

# **Agricultural Business Club at Iowa State University**

## **Main Meeting Minutes**

April 23, 2020

The regular meeting of the Iowa State University Agricultural Business Club was held April 23, 2020 on Zoom. President Cody Tjossem called the meeting to order at **6:00 PM**. There were **62** members present.

### **Officer Reports**

- Vice President: Thank you to committee members for their hard work. Committee chair and committee member evaluations will be sent over email. Please fill out for every member.
- Secretary: The Minutes of the February meeting were briefed by Emma Kehrli. Approved by club members. We will still do Perfect Attendance after the meeting and notify members.
- Treasurer: Julia Campbell announced the current balance available is **\$76,175.15**. This balance comes from some larger payments from the recent ski trip and clothing order.
- CALS:
  - CALS senior awards have been announced and the six winners are posted on the CALS website. Thank you to all who applied.
  - Bacon Expo committee applications are due on April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Reporters: Thank you to everyone who participated on social media. Tiffany Poen was the winner of the drawing. Seniors please send the Reporters information for Senior Spotlights.
- Logistics: Thank you for participating in the Kahoot. Riley Arthur was the winner.

### **Guest Speaker: John Chism- Corteva Agriscience**

John attended Iowa State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Business. During his time at Iowa State, he was the Agricultural Business Club President. After graduating in 1992, he went on to get his Masters in Ag Econ from Minnesota and immediately began working for what was then known as Pioneer, then DuPont Pioneer, DowDuPont, and now Corteva Agriscience. John is Corteva's Sales Support and Customer Service Leader. Corteva is an agricultural chemical and seed company that was the ag unit of DowDuPont that was spun off to an independent company in June 2019. They focus on delivering an integrated portfolio with a focus on productivity and sustainability. He explains the hardest part of the merger has been weaving together complex organizations into one and managing the different data systems. John's highlights throughout his career have been centered around the great people he has worked with and their focus on agriculture. Corteva has given him many opportunities to grow and expand his network.

## **Old Business:**

- Constitutional Changes
  - Adapting language of the constitution
  - Clarifying the Club Adviser role
  - Establishing Industry Representative Advisers
  - To vote, the Qualtrics Survey will be open until Sunday, April 26th at 11:59 pm
- Industry Adviser Candidate
  - Serve one-year terms, with a three-term limit
  - Responsibilities:
    - Attend monthly meetings
    - Attend club banquet
    - Assist with assigned committees
    - Helping out club members as opportunities arise
  - To vote, the Qualtrics Survey will be open until Sunday, April 26th at 11:59 pm
  - Two candidates:
    - Izak Christensen is a Senior Investment Analyst at Summit Agricultural Group. Graduated from Iowa State in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Business and Agronomy and an MBA with a specialization in Finance. Served as the ABC officer while at Iowa State.
    - Elizabeth Burns-Thompson is the Manager of Corporate Affairs at REG

## **New Business: Elizabeth Burns-Thompson from Renewable Energy Group**

Elizabeth grew up on a farm in Alburnett, Iowa and was very involved with FFA. She originally thought she wanted to be an ag teacher but was convinced to join the Agricultural Business program after speaking with Dr. Deiter. While at Iowa State, she served as the ABC Treasurer. She also interned in Iowa for a member of the United States Senate and worked for an Ames non-profit that did outreach toward education of legislators. Elizabeth graduated from Iowa State in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Business and International Agriculture. With an interest in Public Policy, she went on to receive a law degree from Drake University. At law school she worked for the National Agricultural Law Center as well as the Iowa Farm Bureau. After graduating from Drake, she worked for the Iowa Corn Growers Association on their Regulatory Affairs Council. Elizabeth has been at REG for over a year now as the Manager of Corporate Affairs. REG is the nation's largest biodiesel producer. They turn soybean oil, corn oil, used cooking oil, and animal fats into a value-added fuel. She lives in Altoona and was recently elected to her local city council. Elizabeth encourages students to listen to trusted mentors and advisers and to continue to hunt for that next adventure.

## **Member Recognition**

**Member of the Month:** Riley Arthur

**New Member of the Month:** Jenna VanderHeiden

**Old Member of the Month:** Rachel Sonnabend

### **Adviser Comments**

- Dr. Deiter presented the TopHat attendance question.
- Thank you to the officers for putting together the first virtual meeting and to members for joining.
- Congratulations to the graduating seniors.
- He encouraged students to appreciate things they may have taken for granted before COVID.

### **Drawings:**

- Are you here?: Megan Zwiefel \$50
- Perfect Attendance Winners
  - Freshman (\$100): Dillon Folkerts
  - Sophomore (\$100): Janelle Vande Vorde
  - Junior (\$100): Kaitlin George
  - Senior (\$100): Andrew Thilges
  - Overall (\$500): Emma Olson
  - Overall (\$500): Tessa Geiger

### **Announcements:**

- Keep an eye out for the Qualtrics Survey
- First meeting next fall will be August 27<sup>th</sup>
- Important upcoming events
  - Golf Outing September 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Fall Industry Tour October 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Pre-Career Fair Mixer October 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Career Fair, October 13<sup>th</sup>
- Check out the Senior Spotlights.
- Thank you to our seniors for everything you have done for the club.

President, Cody Tjossem, adjourned the meeting at **6:52 PM**.