ratifications meetings will be held over the next three weeks.

US-Canada International Trade Crossing

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a [press release](#) announcing the creation of a New International Trade Crossing (NITC) between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. The release explains that, “Under the terms of the arrangement, the US customs plaza will be procured as part of the NITC public-private partnership (PPP) that will finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the rest of the project. The costs of the NITC project will be repaid from future toll revenues. This PPP reflects an innovative approach to developing the needed transportation capacity.” The NITC is expected to enhance Detroit’s prosperity by creating jobs, infrastructure, and increased security.

West Coast Port Labor Dispute

US Labor Secretary, Tom Perez traveled to California to help settle the dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU). This follows a [letter](#) that was sent to US President Obama on behalf of a number of interested groups, including NAEGA, discussing the importance of the slowdown on the American economy. A [resolution](#) has also been pending in the US House of Representatives to encourage US President Obama to use all tools at his dispose to end the dispute.

On February 20, 2015, PMA and ILWU announced an agreement on a new five-year contract covering workers at all 29 West Coast ports. In addition to the assistance from the US Labor Secretary, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Deputy Director also assisted in reaching the deal. The agreement is still subject to the ratification by both the PMA and ILWU, but each president said in a [joint statement](#), “After more than nine months of negotiations, we are pleased to have reached an agreement that is good for workers and for the industry. We are also pleased that our ports can now resume full operations.”

The White House issued a [press release](#) stressing the relief the agreement will have on the American economy. The White House calls on the PMA and ILWU to work together to clear the backlogs and congestion in the West Coasts Ports.

If you would like more information or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

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NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

2015

March

1-4 – Cuba – U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba travel to Cuba– “A Learning Journey to Cuba”

5-6 – Singapore – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Meetings and General Assembly

9-10 – Richmond, Virginia – 7th Annual Conference on Agricultural Trade, co-hosted by Governor McAuliffe – Gary attending for NAEGA

10 – London, UK – International Grains Council (IGC) Market Conditions Committee Meeting. Marcel Bruins attending for IGTC

16 – San Antonio, Texas – 2015 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hyatt Regency Hotel (in conjunction with NGFA’s Convention). NAEGA Staff and Senior Advisors planning to attend.

23 – Conference Call – Global Alliance for Agricultural Biotechnology Trade (GABBT) – Global Low Level Presence (GLI) planning.

April

6-8 – Kansas City, Missouri – USDA GIPSA Advisory Committee Meeting – National Grain Center (NGC)

10 – Panama – “Summit of the Americas”

14-17 – Bristol, United Kingdom – International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) Annual Operations Meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

May

4-7 – Guadalajara, Mexico –GLI – Dr. Randal Giroux and Marcel Bruins attending for NAEGA and IGTC

June

9 – London, United Kingdom – International Grains Council 2015 Conference – 86-90 Park Lane, London W1K 7TN. Gary attending.

9 – Conference Call – GAABT – Outcomes and follow us on GLI

29 – July 1 – Geneva, Switzerland – UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

July

10-14 – Tokyo, Japan – IGTC trip to visit Japanese stakeholders – Gary and Marcel attending

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12-16 – Big Sky, Montana – 2015 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit
<http://www.pnwer.org/2015summit.html>

14-15 – U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council (USAEDC) Attaché Seminar – Location TBD

September

14-18 – London, United Kingdom – International Maritime Organization (IMO) Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) Meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

30 – October 2 – Vancouver, British Columbia – International Dry Bulk Terminals Group (DBTG) Annual Meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

30 – October 2 – Minneapolis, MN – 10th Oilseed & Grain Trade Summit

November

16-19 – USADEC Annual Workshop – Location TBD

17-20 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands – International Genetically Modified Conference on Coexistence (GMCC-15) Conference

December

9-11 – Geneva, Switzerland – Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting – Jerry cotter attending.

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