Bob’s parents, Carl and Marie Van Kampen lived north of Coldwater near a small town called Girard when he was born. At age 5, he moved west of Grand Ledge to a dairy farm owned by a retired GM executive. After a year of being the hired man his dad and his dad’s brother, George bought a small trucking business. Their first job was hauling cattle from the farm to market at Battle Creek and Detroit. Then cattle from Battle Creek to Dewitt for slaughter at Rosevale Packing. In 1956 a pole barn with a truck dock was built. This led to bagged fertilizer retail sales to farmers, which evolved into seed corn sales and the first semi-truck with van trailer. In 1957 George left the business to return to the Coldwater area and Bob’s dad continued on alone. Bob’s summers during high school were spent helping his dad, like the time he loaded ear corn from the crib into the livestock truck. This led to the corn falling out between the slats as his dad was driving down the road to Andersons at Maumee, OH.

When Bob graduated from Grand Ledge high school in 1962, he started with a straight truck delivering bagged animal feed for the Oelwein Chemical Co. all over Michigan. This experience would give Bob good directions for future seed deliveries. Bob met his wife, Sue, through a blind date arranged by a friend. In 2013 they celebrated their 45th anniversary.

When he was old enough to drive legally out of state, Bob and his dad trucked together until a second semi with a van trailer was added to the business. They hauled potatoes for Grosbeck’s from Eaton Rapids to Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Seed potatoes came from Elmira, MI back to Eaton Rapids. Winter trucking included many loads of trefoil seed from the UP back to Sweeney Seed in Mt. Pleasant as well as several loads of clover seed from Michigan State Seed in Grand Ledge to Illinois. For many summers they hauled radishes from the muck south of Grand Ledge to Hartville, OH. They then started hauling seed for Cowbell and Funks G.

The retail sales of fertilizer and seed were discontinued in the 1980’s. Bob’s dad retired in 1986 and Bob continued in business by himself. Bob seemed to fill the need for delivery of small loads and kept busy with this endeavor. He hauled seed wheat for Zeeland Farm Services. In the fall, Bob kept busy hauling grain from the field to the ADM elevator just north of Grand Ledge. Then the first of the year would come and it was time to start delivery of soybean seed.

He started trucking soybean seed for CPS out of Dansville from John Diehl’s facility to all parts of Michigan and then out of Fowler at Bill Irre’s facility. One of Bob’s jobs had him hauling Foundation Seed for Bill Irre. Bobs knowledge of the location of most MCIA customers led to a great relationship between MCIA and its customers where Bob seemed a perfect fit to get seed delivered. Bob was used for many years as the “designated delivery man” for MCIA. The service Bob provided to our members was excellent, timely and yet to be duplicated.
As time went on, new rules and regulations began arising. Bob decided not to learn all the new ways and decided to retire in June of 2013. Since then he has enjoyed not having a schedule. Bob and Sue took a cruise in October from Quebec City through the St. Lawrence Seaway to Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia ending in Boston. Bob has been a member of the First United Methodist Church of Grand Ledge for 45 years serving as a trustee and on the administration board. According to Bob his hobbies are work and sleep, but we think travel would also be included. Bob has enjoyed working with MCIA and has indicated the biggest thing he misses is the interaction he had with the people he’s dealt with in our industry.

The 2014 MCIA Board of Directors from left to right: Frank Szymanski, Bill Irrer, David Mumby, Dr. Doug Buhler, Mike Hauck, Dr. Richard Kaitany, Paul Varner, and Larry Metz. Not pictured: Mark Vollmar

Bill Irrer receiving his 3 year service plaque from MCIA President Mark Wittstock

Mark Wittstock receiving his 9 year service plaque from Michael Hauck MCIA Vice-Pres.

Dr. Doug Buhler receiving his 9 year service plaque from MCIA President Mark Wittstock.

Paul Varner receiving his 9 year service plaque from MCIA President Mark Wittstock
President Mark Wittstock called to meeting to order at 9:05 AM. A quorum was determined. Mark Wittstock welcomed the membership and introduced the Board of Directors and special guests attending the meeting. Mark acknowledged several businesses’ that sponsored this year’s annual meeting and thanked them for their support. Dave Mumby read the official meeting notice that was mailed to all MCIA members. Mark Wittstock then directed the membership to the 2012 Annual Meeting minutes. Mike Hauck moved to accept the minutes as printed, supported by Dave Mumby. Motion Carried.

The December 31, 2013 Audit was presented by Manager, Randy Judd. Dave Penzien moved to approve the 2013 Compiled Financial Statement, supported by Larry Metz. Motion Carried.

Mark Wittstock presented the nominating committee report and introduced the board candidates. Central Region: Bill Irrer . Upper Thumb Region: Frank Syzmanski. Mark Wittstock asked for nominations from the floor, there were none. Larry Metz moved that nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast, supported by Kent Houghtaling. Motion Carried.

Both candidates ran unopposed and Mark Wittstock congratulated them on their selection to the MCIA Board of Directors.

President Mark Wittstock presented a brief Presidents Report. Mark thanked Randy, the staff and Board of Directors for a great year. He spoke about the successful AOSCA Meeting that MCIA hosted in 2013, and he thanked everyone for the 9 years that he served on the board. He also wished everyone a safe, healthy and prosperous year.

Board of Director Plaques were presented. Mark Wittstock presented Bill Irrer with a 3 year service award, Paul Varner with a 9 year service award, and Doug Buhler with a 9 year service award. Mike Hauck presented Mark Wittstock with a 9 year service award. Manager, Randy Judd, acknowledged and thanked the 2013 Annual Meeting Sponsors. He then introduced and thanked the staff for another successful year. Randy presented the Manager’s Report. Randy informed the membership that a written Manager’s Report, Foundation Seed Report and Field Report were included in the 2013 Annual Report. He thanked the Board of Directors for their leadership and support over the past year. Mark Wittstock asked if there was any old or new business. There was no old business.

Under new business, Kent Houghtaling brought up the possibility of helping fund the construction of a teaching facility at the Bean and Beet farm in conjunction with MSU. The Board will consider this option. Paul Varner moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Dave Mumby. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 AM.

**MCIA Eagerly Awaits Two Dry Bean Varieties**

Michigan State University is in the process of releasing two dry bean varieties, Zumba and Alpena. These exciting new varieties will be welcome additions to our already impressive dry bean seed line up. A brief description of each is below. If you would like the full description please call the office or monitor our website for details and updates!

**Zumba(Formerly B10244)**
Developed by Dr. James Kelly, MSU Dry Bean Breeding Program. Zumba is an upright black bean derived from a cross with Zorro Black Bean. Zumba has tremendous yield potential, is resistant to Anthracnose and has very high canning scores. All available seed will be used for western seed increase and limited amounts should be available in Spring of 2015. MCIA intends to have the license agreement for Zumba in place by early Summer.

**Alpena(Formerly N11283)**
Developed by Dr. James Kelly, MSU Dry Bean Breeding Program. Alpena is an upright Navy Bean out of a cross with the variety Medalist. Alpena is a high yielding navy which matures in about 99 days. Alpena has high pod placement and does not exhibit “green stem” at harvest like some other varieties in the erect navy bean class. All Breeder seed will be increased this spring in hopes of adequate supplies of Foundation seed for 2015 planting. MCIA intends to have a license agreement for Alpena in place by early Summer.

**New Opportunities with Color Sorter**
MCIA has finished installation of a Sortex Z+ color sorter. This machine is now being utilized daily and vastly improves the quality of our outgoing product. The color sorter is routinely able to remove most defects to at least a 99.5% purity. We now offer custom sorting of just about any product. We can handle most quantities from one tote bag up to many truck loads. Whether it be a seed mixture or end-use application, please give us a call to discuss any sort you might have.
Seed Lab News
Tina Robinson

Things have begun to slow down in the seed lab and for the next couple of months it’s that time of year to look toward updating, upgrading and cleaning. After a fast and furious wheat season, came that long, endlessly dragged out winter, (soy, corn and bean testing). Now, it’s time to look ahead once again to the upcoming wheat season. I’m not sure what you farmers are thinking right now, but at my house near Dansville, the ground is still as hard as a rock. And, speaking of ROCKS…thank you Lowell Anderson for attending the Annual Meeting this year and bringing along a beautiful conglomerate for my collection.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the lab to consider during our low time, feel free to give me a call and we can chat about it. One of customers had a great suggestion last week regarding our website. Which brings to mind, if any of you have a Farm website you would like to link to the MCIA site, let us know. And, for those of you who are internet savvy, I encourage you to check out Witt Seed Farm at www.wittseedfarm.com. They have done a really great job with it.

MCIA: Calendar of Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>MCIA Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31- June 5</td>
<td>AOSA/SCST Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Fargo, ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>MCIA Small Grain Application Due</td>
<td>MCIA Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22-25</td>
<td>AOSCA Annual Convention</td>
<td>Ashville, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Independence day Holiday</td>
<td>MCIA Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22-24</td>
<td>AG Expo</td>
<td>MSU, East Lansing, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Soybean &amp; Dry Bean Application Due</td>
<td>MCIA Office</td>
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