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IASCOE Board of Directors Meeting 10/15/2009

Indiana State FSA Office, Indianapolis, Indiana

The director's meeting of the Indiana Association of FSA County Office Employees was held at 10:00 am, Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the Indiana State FSA Office. The following directors and members were present for the meeting:

Jacob Maxwell	Steve Rodenberg	Jay Gould	Eric Armentrout
Tom Saggars	Robert Buck	Lisa Wooten	Stacy Hare
Chris Hare	Darla Clodfelter	Roger Bailey	Suzanne Strietelmeier
Jim Hudelson	Tracy Soliday	Mike Kohlsdorf	Steve Thurnall
Nancy Best	Marijo Kane	Amy Barber	Greg Knowles
Julia Wickard, SED	Rick Kelley, XO	Gloria McEntire, Admin Specialist	

President Eric Armentrout called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and turned the meeting over to the STO staff for comments and an update.

SED Julia Wickard/XO Rick Kelley/Admin Specialist Gloria McEntire

- SED Julia Wickard started out by paying her IASCOE Associate member dues.
- SED Julia Wickard introduced herself and her philosophies. She was brought up on a family farm in Hancock County. Her family has raised Registered Angus since 1946, and the home has been homesteaded since 1823. She has worked in agriculture in various roles her entire career. She pointed out that she has an open door policy and is a team player. She let us know that she understands our issues and problems and will do what she can to help us serve Indiana farmers more productively.
- She has visited 33 county offices already, and wants to visit all 79 offices in her first year as SED
- Julia stated that she would count today as time worked for the employees attending today and that she would put that in writing via an email to Eric so he could forward to the appropriate people.
- Julia Wickard gave permission for IASCOE to send out general emails about IASCOE like stating that there are changes in the website or advertising our awards program etc. We should be careful with this and do not abuse or over use it so we do not lose it.
- On November 3 there will be a meeting at the State Office with all of the congressional staffs to give them a folder containing fact sheet information about all FSA and NRCS programs. All of the State office program specialists will give an over view of their programs so that the congressional staff understands what we do and how we could help one of their constituents.
- The above mentioned meeting will also be done for all of the ag media in Indiana and the state office will then follow up with another meeting with the commodity organizations like ISDA and Farm Bureau.
- There is a group you can join on Face book for USDA Farm Service Agency if anyone is interested in joining.
- National FFA Convention is Oct 19-23 in Indianapolis. FSA is sponsoring the convention so several STO staff will be assisting and attending.

- FSA Administrator Jonathon Coppes is coming to Indiana. He will be attending the FFA Convention. He will be visiting the State Office and several county offices as well on Thursday and Friday. He will along with Julia visit Hancock, Boone, Clay, and Putnam/Hendricks county offices.
- Every office in Indiana will have at least some activity in the SURE program as all counties had a Disaster declaration for FY 2008.
- OTIS presently only need to apply for events and ask for funding as soon as possible. OEA such as newsletters, press releases and booths may need to be loaded later.
- We are under a Continuing Resolution for budget until the end of October. At this point the FY 2010 budget will be similar to the FY 2009 budget as far as funding level. No talks of RIF's or Furlough's.
- Leasing has been a really big problem nationwide. Our RPLO Dori Pickett is out recovering from back surgery so please carbon copy Gloria with anything to do with leasing until further notice. The majority of the state is on a month to month lease. 3 COF's have had renewed leases. There is going to be a leasing SWAT team come in and review all expired leases to see what can be done to renew the ones that have an option to renew and don't have any issues as these renewals can be done easily. If your lease has expired or will soon you need to meet with your local FAC and have them make a recommendation to renew the lease and request anything that needs to be fixed (i.e. new paint or carpet etc)
- FSA is losing money with these expired leases as it cost a lot of money to move an office twice (moving to a temporary and then permanent spot) instead of once.
- COT class—Indiana plans to hire 4 COTS in the middle of November. Gloria is going thru the 69 to 70 applications now (only 50 submitted all of the proper documentation) to pick the ones that meet all of the qualifications. Gloria is shooting for the 1st week of November for interviews.
- CED vacancies presently are: Elkhart and Madison with Marshall's CED in the process of applying for disability
- There was a discussion about COT's Training. The COT's are evaluated every three months to ensure that they are management material. The COT's from the previous class should be contacted to see if they have any input or ideas on how to improve.
- The is still no word on a State Committee for Indiana although Illinois's has been appointed. Presently Julia Wickard is the acting STC.

President Eric Armentrout's Report

- Eric has had the opportunity to travel to several state's convention since he became an officer that he would to implement some of their better ideas. Some of the states include Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin.
- Eric recently had a Presidents Conference call and he was updated on several items.
- At this time there is no talks of RIF's or office restructuring (other than FLP at state level). Budgets are similar to last fiscal year.
- NASCOE is still working to get unused sick leave added to years of service for FERS retirement.
- Please sign up for CAPWIZ as it is an easy way to get you position to Congress. We should closely watch what is going on in Congress on Health Insurance for FSA and all Federal employees with the legislation that is being worked on presently.
- Pass on ideas to Eric on how to improve the webinar trainings so that it can be forwarded thru the NASCOE channels
- Eric asked for input on the NASCOE Newsletter that comes out quarterly. It currently cost around \$7300 to send out the newsletter and RASCOE (Retirees association) is lobbying for the retirees and associate members added to the list getting a newsletter which would increase the cost even more. The consensus of the directors was to reduce the number of newsletter to 2 or 3 a year and utilize the email information like NASCOE NOW.
- Please mark you calendars the Midwest Area Rally is April 9-10 in Ohio.

Secretary/Treasurer Amy Barber's Report

The Sec/Treasurer presented the Treasurer Report, which is as follows:

IASCOE TREASURER'S REPORT

10/14/2009 2009-2010 Year

Checking (Now an Interest Bearing Acct)

Balance as of 3/27/2009 \$11,982.12 * **

*(Includes \$3448.69 that was formally in Savings)

** This is a corrected amount due during transition of Treasurer's

Total Income \$12,621.48

Total Expense \$ 10,718.93

Balance as of 10/14/2009 \$13,884.37

Savings

Balance as of 03/27/2009 \$ 0.00

Certificate of Deposit (13 Month)

Opening Balance (09/19/2008) \$10,354.89

Matures on 10/19/2009

Interest Rate 4.16%

Annual Percentage Yield 4.25%

Lisa Wooten made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Jacob Maxwell and was unanimously passed. Jay Gould made a motion to leave the CD in the National City Bank as it was up for renewal and Lisa Wooten seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

The Sec/Treasurer presented the minutes from the 3/27/09 meeting. Jay Gould made a motion to approve the minutes as written which was seconded by Chris Hare and unanimously passed.

Amy also reported to the directors that she had completed the required bond paperwork for the treasurer according to the bylaws. If anyone has need of IASCOE letterhead, please contact Amy and she will email it to you.

Membership/Publicity Report:

Chris Hare reported that we had a membership of 69.39% presently as we have not received a lot of checks thru the mail this year yet. Usually a reminder to send in dues and where to send them has been emailed out but the IASCOE Board has been waiting for permission from the new SED before doing so. The Board needs to follow up with employees that paid last year by check as well. Chris has set a goal of 85% for this year. President Eric will be sending a list of members and nonmember to JM Marketing who will follow up with both with the appropriate letter (written by Eric) explaining the benefits of IASCOE and NASCOE. If any employee wants to sign up for payroll deduction, IASCOE will pay their 1st year dues.

Chris has put together a spreadsheet of retirees that will be on the website. All counties please review the list. If there is a retiree that is still eligible to be a member (i.e. not deceased) please notify Chris of the names and

addresses of these people. Betty Craig is working on a way to contact all retirees. We hope to have a retiree meeting at the upcoming IASCOE Convention in Indianapolis.

Legislative:

Jacob Maxwell emphasized the importance of CAPWIZ. If there is an issue that is important going on we should share the CAPWIZ site with friends and neighbors and family so that they can utilize as well.

Scholarship:

Lisa Wooten asked if we wanted to change the amount or number of scholarships given out. At the IASCOE convention in March we raised \$618 between the raffle and Chinese Auction. Roger Bailey made a motion to keep the scholarship given out two \$500 scholarships which was seconded by Tracy Soliday and passed unanimously.

Benefits:

Nancy Best reported for Craig Dishman as he is on his honeymoon. Check out the NASCOE website for a list of all of the benefits. Nancy passed out a flyer on cell phone discounts which is a frequently used benefit.

Awards:

Suzie Strietelmeier reminded everyone not forget to submit Sick Leave awards. The awards can be issued in increments of 500. We will be posting the list of award winners here for Sick Leave on the website soon. She also announced that Ted White CED in Pulaski County received a certificate for 2000 hours of Sick Leave. His name as well as a few others were reported to Suzie after the convention in March.

Other awards out there are as follows: Service to FSA award, Service to NASCOE award, and Service to Community award. Check out the NASCOE website for a description of these awards. She will be sending out a reminder for the above mentioned awards as the deadline is soon for them.

Programs:

Marijo Kane from Daviess/Martin is the new programs chair. County Office employees are encouraged to send suggestions about programs to Marijo. FSA employees have seen a lot of improvements due to these suggestions.

Emblems

Jay Gould reported that product sales went great at the convention and he and Adams county will be manning the booth again at the next convention.

Webmaster

Amy Barber reported that the website is up and running. Please submit input on ways to improve the website. She is also looking for news items to post on the website. The website address is www.inascoe.org.

Combined Federal Campaign

Kris Soonpaa and Ann Eggleston discussed the use of the CFC (Combined Federal Campaign) which is the

IASCOE Convention:

Eric Armentrout reported that he, Darla Norris, Amy Barber and Marijo Kane made visits to three hotels that were potential sites in the Indianapolis area for the IASCOE Convention. The group recommended that the IASCOE convention be held at the Embassy Suites near the State Office on April 15-16, 2010. A motion was made by Tracy Soliday to go with the recommendation and the motion was seconded by Mike Kohlsdorf and approved unanimously. This will be the 50th Anniversary of IASCOE and we will be celebrating the anniversary at this meeting. We will be having a silent auction and a live auction with proceeds to benefit the Scholarships. Chris Hare said that he would ask previous SED Kenny Culp if he could come back and do the live auction as he is an auctioneer. Eric asked that everyone review the flyer that he given them on a group called "Sheltered Reality" which he would like to have for entertainment at the convention. He will check on availability and we will discuss at the next meeting.

Upcoming Election of Directors:

A discussion was held about the upcoming election of directors for districts 2, 4, 6 and 8. The Board would like to see the directors elected to be willing to serve. The ballots will have an option of letting us know if you are not interested in running. The ballots will include all eligible members with an asterisk denoting those who cannot serve as a director at this time.

After a discussion about how difficult it is to have an election in a district and being on the ballot it was recommended that two people receive the ballots (one even numbered district and one from an odd numbered district). Chris Hare made a motion that Amy Barber and Suzie Strietelmeier be the ones to receive and tally the ballots and this motion was seconded by Roger Bailey and passed unanimously.

Amy Barber pointed out that the director listing and how many vacancies we have in the director and alternate spots. She asked for input in how we could keep better representation for all districts as a lot can change in 2 years such as people retiring. Jacob Maxwell made a motion that the Board of Directors could appoint people that are willing to serve from recommendations from the district and reviewing ballot counts at the January meeting each year. This motion was seconded by Roger Bailey and approved unanimously.

Retiree's Information

Chris Hare gave a report on an effort to get the retiree's more involved. Tom Dixon (formally from the State Office) has an active group that meets once a month. Lisa Wooten pointed out that several years ago that the IASCOE Directors had made a motion to give make him a Lifetime Associate member because of all of the donations he has made to the raffle over the years. Amy Barber said that she would add him to the Associate Member List per this statement. There is no registered RASCOE in Indiana but we would like to start an Association.

Chris Hare said that Janet Ault has asked him if we could do anything to recognize retirees with an "honorary lifetime" membership. Amy Barber said she could do the certificates if needed. Darla Clodfelter made a motion that IASCOE recognize each retiree that was an IASCOE member with a certificate mailed to them. This motion was seconded by Jay Gould and approved unanimously.

National Convention Report:

Chris Hare and Robert Buck reported on National Convention. They would like to see more people attend convention as it is such a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with people from across the country including the National Staff. This year Indiana was on the front row with just a couple of the 12 chairs filled that

were designated for Indiana. Both Chris and Robert have submitted reports from the convention. These reports are posted on the website.

Being that there was no further business to discuss Roger Bailey made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Jacob Maxwell and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Barber,
2009 IASCOE Secretary