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 Sec/Treasurer—Amy Barber
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IASCOE Board of Directors Meeting 3/27/2009 Terre Haute, Indiana

The director's meeting of the Indiana Association of FSA County Office Employees was held at 10:00 am, Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Terre Haute Holiday Inn. Roll Call was taken by Sec/Treas Amy Barber. The following directors and members were present for the meeting:

Jacob Maxwell	Craig Dishman	Tom Saggars	Marijo Kane
Ken Harden	Janet Ault	Eric Armentrout	Mike Kohlsdorf
Steve Rodenberg	Chris Hare	Amy Barber	Tracy Soliday
Jay Gould	Greg Knowles	Cynthia Carroll	Greg Knowles
Patty Brogdon	Darla Clodfelder	Darla Norris	Suzanne Strietelmeier
Terry Wilds	Dawn Hummel		

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

IASCOE TREASURER'S REPORT 03/27/2009

2008-2009 Year

Checking (Now an Interest Bearing Acct)

Balance as of 7/1/2008	\$5,398.27
Total Income	\$15,865.00
Total Expense	\$13,587.89
Balance as of 03/27/2009	\$11,124.07 *
(Includes \$3448.69 transferred from Savings)	

Savings

Balance as of 7/1/2008	\$3,436.83
Interest Deposits	\$ 11.86
Total Income	\$ 0.00
Total Expense	\$ 0.00
Transfer to Checking	\$ 3,448.69
Service Charges	\$ 0.00
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%

Jacob Maxwell made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Chris Hare and was unanimously passed. The Sec/Treasurer presented the minutes from the 2/13/09 meeting. Steve Rodenberg made a motion to approve the minutes as written which was seconded by Jay Gould and unanimously passed.

Membership/Publicity Report:

Chris Hare reported that we had 244 members out of 330 employees (73.9%). This is actually incorrect. Chris also reported that there were 42 out of 79 offices with 100% membership. This is 53%. There is membership in 76 counties now. The only counties that have no membership are Johnson/Marion, Harrison/Crawford/Floyd, and Starke. However, Chris thinks he will have to check as Starke usually pays by check.

If any employee wants to sign up for payroll deduction, IASCOE will pay their 1st year dues.

IASCOE Director's need to request at least 5 or 10 minutes at every Managers Meeting to go over information and any new changes. In the past, it was mentioned that at Statewide meetings, IASCOE was always able to talk since all employees were there. We are hearing that some members are used we are not getting the information out to them. Once the website is back up we will be able to get the info out there more readily!

If anyone has any information about retirees, please pass this information on to Chris Hare so he can send the information to Betty Craig as she is working on getting the RASCOE organization going.

Chris reported a scenario to the board of directors of as to why our membership is lower than we would like it to be. Many non members feel that the association does not use their voice enough to stand up for its members. Many employees / members are starting to get a low morale due to the lack of action on certain issues. Why ask someone for their inputs when no one will listen to them? The association is here for it's members, but remember, we can not get involved on certain issues. If you feel that you have been treated unfairly, or have an issue to report, Eric Armentrout, President, Darla Norris, Vice-President, and Amy Barber, Sec-Treas or one of your IASCOE directors we are there for you!

Legislative Conference:

Susan Allen, Joyce Schmitt, and Morgan Thornburg represented Indiana at the Legislative Conference. Since none of them were able to attend the Directors meeting due to other commitments Joyce Schmitt typed up a report. This article was well written and described the impact that those three members made at the conference such as promoting a bill to get FERS employees to be able to count their sick leave towards retirement. It did a great job explaining why they went out to WDC and what NASCOE is fighting for. We will post this report once the website is up and running.

Programs:

Marijo Kane from Daviess/Martin is the new programs chair. She will be working with Nancy Best in order to get a handle on this new position for her. County Office employees are encouraged to send suggestions about programs to Marijo. FSA employees have seen a lot of improvements due to these suggestions.

Awards:

Suzie Strietelmeier (from Greene County) is the new Awards chair. She reminded everyone not forget to submit Sick Leave awards. The awards can be issued in increments of 500. We will add a list of award winners here soon.

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.

Scholarship:

Lisa Wooten is unable to attend this weekend so Darla Norris is filling in for her. There were 9 very deserving applications for the scholarships. IASCOE will be giving out two \$500 scholarships. The winners are Kara Strass (daughter of Kirk & Patti Strass (Patti is a PT in Huntington Co)) and Katie Beck (daughter of Stephanie & Jerry Beck (Jerry is a PT in the Wabash Co Office))

Good luck to all the applicants! Congratulations to our winners! FSA has some very talented children.

Webmaster

Amy Barber and Jim Hudelson are still working on this. We went with the HostGator account but are having technical difficulties getting it set up. If it does not work soon, we will look at a website that is easier to use although it may cost \$10 per month instead of \$5 per month. This would be well worth the money so we can communicate to our membership easier.

Emblems

Jay Gould reported that we will have a couple of tables set up during the convention to sell NASCOE emblems products.

New Business

President Eric Armentrout stated that if you have a question or a concern please bring it forward to the Board of Directors so it can be addressed as we don't want to be doing anything that is not in the best interest of IASCOE and its membership.

Tom Saggars made a motion to immediately change the Director Mileage rate to 1/2 of the Government rate. This was seconded by Ken Harden and passed unanimously. This rate is used for meetings and for representatives of IASCOE at Conventions, Area Rally's and Legislative Conference.

President Eric reported that he is trying to get a bus to go to National Convention in Tennessee. It will cost \$5300. The bus will leave on August 11 and return on August 16 stopping in Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Indianapolis, and Louisville, KY. This will be pursued to see if it can be put together.

Mike Kohlsdorf made a motion for State Convention for 2010 to be held in the month of March in either Lebanon or Anderson. This motion was seconded by Cynthia Carroll. Chris Hare will chair this convention.

Jay Gould made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jacob Maxwell and unanimously passed.

SATURDAY CONVENTION NOTES

Jacob Maxwell acted as the Master of Ceremony for the joint IL/IN ASCOE convention. Marijo Kane led the Pledge of Allegiance and Randy Tillman (IL President) gave the invocation. Randy Tillman then gave his President's Remarks. Eric Armentrout gave the IN President's remarks. Eric won the bowling competition between the two state presidents so Randy Tillman had to wear Purdue & IU clothing during the meeting.

Myron Stroup, NASCOE V.P. Kansas

Thanked us for our service to FSA and agriculture. REMEMBER ONE BIG BENEFIT YOU ARE RECEIVING FROM NASCOE IS YOUR PAYCHECK!

Representative Peterson's Plan calls for USDA Modernization (RE-Organization): He thinks the government should work towards program efficiency. NASCOE is still fighting to get conservation programs such as EQIP and other programs back to being administrated by FSA instead of NRCS. We can administer these programs more efficiently and cost-effective because that is what we are set up for. NRCS's forte is the technical side of these programs. Mr. Stroup referred to the GAO report on NRCS' audit. This plan will also look at RMA and trimming fat at national level. We need to maintain relationships with congressional offices as it is very important.

ACRE PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION. THEY ASKED FOR FSA TO ADMINISTER THIS PROGRAM.

DO NOT TALK NEGATIVELY ABOUT ACRE. REMEMBER, ANOTHER AGENCY COULD HAVE GOTTEN THIS PROGRAM, AND WE WOULD BE OUT OF JOBS! BE PATIENT, RULES ARE COMING!

By Mid-April will know all SED's in the country as well as Administrators.

PATRICK SCATES - Congressman's Ellsworth's aide:

On behalf of Ellsworth, he thanked for all we do for Indiana agriculture. Many items were discussed with him, including the possible changes with AGI, GSA lease issues, GOV trip, and the mailing of the DCP payments in separate envelopes.

Deb Esselman- Baird, Soldiers MOM

Deb is a CED in Wisconsin. Deb has had two sons overseas and are home, safely now. Deb presented a presentation reminding of all us to remember our troops and veterans. Some facts that are not publicized she pointed out were:

3/19/09 is the 6th year of the war
4,245 have died
31,035 have serious injuries
\$12 billion a month is spent on this war
147,000 troops
30% of these troops develop serious mental health issues

STAN WILSON - ILLINOIS STO SPECIALIST

Notes from last conference call for SED's. Stan is here on behalf of their Acting SED

He has served in 3 county offices and been in STO. Hired in 1988.

STC's/SED's still pending. Maybe mid-April before placed.

SED's will have 2 sets of training. One training on Outreach, Ethics, and Civil Rights. The other one will be on FLP and FP's.

Budget be ok for 2009. Early outs? None for 2009, speculation for 2010.

No additional funding as of today.

No plan at this time for consolidations.

DON HUNTON, ACTING SED INDIANA

Temporary office, we have what we are going to get. We disbursed what we have to DD to use in their districts.

TAKE TIME FOR YOUR FAMILIES!!!! DO NOT WORK OVER. WORKING OVER AND NOT ACCOUNTING FOR THIS HURTS US IN THE LONG RUN.

4 offices vacancy announcements will be posted soon: Boone, Huntington, Kosciusko, and Sullivan.

5 COT's on board will have their last evaluation next week.

Advertisement for 4 new COT positions. There were 76 applications.

MIKE MATTINGLY, INDIANA AO

One thing about CO employee's is that they take PRIDE in their jobs.

Requested 60 FTE's for temps, only awarded 9.

Indiana has over 2,000 ECP applications.

Leasing issues still persist. (I like his comment on this, it is a comedy of errors and misinformation.) The STO is as frustrated with this as CO's. The STO has done everything they were told, and now they are being told different information. The RLPO has been hired though.

Texas has over 60 leases that are expired.

Indiana has 20+ leases that have expired, Illinois may be about the same.

LINCPASS - how are we going to do this when the contract runs out? Indianapolis will be the permanent office. Porter Co, a second location, Bedford (application pending by Forest Service) maybe the third potential website.

The following trainings are subject to budget: Benefits and Retirement training, Indiana tries to do this every other year. They still want to do this. Same with an all state managers meeting.

BOB REDDING (NASCOE REP.)

Legislative Conference went really well. Very few negative comments.

Ag issues - THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BUSIEST CONGRESSES EVER. They have been working on the Ag issues: the Stimulus bill; lots to work with on Food Safety; Highway Bill; Climate legislation; continuation of approval of Nominees from Obama (15 from USDA will go thru Senate)

NASCOE Strategy and Focal Points are as follows: fighting for all CRP administration, FCIC item reform, FSA to handle Animal ID administration.

JOHN WILLIAMS—Midwest Area EXEC

NASCOE has been working on PT Reclassification. The PT reviews have been finalized. The reviews went very well (went to 3 offices in 5 different states) but results have not and will not be released until the new FSA Administrator is named.

Please take advantage of CAPWIZ as it does make an impact with legislators on important items. Can sign up for emails when items come up thru NASCOE website.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Barber,
2009 IASCOE Secretary