

NACCC NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

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FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

Dear Friends,

In last week's **Alban Weekly** report, Gareth Morgan, professor at York University in Toronto and a consultant on managing change in organizations, is quoted as saying, "If we are to really change, we must be willing to suspend our images of what organizations *should* look like and explore new ways of organizing ourselves to do the critical work before us."

Your National Association is imagining what it might be like to step back and do just that – explore new ways of organizing ourselves "congregationally". As a result of the supportive vote by delegates of the Strategic Plan, the Executive Committee has created a transition team whose task is essentially to imagine how we as an Association can accomplish our mission in a more creative, reliable, and sustainable way, so that more people know about us, appreciate the genius of our Way, and contribute in every way to its future.

In the coming months you will hear from a Transitional Team of fifteen leaders from fourteen churches, a mix of men and women, laity and clergy, long-time leaders in the NA and relatively new ones. Rev. Beth Faeth of Peoples' Church in Bayport MN is the chairperson. The team will use a number of ways to keep you informed and ask for your opinions and ideas.

Donald Zimmer, the author of the article mentioned above states, "Our challenge is to simply be open to the new things God is doing in our midst, and we can't do that when we are enslaved by images of how people must organize themselves to respond to God's invitations."

Those that attended the Annual Meeting and Conference in Arizona last June told us to be open and imaginative about transitioning to a new model of organization. I am excited to be part of how that might unfold.

(To read the article by Don Zimmer in its entirety go to <http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=9687>

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard
Executive Secretary

INSIDE

CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP	2
NEW DEVELOPMENTS	3
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING	4
57TH ANNUAL MEETING	5
WELCOME NEW MEMBER CHURCHES	6
NEWS FROM THE FIELD	7
EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS	8
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES	9
A MOMENT IN HISTORY	10
NACCC INFORMATION	11

We celebrated the graduation of 5 CFTS students at the Annual Meeting & Conference in June.

Kevin Clark graduated last December with a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, in Dubuque, Iowa. Kevin is a member of People's Congregational Church in Bayport, Minnesota.

Ruth Guerette graduated last May with a Master of Divinity degree from Bangor Theological Seminary, in Bangor, Maine. She currently serves as the Pastor of Kenduskeag Union Church in Kenduskeag, Maine.

Cynthia Petrie earned her Master of Divinity degree at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts. Since 2008, she has been a Pastoral Intern at Campton Congregational Church in Campton, New Hampshire.

Rev. Debbie Rhinesmith earned her Master of Divinity degree last May from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She currently is Interim Pastor at Akron's East Market Street United Church of Christ, where she has served the past three years.

Rev. Cindy A. Rice graduated in June 2009 with a Master of Divinity degree from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan and was ordained in June 2010. She is now a Managing Minister at her home church, First Congregational Church of Detroit, which she began serving in 2007.

The Congregational History & Polity Intensive was recently held in Boston with 5 CFTS students and 12 other attendees. Rev. Dr. Rick Hartley and Rev. Charles Packer served as faculty in the Congregational Way. We stayed at Mariner's House in the heart of Boston's Italian north end. While there in addition to lectures, we toured the sites and visited the Congregational Library.

For more information about the Center and educational opportunities, contact Dr. Mauro at bmauro@naccc.org or 1-800-262-1620 x 12. Or visit our website at www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org.

Blessings,

Betsy

CONGRATULATIONS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND CHURCHES UPON ORDINATION:

REV. Nanci Rathbun, June 5, 2011
FOX RIVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PEWAUKEE, WI

REV. JUDITH COFFEE, June 5, 2011
PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WARREN, NJ

REV. KEVIN CLARK, June 12, 2011
PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BAYPORT, MN



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



BRANCHING OUT

CAMPAIGN CORNER

Branching Out to New Beginnings

The Annual Meeting in Scottsdale marked the conclusion of the *Branching Out* campaign and the beginning of a new direction for the NACCC. Since the public phase of the campaign launched in 2007, more than \$2.6 million has been pledged. In the process, we started our new Center for Congregational Leadership at Olivet College and established a Fund for Church Development and Growth.

Conducting a major capital campaign has been a transformative learning experience for all involved. We have forged new partnerships and laid the groundwork for expanding the Association's ongoing development and marketing efforts.

The NACCC and the Congregational Foundation are deeply grateful to many individuals and churches for their support of *Branching Out*. You have our heartfelt thanks for helping create a new and exciting future for the Association.

Memorials Honor the Faithful

Our Association recently lost two active and faithful Congregationalists – Ronald Chesney Moe on May 10, 2011, and Bernice I. Douma on May 11, 2011. They will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by their many friends throughout the NACCC.

Ronald Chesney Moe served our nation through a long and distinguished career in Public Administration in Washington, DC. He also was active in many capacities on our leadership team, including the Executive Committee and the Congregational Church Development (CCD) division.

Bernice I. Douma was a dedicated teacher in Michigan for more than 30 years and a long-time member of the Association. In memory of her son and daughter, she and her family established the Paul and Susan B. Douma Fund, which provides scholarships for youth to attend Annual Meetings.

The Association is grateful to the following individuals who made memorial donations in their honor:

Ronald Chesney Moe Memorials

Caroline Adler - Carol Apen - Pat Carpenter - Barbara and Daniel Cox - Diplomatic Security Foundation - Liz Edsall - Jeffrey Harrison Eubank - Heidi Fincken - Donna Lynne and David Frost - Louis J. Glekas - P. Mordigan Hawkins - Ernest Holbert - Melissa McGee Keshishian and Harold Keshishian - Robert Litwak - Nick Merrill - Dr. Robert C. and Carolyn C. Moe - Joel R. Mogy - Thoma Neale - Gene Outka - Philippe Reines - Alan and Priscilla Rich - Deborah and Judah Sommer - Sonya Vekstein - Suzanne A. Zunzer

Bernice I. Douma Memorials to the Paul and Susan B. Douma Fund

Pres and Mary Bontekoe - Frances DeYoung - Dorothy Dykema and Family - James Miller - National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution - Pilgrim Congregational Church, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan - Richard B. Ruprecht - David Shepard - James Swinford - Charlotte Van Iwaarden - Edith and Dale Winter

With the conclusion of the *Branching Out* campaign, I will be transitioning from my role as your part-time Campaign Administrator and Development Director. In August, Christina Zitka "Crissy" will join us as our full-time Director of Development and Marketing and I will become her part-time assistant.

Thank you all for your support during this campaign! If you need more information about the above, please call me at 1-800-262-1620 x25 or email ddavid@nacc.org.

Diana David
Director of Development (Part-Time)

INTRODUCING OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

We are delighted to announce that Christina Zitka has joined our staff as the new full-time Director of Development and Marketing. Christina brings to us a wealth of experience in fund development, having most recently been Director of the LCMS Lutheran Malaria Initiative, a \$45 million three-year campaign.

Christina received her Master of Arts degree in Management from Webster University, St. Louis, MO with a focus on Organizational Development. Her Bachelor of Science degree is in Psychology, from the University of Missouri with a focus on industrial/organizational psychology and a minor in communications.

She is a member of the Association of Lutheran Development Executives (ALDE), Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), Alliance for Nonprofit Management.

She will be working in all aspects of development and marketing. Her work experience in nonprofits, and successful grant-writing will benefit our Association as we move more intentionally into funding our Association and its efforts to serve our churches and preserve our Congregational Way.

You will hear more about Christina in an up-coming issue of *The Congregationalist*, and other NA publications.

Our thanks to the search committee, Becci Dawson Cox, Jim Hopkins, Harry Holz, Lowell Linden, Carolyn Sundquist; and a special thanks to Gary Zaiser (committee chairperson), for his hours of work on this search.

Welcome Crissy!

57TH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Strategic Plan Overwhelmingly Approved!!

The delegates to the 57th Annual Meeting and Conference in Scottsdale, AZ approved the strategic plan worked on by various teams for over three years. Our thanks to the team which presented the plan – Bob Carlson (East Orrington Church, ME), Michael Chittum (FCC, Salt Lake City, UT), Beth Faeth (Peoples Congregational Church, Bayport, MN), Cheryl Holmes (FCC, Marshalltown, IA), Jim Hopkins (Riverpoint Congregational Church, RI), Barbara Mullen (Commuity Cong'l Church, South Bend, IN), and Jim Waechter, chairperson (Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, NY) along with staff support from John Carson, Betsey Mauro, and Tom Richard.

Transitional Team Named

The Transitional Team which will implement this plan consists of Beth Faeth (planning team), Barbara Mullen (planning team), Betsey Mauro (staff), Gary Zaiser (at-large) Jeff Dillon Treasurer), Jim Owens (Congregational Development), Jim Waechter (Executive Committee), Jodee Lord (Division for Ministry), John Carson (staff), JR McAliley (Missionary Society), Lynn Merkel (youth ministry), Michael Chittum (planning team), Mike Fales (Congregational Foundation For Theological Studies), Seth Jones (at-large), and Tom Richard (staff). Please keep them in your prayers as they do this important work on our behalf.

For a listing of names and contact information for new leadership team members consult the NACCC's website www.naccc.org

THANK YOU to all who contributed to a very successful meeting. The site, the program, the worship, the workshops ... everything went well. Thank you to the Annual Meeting and Conference Team, to the host committee, the Congregational Church of Sun City and SWIM (Southwest Intermountain Association), and Sun City Congregational Church. A special thank you to Nancy and Randy Asendorf, Rev. Ed White, Rev. Brian Anderson and a host of dedicated people who made us feel so welcome. It was a memorable gathering.



WELCOME

The following churches were voted into membership in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches at the June 2011 Annual Meeting

Lighthouse Fellowship Congregational Church
Bonita Springs, Florida

Pilgrim Congregational Church
Pomona Park, Florida

The Little Brown Church in the Vale
Nashua, Iowa

University Congregational Church
Wichita, Kansas

Pilgrim Community Church
Warren, Maine

Wallin Congregational Church
Grand Rapids, Michigan

St. Luke's Reformed Church
Salisbury, North Carolina

School supplies are greatly needed for the Panamerican Institute, Bread of Life Missions, Rebecca Mackish Memorial Mission and the Morgan Scott Project. If you are interested in helping out, contact Linda Miller at lmiller@naccc.org or 800-262-1620 Ext. 13

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED . . . To digitize lectures, papers, and short books given or authored by important Congregational leaders that are presently inaccessible to seminary students, local congregations, and the public. If you have some time and would like to help, please call Carrie Dahm 800-262-1620 (ext. 15) or email cdahm@naccc.org

News From the Field

Church-in-the-Gardens, summer program for children titled Pandemania, included singing, learning about the bible, and experiencing God's hand in their lives... **FCC, Millinocket**, church is involved in relief efforts for both Haiti and tornado victims in Southern USA; they are engaged in a pastoral search... **Lighthouse Fellowship Cong'l Church**, was received into NACCC membership in Arizona, thanks to the efforts of Rev. Les Wicker and the members of FCC, Naples, who helped to shepherd their year-long discernment period; recently the church contributed 1,175 diapers to a SW Florida mission bank for infant care... **FCC, Clear Lake**, during their search for a settled minister they have arranged for several guest preachers; a group of member-volunteers staff the church office daily... **Second Cong'l Biddeford**, the church hosted Pastor Charles Sagay a missionary in the country on behalf of Mission of Hope and attending the Annual Meeting and Conference of the NACCC in Phoenix; Heather Thompson from Beacon Hospice, spoke at the Church's Grief and Loss group in June... **Amelia Church, Clayton** youth group went on their annual mission trip to Nashville; their July church retreat included Amelia's Got Talent, and Amelia Idol combined shows... **Messiah, Los Angeles**, church is doing several renovations and repairs, including new sanctuary carpeting, repairing the cupola atop their building, and new wiring in the building; a spiritual prayer retreat is planned for October at St Andrew's Abbey; they shared worship and fellowship with youth and adults from the First Samoan Cong'l Church of San Diego in May... **FCC, Adams**, church sponsored a very successful clothing give-away on the Town Common. Over 50 families served in three hours!; their Sunday-Thursday evening Vacation bible School went well... **FCC, Mansfield**, considering buying a sizeable piece of property abutting the church parking lot; vision team is busy with face-to-face conversation with groups within the church; they are beginning the information-gathering phase of their pastoral search.. **FCC, Allegan**, discussing whether to start a Stephen's Minis-

try program in the church; every Thursday evening they serve dinner for those in need; they provide backpacks with school supplies for children, working from a list provided by the LOVE INC ecumenical ministry... **FCC, Fall River**, community garden project going well. The church provides the garden, members provide seed and care for the plots; members participated by sponsoring other members who walked in the annual walk for the fight against breast cancer... **North Shore, Fox Point**, Sue LaFeber is finishing her residency requirements for her D.Min degree at UDS; her dissertation is on "leading from the second chair" (Associate Ministry); of the many missions they sponsor one is the Guest House a shelter residence for 86 men every evening; they are starting a youth book reading group... **North Cong'l Church, Farmington Hills**, children's education in the summer was a one room Sunday school program, with two themes - building peace and becoming disciples; they have a group of women called the "flick chicks" and, you guessed it, they watch movies together and discuss them; two sundays during the summer are devoted to hymn signing...

2012 Dates

2012 Minister's Convocation
April 16-19, Mundelein, IL

2012 Annual Meeting &
Conference, June 23-26,
Bloomington, MN



RECENT EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS & CHURCH INQUIRIES

Rev. Dr. Tom Richard participated in the Annual Meeting and Conference communion service at Sun City Church, AZ. He also participated in twelve conference calls in July with churches in search, church conflict consultations and NACCC leadership meetings.

Rev. John Carson attended the Annual Meeting and Conference. His plans for the coming months include visits to Morgan Scott Project, Deer Lodge, TN; First Congregational Church, Crossville, TN and Olivet College for the fall CFTS seminar.

Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro visited:
North Congregational Church, Farmington Hills, MI
Kenduskeag Union Church in Kenduskeag, ME
East Orrington Congregational Church, Orrington, ME
Cong'l History & Polity Intensive, Boston, MA
Annual Meeting & Conference, Scottsdale, AZ
Rockland Congregational Church, Rockland, ME
Pilgrim Community Church, Warren, ME
Second Congregational Church, Warren, ME
First Congregational Church, Nantucket
First Congregational Church of Biddeford, ME

Rev. Bobbie Chapman represented the NACCC at Judith Coffey's ordination June 5th at Pilgrim Church, Warren, NJ

UPDATE ON OAK CREEK OFFICE SALE

As many of you already know, the NACCC office in Oak Creek is on the real estate market. Although our agent Jim Benz, has had many inquiries, only two formal bids have been made and were rejected.

Despite the repairs needed, the building will be sold as is, in which case the buyer will assume responsibility for all repairs. As we have stated before the deferred maintenance includes the HVAC system, electrical system, windows, parking lot surface replacement, bathroom upgrades, and inside painting.

We must continue to be mindful of our pledge to honor practices of good stewardship, no matter what the future holds. Moreover, the property continues to maintain many attractive features for potential buyers—the primary one being its strategic location in the growing commercial development of Howell Avenue.

As we progress in our efforts, updated information will be shared.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Joan Laska, Chairperson

On behalf of Committee members: Jeff Dillion, Dan Drea, Julie Johnson Staples, Bill Read, Dr. Patrick Shelley, and staff liaison Dr. Tom Richard.

HERITAGE SUNDAY

The Executive Committee has reaffirmed Thanksgiving Sunday as Heritage Sunday throughout the Association. Churches will receive packets including suggested liturgy and historical notes celebrating our Congregational heritage.

2012 Annual Meeting & Conference

June 23-26

Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America
Bloomington, MN

Call 952-854-2100 to reserve your room

Room rates: \$109 plus tax

Or visit www.msairport.hilton.com and use Group Code: NAC

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST

Francois Akoa-Mongo	Aug. 1, 1967
Richard Gossett	Aug. 1, 1986
Martha Lane	Aug. 1, 1994
Caroline Dozier	Aug. 1, 2002
John Lindvall	Aug. 2, 1942
Raymond Luber	Aug. 2, 1964
Mark Taylor	Aug. 2, 1992
Paul Koeshall	Aug. 4, 1960
Jeffrey Siegel	Aug. 7, 2004
Jack Frohn	Aug. 8, 1964
William Fillebrown	Aug. 9, 1979
Steven King	Aug. 9, 1990
David Murray	Aug. 10, 1987
Thomas Thorne	Aug. 10, 1991
Scott Snider	Aug. 11, 1996
Shawn Stapleton	Aug. 11, 2001
Douglas Brandt	Aug. 13, 1989
Arlin Larson	Aug. 14, 1977
Glenn Lawson	Aug. 14, 1994
Ramona Andrews	Aug. 15, 2004
Sam Southard	Aug. 16, 1950
George Mays	Aug. 16, 1981
Charles Packer	Aug. 18, 2001
Michael Nash	Aug. 18, 2004
Bruce Pratt	Aug. 19, 2000
Thomas Warner	Aug. 20, 1978
Robert Brink	Aug. 21, 2005
David Wigley	Aug. 22, 1954
John Wallace	Aug. 22, 2004
Patrick Hunt	Aug. 24, 1969
Tom Douglas	Aug. 27, 1998
Roy Paterik	Aug. 28, 1974
Judith Roska	Aug. 28, 1989
Lynnette Barnes	Aug. 29, 1997

SEPTEMBER

Bert McCormick	Sept. 1, 1961
Phillip Ewert	Sept. 1, 1964
Alice Kelloway	Sept. 2, 1949

Douglas LeCroy	Sept. 3, 1971
Michael Halcomb	Sept. 7, 1971
Anthony Jones	Sept. 7, 1997
David Henry	Sept. 11, 1977
John Hendrickson	Sept. 11, 1988
Larry Foster	Sept. 12, 2001
David Fleming	Sept. 14, 1975
Randall Kohls	Sept. 14, 1980
Wendy Sue Kissa	Sept. 14, 1997
Thomas Miller	Sept. 15, 1974
Edward Fackler	Sept. 15, 1985
Victor Bogdanoff	Sept. 15, 1991
Geraldine MacNeil	Sept. 16, 2001
Charles Morgan	Sept. 17, 1978
Donald Plank	Sept. 18, 1983
Beth Faeth	Sept. 18, 1994
Charles Birnie	Sept. 18, 2004
David Welcome	Sept. 19, 1998
Samuel Schaal	Sept. 20, 1998
Michael Chittum	Sept. 21, 1980
J.P. Freeman	Sept. 21, 1997
John Miller	Sept. 21, 1997
John Boyd	Sept. 22, 2002
Matt Winslow	Sept. 22, 2002
Thomas Richard	Sept. 23, 1973
Marchie Miyashiro Sims	Sept. 23, 2001
Mark McAnlis	Sept. 23, 2007
Steven Larson	Sept. 24, 2006
Lisa Dembkowski	Sept. 25, 2005
Scott Naevestad	Sept. 26, 1993
Chad Poland	Sept. 26, 1999
Pamela Jensen	Sept. 26, 2004
Steven Schafer	Sept. 28, 1980
Bobbie Chapman	Sept. 28, 1997
Colin Windhorst	Sept. 28, 1998
Paul Lee	Sept. 28, 2003
Donald Limmer	Sept. 29, 1979
Lin McGee	Sept. 29, 1996
David Wood	Sept. 29, 2002
Tim Smith	Sept. 30, 1990
Andrew McHenry	Sept. 30, 2001



A MOMENT IN HISTORY

While sorting through the books and materials received from Arvel M. Steece, I came across a small booklet entitled *The Congregationalist Handbook for 1896*. The *Handbook Series* was published quarterly at 15 cents per year. Below is an advertisement in the *Handbook*.

NO RELIGIOUS PAPER IS READ MORE THOROUGHLY, QUOTED OFTENER, AND MORE WARMLY APPRECIATED BY ITS READERS, THAN

THE CONGREGATIONALIST

IN 1896,

As in the 80 years of its past history, it will aim at the highest standards as respects **Typography, Artistic Embellishment** (including numerous illustrations), **Literary Form**.

The paper maintains a large and able Editorial Staff, with specialists in charge of various departments. Contributors, American and foreign, such as: Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, D.D., Principal A. M. Fairbairn, "Ian Maclaren," Prof. Geo. P. Fisher, Amelia E. Barr, Rev. Washington Gladden, D.D., Rev. R. F. Horton, D.D., Margaret E. Sangster, Prof. A. B. Bruce, Rev. James Stalker, D.D., Kate Upson Clark, "Marion Harland," Richard Burton, Rev. A. H. Quint, D.D.

Besides the important regular features — editorial articles and spicy paragraphs, reviews of new books and magazines, several pages of matter particularly for the home, helps for the Sunday-school lesson and prayer meeting (mid-week and Y. P. S. C. E.), and carefully edited church and religious news, covering the entire country — *The Congregationalist* in very recent years has originated and developed these specialties:

Mothers in Council.

Closet and Altar.

Mr. Martin's Conversation Corner.

Current Thought.

Progress of the Kingdom.

By the Way.

Each of these departments infuses a distinct, unique, and valuable element into the paper.

Next year's program of **THE CONGREGATIONALIST** includes, among many other attractive features:

A SERIES ON THE STRUGGLE FOR CHARACTER. Articles showing the peculiar temptations and burdens that are the lot of persons in different walks of life, for example, the collegian, the sailor, the policeman, the fashionable woman.

FRIENDLY LETTERS to characters familiar to us all — the organist, the sexton, the reformer, the traveling secretary. Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, D.D., will begin this series with letters to a theologian.

PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL CONGREGATIONAL LAYMEN. Character sketches (with portrait) of men in different parts of the country who are serving the denomination in one way and another.

THE CULTURE OF THE SOUL. Material suited to meditation and spiritual replenishment. Rev. Floyd Tomkins of Providence will furnish a series of Lenten articles, and the weekly column entitled *Closet and Altar* will be broadened and enriched.

THE NEW BIBLE IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. A short series, participated in by Prof. F. K. Sanders, of Yale, Prof. Irving F. Wood, of Smith, and others, on the way in which modern views of the Scriptures and the results of criticism can be made clear and helpful to the ordinary Bible student.

THE NEW POINT OF VIEW IN MISSIONS. Three articles by Rev. R. Wardlaw Thompson, D.D., Secretary of the London Missionary Society, on the conception of foreign missions which our churches should hold to-day.

STORIES, SKETCHES, AND ARTICLES in lighter vein by such writers as Harriet Prescott Spofford, Bliss Perry, Gerald Stanley Lee, Miss Alice Brown, author of the popular *New England* tales entitled *Meadow Grass*, and others.

The Congregationalist was available to a new subscriber at the rate of 12 weeks for 25 cents or 6 months for \$1.00.

**SEND ME YOUR NEWS**

Submissions for the Oct/Nov edition are due by Sept. 15, 2011.

Marie Steele, Editor

msteele@naccc.org

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
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Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.naccc.org

**The Congregational Foundation**

Want to create something of lasting value? You can be confident your legacy gift will make the difference you're seeking to create. Contact Diana David ddavid@naccc.org for more information.