

# IASCOE

The Iowa Association Of FSA County Office Employees

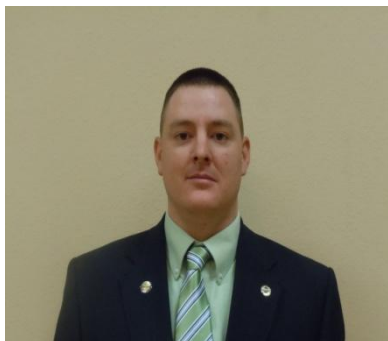
May 2013



## 2013/2014 IASCOE OFFICERS

### **President**

Curt Houk  
CED Poweshiek County



[curt.houk@ia.usda.gov](mailto:curt.houk@ia.usda.gov)  
[curt80houk@gmail.com](mailto:curt80houk@gmail.com)

### **Vice-President**

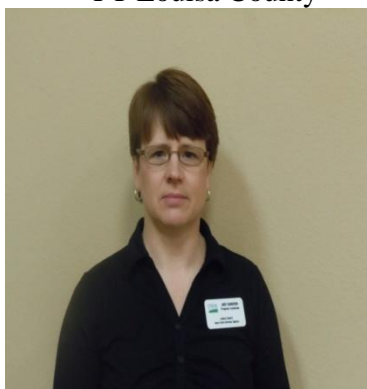
Curtis Goettsch  
CED Howard County



[curtis.goettsch@ia.usda.gov](mailto:curtis.goettsch@ia.usda.gov)  
[curt.goettsch@gmail.com](mailto:curt.goettsch@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Judy Dameron  
PT Louisa County



[judy.dameron@ia.usda.gov](mailto:judy.dameron@ia.usda.gov)  
[jldameron@iowatelecom.net](mailto:jldameron@iowatelecom.net)

### **Secretary**

Jennifer Comer  
PT Page County

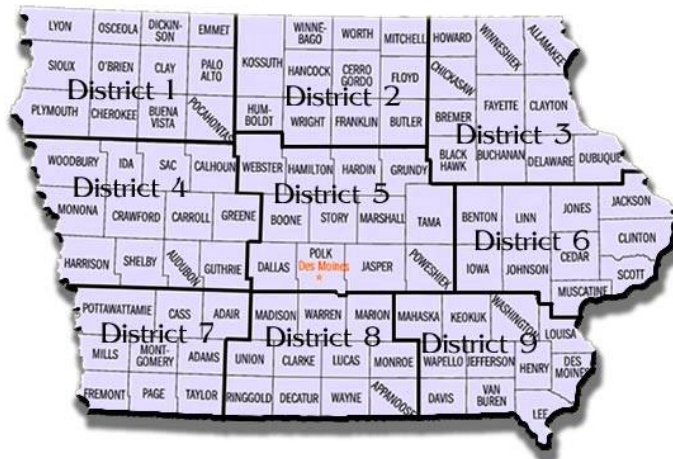


[Jennifer.comer@ia.usda.gov](mailto:Jennifer.comer@ia.usda.gov)  
[jenniferburgoin@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferburgoin@yahoo.com)

# 2013-2014

## IASCOE DIRECTORS & ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

DISTRICT NUMBER	PROGRAM ASSISTANT AND COUNTY	COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COUNTY
1 Director Alternate	Karen LaCour, Dickinson Nancy Heideman, Clay	Jeff Davis, Plymouth Dustin Miller, Cherokee
2 Director Alternate	Cindy Pistek, Hancock Jeanine Diekhuis, Hancock	Tammy Pruin, Wright Barry TerHark, Cerro Gordo
3 Director Alternate	Curt Goetsch, Howard Karen McNeil, Winneshiek	Joseph Huber, Clayton Kevin Keegan, Black Hawk (DD)
4 Director Alternate	Michelle Bruck, Shelby Cathleen Borst, Carroll	Steve Luke, Shelby Pat Warmbier, Harrison
5 Director Alternate	Kitty Benda, Marshall Karla Novotny, Tama	Curt Houk, Poweshiek Thomas Abbas, Hamilton
6 Director Alternate	Joni Birkhofer, Muscatine Renee Schultz, Cedar	Kris Koth, Jones Randy Madsen, Muscatine/Scott
7 Director Alternate	Jennifer Comer, Page Monica Robinson, Cass	Lynette Gruchow, E/W Pottawattamie
8 Director Alternate	Keith Wheeler, Madison Ronda Harrison, Lucas	Daniel Curry, Ringgold David Lundquist, Luca
9 Director Alternate	Judy Dameron, Louisa Deanna Rood, Mahaska	Dee Ann Lehn, Keokuk Gretchen McLain, Jefferson



## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013-2014**

### **LEGISLATIVE CHAIR – Dee Ann Lehn**

### **BENEFITS CHAIR – Kelly Cain**

District	Member	County
1	Rex Wittrock	Buena Vista
2	David Stromer	Hancock
3	Jesse Wegner	Fayette
4	Pat Warmbier	Harrison
5	Teresa Simonton	Poweshiek
6	Joni Birkhofer	Muscatine
7	Chris Irvin	Page
8	Kelly Cain	Madison
9	John Bartenhagen	Louisa

### **AWARDS CHAIR – John Landgraf**

### **SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR – Tammy Pruin**

1	Larry Lago	Dickinson
2	Jeanine Diekhuis	Hancock
3	Connie Straw	Chickasaw
4	Denise Dugan	Woodbury
5	Kathleen Baker	Marshall
6	Amy Castillo	Johnson
7	Monica Robinson	Cass
8	Daniel Curry	Ringgold
9	Carol Long	Mahaska

### **PUBLICITY CHAIR – Lynette Gruchow**

1	Kelsey White	Emmet
2	Barry Terhark	Cerro Gordo
3	Rose Woerner	Black Hawk
4	Heather Muenchrath	Shelby
5	Karla Novotny	Tama
6	Betty Williams	Muscatine
7	Lynette Gruchow	Pottawattamie
8		
9	Gretchen McLain	Jefferson

### **MEMBERSHIP CHAIR – Karen LaCour**

1	Lisa Forburger	Palo Alto
2	Rosalie Carlson	Worth
3	Sheri Rodman	Clayton
4	Cathleen “Skip” Borst	Carroll
5	Tom Abbas	Hamilton
6	Randy Madsen	Muscatine
7	Sue Beemer	Taylor
8	Marla Morlan	Monroe
9	Deanna Rood	Mahaska

### **PROGRAM CHAIR – Jessica Yuska**

### **EMBLEMS CHAIR – Kitty Benda, Marshall**





2013 IASCOE Directors

### **Other Roles**

#### **IASCOE Web Manager**

Brian Beach - PT Sac County

[brian.beach@ia.usda.gov](mailto:brian.beach@ia.usda.gov)

[bbeach@mchsi.com](mailto:bbeach@mchsi.com)

#### **Convention Registration**

Devalyn Wilson - CED Cedar County

[devalyn.wilson@ia.usda.gov](mailto:devalyn.wilson@ia.usda.gov)

[dawilly@iowatelecom.net](mailto:dawilly@iowatelecom.net)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Lynette Gruchow, CED, East/West Pottawattamie County

[lynette.gruchow@ia.usda.gov](mailto:lynette.gruchow@ia.usda.gov)

[netterbaby75@aol.com](mailto:netterbaby75@aol.com)



## A Message from our State Executive Director



There is no other way to say it than, it has been a tough few months! The budget uncertainty that we have gone through has caused sleepless nights at all levels of our agency. We now have the word that we will not have furlough days or even hours and this is good news, but the cost to all of us has been high. The interim ceiling has created a definite under staffed situation in many areas of the state and then the hard hiring freeze has further complicated that situation. Every time I talk to staff in the field, I can detect the stress that employees are feeling, and I don't like that. I also realize that the only thing that is allowing some counties to cope is that this agency is a family and family looks out for each other! With everything that we have been through, I still believe that the light at the end of the tunnel is not the oncoming train.

In most cases, our producers are doing well, which can bring its own set of problems for us. I am concerned that in good times some producers push the limits on HEL Compliance and Wetland Compliance. There is a call in the media and by some farm groups to give producers crop insurance and that's it. I appreciate the advice of Representative Colin Peterson when he says that farm policy needs to look long term, not year to year. We all know that the only long-term farm policy is provided by FSA. We need to remind not only our producers of this, but also anyone else who asks.

One note to the IASCOE membership, I always enjoy work with your leadership for the good of our agency. Our travel budget does not allow me to get out and visit as much as I would like, so I rely on the phone calls and emails from your President as a small way to keep in touch. I appreciate the open, honest, and even frank discussions I have. So to all of you, and especially your leaders, past, present and future, Thank You!

John Whitaker  
SED

## 2013-2014 IASCOE President



As I set and write this we are receiving some much needed rainfall. It is still uncertain what this next year will bring, will it be drought, floods, or will it be a normal one? Not sure that I really know what normal is anymore when it comes to the weather. If you attended the IASCOE Convention in April I'm sure you had a great time. If you missed attending you missed some great informational speakers, making some new friends, saying good-bye to others and just enjoying the company of fellow FSA employees.

I joined IASCOE in 2007 on the first day of my COT training and have been a member ever since. I have been the Poweshiek County CED since 2008. Previous to my employment with FSA I worked for NRCS from 2002 to 2007. My wife Stephanie and I have three beautiful little girls all under the age of 6. We are very active in my family's farm and we own and operate a 100 head cow/calf operation in which we raise registered Angus cattle and sell seed stock. My wife and I both graduated from Iowa State University and are hardcore CYCLONE fans, GO STATE!

It will be an honor to serve you as we work through the changes of the upcoming year. Let us make communication a high priority! Your officers and team of directors will strive to keep you informed and please make sure to let us know if you have any concerns for IASCOE/NASCOE.

These are very uncertain times as our elected officials in Washington DC mold our future into the new farm bill. It cannot be said enough, the greater the numbers, the stronger the voice. We need membership to stay strong. We are always looking for people to get involved. My goal is to retire from this agency and I am sure many of you have that same goal. The officers and directors, with your help, want to help keep the FSA family strong and viable well into the future and work with NASCOE for the benefit of the greater cause.

NASCOE has teamed up with NAFEC (National Association of Farmer Elected Committees) and would like as many COC members to become members and any county office employee to become an associate member. Many new members of NAFEC have joined through this initiative but there are many more that still have not joined. In my opinion the COC is what makes this agency and NAFEC gives them a unified voice. For more information please feel free to contact me.

I give thanks and admiration to Jeff Davis, our past IASCOE President, for his dedicated service to IASCOE. Like the leaders before me, I am proud to be your IASCOE President. Thank you for putting your trust in me. I plan to earn that trust by listening, learning and representing all Iowa FSA employees to the best of my ability. Contact me anytime on my cell phone (641) 777-5713 or my home email address: [curt80houk@gmail.com](mailto:curt80houk@gmail.com).

Curt M. Houk  
IASCOE President



## 2013-2014 IASCOE Vice-President



IASCOE Convention held April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Tropics Resort was a hit!! Thank you to all who attended. Attendees were treated to many great speakers, good company and a little bit of entertainment Friday night. I really enjoyed getting to hear from NASCOE President, John Lohr. As he was able to shed some light on what NASCOE has been working on in Washington DC this year. In speaking with John personally he told Curt Houk and I, that the weekly calls with John Berge, DAFO and FSA Administrator, Juan Garcia have been very helpful. Both Mr. Houk and I expressed our gratitude to John Lohr for sending out the minutes of those weekly calls. In many cases the information in these calls is new to the field offices.

Ok a little about me. I am the County Executive Director (CED) in Howard County. I have worked in a USDA Service Center for the last nine years, the last four years with Farm Service Agency (FSA). Before entering into the COT training program, I worked as a Program Technician in Clayton County, Iowa working with many farm bill programs. Before working for FSA, I worked with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for five years. Outside of my job with the FSA, I enjoy the outdoors; hunting, fishing, camping and golfing with my wife Sara.

I have been an IASCOE member since I become an FSA employee. I have always believed that we need to stick up for ourselves, and IASCOE is one way we do that. In this day and age of uncertainty in FSA, and all government employment for that matter, we need to make sure our voice is heard. It is the IASCOE Broad of Directors job to make sure of this but it's not all on them, as members we need to make sure we stay involved. That can be at varying levels, all of us have the time, some more than others and that's ok. Even if it's just taking **five minutes** out of your day to send in that **CapWiz alert** or serving on an IASCOE committee, we all, little by little do our part.

Finally, I want you to remind you, you are always welcome to voice concern, comment, idea or question to your directors, President or Vice-President. We can only gauge what the feeling is in Iowa on topics based on what you tell us. The organization is only as good as its members and we all have something to contribute. I look forward to hearing from you!!

Curtis Goettsch,  
IASCOE Vice-President

# 2013-2014 IASCOE Secretary



## MIDAS Training

A recap of what we learned in Atlantic.....

MIDAS Training kicked off on April 8<sup>th</sup> bright and early at 10:00AM. The trainers were very excited to get started and share their knowledge with the rest of the FSA World! As the trainees arrived, signed in, made their name tents and found their seats, there was a stir in the air; excitement about the long awaited arrival of a new software system that was going to make their daily tasks *easier, faster, and even more accurate*. The bell rang and we all took our places, the trainers at the front of the room, the trainees seated comfortably in their folding chairs, we settled in. Introductions were done, logistics were given, the stage was set – let’s get started; “first thing we are going to do is log in to the laptops so you can follow along with the simulators”. So we did...and we waited...and we waited... Now as any good trainer knows the key to success in adult education is.....SWEETS! We were prepared, the candy bowl was passed and there was a counter full of homemade goodies – *ahh success!*

The training really did go well despite a few glitches with the computers, the training environment, and the occasional ‘check out’ by *one* of the trainers. ☺ One thing we did learn is that we have some pretty fantastic ‘cooks’ within FSA that were kind enough to share their talents with us. Needless to say, between all the restaurants we patronized for lunch, the candy bowl, and the homemade goodies, this trainer is eating carrot sticks for the rest of the summer!

Here is a sampling of the goodies we had.

## Toffee Chocolate Bars

*Jennifer Comer, Page County*

Base:

3/4 c margarine, softened

3/4 c packed brown sugar

1 1/2 c flour

Topping:

10 oz can sweetened condensed milk

2 tbsp margarine

1 3/4 cups milk chocolate chips

1 1/3 c toffee bits

**Base:** Cream together margarine, brown sugar and flour until well blended and mixture sticks together. Press into 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 for 20-25 min or until light golden. Cool while preparing filling.

**Filling:** Heat sweetened condensed milk and margarine in heavy pan, stirring constantly over med heat for 5-10 min or until thickened. Spread over cooled base. Bake at 350 for 12-15 min or until golden. Sprinkle chocolate chips evenly over

the top. Bake for 2 min longer or until chocolate is shiny and soft. Remove from oven. Spread chocolate evenly. Sprinkle toffee bits on top, pressing lightly into chocolate. Cool completely and cut into bars.

## **Paula Deen's Lemon Bars**

*Jennifer Comer, Page County*

### **Crust:**

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup confectioners' sugar, plus more for dusting  
Pinch salt  
2 sticks butter, at room temperature, plus more for greasing

### **Filling:**

4 eggs  
2 cups granulated sugar  
6 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

### **Directions**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9 by 13 by 2-inch pan. Make the crust by combining the flour, confectioners' sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Cut in the butter to make a crumbly mixture. Press the mixture into the prepared pan. You may need to dip your fingers into a little flour or confectioners' sugar to keep the dough from sticking to your fingers. Bake for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, to make the filling, mix the eggs, granulated sugar, flour, and lemon juice. Pour this over the baked crust and bake for 25 minutes longer. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar, if desired, when the bars are done.

## **Monkey Bread**

*Pat Warmbier, Harrison County*

18 Rhodes rolls  
1 sm box of butterscotch pudding (cook type not instant)  
1 stick of butter  
1 cup dark brown sugar

The night before place the frozen rolls in a greased bundt pan. Sprinkle the dry pudding over rolls. Cover with foil or plastic wrap that has been sprayed with oil.

Next morning melt the stick of butter and brown sugar on stove top or microwave. Bring to a hard boil for about 30-45 seconds. Pour over rolls and bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Let stand 5-10 minutes before inverting onto a plate.

You can also add chopped pecans if you like.

## **Puffcorn Snack**

*Pat Warmbier, Harrison County*

1 bag of Puffcorn (hulless popcorn, I usually get the butter flavor)  
½ package of white almond bark

Melt the almond bark in the microwave. Only takes about 1-3 minutes. Then pour over popcorn in a large bowl. Stir to coat over all of the popcorn. Spread out on wax paper to cool.

You can also add nuts, M & M's, pretzels or anything to your liking to mix with the popcorn. If you add M& M's to the mix, do at the very end of mixing right before you spread out on the wax paper so they do not start to melt.

## 2013-2014 IASCOE Treasurer



Hello, I bring greetings from Southeast Iowa! What a beautiful day it was and then it clouded up and so now we are looking forward to more spring rains.

The 2013 IASCOE Convention was another success. We had approximately 150 people in attendance. It's good to see people taking an interest in IASCOE/NASCOE and therefore, taking an interest in shaping their own future with the agency. It is also refreshing to see new members becoming involved as officers, directors and attendees. I would like to thank everyone who attended and those who helped out in any way to make it all happen. I would also like to thank Dee Ann Lehn for the nomination of Distinguished Service Award to IASCOE/NASCOE. I never expected to get anything for what I do for IASCOE, but it is nice to be rewarded.

My county, Louisa County, was also awarded a 50 year continuous membership to NASCOE. Fifty years?!?! We are very proud of this accomplishment. So proud, that our entire staff made the trip to Des Moines to accept the award.

We had our election on Friday morning and unanimously elected Curt Houk – President, Curt Goettsch – Vice President, Jennifer Comer – Secretary, and myself as Treasurer. I would like to thank Jeff & Cindy for their guidance the past two years. Now they can sit back and enjoy the show.

On April 19-20, seven of us made the trip to Wisconsin Dells for the MWA Rally. I was pleasantly surprised to receive the MWA Distinguished Service Award for NASCOE. Thank you again to those who made it possible.

Judy L Dameron  
IASCOE Treasurer



# NASCOE Benefits

Submitted by Dee Ann Lehn  
MWA Benefits Chairperson

These are troubling times as we all know. Every day, we hear about furloughs, office closures, pay freezes and threats to our federal employee benefits. Just keep in mind, the as NASCOE members, we do have benefits that are protected.

I would encourage everyone to take a look at the NASCOE website as several changes have been made on the Site. For example; all cell phone discounts and theme park discounts have been moved to the "Members Only" web page to keep those discounts exclusively for NASCOE members. The Sam Club discount remains under the "Members Only" page and the current Sam Club discount continues through December 31, 2013. Members needing a sign on id and password for the "Members Only" page should contact Deb Esselman-Baird of Wisconsin to obtain such.

US Cellular customers need to check their monthly bill to ensure they are still getting that discount. US Cellular requires government employees to verify employment every 2 years to remain eligible for this discount. Members should contact a U.S. Cellular representative to re-instate the discount if that discount is no longer being applied to the monthly charges.

In addition to the theme park discounts found on the "Members Only" page, Dee has discount coupons on hand for Adventureland in Des Moines, Iowa and Holiday World in Santa Claus, Indiana. Requests for Disney parks discounts continue to come in each year, however, Disney has not offered NASCOE members a direct discount for many years. Those members seeking a package deal for a trip to a Disney Park should check the NASCOE Travel Page or a Disney website.

Trevor Gartner of J M Marketing presented information at the MidWest Area rally. J M Marketing's products range from a variety of products including: a cancer policy, accidental death/dismember policy, dental policy, vision policy, long term care policy and term life insurance policy. In addition, J M Marketing now offers theft identity options and prepaid legal services. Members can also request a confidential benefits analysis which gives insight to projected retirement annuity, FERS supplemental benefit and TSP balance.

J M is currently pursuing the possibilities of providing an employee interest-free purchasing program, a short-term group disability policy, a group life insurance policy as an alternative to FEGLI and a home/auto discount insurance policy.

These benefits are also available to NAFEC members and RASCOE members as well as NASCOE associate members.

Following is a list of retirees from January 1, 2013 through April 1, 2013:

1/1/2013 Laurie Larson - Winnebago  
1/3/2013 Jolene Fechter - STO  
1/3/2013 Mary Feige - Harrison  
1/3/2013 Virginia Rickabaugh - STO  
2/8/2013 Shelley Lucas - Warren  
3/29/2013 Barbara J. Herrstrom - Boone

“There is a whole new life kind of life ahead, full of experience just waiting to happen. Some call it ‘retirement’.” Betty Sullivan

“Life begins at retirement” Anonymous

# National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC)

By Gretchen McLain, Iowa NAFEC Coordinator

My name is Gretchen McLain; I have been the CED in Jefferson County for 7 years now. I have recently been appointed Iowa NAFEC coordinator/liaison. I work closely with Randy Tillman from Illinois who is NASCOE Mid West Area NAFEC coordinator/liaison. Randy relays information from Craig Turner who is a current COC member and NAFEC president, to all of us.

NAFEC stands for; National Association of Farmer Elected Committees. The primary purpose of NAFEC is and will always be to promote and improve the farmer elected committee system for the local administration of farm programs.

The coordinated effort will give us strength, and much more influence in congress for the kind of farm program American farmers, ranchers and rural communities need in order to survive. NAFEC is dedicated to retaining, improving and strengthening the COC system of program delivery. However, this has become more difficult than in the past with the different things happening in DC.

This is where our employees play an important role. We need to boost our membership in order to have a stronger voice on important issues facing our local farmers. COC provide the spark and imagination as well as the local judgment needed in adopting and administering FSA programs. COC have earned the confidence of their neighbors, they are the “feet on the ground”, and they have solid judgment.

NAFEC has worked diligently for years to keep the county offices open, and will continue to do so. BUT they need the help from all of us In order to do so.

Bob Barden, COC member from Scott County is our lead in Iowa. If IASCOE has an issue that they cannot talk to their congressmen about, we can contact Bob and he can discuss it. Or they can ask for a meeting with management on certain subjects that we can't. We are looking for an assistant to Bob. So if anyone has a member of their COC's that they think would enjoy doing this please get a hold of either Gretchen McLain or Curt Houk.

At the National NAFEC level, they are putting together a flyer to help explain to our COC member's and employees what NAFEC is about. They are trying to promote membership, trying to get 5 new members from all states. This might be hard for the smaller states, so the larger ones, TX, IA, IL etc. need to pick up 15-20 new members and associate members.

## APPLICATION:

Go to the IASCOE website and they have link to NAFEC site, you can register there.

\$35 for regular members (or you can have taken out each time they get paid)

\$20 for associate members (\$1 a PP) you would need to fill out a FSA444



# The Brief Return of Polly PT

By Rose Woerner, CED Black Hawk County  
Created by Dee Lehn, Keokuk County

I am the oldest person in the office now, and I have the most seniority. Last month I celebrated a birthday that ended in a zero, and it had a major impact on me. Remember when I was the bright and bubbly baby of the office, and a veritable genius with system 36? Remember how my former boss, Stevie Corona, told everyone that I was a quick study, and I could do everything twice as fast as anyone else? By my own admission that's not so much the case anymore. My co-workers outshine me in every possible way. They are smart, good with technology and glaringly young. Even my boss, Freddie Merkel, is a whipper-snapper, but unfortunately for Freddie, he's about as deep as a little kid's wading pool.

Case in point, Tuesday afternoon, and the office was dead. The 'Kids' (my new coworkers), Jules Richie, Timmy Fallon, Bibi Drexler, were in the break room discussing how to make a hot spot with a smart phone. Jules was trying to get internet access on her iPad (boy do I feel old). I tried to act interested in what they were saying, but truth be told it was over my head. I don't have a smart phone or an iPad. Nor do I want either one for that matter. So, I went back out to my desk. That's when Freddie snuck up behind me, as is his habit.

"What are you doing, Polly?" he asked.

"Figuring my retirement," I said. "In case you're interested, I can go in eleven years."

"Good for you. We'll miss you a whole bunch. In the meantime, it might behoove you to try loading the farm record changes in Midas."

I still have my back to him, so I make a face.

"I saw that," he says. "Don't be a smart-aleck, Polly, it doesn't become you."

"Neither does old age," I tell him, "but I can't change that either."

If they gave out awards for sighing, Freddie would take a blue ribbon. He sighs loudly and often. He sighs for me now before he goes back to his office. He sounds like balloon with a slow leak, and that's the nicest thing I'm going to say about him today.

I hear his chair squeak as he sits, and even though I can't see him, I know he's watching me. "Polly," he says. "Would you come here for a minute, please?"

I trudge into his office. I think he's probably going to chew me out for being rude. Instead, his voice is gentle. "Have a seat," he tells me. "Have you ever heard the phrase, if you can't beat them, join them?"

"Is there a point to this Freddie?" I ask.

"Absolutely," he tells me. "Do you know what your coworkers call you?"

"You mean The Kids? They're calling me names behind my back?"

"It's not bad. It's sort of funny, actually. They call you N.V.," he says.

"Envy? Do they think I'm jealous or something?"

"No. It stands for noun and verb."

"They're making fun of me because I speak properly?"



“More like because you’re too exacting. Here,” he says and hands me a palm-sized tablet. “Step outside your box.”

The thing he hands me is a dictionary of texting terms. I flip through it a couple of times and say, “I don’t text. I’ll never use this.”

“You IM other PT’s all the time,” he tells me.

“Yes, and that’s another thing I hate,” I say. “It’s so distracting. Whoever thought constant interruption was a good idea needs to come and sit by me for a day.”

“Just try it,” he says, “a couple of times. If you don’t like it then give it back.”

Later in the afternoon, Bibi sends me an IM about a missing 933 that she found on my desk (we’d searched and searched for it the day before)

>SBTA< I responded.

“I don’t understand this,” she says to me from her desk. “What does it mean?”

“I thought you knew how to text,” I tell her. “Clearly, it says, ‘Sorry, being thick again.’”

“When did you turn into a sixteen year old girl?” she asks.

I sit there and giggle. This texting thing might be pretty fun. Especially, if they can’t figure out what I’m typing and we have to resort to something creative, like...I don’t know...talking to each other again. That would be so much better, IMO, than zipping off a message that takes five minutes to decipher. Until that time, I’ll put this texting dictionary to great use <CUL8TR L. E. G8TR>

The End



# COUNTY OFFICE SPOTLIGHT SHELBY COUNTY HARLAN, IOWA

By Heather Muenchrath, Shelby County PT

Total Years of Service: Over 121 Combined Years of Service

CED: Steve Luke, 26 years of service

Farm Loan Manager: Bill Anderson, 25.5 years of service

Farm Loan Officer: Tawnia Ganzer, 12.5 years of service

Program Technicians:

Donna Schmidt, 27.5 years of service

Lisa Feldman, 12.5 years of service

Michelle Bruck, 10.5 years of service

Heather Muenchrath, 4.5 years of service

Donita Kenkel, 2.5 years of service

What makes the Shelby County FSA Office unique?

We have good resources housed here- a farm loan specialist, Paul Frederiksen and a District Director, Jon Awtry. Also, Maria Rosmann, State Committee Member, lives in Shelby County.

Funny Office Story

One of our PT's can talk to our deceased producers. 😊 She had made a note in his CRP file that she talked to him, when in fact, he was deceased, and she had talked to his son. We all got a big laugh when we saw her note and said, "You can talk to dead people. That's amazing!" We like to remind her of this story every now and then. Right, Donita??



# GUESS WHO !!!

By Paul Berte, CED Pocahontas County



This little baby never knows her limits.....



This little man tries to direct all the office traffic....



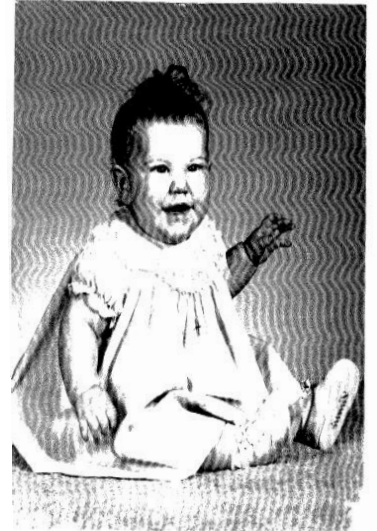
This little gal often gets mistaken to be specialized in C.P.R...



This baby girl is a great support to her co-workers...



This tiny tot always has fun doing FLiPs.....



This little girl never yields as she's doing all of her good deeds around the office

And not to throw you off, but there is another little baby to add to this crew, she didn't have time to find a picture since she's packing up and leaving us in June!!!!!! To find the answers to these riddles check out Pocahontas County on sharepoint.





A great time was had by all at the 2013 IASCOE convention April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>