

Cargill Cares

Alumni Newsletter
Fall 2020

A Look Behind the Scenes on CCA's Software Journey

If you haven't visited CCA's new website, please take a look at:

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

We think you will find it easy to navigate and very functional. We hope this is a long-term solution for Cargill alumni communication, but getting there hasn't been easy.

First some history.

In 2017, the CCA Board recognized that our membership database not only had problems, but our website software was no longer supported. We decided to move the database to Access, which is a bit hard to learn and maneuver. Meanwhile, Cargill asked us to move all our documents from our Cargill office computer to Sharepoint, which allowed admin volunteers to access documents from home. While we had some membership information on our website, we had to maintain member data separately in the Access data base, in Spark and in Outlook.

We felt the need to simplify the technology while making it more adaptable to Cargill's corporate push to digital communication.

Facing the future.

We formed a technology team of Connie Hauswirth, Colleen Porter, Greg Hehman, Dave Braden, Phil Deeney, MaryJo Wolf and Eugene Becker. Together, we looked at our priorities -- our wants and our musts. We settled on two priorities. First, replacing the

website with software that could also include a membership data base. Second, we wanted software CCA could support with less reliance on Cargill IT.

When investigating software packages, we found that many were quite expensive and beyond our budget. Many also required long implementation times.

At Phil Deeney's suggestion, we investigated Wild Apricot, a software company that focuses on nonprofits. Benefits included:

- very reasonable cost structure and even a 30-day free trial
- the ability to design and maintain the website ourselves with free 24/7 support
- frequent upgrades to the software
- software that provides an integrated system of website, membership data base, calendar/event management, email communication, and the ability to download data
- home access capability for administrators and members
- the ability for members to manage their data and determine their own privacy settings

This all looked promising. During the 30-day trial we loaded our membership data and began testing its capabilities, from emailing to website functionality. The technology team was impressed, so we expanded the demo to include volunteer leads and the admin volunteers.

The future is here.

The positive response during the trial period encouraged us to move forward, and the CCA Board committed to an annual payment for the Wild Apricot software.

We began training the volunteer leads and admin volunteers on how to use the software. We knew the website and email would be vital for moving to digital communication. To help determine which members had no ability or desire to communicate electronically, we started by sending out emails from Wild Apricot and tracking event sign ups and payments in Wild Apricot.



John Keefe and Mary Kurth look on while Connie Hauswirth and Colleen Porter explain the complexity and lack of integration in the old system.

Of course, during this time the pandemic hit. Our admin volunteers could no longer go in the office to access CCA email, regular mail or the Cargill PC. The timing was perfect for rolling out the new Wild Apricot website. But it wasn't easy.

To switch to the new software system, we had to:

- transfer and format all the website information
- pass Cargill's security protocol and, with the help of Shirley Boyd, draft our data privacy policy and terms of use
- move our email from Cargill's Outlook to our new address: cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com.
- move our document storage to Microsoft Teams, which may allow us to have some virtual events
- notify members with email addresses about the new website, which we did in July.

What has *not* changed

- We will continue to use Spark to post volunteer hours – so if you have been volunteering, be sure to let us know at our new email address or post your hours yourself.
- For those who do not have email capabilities, we will continue to mail the quarterly newsletter to you at your home address.
- Since we no longer can accept mail at the Cargill Office Center, if possible, scan and send it to CCA's new email address. If you are not able to scan, let us know by email and we will provide mailing directions.
- We can still retrieve phone messages at 952-742-6188.

We are excited that CCA technology has a new look and feel. We hope you enjoy it, too!

Contributed by Connie Hauswirth, Colleen Porter and Greg Hehman

New CCA Email and Website

Email
cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com

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





'Wayzata Historical Society Makes Announcement'

By Bill Swift

The headline did not catch my interest, but the pictures caused a flood of memories to stream by in my mind. The Lake Office is being torn down! Another change in a year of changes.

I remember the first time I set foot in that building. I don't remember who I was with, but I remember the awe and feeling it created. Those all-brick, 18-inch walls seemed to provide a solid foundation for a company headquarters. The building had class, a character unto itself. I brought many a customer senior executive to this mansion. One told me he had been to many corporate offices -- those brass and glass headquarters that cost a fortune -- but the only one that he remembered well was the Cargill Lake Office.

I still recall being a participant in meetings in Whitney's office and in the library. Sitting around the room in chairs that faced each other, no table to hide my shaking knees. Some walks to the Lake Office through the tunnel seemed longer than others; sometimes I wished the tunnel was even longer. Over the years, it got so I could take our customers on the tour myself. I'd tell them about the hand-dipped, copper-coated bricks in the entry way and how one of the Rand daughters pinned to be an Olympic swimmer -- hence the largest swimming pool in the country. I remember the trading room from the days when a chalk board recorded the data, and then the TVs that replaced it.

One report said the building cost \$400,000 to build. I suspect it will cost more to tear it down. For safety sake, news of the tear-down was low key. I am sure that, if the building had a say, it would have wanted its end to be done safely.

The building is gone but, more importantly, the memories remain precious. I'm sure several of you have your own memories of the Lake Office. We'd appreciate it if you would send them to CCA, and we will share them with the other Cargill alumni.



The iconic Cargill Lake Office is no more.

Barb Kula Joins CCA Board

At our August CCA Board meeting, Barb Kula was voted in as our newest board member.

Barb is a 43-year veteran of the agriculture industry. Her background

includes being a former owner-operator of multiple retail Ag operations in Eastern Iowa. In 1986, she joined Cargill Hybrid Seeds.

Transferring to Cargill Crop Nutrition in 2000, her roles included Western Regional Manager and U.S. Country Manager.

In 2004, when Cargill and IMC Global formed The Mosaic Company, Barb became Mosaic's Vice President, Commercial, where she focused on integrated business planning and market-to-cash functions. Other responsibilities at Mosaic included Worldwide Product Management, Marketing, Agronomy and R&D. Barb retired from The Mosaic Company in 2014.

Barb currently serves in various volunteer positions -- in particular, as leader of the Marketing Committee for Imara International, a rescue home for teen moms in Kenya. In addition, Barb coaches and provides mentorship for entrepreneurs, university students and business leaders in the Minneapolis community.

Barb and her husband, Darrell, have six sons, fourteen grandchildren and family farm interests in Iowa.

When Barb was asked why she is interested in CCA Board membership, she said, "CCA offers an opportunity for me to become a part of a community organization that connects people -- not just connecting with Cargill Alumni but also serving the entire Twin Cities community."



Bill Swift, President | Phil Deeney, Newsletter Coordinator | Paul Dienhart, Copy Editor | Ceal Regnier, Production

The CCA newsletter is published quarterly in spring, summer, fall and winter, and is distributed to Cargill retirees and other alumni throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area. 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
Dave Braden
Phil Deeney
Terry Garvert

Connie Hauswirth
Greg Hehman
John Keefe
Barb Kula

Mary Kurth
Colleen Porter
Ceal Regnier
Tom Streit

Bill Swift
Terri Tapper
Janice Weisberg

Alumni E-Mail Directory: If you are not currently receiving email updates from the Cargill Cares Alumni office and would like to be added to the CCA E-mail Directory, please call the CCA office at 952/742-6188 or send your name and email to the New CCA email address:

cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com

In Memory

Virgil Aarness

Bill Burns

Jim Guyre

Douglas Lindberg

Jim Little

Marie Moonen

Judith Olmsted

CCA Presents 2019-20 Service Awards

Although so much in our personal lives and in the operation of Cargill Cares Alumni has been temporarily disrupted, the commitment to service among our members remains strong. With our 2020 Annual Meeting cancelled, we want to recognize several of our outstanding volunteers in this edition of the CCA newsletter.

Gene Gross

First, we recognize retiring board member Gene Gross. Having joined the SPICE board in 1995, just a few years after its founding, Gene provided leadership on the board for a quarter of a century



-- making him one of the longest-serving CCA board members in our history. Gene distinguished himself as president in 1997, and took on a variety of roles, including, most recently, recruiting and recognition. Keen to ensure CCA is best-in-class, Gene organized bench-marking efforts with other area corporate retiree groups. (CCA shone in such comparisons.) Gene was recognized by Cargill in 2001 for his volunteer work in the Twin Cities, earning the Ken Moritz Award for his long-time board leadership. Gene has been our institutional memory on the board, and we will miss his enormous contributions.

The Jim Little Award

As many of you know, Jim Little passed away in June, leaving an unmatched legacy of service to Cargill Cares Alumni. (See article in the last CCA Newsletter.) In honor of the towering impact of this long-time CCA board member, the board unanimously and proudly voted to rename our **Volunteer of the Year Award the Jim Little Award**.

It is coincidental, though somehow fitting, that this year's Jim Little Award is bestowed posthumously to **Dorothy Steinmetz**, who passed away in February at age 94. Dorothy's husband, Eugene, was a 40-year Cargill employee, and their granddaughter, Sara Kinkel, currently works at Cargill.



According to her daughter, Linda, Dorothy -- also known as Ricky by many -- enjoyed keeping her hands busy with knitting, embroidering and sewing. She was quick to

dedicate her time and talents to many charitable acts. Fortunately for us, the hours were recorded on SPARK. Over the past three years, Dorothy logged over 1,500 hours of volunteer service, making her one of the most prolific CCA volunteers. She served others with her hands for decades, up until the year before she died, engaging in the following types of work:

- With her Circle Group, embroidered hundreds of dishtowels and made quilts to be raffled or sold at St. Bridget's Church craft sales to raise funds for community programs in North Minneapolis.
- Provided Easter eggs for the annual Robbinsdale Community Center children's Easter egg hunt
- Knitted baby hats for newborns at North Memorial Hospital for 20 years and crocheted blankets for memory care patients at Copperfield Hill Senior Living Center
- Volunteered in the Memory Care group at Copperfield Hill Senior Living Center
- Established and chaired efforts to support the Our Lady of Peace cancer home in St. Paul, purchasing materials, creating patterns, recruiting additional volunteers and sewing cancer pads for beds at the home
- And something many of you might recognize: she loved receiving the Cargill Thanksgiving turkey -- always the biggest she could buy -- which she would promptly donate to a family in need.

While, sadly, she is not here to receive this recognition, we are pleased to posthumously grant Dorothy the 2020 CCA **Jim Little Award**.

Ken Moritz Award

We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the **Ken Moritz Award** is past CCA President **Barbara Luke**. Given in honor of the late



founder of our organization, this award recognizes individuals who, over the years, have exemplified Ken's vision of service and have made extraordinary impacts on CCA and the work we do.

Barbara served on the CCA board from 2009 to 2016, and was elected president for

2012-2013. Among her signature contributions was leading the board through an exercise called "Strategic Planning and Vision for 2013-2015." While such a title might not elicit notions of daring and excitement, it was indeed a bold effort to keep CCA vital and relevant to you, our members.

Barbara led the board to grapple with questions such as: Why do we exist? What do our members want? Who are our internal and external stakeholders? What are our values and our mission? How do we brand and market ourselves? At the same time, Barbara led a board team to review and revise our by-laws, a task that is now conducted regularly.

This might seem old hat to many in the corporate world, but the effort was long overdue and necessary for this volunteer group to determine to survive and thrive. Past president Mary Kurth renewed this strategic planning effort in recent years to refresh our mission.

Barbara tied CCA in more closely with our partners by having our project leads create 1-page business plans for each non-profit we served.

For years, Barbara also served as co-editor, with her husband Bob Bridges, of the CCA Newsletter. She established regular quarterly columns from ongoing contributors, and a special feature about a Cargill alumnus in each issue.

At our 2010 CCA Annual Meeting, Barbara creatively interviewed George Kubera and Ken Moritz on stage about the genesis of SPICE and the critical roles they played.

Finally, one of Barbara's passions was figuring out how to inform retirees about CCA and recruit them into membership. Understanding that the psychological, social and emotional aspects of leaving a long-time job were perhaps more concerning to retirees than, say, just the economic aspects, Barbara initiated "Thinking About Retiring" sessions. Featuring HR representatives and CCA members, these sessions hoped to draw dozens of future CCA candidates. Perhaps the stigma of "publicly" preparing to retire discouraged participants, but the sessions never caught on. Barbara worked tirelessly to try to find other avenues to inform prospective CCA members of our existence and our value. Those efforts continue to this day!

Barbara's forward-thinking leadership and unstinting leadership to improve CCA are why we are pleased to grant her the 2019-2020 **Ken Moritz Award**.

Social-Distanced Volunteering

An interview with Val and Lowell Kuhlman at Second Harvest Heartland

Val and Lowell Kuhlman are regular CCA volunteers at Second Harvest, usually volunteering twice a week ever since Second Harvest reopened for social-distanced volunteers. The following is from a recent interview with Val Kuhlman.

What is the same and what is different about volunteering since the pandemic?

A: Hmm. The last time I remember volunteering with CCA members at 2HH was March 10 -- over four months ago! I think it's safe to say that nothing is the same during the pandemic. Oh well, the type of work is pretty much the same -- sorting through apples, carrots, potatoes, and food drive donations; labeling cans. We've reworked larger quantities into smaller portions -- pasta and rice. We also packed emergency food boxes in assembly-line-style with shelf-stable items such as canned fruits and vegetables, chili, rice, etc. We've reworked bulk breakfast cereals, jerky, and even diapers.

So, what is different?

- If you want to volunteer there, you need to go to the 2HH volunteer website and sign up for a shift at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/12470345063153460110/false#/invitation>
- Shifts of 90 minutes are listed for the Brooklyn Park and Maple Grove sites.
- Shifts are for only 10-19 individuals! Each person has their own workstation. Workstations are more than 6 feet apart from each other, so there's really no socializing. Recently, my husband and I were approved to work at the same station. The work was to open bulk boxes of pasta, measure pasta into one-pound bags, seal the bag, label it, then pack those bags into boxes.
- Face covering is required the entire time while inside the building.
- On arrival, a staff member will greet you, check you in, take your temperature and ask a few questions to see if you pass their safety protocols.
- Social distancing is practiced throughout the building.
- Washing your hands frequently is strongly stressed.
- If you use a locker, you need to be sure to sanitize it before you leave.

What is your comfort level volunteering during this time at Second Harvest? Specifically, are they taking the precautions that you think are necessary to protect volunteers?

A: We are comfortable volunteering there. We usually work twice a week.

So, no concerns?

A: The only concern that I have is trying to hear and understand the staff when they are speaking through their face mask. That means I can't read their lips. Since I have hearing loss, I need to step closer to the speaker so I can hear the instructions better. Otherwise, I just ask for one-on-one clarification.



The packing facilities at Second Harvest have been set up to meet social distancing requirements



Val and her husband, Lowell, packing for Second Harvest.

An interview with Terry Garvert at Habitat for Humanity

Terry Garvert, a regular CCA volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, volunteered at the Habitat's panel plant in North Minneapolis after it reopened for social distance volunteering. The following is taken from mid-July email exchange with Terry about the new realities of volunteer projects.

How often have you volunteered at the panel plant since mid-March?

A: I've only been able to volunteer once at Habitat for Humanity's panel plant since the lockdown started, but I will be going back again when I get back from vacation.

What precautions did Habitat and its volunteers follow?

A: I had to take online COVID-19 safety training before showing up for my shift. It was good and helpful.

The panel plant is a big warehouse. We're able to keep very large sliding doors open at the end of the building, allowing a nice breeze and a lot of air flow. H4H also had a lot of fans going that kept the air flow moving in the building. And we were all masked. When we sat for the morning instructions and the safety talk, we were not only masked but sitting in chairs that were probably 8 to 10 feet apart.

The work group was eight guys around a very large worktable. Most of the time, we were well over 8 feet apart. There were few times I may have been closer to another employee than 6 feet as we were working together to nail the walls, window openings, door openings, etc. But, as I mentioned, we were both masked, there was good airflow in the building and the encounters were very brief.

Tools were wiped down after we finished. (I assumed that meant they were wiped down before I picked them up.)

At lunch time, I took a break and did Subway takeout while eating in my car ... no contact.

Were you comfortable working at the panel plant?

A: I felt comfortable with the work environment the whole time. The Habitat people were responsive and made sure everyone followed procedures, especially around tool cleanup afterward.

Submitted by Shirley Boyd

A Thank You from Hope Academy

It always feels good to receive a verbal “thank you” after helping someone or after a volunteer shift at your local agency. But a written thank you -- something you can hold in your hands and read again -- somehow lifts our spirits just a little bit higher. Recently, CCA President Bill Swift received a written thank you from Hope Academy for our CCA members who regularly tutor students there. We are pleased to share it with you.

Dear Mr. Swift,

Your Cargill retirees are making a very, very positive difference in the lives of numerous inner city, minority teenagers!

They are doing an excellent job of tutoring high school students from Hope Academy, a K-12 inner city school in Minneapolis whose students are predominately Black, Hispanic and mixed races. Many of these students and their teachers live just a few blocks away from the recent demonstrations and destruction.

The Cargill volunteers form the majority of the team doing this tutoring and are some of the most dedicated and talented individuals in the program. This has been especially true during the four- week summer session, which was done online for the first time.

Your retirees have been tutoring throughout the school year as well as in the summer for several years now, starting with Mike Lilly, a Cargill retiree and our neighbor. He successfully recruited 15 of his fellow Cargill retirees, a group that provides the majority of the volunteers in this important program.

In addition to Mike, this summer’s Cargill volunteers include Shirley Boyd, Paul Dienhart, and Bart Eddy. As a result of these volunteers’ efforts, many minority high school graduates have received scholarships, including some full-ride scholarships, to college. All these students have been prepared to be more successful in life.

We can’t thank these volunteers enough, but we also want to thank Cargill for your focus on volunteering.

So, thank you! Thank you! Thank you! And please thank all of those at Cargill who are involved in your wonderful volunteer programs.

Warm regards,

John and Sherry Swanson,
Hope Academy ACT tutoring

United Way Day of Action

Cargill employees and retirees participated in the 2020 Greater Twin Cities United Way Day of Action under strict COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. In past years, this school backpack event was held at one of the sports arenas in the metro area, sponsored by one of Minnesota’s sports teams and attended by over 5,000 volunteers. This year was different.

Individuals and small groups were encouraged to bring pre-packed backpacks of school supplies to a local location for transport to United Way. Cargill’s drop-off location was the Office Center parking lot, where more than 300 backpacks were collected. The Greater Twin Cities United Way estimates that over 4,000 volunteers participated in this year’s event.

Thank you so much to CCA members who brought back packs to Cargill and to those who donated money directly.



Cargill employees receive pre-filled back packs for the Greater United Way.

Volunteer Work Continues

CCA volunteer activities have been the backbone of our organization and represent our impact within our communities. Many of you continue to donate time and talent. The numbers below reflect the hours that CCA members submitted into Spark, Cargill’s system for reporting volunteer time. You can see that CCA members most likely have not reported the full amount of time they spend in volunteer activities.

Help us recognize the extent of your impact. Tell us what organizations and hours you contributed this year. Members can report hours directly in Cargill’s Spark system or you can email the info (member name, days, organization, hours) to MaryJo Woolf at maryjo.woolf@gmail.com and she will get them into Spark.

Organization	2016	2017	2018	2019
Independent Volunteer Activity	11,772	12,339	10,096	9,255
Second Harvest	2,006	2,567	1,714	1,806
Habitat for Humanity	2,191	1,689	2,227	1,394
CCA - Support	1,918	2,245	1,597	1,001
Feed My Starving Children	340	427	467	419
The Food Group	387	393	396	268
Bridging	399	265	241	194
Hope Academy	16	632	148	154
Sandwich Project	154	213	201	148
Salvation Army Bell Ringing	150	194	26	123
Prodeo Academy	96	86	89	69
Cargill/Foundation Events	24		6	62
Other CCA	661	262	53	59
Three Rivers Park	37	22	73	37
Grand Total	20,149	21,333	17,333	14,988



Saying goodbye to the Lake Office

By Anna Lovely, Cargill Global Communications

Cargill made the difficult decision to say goodbye to the Lake Office property on the headquarters campus. The Lake Office has been empty since 2016, when leadership moved into the renovated Wayzata Office Center. The cost to bring it to current health and accessibility standards, or to continue maintaining it an empty building was not fiscally prudent.

To ensure the historical and sentimental items were handled properly, the company worked closely with a professional preservationist to preserve building artifacts. In

addition, many working items, including boiler equipment, kitchen appliances and furniture were donated to local community organizations.

Cargill worked with environmental and property experts to ensure the safe demolition of the building. The property will be converted to greenspace. Given the significant importance of health and safety for all, and the fact that the campus is closed during the pandemic, visitors and employees are asked not to enter or visit that area of the campus.



Cargill donates \$115 million in annual charity contributions

By Anna Lovely, Cargill Global Communications

Cargill recently announced annual philanthropic and corporate responsibility efforts. In fiscal year 2020, Cargill provided \$115 million in total charitable contributions. It hosted training for 860,000 farmers in sustainable agricultural and business practices to improve their earnings potential. And it provided more than 39 million meals to global and local food bank partners. To read more about these efforts, visit <https://www.cargill.com/2020/cargill-works-to-positively-impact-communities>



CCA Social Events

Although we do not have any CCA organized social events on the calendar, I hope you are getting out and finding your own socially distanced activities.

If you want to get out on a day trip, how about Minnesota's Scenic Waterfall Loop? A visit to eight different waterfalls will take you on a 340-mile road trip if you are going to see all of them, but you could visit a couple at a time. Perhaps ice cream is more your flavor. How about a 150-mile road trip to southeast Minnesota to visit six off-the-beaten-path ice cream parlors? Details for these trips can be found at the website, www.onlyinyourstate.com.

Minnesota state parks are now open for

biking, hiking, a picnic lunch, or simply watching people.

All gardens, collections, paved and unpaved paths are now open for visitors to The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum facilities in Chanhassen. Reservations are required and can be purchased on line at arb.umn.edu

Explore Minnesota, at www.exploreminnesota.com, has some ideas for day trips as well as the "Only in Minnesota" Facebook page. Just search for "Only in Minnesota" in Facebook.

If you have enjoyed any particularly interesting COVID-safe trips recently and would like to share with the CCA membership, please email Ceal Regnier at ceal2987@gmail.com.



Submitted by Ceal Regnier

Update: 'The Music Man' at Chanhassen Dinner Theater

We received an update from the Chanhassen Dinner Theater telling us that they are planning to re-open the dinner theater and "The Music Man" in early 2021. Re-opening will depend on state restrictions and guidelines.

Golfing with friends

Cargill alumni friends gathered this summer to play weekly golf while adhering to the strict Cargill Covid-19 safety requirements. In keeping with tradition, the annual tourney was held in early August at Timber Creek.

But the missing tradition was the ability to mingle and enjoy the camaraderie with each other. Social distancing, no shaking of hands, plastic shields between driver and rider replaced the “fun” times of the past. The steak and chicken dinner that always followed the event was eliminated, and the golfers left after finishing their round. The big winners of the day were Greg Hehman with three awards and Bob Bridges with two. The winners were:

Low Gross: Greg Hehman (78) and Bill Trunnel (82)

Low Net: Mike Chovan (59), Greg Hehman (60) and Don Ketcham (64)

Low Putts: Ken Weber (28) and Bob Bridges (29)

Longest Drive: Greg Hehman

Longest Putts: Pete Zaal, Bob Lommel and Jack Burkhalter

Closest to Pin: Ron Jacobsen, Geoff Cauffman, Bob Bridges and Phil Deeney

In addition, Greg Hehman shot an Eagle on #15 par 5. Congratulations to all the winners!

If you are interested in golfing with alumni friends, please contact Joe Fournier at fournier_joe@hotmail.com or Dane Kern at dane.kern@mchsi.com.



Dane Kern, Ron Jacobsen, Larry Knutsen and Roger Wherry.



Joe Fournier, Gary Schrupp, Jim Kane and Andy Byrnes.



Ron Christenson, Pete Zaal, Guillaume Bastiaens and Jack Burkhalter.

Strange Times, Even At the 2020 3M Open

Submitted by Phil Deeney

What if the PGA put on a golf event in the Twin Cities and no one came? Well, that's pretty much what happened this year at the 3M Open at the TPC Golf Course in Blaine. The PGA and 3M made the decision not to allow spectators due to COVID -- making for a very different type of event, for the golfers and for volunteers like me.

This was the second year of the 3M Open, previously called the “Champions Tour” and featuring great golfers from the past. In 2019 the PGA awarded 3M with a tour date, which meant some of the best golfers in the world could sign up to play here in Minnesota. But this year's July 23-26 event was played with no spectators.

Back in 2019 I decided to volunteer for the inaugural event. My job was to serve as a marshal on hole 12. The tasks involved controlling crowds, spotting golf balls, and helping with any issues that might confront golfers on the hole. My daughter Katie Deeney, who works for 3M, has been the head marshal on this hole dating back to the Champions tour.

When the 2020 call for volunteers came out, it still wasn't known whether spectators would be allowed. I signed up, and even though the number of volunteers was dramatically reduced, I made the cut (with some help from the head marshal). I found myself working a PGA tournament with no one else around. There were only five of us working the 576-yard hole No. 12, a par 5 and the easiest hole on the course. On the first day of the tournament there were over 100 birdies on this hole, along with a number of eagles. The golfers displayed their ability to hit drives in the 340-yard range and land on the green with their second shot.

As is normally the case in golf tournaments, Sunday was when the real fun happened. From my perch on the green on No. 12, I was close to the tee box on hole 11. Watching the last three groups come through on this final day was very exciting ... even without the crowds. The tension was high as the pressure grew. The players were taking more practice swings and standing over their putts just a bit longer. In the end, Michael Thompson was the victor of the 2020 3M Open, winning by two strokes.

In hindsight, I like to think of this as the “Phil Deeney PGA Event” -- only fair, as I was one of the few on the course during the tournament. Let's hope this COVID thing is done by next year and we can get back to calling it the 3M Open.



Phil Deeney and his daughter, Katie, at the 2020 3M Open.



Phil Deeney had marshal duties on the 12th hole for this year's spectator-free 3M Open.

COVID Humor

- 😊 Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID-19, but to stop eating.
- 😊 Low maintenance chicks are having their moment right now. We don't have nails to file and paint, roots to dye, eyelashes to re-mink, and are thrilled not to have to get dressed every day. I have been training for this moment my entire life!
- 😊 When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.
- 😊 I stepped on my scale this morning. It said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time on scale."
- 😊 Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

Enjoy your day if you don't have anything else to do or anyplace to go.

Referrals for CCA Membership

CCA continues to grow membership, but we could use the help of our Alumni to help spread the word about the organization. As you hear of friends and former colleagues existing Cargill, please mention the benefits of joining CCA. Remember our members consist of both retired and former employees. You can direct them to our new Website, <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org/> or ask them to send an email to the CCA office for more information, cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com. Thank you for your assistance and stay safe and well.

