



Password Managers: The simple solution to your complex problem.

Joel Peiffer, IMT Computer Services

“Please enter your username and password.”

A phrase people have grown accustomed to hearing over the last few decades. Years ago, entering credentials was more of a novelty than an every day, multiple times a day occurrence. Before the internet became part of our daily lives, logging in to your computer or unlocking a protected Excel sheet may have been your highest use cases.

Today most sites you access, both professionally and personally, require a username and password. It is not uncommon to have more than 25 sites you regularly log into. For some, this creates frustration and stress. *I can't remember my password? Where's my password book! Who uses a special character?* These may be some of the phrases you find yourself saying. Many try to alleviate this by using the same two or three combinations for every site. Don't do this! When you create weak passwords or recycle old ones you are making yourself, and whoever's data you have access to, more susceptible to hackers. Additionally, writing all of your passwords down on paper where anyone could gain access to them can be equally irresponsible. If any of these scenarios describe you or your staff, you should know there is a much safer, simpler solution!

Password managers are software applications that can help you create and maintain strong, encrypted and secure passwords. They act as a vault where you create one master password that grants you access to all of your stored passwords. Most users further enhance their security by enabling multi-factor authentication. Once logged into your password manager, you can automatically fill in your credentials for any of your saved websites in an easy, secure way. Password managers also help you generate strong, unique passwords for each site. You have the ability to set parameters such as: length, use of special characters, minimum number of numeric characters and many others scenarios that are required by different sites for security purposes. For any website you access, you can save the credentials to your password manager vault and you'll be all set the next time you log in.

There are many password managers available. Some of the popular ones include: LastPass, Dashlane, Keeper Security and 1Password. Pricing varies for each product. Some give you limited free access to their products, while others charge as little as \$3/month to get the full array of tools. If you're looking for a simple solution to your complex problem, a password manager can be your best friend!

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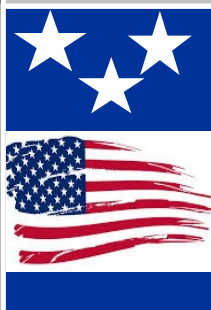
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Thank you to our Sponsors



MAFMIC will be **CLOSED** on
 Monday May 27th for
 the Memorial Day holiday.
 Have a safe and wonderful
 Memorial Day weekend!



*May
12th*

Happy Father's Day

*June
16th*



MAFMIC



Monday ~ Thursday
 8:00 ~ 4:30
Fridays
 8:00 ~ 12:00

Elmdale Mutual Company Profile



Elmdale Mutual was founded in 1898 by a group of farmers in *Elm Dale Township*. Our company writes for all perils allowed under Chapter 67A. Elmdale Mutual currently has six employees and 11 independent agencies.



Mikel Nelson
Manager

Our business philosophy/mission statement, would be to take good care of the policyholders and the company at the same time. In the next five years our company will strive to maintain, grow and develop our policyholder base in central Minnesota.

We have been dedicated to staying in the business of insuring production agriculture. However, with the decreasing numbers of farms in our area, it is a challenge. We will stay focused on the farms, but will undoubtedly delve into additional writings.

Elmdale built a new building in Upsala two years ago and part of that was to show our commitment to the area. We are supportive of the local business community and school.

When describing our company it would difficult to describe it in just one word. The words that most describe our company are: Reliable ~ Dedicated ~ Friendly

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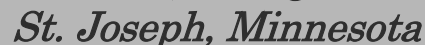
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POLICY SCHOOLS HIGHLIGHTS



Policy Schools were held in five locations:
Owatonna, St. Cloud, Detroit Lakes, RAM office in Esko and North Star office in Cottonwood. St. Cloud having the best attendance numbers.



We do not give partial credit for any portion of this seminar.

3:00 - 4:30 pm **Director Session * Speaker:** *Thomas Olinger, Jim Williams, & Wayne Schluchter*
Topic: *(FMDC) Understanding & Analyzing Financial Statements*

- Cancellation notices received on or before June 29, 2019 are 75 percent refundable.
- Cancellation notices received June 30 to July 8, 2019 are 50 percent refundable.

No refunds are available after July 8, 2019. You may substitute a participant at no additional charge.

All registration cancellations and transfers must be made in writing and sent to info@mafmnic.org or faxed to (320) 271-0912.



Manager & Director's Seminar

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Gorecki Center, College of St. Bens

St. Joseph, Minnesota

Registration

Early registration fee on or before Friday, June 28, 2019

\$98 member early registration (\$120 member late registration)

\$130 non-member early registration (\$145 non-member late registration)

Manager & Director's Seminar Registration Form

Please check box to the LEFT if the registrant is participating in the FMDC Certification.

Company: _____

FMDC

Manager

☐

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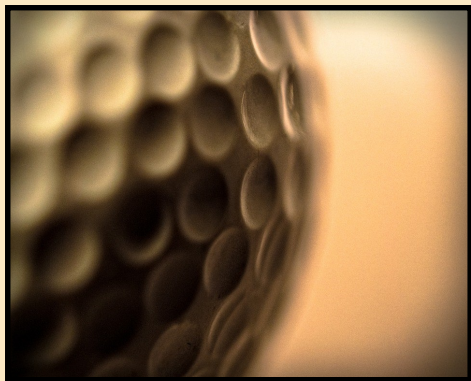
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MAFMIC Golf Outing

BEST BALL SCRAMBLE



Little Crow Golf Resort - Spicer, MN

Thursday, July 11, 2019

10:30 a.m. – Registration Check In

11:30 a.m. – Shotgun Start

4:30 p.m. – Dinner & Awards Ceremony

**A block of rooms has been setup at the course hotel under MAFMIC.*

*(320) 347-1450 - Grandstay Hotel, Spicer, MN.**

Register with MAFMIC by Friday, June 28th, 2019

Golf Package - \$125.00

Fee Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Grilled Hamburgers, (2) Beverage Tickets and Dinner

Dinner Only - \$30.00 Sponsor a Hole - \$200

Mulligans (one per person & four max. per team) will be sold at the Golf Course for \$5.00

**** All Proceeds will go to the MAFMIC Public Policy Fund ****

2019 MAFMIC Golf Outing

Name: _____

Company: _____ ***Address:*** _____

Phone: _____ ***Email:*** _____

<i>Please check all that apply:</i>	<i>Golf Package - \$125.00 per person</i>	<i>\$</i> _____
	<i>Dinner Only - \$30.00 per person</i>	<i>\$</i> _____
	<i>Hole Sponsorship - \$200 per hole</i>	<i>\$</i> _____
	<i>Other Sponsorship</i>	<i>\$</i> _____
	<i>TOTAL ENCLOSED</i>	<i>\$</i> _____

Playing Partners (3): _____



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Subrogation of Product – Liability Claims

*Submitted By: John Neal, Attorney,
Willenbring, Dahl, Wocken & Zimmermann, PLLC*

The MAFMIC membership is often faced with subrogating product-liability claims. This may be in the context of fire losses where a defect in a product causes the fire. The member company pays the loss and retains the right to sue the manufacturer through subrogation for causing the loss. Another claim example relates to defects with farm implements and machinery, which cause a loss payable by one of the member companies. Again, upon payment of the loss, the company retains the right to pursue the implement or machinery manufacturer through subrogation for causing the defect, which led to the loss.

These types of claims require the member companies to place the manufacturer on notice of the defect. The notice must be timely. And, Minnesota law requires that the notice contain certain information.

The notice must be given within six months of entering into an attorney-client relationship between the insurance company and retained attorney. The notice must include the “time, place, and circumstances of events giving rise to the claim and an estimate of compensation and other relief to be sought.” Minn. Stat. § 604.04. Notice must be given to all persons/entities against whom the claim is likely to be made. The individual/entity receiving the insurance company’s notice must promptly furnish to the company’s attorney the names and addresses of all persons or persons known in the chain of manufacture or distribution, so additional notices can be given to those individuals/entities.

Failure to follow these notice requirements may have a significant impact on the claim and also expose the insurance company to damages, costs, and attorney’s fees if the requirements contained in Minn. Stat. § 604.04 are not met. Also, a company who delays entering into an attorney-client relationship for the purpose of avoiding the notice requirements may also be subject to liability.

In sum, in dealing with product-defect claims, it is important to understand your rights and obligations in providing timely notice. Many product-defect claims are the result of significant losses. Given this, you want to ensure the notice requirements are met to preserve and protect the insurance company’s rights to subrogation.

The Future is NOW!



PD Spectrum®, our cloud-based policy processing system is now available in Minnesota!

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Thank you to over 20 Township Mutual clients who have been growing their Mutual with the use of Agent Rating and *PD Spectrum®*.

It is our pleasure to serve MAFMIC members and we look forward to supporting the Minnesota farm mutual industry for years to come.

Contact Priority Data to see how our software solutions can fit your mutual’s needs at sales@prioritydata.com or visit us at prioritydata.com.



PRIORITY DATA

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“Understanding Investment Policy Statement”
submitted by Alex Coulter, Schluchter Investment Group

The investment Policy Statement, or IPS, is a document established by the mutual insurance company stating how the policy holder surplus is to be invested. The IPS will need to follow the guidelines or state statute 67A.231 or 60A.11 for statewide companies. However, board members may elect to have more restrictive guidelines stated in the IPS. The IPS could indicate specific length of maturity guidelines, minimum bond rating at time of purchase, or limit the types of bonds to be purchased in the investment portfolio.

It is important to understand that the Investment Policy Statement is not a static document. The IPS should be reviewed, and updated if necessary, at least annually. Your investment advisor should be included with the drafting and reviewing of the IPS.

The review of the IPS should be included in the meeting board minutes, indicating that the IPS was reviewed. To comply with statute 67A.231, bonds must be investment grade at time of purchase. If a bond was investment grade at time of purchase but was later downgraded and is currently below investment grade, it can still be held in the investment account however it may violate the IPS. This is one example of a situation where the investment portfolio is not in compliance with the IPS. When conducting the annual review of the IPS, indicate in the board minutes if the investment portfolio is in compliance with the IPS. If the investment portfolio is not in compliance with the IPS, disclose the security that violated the IPS. Also include in the board minutes the actions, if any, which are being taken to resolve the violation of the IPS.

If your company needs assistance with reviewing or drafting an Investment Policy statement, Schluchter Investment Group is happy to have a conversation with your board. A template of an Investment Policy Statement for mutual companies operating under statute 67A.231 is available on the MAFMIC website.

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**May
27th**



**SALUTING THE VETERANS
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How to Prevent a Wet Basement

Submitted by Dan McCue, Grinnell Re

The phrase “wet basement” strikes fear into the hearts of most homeowners. And for good reason, seeing that the [American Society of Home Inspectors](#) estimates 60 percent of U.S. homes have wet basements. And not only do they look, smell, and feel unpleasant, they also pose a risk to your home’s value.

Your home might need a little TLC now that spring is finally here. From basement floods to leaky roofs to malfunctioning (or non-existent) sump pumps, those April showers can wreak some serious havoc if you're not proactive.

KEEP YOUR HOME SNUG AND DRY

Where to start? Ideally, before there’s a problem. Here’s a quick to-do list:

- **Put your snow shovel to work.** Most basements get wet when rainwater or melted snow runs toward the walls of houses from roofs, yards, and driveways. So, it’s a good idea to move snow away from the foundation of your home. Push accumulated precipitation 3 to 5 feet away from the structure to help reduce the risk of a wet basement due to snow melt.
- **Consider a sump pump.** An upright (pedestal) or submersible sump pump that’s been properly maintained can be your home’s first line of defense. Inspect and clean any existing pump and test it by pouring water into the pit. The discharge hose should carry the water several feet away from the house to a well-drained area.
- **Check and maintain your downspouts and gutters.** A downspout’s job is to carry accumulated water several feet away to a well-drained area. Start by cleaning your gutters and repairing holes in them. Make sure they are not loose from the house and that they slope toward downspouts to allow water to fall directly from the roof to the ground. Check your spouts and gutters regularly for debris clogs and damage.
- **Watch your window wells.** Window wells can collect water, causing leaks into the basement. The perimeter of windows should be tightly caulked and sealed to prevent any kind of water entry. All entry points need to be inspected to prevent water from flowing through them, and don’t forget to check for cracks in the wall or floor where water could seep in.
- **Regard the roof.** It’s worth the time to examine the condition of your roof before spring rains start. Look for damaged or missing shingles or tiles, and for cracks in the sealant around flashing, roof-mounted hardware, skylights, and vents.
- **Safeguard against CO poisoning.** If your venting system has been damaged by hail or blocked by debris, you could be at risk for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Have your roof inspected every year, and if it needs to be repaired, find an experienced contractor who understands venting systems.
- **Foster the foundation.** To prevent basement and garage flooding, build up the soil around your home’s foundation, by first cleaning up old mulch, leaves, and ground covers. The Washington Post reports that the earth around your house should slope at least 1 inch per foot, going away from your house for about 6 to 8 feet. The grading should consist of fill soil with a clay content of 20 to 30 percent. Don’t use sandy soil or soil containing a lot of organic matter because it doesn’t shed water adequately. Properly grading the soil will help to divert water from the foundation.
- **Use your yard as a sponge.** Just getting water away from your house isn’t enough — the true goal is getting the water to soak into the ground. The American Society of Home Inspectors recommends planting a rain garden in your yard to help soak up the extra water. A rain garden collects water from hard surfaces such as rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, and patios. The shallow decline of the garden holds the water, so it can slowly soak back into the ground as the plants, mulch, and soil naturally remove pollutants from the runoff.

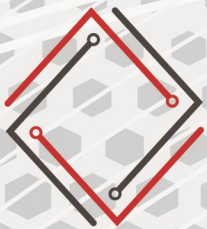


If you are interested in joining a committee, helping with an event, have an idea...

**Feel free to contact the staff at the MAFMIC Office
Call: 320-271-0909**



- Make important networking contacts
- Learn about MAFMIC or develop skills
- Teach your skills to others
- Enhance your résumé
- Gain work experience
- Meet new people
- Express gratitude for help you may have received in the past from an organization
- Communicate to others that you are ambitious, enthusiastic and care about MAFMIC
- Make new friends



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IN SYMPATHY

MAFMIC wishes to express its sincerest condolences to family and friends of Cliff & Gene.



Cliff Hanson 83, former President and CEO of North Star, passed away on March 6, 2019. Cliff was born to Ancel and Clara (Johnson) Hanson on January 29, 1936, in Lyon County, Minnesota. Cliff attended school in Cottonwood.

On October 26, 1963, Cliff was united in marriage to Susan Hawkinson at Christ Lutheran Church in Cottonwood.

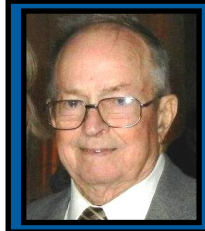
He retired from North Star in 2001 and continued to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors until 2012 for a total of 58 years of service.

Cliff was well known in the industry, serving as Chairman of NAMIC in 1986, "*Be Something More*," his theme for that year and Chairman of MAFMIC in 1990.

He was honored with many awards including the NAMIC Service Award, the NAMIC Merit Award, and the Robert C. Seipp Service Award.

"*He was working here before I was born*," said current North Star CEO Jeff Mauland, who took over when Hanson retired in 2001.

Cliff is survived by his wife, Sue of Marshall; 4 daughters, Heidi (Darren) Beck of Cottonwood, Kris (John) Champion of Marshall, Sonya (Geol) Yeadon of Santa Clara, CA, Trudi (Matt) Hansen of Tea, SD; 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons.



Eugene L. Raeker, 89, passed away on April 14, 2019 at Region's Hospital with his family at his side. Gene was born Aug. 25, 1929, in Freeport, MN, to Ben and Helen (Rolfes) Raeker.

Eugene graduated from Melrose High School and was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, Gene served in the U.S. Army.

He worked at Freeport State Bank for many years, then sold insurance for the Catholic Aid before opening his own insurance office in Little Falls.

He was preceded in death by his wife Glorine (Ostendorf) and grandson Billy. He is survived by children Marie Raeker-Davis (Tom), Deb, **Pat** (Judy), Brian, Barb Kodet (Tim), Steven (Colleen) and Peter (Shannon). He is also survived by sisters Alice Saunders, Phyllis Pelo, ten grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Gene is the father of Pat Raeker, manager of Albany Mutual.



Calendar of Events 2019

- May 7-8** **Managers Workshop**
Grand View Lodge, Nisswa
- May 21-22** **NAMIC Farm Mutual Forum**
Bloomington, MN
- June 12-13** **MAFMIC CCP trip**
Washington D.C.
- July 10** **Manager & Director Seminar**
Gorecki Center, St. Joseph, MN
- July 11** **MAFMIC Golf Outing**
Little Crow Golf Resort, Spicer
- July 23-25** **NAMIC Ag Risk Inspection school**
Columbus, Ohio
- Sept 5** **PIA, Education Day & Trade show**
Mystic Lake Center
- Sept. 22-25** **NAMIC 124th Convention**
National Harbor, MD



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