

# **NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**

**Volume No. 24, Issue No. 1**

**January-February-March 2022**

**Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley**

## **From Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large**

Happy New Year Everyone,

We thought that 2020 was terrible and 2021 was going to be better. Well, we all know how that one turned out!! But we can hope and pray that 2022 will finally straighten out and get back to normal. We need to get out and see people and have fun with our old iron. We have several upcoming shows listed on our website. If your branch has shows coming up, be sure and send the information in to our webmaster, Josh, so he can put it on for you. This is a great help to advertise your events. Tell your members to go on the website as there is a wealth of information there for us. If you don't see what you need there, call your director or me. We will be glad to answer any questions we can or if we don't know, we will sure try to find out!

We have been sending out the National Newsletter every quarter to each branch email contact and/or the President of each branch. We encourage whoever receives this to forward it on to your branch membership. A hard copy of the newsletter goes out to each President and anyone can go on the EDGE&TA website and read any of the newsletter issues. They are listed by date. If you are a President or the email contact for your branch and are not getting the emails, please let me know by email or phone. They could be going in your spam folder. We have also been sending out important information that each branch needs to know. We have sent out several emails about Director and Officer Insurance. As you all should know by now, we have been trying to get Director and Officer insurance for the branches. This defends the Directors and Officers from lawsuits that could occur from them performing their duties for the branch. Emails were sent with an application to fill out and send in if your branch chooses to take out this insurance. It is voluntary and up to

each individual branch.

We have some early season shows coming up in the warmer states. Be sure to have your Safety Officer review the rules on the website so that he can hold a safety meeting for anyone running engines or tractors. This meeting should be in the morning before the show starts. We are ALL safety officers and if anyone sees anything that is unsafe, we must bring it to their attention or talk to the Safety Officer. We are trying to prevent any accidents. Remember, no consumption of alcohol during shows or events. When everything is shut down for the day, it is fine to enjoy your alcoholic beverages.

At this time, we want to thank Robert Craig for his many years of service to EDGE&TA as our North Central Director. During his terms he served as Vice President, Youth Driver Certification Program Director and Hall of Fame Chairman. He was always willing to help EDGE&TA in any way he could. He is an active member in Branch 16 out of Republic, MO. He was instrumental in planning the upcoming 2022 National Show in Republic. We offer our deepest condolences in the loss of his wife, Garnet.

We are now in search of a member in the North Central Region who is willing to be on the Board of Directors. If you live in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, or Nebraska and want to help make decisions about EDGE&TA and the way we can improve in the future, please give me a call so we can talk about this.

Our membership year starts on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Carrie Jo needs the membership forms and dues the first two weeks of March so she can send the money into the insurance company. Our dues will remain the same price of \$17 per person for a year.

As of now, we have 6,631 members and 137 Branches. Looking forward to going to shows this coming year. Hope to see many old friends and

make new ones at shows and events this year.

Remember: Stay Safe and Play Safe  
Jeff

**Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at- Large**

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**2022 Dues are \$17 per member**

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**From John Roderick, SC Regional Director**

When most people think about tractor clubs and the members involved, they think about men who have developed an interest in tractors through farming or being a descendant of a farmer. As club members, we know this is sometimes not the case. Many of us have an interest in antique iron simply because we are interested in the history and workings of the machines. Some of us have never done farm work for a living.

While my father was a farmer for a short time, he spent the majority of his adult career as a mechanic. He worked on tractors for the farmers around our little town and I watched and helped thus, building an interest in them that has continued with me as an adult but, I was not a farmer per say.

I did work for some of the farmers in the area driving tractors, baling hay, and other tasks. But I have to look to others when I refer to "real" farmers. One of those is a man who I have admired for many years and for many reasons, Harvey Lynn Milton. He was born and raised and still lives in Bugtussle, Texas. (Believe it or not, that is a real place.)

Mr. Milton's dad died in a World War II prison of war camp and his mother died shortly after, when he was only seven. At that time, his grandmother took him in to raise. She was a widow and depended on the farm for a living so he

learned early from his uncles how to farm. They were a strong, dedicated family and both the boys and girls in the family made their living farming.

He and his uncles farmed the family land and land they had rented with horse drawn equipment. As with many families during that time, they moved from field to field with all the family members helping the others farm their crops. That was just the way it was.

As he grew up, he was able to help his uncles buy family tractors and farming equipment. John Deere, it was always John Deere. They all shared and helped each other.

Mr. Milton graduated from high school and joined the army. During that time, one of his aunts and her husband moved in with his grandmother to care for her.

As soon as he was discharged, he returned to the farm and worked his way through college farming. With his degree in education, you would think he moved away from farming and the hard work involved. No. He continued to farm after school, on weekends and during the summer.

One of the stories I heard shows just how strong the work ethics and dedication to the farm was in his family. As a high school teacher and principal, he also drove a bus. One day he was driving past a field where his uncle was plowing. He had a farming question and stopped the bus to ask. His uncle told him he was wasting valuable time and if he wanted to talk, he needed to get on and ride a round while he kept plowing. Mr. Milton did and then got off the tractor and continued his bus route. Dedication.

As he continued his career in education and was promoted to Superintendent, he also continued to farm. Over the years, he bought, leased, and rented land as he built his "fleet" of John Deere tractors and equipment as well as the acreage involved in his farm. After 54 years in education, he retired to the farm and continues to farm to this day. His last tractor purchased was two years ago: an air-conditioned John Deere. He is now 89 years old and still will get on the tractor to just ride around the pasture to check his cows. Men like this are true farmers and tractor lovers and are what our great farming nation is made of.

"We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year!"

**John Roderick, SC Regional Director**

## **From Morrie Robinson, NW Regional Director**

Holiday Greetings from the Great NW,

Engine and tractor shows in the NW Region have shut down until April. However, December 4th was the first holiday dinner for our club in the past 2 years. Forty members brought a yummy array of their favorite dishes. In addition, we had a silent auction with proceeds going into the “coffee fund” which provides the turkey and ham. Several members brought small projects and literature displays adding to the interest and conversations. It's always a good feeling to see old friends and reminisce.

Weather the past 2 months has been strange, unusually warm, heavy rain and strong winds. The results were a major flood, then a minor flood. We get our power from across the Skagit River. The major flood and wind collapsed the support poles. Four and one-half days were spent using generators. To keep the generators running, it was necessary to get to town for more gas. First water over the only way out was through 12" and then next road 16" deep through a 1/4-mile low spot. What would normally take 1 hour took 4. Since so many major roads were closed, traffic was backed up 5 miles on open roads. New poles and wire eventually were replaced and power restored... Yah!

Seven years ago, we planted 100+ Noble Fir 12" seedlings. This is our first year they are offered for sale, ranging from 3 to 8 feet. We live 12 miles from the closest town and didn't expect the response. It's time to plant another 100+. Tis the season for maintenance on tractors, mowers, generators, chainsaws and miscellaneous other mechanical items.

So much for rambling. Stay healthy and keep in touch.

Wishing all a Joyous Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

**Morrie Robinson, NW Director**

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON OUR WEBSITE

## **From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./..... Editor**

Hope all of you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I'm looking forward to starting a new year and working with you again as secretary/treasurer. Stickers will be mailed out the end of the first full week of February. The number sent is based on the total membership for each branch for the previous year. However, since 2021 was an unusual year, I'll send extra stickers with optimism that we will recover greatly this year. Please be certain that the person who has been designated to receive the stickers will open and distribute the contents accordingly. Also, if you need additional yellow membership cards, please let me know.

Just a reminder that dues are \$17 per person, and I should receive those by mid-March. The Branch # must be on all pieces of correspondence: email, checks, and lists. The list and amount included must match or it will be returned, as was stated in several of the past newsletters. No dues will be accepted until after February 20, 2022.

**The 2022 EDGETA National Annual Show/Meeting is September 15-18, in Republic, MO hosted by Branch 16.** Please see EDGETA.com for all Regional Show dates as well as other shows. If you have questions, or if you need additional information, please contact me at [cjparmley2@gmail.com](mailto:cjparmley2@gmail.com) or 903-360-0396. Happy New Year, and I hope each of you has a successful year.

**Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./Editor**  
**Happy New Year!**

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**Happy New Year!**

**From Ron Hanson, SW Director**

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**Happy New Year!**

**From Travis Brown, SE Director**

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**Happy New Year!**

**From David Millsap, NE Director**

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