



## INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEES

President – Eric Armentrout      c/o Amy Barber      Phone: 812-582-0373  
Vice-President – Darla Norris      2103 E Main St      Fax: 812-354-9026  
Sec/Treasurer – Amy Barber      Petersburg, IN 47567      Email: abarber3@frontier.com or  
Website: [www.inascoe.org](http://www.inascoe.org)      amy.barber@in.usda.gov

### **IASCOE Board of Directors Meeting 10/7/2010** 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 7, 2010 at the Indiana State FSA Office in Indianapolis, IN. The meeting was called to order by President Eric Armentrout. Roll Call was taken by Sec/Treas Amy Barber. The following directors and members were present for the meeting:

SED Julia Wickard	XO Rick Kelley	AO Mike Mattingly
Jacob Maxwell	Morgan Thornburg	Abby Curtis
Steve Rodenberg	Jay Gould	Cynthia Carroll
Robert Buck	Lisa Wooten	Stacy Hare
Darla Clodfelter	Tracy Soliday	Michelle Conrad
Michael Kohlsdorf	Amy Barber	Darla Norris
Marijo Kane	Eric Armentrout	Beth Gudorf

President Eric Armentrout turned the meeting over to the STO staff for comments and an update.

SED Julia Wickard asked for a billing for her IASCOE dues.

- The 6 COTS are finishing up with their training by managing the open offices. They are looking at hiring 4 COTS with a coordinator possibly a retiree.
- STC is now meeting and making decisions. The 4<sup>th</sup> STC member will be appointed shortly with 1 more to come later.
- Training. Take advantage of the Motivational Seminar to help refresh on October 25
- PT Counter Skills early next year as well as CED Training. Also looking at COC training. May have Appeals training in near future as we have changes.
- Giving out ADMIN leave for today.

XO Rick Kelley & AO Mike Mattingly

- The STO is working on a COF newsletter template which can be modified as necessary by COF. They want COF to get newsletters out before copying gets busy with printing maps for counties.
- OTIS is locked out right now. FFA National Convention is coming up and STO will be working with this as well as Farm Machinery show. We will get Outreach money but not sure how much. This money is to be used for outreach to women and farmers with disabilities. Outreach Poppy will be limited this year as well. Coloring books and handouts are available but need to coordinate to see if they can be sent out with DD or STO staff when they are travelling due to postage costs.

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- Leasing change – MSD (Management Service Division) will be taking over all RLPO and coordinating leasing. Dori was in charge of Indiana and Michigan but she will now only be responsible for Indiana. Dori may have a full warrant by the end of the year. MSD now has hired more resources to cover the leasing. Several counties are going to finally get to move soon. From this point forward we were told to get longer leases but we want to go back to 5 year leases with renewable clauses. There may be chances for some waivers for some of our problems like a requirement for 3-phase power that were a problem with our current leasers. Leasers will have to spend some money so that they can get the building up to strict ADA standards. The review team that checked accessibility found lots of things that need to be corrected before the lease could continue. The standards have to be met because it is a federal building. The STO is planning on having a meeting with all CED's and DC's to discuss leasing. Moving an office is very time consuming because it takes more than leasing. They had trouble in Rush/Shelby combo because of it not being in location that does not normally do commerce so there is limited accessibility for phone lines.
- Budget – on CR to December 3, 2010.
  - Supplies budget is going to be allocated to the districts instead of each county. DD's will manage the budget to see if we can work out better. Districts may go to 1 or 2 people ordering supplies.
  - TOE budget will be 24 staff years which is 12 less than last year. We may not get that by final number. TOE's have not been cut off like has been done in the past. As soon STO gets an allocation they will give a budget to the districts. The COC meetings take around 7 staff years.
  - For FTE there has been no mention of a RIF (ceiling is 325 CO and 71 Federal)
  - There are several counties in pockets with lots of SURE that need assistance completing their workload. There may be some requests from across district lines. Indiana has 55 counties with registers for SURE. There was a rush at the end and counties had an unexpected rush of customers.
  - There are Secretarial Designations from KY, IL and MI that will cause some counties to be eligible for SURE for 2010.
  - WEBTA issue – we should not have to go through this accounting code change every end of FY. The SED and AO have let WDC know that this is not acceptable.
  - There are some major changes in Health Insurance Benefits. There will not be any changes in paperwork than letting the carrier to cover the child. The rates for everyone will most likely increase.

Eric reported that an employee was complaining that they could not carry over any annual leave.

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Minutes – Eric corrected dates of date conventions of April 1 & 2 @ Florence, IN at Bel Terra. Mike Kohlsdorf made a first motion to approve the minutes as corrected and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darla Coldfelter. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report – the consensus of the BOD to move the CD to an online bank or something that is easier accessible so that it would be easier for the treasurer to make changes as needed. Eric noted that there will be a full blown Leg Conference to pay for in the upcoming year so we need to keep that in mind when budgeting. Cynthia made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Tracy 2<sup>nd</sup> motion and it was unanimously approved.

National Convention Report – Kathy Fears sent a thank you letter to IASCOE for her First Timers Incentive to National Convention she is making plans to attend again. Stacy Hare thanked IASCOE and explained the great learning experience. Marijo Kane commented on the experience especially the MIDAS Team leasing and WEBTA issues. NRCS has been told by their STO what to put on their time sheet. This caused quite a stir at National and NRCS is now required to report monthly on the Time being spent. Robert Buck spoke on how open Jonathan Coppess brought in all section heads to discuss items and answer Q&A's.

Membership Report from – Darla Coldfelter – We need to send out Associate dues reminders. We are trying to work on getting new members. Darla presented a list of the paid members. There are still 8 people that need to increase their dues to match the current rates.

Kris Soonpaa is looking for Key workers for the CFC campaign. Theme for the year is WE CAN. Need helpers from Districts 2, 5, 7, 8.

Programs – Marijo Kane - We need to get recommendations from programs to her. They can make a huge impact on your work-life. Please share your ideas with us.

Emblems – Jay Gould – looking forward to convention again. Check the products website they have something for everyone.

Legislative – Jacob Maxwell – Leg Conference is coming up no items to share at this time.

Lisa Wooten – Scholarship – We need to decide how much and how many scholarships for this year. There is still a limitation of winning 1 to 2 times. Stacy Hare made a 1<sup>st</sup> to keep the two (2) - \$500 scholarships and Morgan Thornburg seconded. Motion carried. Jay Gould made a motion that an individual could only win one time but this died for a lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stacy Hare made a motion that an individual can only win twice. This motion was seconded by Morgan Thornburg. This motion was unanimously defeated.

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Stacy Hare revised her first motion to one (1) - \$1000 scholarship with only able to win once and Jay Gould seconded it. This motion was unanimously passed.

Eric brought out a letter from TX ASCOE to sell TX ASCOE cookbooks so that we could share the profit to raise funds for our convention attendees.

Eric informed the group that Midwest Area Exec Charlene Neukomm that NASCOE will be having a Legislative Conference in late February or early March 2011. NASCOE PAC is now bigger than the National Corn Growers and is in the top 10 in Ag in WDC. Ag Committee chair Peterson is looking to pass a farm bill by spring of 2011 but this is a fluid thing. The following people are now interested in going: Abby Curtis, Mike Kohlsdorf, Steve Rodenburg, and Darla Norris.

Voting District Discussion – do we want to have our voting districts the same as FSA Districts or do we want to set them ourselves (i.e. keep the old district lines). The odd districts are up for election 1, 3, 5, and 7. Lisa Wooten made a motion to keep the districts as they currently exist (i.e. districts prior to April 26) 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Kohlsdorf. This was unanimously passed. Tracy Soliday will help with tallying since the odd numbered districts are up for election. Try to put something in ballot about responsibilities and use the old IASCOE districts. November 8th for ballots go out notices (deadline of Nov 1) to get info to Amy Barber Sec/Treas.

Elections of new officers will take place in January.

Eric told us that he appreciates everything that we do to help the employees of FSA to better serve the farmers.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Kohlsdorf and seconded by Michelle Conrad at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Barber,  
2010 IASCOE Secretary