

What's in it for you

A Connection Guide For Wild Apricot

By Colleen Porter

Connections are critical these days. While we may not be able to meet and spend time face to face, CCA is working to help all of its members stay connected virtually. The best tool we have to keep us connected is our new website Wild Apricot.

At CCA our goal is “help former Cargill employees connect with other Cargill alumni, enrich their active lifestyles and serve the communities in which they live.” What a challenge that has been over the last year!

The last two newsletters highlighted CCA's technology change to a system powered by Wild Apricot membership software. What does this mean for you? All these possibilities are just a click or two away:

Cargill Cares

Alumni Newsletter
Spring 2021



See my member profile and decide how much data to share with other members	Once logged in, members decide if they want to share their email or other info – data that is not available to the public
Find another member's email address so you can contact them	You cannot actually see other members' email addresses unless they allow it in their profile, but there is a function allowing you to email them and ask them to contact you
View the Event Calendar for social, volunteer or education events?	COVID has limited our activities for now, but we have been posting some public events such as the drive-through light shows in December. Click on the event to see what, where, when
Register for an event or see who else is attending?	After COVID eases up, we can start to schedule in-person CCA events, but CCA has virtual offerings that you can register for now
See what organizations CCA supports through its volunteer efforts	Click on Projects and Project Leaders to see who to contact in CCA or how to volunteer at the relevant organization
View CCA Board members	Click on the Board link
See links to Cargill Foundation or Cargill.com	Just click on the links on the CCA Home page
Read the latest CCA Newsletter	The latest edition is public, and members can access prior editions
See pictures	Members can see pictures that we have posted, and we welcome your photo submissions
Record volunteer hours in Spark directly	Click on the Spark link and login. Instructions are available to walk you through the steps
Contact someone in CCA because I seek info, need assistance or want to report Spark hours	Email CCA at: cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com Phone: 952-742-6188

All this is on our web site at: <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org>





Hello. I hope this again finds each of you safe and in good health.

The COVID-19 crisis has caused lifestyle changes for all of us; some changes have even been the good kind. For example, I have lost weight from home cooking and walking more than ever. As I walk the neighborhood and around the lakes, I am amazed that it seems everyone has a dog or a puppy. I guess working from home now lets you walk them during the day.

CCA has changed the way we operate as well. Our board meetings have been on a Zoom-like site, called TEAMS. Though it felt awkward at first, we are making progress on maneuvering the site and seeing one another virtually – particularly after we had a chance to get haircuts. Like many of you, we miss the face-to-face meetings and the social time that follows them.

Many of you look forward to the end-of-year Cargill events, such as the 25 Year Club dinner and the CCA Annual Meeting. Cargill will be sending out a letter in early March regarding the status of this year's 25 Year Club dinner. We have been notified that we will not be able to host the CCA Annual Meeting in the Cargill Office Center in May. Since this will be the second Annual Meeting that we have not held in person, we are exploring an online option. More information to follow.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter. Congratulations to the Communication Team and contributors, particularly Terry for the Tractors for Africa article.

As I end, I hope you also have discovered a few positive and enjoyable changes from dealing with the COVID crisis. For me, at least, thank goodness I have not bought a puppy!

Wayne Koester joins CCA Board

By Ceal Regnier

Wayne Koester joined the CCA board at the February board meeting. Wayne retired from Cargill in August 2017 after working for 43 years, always in Minnesota. He started his career in 1974 as an accountant with CMD Marine Accounting in downtown Minneapolis, and from 1979 through retirement he was in Trade Execution (Forwarding) working with Grain Division (GOSCNA) Export Merchandising team on Export Contract control and follow-up.

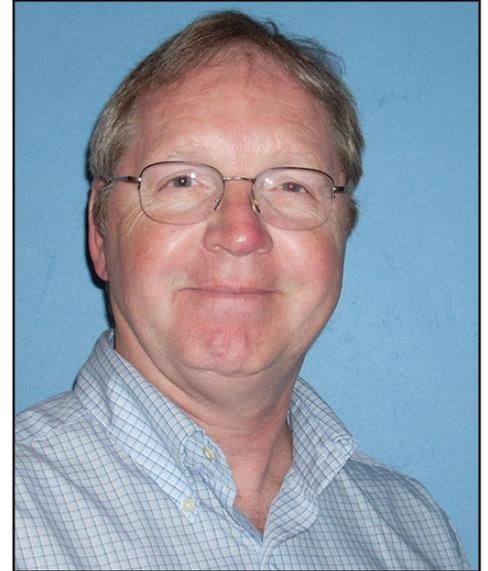
Since retirement, Wayne has volunteered often with Second Harvest and also has worked with Habitat for Humanity, 363 Sandwich and Tractors for Africa. He also volunteers with his local Meals on Wheels and is very active at his church in Hopkins.

Wayne joined the board to help with CCA projects involving education and group activities, as well as serving in any other areas as needed.

Wayne's wife, Jean, is also retired and they enjoy golf, bowling, hiking, camping, time at the family cabin, gardening, traveling and working on projects around the house and cabin. Son Kevin is a Lutheran pastor and daughter Kaitlin is a physical therapist.

Please join us in welcoming Wayne to the CCA Board.

We always have room for more involvement from CCA members in planning CCA activities.



If you are interested in checking out the activities of the CCA Board, either as a board member or as a CCA member-at-large, please send an email to CCA Admin at cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com expressing your interest and we will follow up with you.

Recently Deceased

James D. Schultz
Leo J. Eisenzimmer

Bill Swift, President | Phil Deeney and Ceal Regnier, Newsletter Coordinators | Paul Dienhart, Copy Editor

The CCA newsletter is published quarterly in spring, summer, fall and winter, and is distributed to Cargill retirees and other alumni as well as Cargill senior leadership. If you have articles to share, stories of coping with the pandemic or other items of interest, please send them directly to Phil Deeney at phildeeney@comcast.net.

CCA – TC Board

Shirley Boyd	Greg Hehman	Mary Kurth	Tom Streit
Dave Braden	John Keefe	Colleen Porter	Bill Swift
Phil Deeney	Wayne Koester	Ceal Regnier	Terri Tapper
Terry Garvert	Barb Kula	Julie Rothstein	Janice Weisberg
Connie Hauswirth			

Alumni Email Directory: If you are not currently receiving email updates from the Cargill Cares Alumni office and would like to be added to the CCA Email Directory, please call the CCA office at 952-742-6188 or send your name and email to CCA Admin at cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com or Connie Hauswirth at chauswir@gmail.com

Website: <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org>

Joe Fournier Ends 18 Years as Second Harvest Team Leader

By Shirley Boyd



Joe Fournier recently advised CCA that he was stepping down from his position as Second Harvest Volunteer Team Leader. CCA wishes to recognize Joe's 18 years of serving as the Second Harvest Volunteer Team Leader. Over those 18 years, Joe coordinated hundreds of volunteer shifts where CCA volunteers worked tens of thousands of hours to help fight hunger in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Joe made sure that the volunteer shifts were social events in addition to volunteer events. There was always coffee and tea for volunteers before the shift began and during the break, which Joe made sure was available during long shifts. And some days treats were also available! We can't thank Joe enough for his many years to dedication and service to CCA.

Comments from Second Harvest CCA volunteers included the following:

- Steve Filips: "Your presence will be sorely missed, I can't imagine 2HH without you."
- Christl Larson: "Thank you, Joe, for all you have done and always being so welcoming to the new people that come along."
- John Alt: "I really enjoyed working with you and appreciated your direction. Your leadership will be missed."

Beth Ashton, Second Harvest Volunteer Coordinator, had this to say about Joe's many years of service: "Second Harvest Heartland is grateful for Joe Fournier's many years of volunteer service. He is an advocate, collaborator, and leader dedicated to connecting his fellow Cargill Alumni with meaningful service in the fight to end hunger. Not only has Joe dedicated time to bring folks together in his role of volunteer group liaison, Joe's own volunteer contributions with Second Harvest Heartland total 530 hours. We are fortunate to have Joe as our partner and wish him the best!"

In case you are wondering, Joe plans to continue coordinating CCA golf events and -- post-pandemic -- plans to continue volunteering at Second Harvest. Julie Rothstein will be assuming the role of Second Harvest Volunteer Team Leader. She has some big shoes to fill!

Thanks, Joe

Joe Fournier has averaged nearly 200 volunteer hours annually for the past five years. This excludes all the time he dedicates to organizing the Cargill golf league. Thanks to Joe for his enduring dedication, passion, commitment and wonderful sense of humor in various CCA endeavors. We are sure to be seeing more of him and those characteristics in the future.

CCA Annual Recognition

By Dave Braden

Annually, CCA presents two awards to Cargill alumni and retirees to recognize them for their volunteer efforts on behalf of Cargill and CCA. These two awards are:

The Jim Little Award (formerly Volunteer of the Year)

This award is given to a CCA member who has devoted (and reported in SPARK) an extraordinary number of volunteer hours to charitable endeavors over the last year or so. This recipient is not always the top hour-earner, as the breadth and/or depth of impact on the organization(s) served is also a critical consideration.

The Ken Moritz Award

This award is named for the late founder of CCA, Ken Moritz, and is akin to a lifetime achievement award. It honors Cargill alumni and retirees who have exemplified Ken's vision of service by their extraordinary impact on CCA and/or the charitable organizations with whom we work. Often, these members have made significant impacts while serving on the CCA board, but great care is taken to consider the recipient's volunteer contributions and impact.

If you would like to nominate someone for one of these awards for the 2020-2021 year, please send your nomination to CCA Admin at cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com and the Recognition Committee will be in contact with you to get the detailed information.

Communication Plans Get a Refresh for 2021

By Barb Kula

With the new year, comes a refresh of the CCA Communication Committee plans for 2021. Our goal is to maximize the use of our website at <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org> by:

- Offering information online for CCA events and opportunities
- Serving as the primary point of event registration
- Being a resource for more in-depth information and access to relevant external information



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, in person opportunities and events will continue to be limited for the time being. When possibilities open up in the future, we will work to keep you up to date for volunteering, socializing and education. As Bill Swift, CCA president, put it in the Winter newsletter: "We will all have to be creative and cautious this year."

This year's Communication Committee Members are Phil Deeney, Connie Hauswirth, Barb Kula, Colleen Porter, Ceal Regnier and Julie Rothstein. Should you have any comments or want more information, please contact Barb Kula at b.i.kula@comcast.net.

Help At Your Door Needs Volunteers

By Terry Garvert

While many of the CCA group volunteer activities have been put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, you can still volunteer as an individual or couple. One such opportunity is with the Help At Your Door organization.



Cargill Alumni and Help At Your Door board members Karen Beadie and Catherine Gump

In existence since 1984, Help At Your Door (formerly known as Store To Door) provides grocery shopping and delivery services, transportation, and home maintenance to seniors and individuals with disabilities, enabling them to continue to stay in their homes and to age with dignity. As a non-profit organization, Help At Your Door relies on its 600-plus volunteer workforce to meet that mission. Alumni and employees from Cargill have been active with the organization for more than 30 years, in direct service roles as well as serving on the board of directors.

Due to the effects of COVID-19, Help At Your Door has seen an increased need for help. Client Connector volunteers are matched with seniors who need to place their grocery orders over the phone. These volunteers make regular check-in calls and log in to an online ordering website to place the order for the senior. Volunteer Shoppers arrive in the early morning hours at one of the grocery partners to collect and pack the orders, readying them for delivery. Deliverers then load up their vehicles to make deliveries to client homes. Deliverers are routinely matched with the same clients for delivery, thus serving as another set of eyes and ears for a vulnerable population.

For clients who need a hand getting to medical appointments or errands, volunteer drivers provide a critical link. Drivers handle mobility aids, provide door-through-door service, and can even accompany clients on their errands if it is needed. Driver volunteers have the flexibility to select the rides that fit their schedule and geographic preferences.

To learn more about getting involved at Help At Your Door, please email volunteer manager Carolyn Swenson at Carolyn@helpatyourdoor.org, call 651-642-1892, or visit the website at helpatyourdoor.org/volunteer



Cargill Alumni Catherine Gump, Laura Daly (with daughter Charlotte) and Karen Beadie

Volunteering Update In the Era of COVID

By Shirley Boyd

We all know COVID-19 has dramatically changed the world of volunteering for CCA members. It has also dramatically changed how volunteer work is done and volunteer participation. We know that our members are anxiously waiting for the end of the pandemic so that they can go back to their desired volunteer and other activities.

CCA volunteer events were often also viewed as also being social events -- a way to connect and socialize with old and new Cargill friends. While that social element will likely be on pause until the end of the pandemic, there are still many opportunities for volunteering -- both with our CCA partner organizations and with other non-profits.

Although CCA is not coordinating any volunteer activities at this time, many of our partner organizations still need volunteers -- even if some work is limited, some is virtual and some requires masks and social distancing. Here's a sample:

- **Second Harvest** – Masks and social distancing are required. You can sign up online at Second Harvest's website for individual shifts. CCA is not coordinating group sign ups at this time, due to size limitations of five per group. Second Harvest is launching a new group registration system later this spring. We will let you know when CCA restarts its group volunteer effort.
- **The Food Group** – Individual volunteer signups are currently being accepted. Masks and social distancing are required. We will let you know when CCA begins coordinated CCA-sponsored events.
- **Feed My Starving Children** – Individual volunteers or groups of five are being accepted. Masks are required. Social distancing required from those not in your packing group. CCA will not be coordinating CCA-sponsored events until further notice.
- **Habitat** – All homebuilding, home repair, and ReStore volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals have been suspended until May, except for a few experienced volunteers. CCA will not be coordinating CCA-sponsored events, until further notice.
- **Bridging** – Group volunteer opportunities are limited at this time, but individual volunteers are welcome. CCA will not be coordinating CCA-sponsored events until further notice.
- **363 Sandwich** – This project is still on pause.
- **Prodeo** – There are no opportunities at this time
- **Hope Academy** – Virtual tutoring may be available in March, depending on student sign ups. If there is virtual tutoring and tutors are needed, we will reach out.
- **Three Rivers** – Spring clean-up is typically April/May.

Tractors for Africa Plows Ahead in a New Direction

By Paul Dienhart

When CCA board member Terry Garvert retired he knew he wanted to stay busy, and the Tractors for Africa organization founded by three fellow Cargill employees (Louis Ricard, Mark York, Maurice Hurst) seemed like a perfect activity. After a 39-year career as a milling and cereal chemistry consultant, the former Western Kansas farm boy could scout out 50-year-old tractors, scour off the rust and paint it to factory colors -- nice, hands-on volunteerism.

These days, Terry is still working for Tractors for Africa, but the duties have changed substantially, as has the organization's operating philosophy. The first tractor shipped in 2016 was a gleaming red 1959 Farmall 460 to the village of Koulga in the West African country of Burkina Faso. It suffered breakdowns on rocky fields speckled with tree stumps. The old parts weren't available in Africa and had to be shipped from the United States -- a process that could take months and lose an entire production season.

The focus shifted to sturdier, newer tractors like the John Deere 5E Series. Parts were more readily available in Africa. Rather than reconditioning old equipment and shipping it to Africa, buying later model tractors in Africa, complete with warranties and mechanical services, started to make more sense. Instead of just providing training and then handing over tractors to farmer cooperatives in African villages, a new model emerged for a professionally administered non-profit mechanization services business.

Terry has given up disassembling rusty tractor parts for projects like developing protocols for corn farming in Africa, writing manuals and interviewing agronomists. Because buying a tractor with plow, planter,

tiller and sprayer attachments can run \$35,000, Terry also gets involved in fundraising.

One thing has remained the same: The satisfaction of helping African farmers help themselves out of the poverty of subsistence farming and the backbreaking drudgery of working fields by hand.

"Mechanization is the biggest limiting factor to getting farmers beyond the subsistence level," Terry said. "Helping with that appeals to some part of the Cargill psyche. It's consistent with what Cargill taught us about improving living standards by the way we do business."

In one study, African sorghum yields improved 190 percent on fields tilled by tractors vs. by hand. Mechanized plowing loosens compacted soil, helping farmers adopt conservation practices and increase yields. Doing a job in two hours compared to a family spending two weeks in the field also has benefits like keeping children in school and allowing women the time to start small businesses.

In Ghana, where Tractors for Africa has shifted operations because of turmoil in Burkina Faso, 85 percent of farmers still farm with hand tools or draft animals. Visiting 46 countries in his Cargill career, Terry has seen first-hand the kind of progression that more mechanization could make in African agriculture.

Even with the COVID challenge, 2020 was a banner year for Tractors for Africa. Their 12 tractors tilled almost 3,000 acres, a 900 percent increase over the previous year. Some 750 families benefited from the tractor services. Sixteen operators were trained in safety and maintenance, and an operator certification program was started with a local ag college. Eric LaFary, a former Indiana farm manager turned Peace Corps volunteer, was hired as country operations manager.

"Our tractor operators are learning about time sheets, tracking fuel usage, expenses and



revenue generated," Terry said. "The people are very friendly and eager to learn. Basically, we're teaching them how to be professional farmers."

The services business is expected to cover 35-50 percent of operating expenses for equipment this year with the goal of improving that in the future. Some smallholder farmers pay in cash; others pay with bags of corn. "Our services business is an interim thing," Terry explains. "Ultimately, we want the tractors to go to the operators or to communities. Meanwhile, we're developing skills to allow local people to eventually run the business."

Cargill employees and alumni are very much part of the effort. Employee contributions receive a match from the Cargill Foundation. Major donations from alumni have funded several tractors and equipment.

"But there are other opportunities to get involved beyond donations," Terry says. "Instead of finding old tractors, we're now concerned about things like HR management and navigating Ghanaian tax laws. Alumni with skills in HR, law, audit, accounting and tax all have the potential to be part of the effort."

"Helping farmers get their crop harvested and into the supply chain for marketing -- that's been my whole career," Terry continued. Now, more than ever, he feels his skills can help Tractors for Africa -- even if that means putting down his scouring pad and paint sprayer.

For more information on Tractors for Africa, contact Terry Garvert at Terry.Garvert@tractorsforafrica.org or visit the website at www.tractorsforafrica.org.



Submitted by Phil Deeney

A Thank You

Many CCA members along with Cargill employees helped support Perspectives Inc. in St. Louis Park through the Christmas holiday season. Perspectives is supported by the Cargill Foundation, and Cargill Law was recognized for their special effort.

Here is the thank you note we received. The site referenced at the bottom will provide you with more info about Perspectives.



As always, our Cargill partners were an immense support to Perspectives families this holiday season. In total, Perspectives supported more than 200 individuals from 60 families in need this holiday season. More than 70% of our 2020 families were adopted by Cargill staff!

Additionally, the Cargill Law team supported our Annual Holiday Store for the second year in a row. In the Holiday Store, Perspectives Kids Connection students are able to “shop” for gifts for the important adults in their lives. Because of their successful fundraising for the holiday store, the Law team also presented our Kids Connection program with a \$1,120 check!

We are so grateful that our friends at Cargill have remained committed to supporting Perspectives this year.

For more information and pictures, please see the New Perspectives blog at <https://www.perspectives-family.org/blog>.

Kaylie Burns Gahagan

Director of Donor and Community Engagement

Perspectives Inc.

In a Pandemic, CCA Volunteers Reach 8,000 Hours

By Colleen Porter

Since the start of the pandemic shutdown last March, 111 CCA members have reported 7,951 hours of community engagement in Spark, Cargill’s volunteer reporting system. Although that is about half the rate normally expected, it demonstrates the commitment CCA members have in serving their community despite the constraints and challenges they faced.

Regular CCA-scheduled volunteer events were paused, but members continued to spend time at organizations that CCA supports, including Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest, The Food Group, Hope Academy and Feed My Starving Children. Those hours totaled over 3,000. The other 4,500 hours reflected a wide spectrum of independent volunteer activities. Twenty-one CCA members each reported over 100 hours in the 9-month time; an additional 20 members contributed more than 40 hours each.

CCA members continue to forge ahead even in the tough times!

Thank You to Bestprep Mentors

Congrats to the 165 Cargill and Cargill Cares Alumni members who stepped up and signed on to participate in a mentoring program called Cloud Coach which is part of the Bestprep program.

E-mails are exchanged through a specified portal between the mentor and student. This provides students another outlet besides family and teachers to learn some of life lessons. This program runs from January into March.

The mission of Bestprep is to prepare students with business, career, and financial literacy skills through hands-on experiences that inspire success in work and life.

Bestprep is supported by the Cargill Foundation.

See the thank you video at <https://bestprep.org/cloud-coach/thank-you-mentors/>

What Grandparents do during a pandemic

By Dave Braden

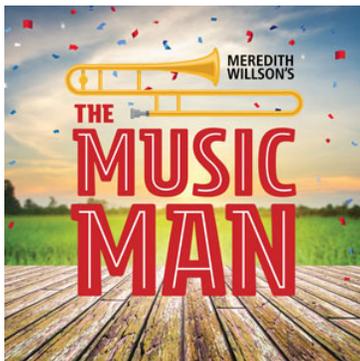
Ann and I have been fortunate during the pandemic to help with the remote learning of our two local grandkids, Nona (K), and Alden (2nd). Trading off with their other grandparents 1-2 days a week, such days are filled with helping with lessons but largely monitoring their many Google Meet calls with their classes. Our first morning task is to ask Alexa (who else?!) to set up to 8 meeting reminders for the day. We feel fortunate to be able to play this role for the tykes, but less fortunate to be reminded what it is like to awake to an alarm clock!



'The Music Man' Set for October at Chanhassen

By Ceal Regnier

After our reservations were canceled last March 15th, the Chanhassen Dinner Theater has temporarily reserved October 27, 2021, for us to enjoy a delicious lunch and see the performance of "The Music Man." More information and confirmation of the date will be coming when the Minnesota Health Department issues the restaurant and theater guidance for us to SAFELY have lunch and enjoy the performance. When we receive word from Chanhassen, we will contact everyone who has purchased tickets and explain the options.



Coffee Chats

Lindsey Kaufman from Cargill's Corporate Responsibility Group is our CCA liaison to Cargill. She recently began a series of educational Coffee Chats with guest speakers from agencies supported by the Cargill Foundation. The agencies share their visions and stories from the people they serve. Almost all these agencies have a place for interested volunteers who are looking to make an impact on the community in which they live

The CCA Admin distributes email notices of these Chats when they are announced. They will also appear on the CCA Calendar of Events at <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org>. Please add them to your calendar when you receive the email. Even if you are not looking for a new volunteer opportunity, these chats are a good venue for learning about the agencies that educate, nourish and support the people in the metro area. We hope to "see" you at one of these Coffee Chats soon.

New Book Group Starts Via Zoom

By Ceal Regnier

Let's talk books. One suggestion from our CCA survey last fall was a book discussion group. We plan to start the once-a-month discussion in March with "This Tender Land" by renowned local author William Kent Krueger.

This is an open group that will meet on the third Wednesday of each month -- traditionally, our CCA social event day. We will announce the book in advance, and people can opt in or out for that month's discussion. Each session will run two hours, starting with introductions by participants and ending with a social sharing time.

So, mark your calendars for the first virtual discussion: March 17, from 1 to 3 p.m.

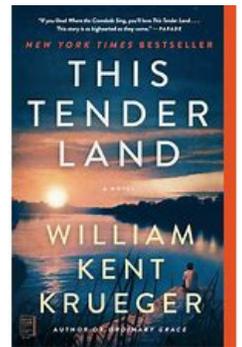
To register for the discussion group, log on to the CCA website at <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org> and scroll down to the "Social Event" column. Click on the link to go to the Book Discussion Group information and click on the "Register" button in the left column to go to the registration page.

Suggestions for future books are welcome. Please contact Ceal at ceal2987@gmail.com with your ideas. Meanwhile, to get you interested, the following is a synopsis of our first book, "This Tender Land."

In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, the Lincoln Indian Training School is a pitiless place where

Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to Odie O'Banion, a lively orphan boy whose exploits constantly earn him the superintendent's wrath. Odie and his brother, Albert, are the only white faces among the hundreds of Native American children at the school. After committing a terrible crime, Odie and Albert are forced to flee for their lives along with their best friend, Mose, a mute young man of Sioux heritage. Out of pity, they also take with them a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy. Together, they steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi in search of a place to call home. Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphan vagabonds journey into the unknown, crossing paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds.

With the feel of a modern classic, This Tender Land is an enthralling, bighearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.



Are you missing out on CCA Communications?

If you are getting this newsletter by postage mail, please note that CCA has a lot of communication in addition to the newsletter that is only available by email or on the CCA website. If you would like to receive all CCA communication, please send an email to CCA Admin at cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com or leave a message on the CCA phone line at 952-742-6188 and ask that your status is updated to receive all CCA communications via electronic means. Note that your email address will ONLY be used for distribution of CCA communication, it will NOT be shared or made public.

25-Year Club Dinner

We received word from Cargill that all 25-year club members will receive a letter from David Dines, Cargill's Chief Financial Officer, in March with more information regarding the annual 25-year club gala. Be watching your mail box for the announcement.

CCA 2021 Annual Meeting

In compliance with Cargill's COVID safety precautions, CCA will NOT be holding an in-person 2021 Annual Meeting in May 2021. Keep watching your email for information about a possible on-line meeting or fall gathering.

A Time of Change

By Phil Deeney

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of our daily lives. That includes how we work, learn, socialize and shop. Schools, businesses, shoppers, and even volunteers must adapt.

When COVID-19 hit in early 2020, on-line retail sales jumped significantly. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, e-commerce in 2019 made up approximately 11 percent of total retail sales. By the end of the second quarter in 2020, online commerce jumped to more than 16 percent of sales. Expectations remain high that online shopping is here to stay, as this pandemic pushes the method of shopping away from stores to home delivery. Amazon Prime, one of the largest premium membership-based on-line retailers, added 14 million new members since December 2019.

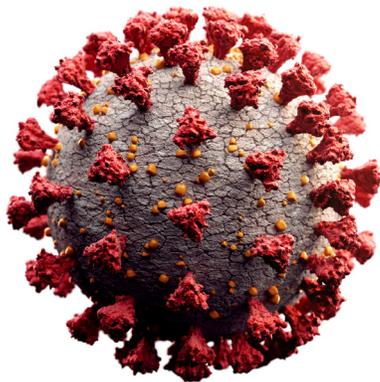
Intermodal (container) carriers have found themselves delivering more goods to retail distribution centers versus to stores. Home delivery growth has risen at an unprecedented pace -- in some cases limiting the growth of on-line business because of the lack of delivery capacity.

There are also the business interruptions due to government shut-downs. When schools closed, bulk milk declined as kids were at home versus eating at schools. This meant rather than packaging milk in bulk quantities, it went into smaller gallon and half-gallon containers. This stressed bottling and distribution capacity, causing some milk to be destroyed. Another impact on our supply chain can be seen at the liquor store. You may notice 35-can packaging for beer in some liquor stores. This packaging was intended for use by bars and restaurants; however, when they closed, distributors moved

these packaged goods to liquor stores.

There are numerous instances of how schools, businesses, and shoppers have adapted under COVID-19. This, in turn, has caused the marketplace to rethink their supply chains.

Where there are challenges come opportunities.



Let's Talk:

CCA Starts Monthly Discussion Group

By Ceal Regnier.

A topical discussion group was one of the suggestions in response to our CCA survey last fall. We were looking for virtual social activities until it is safe for us to have in-person events, so we're starting a biweekly open group discussion via Zoom on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Participants can opt in or out of the discussions, depending on their interest in the topic. Like a book discussion group, we will have a three-part agenda with self-introductions, exchange of ideas on the topic and social time.

In our first discussion on Feb. 24 -- prior to this newsletter's publication -- we talked about ways to connect with family during the pandemic. Please join us for the next discussion:

- On Wednesday, March 10, at 2 p.m., the topic is **"We Talk About: strategic plans for extended family gatherings for Easter Sunday, April 4."**

After introductions, we will budget an hour for discussing the topic, followed by an optional social time for personal sharing.

To register for the discussion group, log on to the CCA website at <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org> and scroll down to the "Social Event" column. Click on the link for "Discussion Group," then click the "Register" button in the left column to go to the registration page.

If you have suggestions for future topics, please send them to Ceal at ceal2987@gmail.com.

New CCA email and Website

Email

cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com

Website

<https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org>

From the [Cargill, Inc., website](https://www.cargill.com)

Cargill's Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Pandemic

At Cargill, our values — do the right thing, put people first and reach higher — continue to guide us as we navigate COVID-19. As we work around the clock every day to support our workforce, suppliers, customers and the communities in which we live and work, Cargill draws on our decades of experience navigating major global issues to mitigate the ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

The pandemic has tested all of us, personally and professionally. And it has proven how strong our food system and our communities are when we work together. As communities and our customers face the negative impacts of COVID-19, Cargill will continue to be here to help.