



Illinois – Iowa Section

March 10, 2017

To the members of the Illinois-Iowa Section

Colleagues:

Our section has a long history dating back almost one hundred years. Over the last 25 years or so I have been involved with our leadership, we have won many awards and recognitions for our service to our members and the community.

Recently we have been suffering from two critical issues with our section.

Firstly, member involvement has dropped significantly especially at our monthly meetings. In fact several were cancelled due to little or no reservations. Others were held with only a few attendees. Both come at a significant cost to the section. We have tried various types of meetings and locations, some even free to attend, to no avail. We asked why you don't attend and only got a few responses. Mostly it was due to distance and timing. This is understandable in some cases, but certainly not all. One of the suggestions was to reduce the number of meetings. Based on this suggestion and after discussion, it has been decided to reduce the number of meetings from around eight to four. Two in the spring and two in the fall. We can still use input on what type of meetings to hold and where. As you should have seen, the first meeting of the year is upcoming at St. Ambrose in March and will feature our trivia night. The second will probably be held in Clinton in late April or early May. Please plan to attend both.

The second major issue is lack of leadership. We have been unable to get anyone to volunteer to help lead us. What remains of the executive committee has asked several times for people to be Chair and Chair-Elect. Neither position takes inordinate amount of time; only 3-4 executive meetings a year, a few phone calls, and some emails. There are people who can help new officers along. Several of the remaining executive committee have done these jobs and can help. In addition, there is a training session that the national organization puts on in January, at no cost to you, to help. Please consider this opportunity to help YOUR section.

If you have questions, comments or would like to jump in to help, please contact me at rick_rogers@grainprocessing.com or any one of the other officers.

Thanks for your help,

Rick Rogers
Councilor for the IL-IA Section.