

The Iowa Association Of FSA
County Office Employees

IASCOE NEWS



June 2006

IASCOE June 2006 Newsletter

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Visit our website at www.iascoe.org

FROM THE DESK OF DERRYL MCLAREN, SED



For the first time in a long time, I feel a sense of normalcy returning to our offices. When we experienced previous disturbances to our daily routine, I tried my best to make the issues transparent for you. At this point, however, I fail to see anything ominous that might lie around the corner for us.

All of the budget austerity is out in the open. Everything on the GS side is “tight”, and our thanks to Washington for relieving the stress on travel. On the non-federal side, we are hiring TO’s and TF’s only because of the fee-driven REX contracts. That is a one-time reprieve, and I trust you have the resources to accomplish the task. We know our employment ceilings for next year, and for all intents and purposes, they will be “static”. Washington has returned control of the hiring process back to the SED’s after two years of managed right-sizing, and we are in pursuit of 10 superior candidates here in Iowa for COT positions. Washington has offered 30 national slots for FLOT’s, and we have submitted a request for our share. There appears to be a stabilization of the budget crunch on total employment levels.

The only “disturbances in the force” are coming from Administrative functions, but they are not surprises. The Budget and Performance Management Scorecard (BPMS) is coming of age. “This (BPMS) will revolve around an approved Logic Model driven by the FSA Vision Statement and Mission Statement. Strategies and Goals will be formulated to measure outputs, and, thereby, performance. This BPMS will drive the budget for the Agency and our personal Performance Plans. Once you have come-to-grips and understand what I just said, we will provide further details and explanation”. The previous quote is from my communiqué to you last spring. Red lights, green lights, co-replacement, full-service leases, and the 5-Tier Performance Plan are all the results of an adolescent BPMS, which at 12 years of age is not yet a teenager.

The GIS process is forging ahead, and thank you for your diligence. Believe me, you will understand and appreciate the effort upon completion. Oh, you don’t believe me? Then seek-out someone in a county that has finished the process, and ask them. Unlike some things in life, GIS does not offer joy in the anticipation. You can only appreciate GIS in retrospect. By the end of the Fiscal year, we will celebrate its completion together.

I wish you well in your endeavors this summer, whether job related or personal. The State Committee and I will be traversing the State in July-August as we meet with COC members, so don’t be surprised if we stop by to say, “thank you”, in person. Oh, and leave the “green light” on.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derryl McLaren". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

-----IASCOE-----

Cover photo taken by Brian Beach – IASCOE Webmaster / PT Sac County

NASCOE FARM BILL STRATEGY PLAN

Dan Root, NASCOE President



The NASCOE Farm Bill Strategy Plan will provide the NASCOE Legislative Committee and NASCOE members a unified direction and message for participation in the Farm Bill development. As the nation approaches the development of the new Farm Bill, it is critical that NASCOE be prepared to act rapidly and decisively. To effectively influence the farm bill debate in regard to issues affecting FSA, NASCOE must be prepared to provide a clear, concise and unified message.

NASCOE'S Farm Bill Plan will recognize current working initiatives and outline its priorities for the new Farm Bill. NASCOE's Executive board will debate its top priorities and determine the preferred direction. The success of this plan will be dependent on the board reaching a unified consensus on priorities.

The plan will focus on the following criteria (listed in no particular order of priority):

- Continuation of FSA's role as the chief Administrative Agency for Federal farm programs.
- Prioritize and expand FSA's role in the administration and technical areas of additional programs.
- Maintain an adequate number of field offices to effectively service our customers.
- Full utilization and expansion of current initiatives.
- Explore opportunities for new areas of program responsibility.
- The need for adequate staffing protection that will enable FSA to properly deliver farm programs throughout the new farm bill
- Ensure the "grassroots foundation" of the County Committee is maintained

This plan focuses attention on the following topics:

- Current NASCOE initiatives
- Job Security
- New Areas of Responsibility for FSA
- Education
- Political Action Committee
- Grassroots

These topics should be subdivided into two groups– (a) issues that need immediate attention and (b) issues that need further development.

Issues needing immediate action are Education, PAC and Grassroots. In order for NASCOE to obtain long term success, these topics must be taken to a higher level.

Education:

NASCOE has made great progress in structuring our message. The unified, single message delivered by NASCOE during the 2006 Legislative Conference proved to be an enormous success. Never-the-less, much remains to be completed in our approach and education of Congress.

Objective:

Persistently and effectively inform and educate members of Congress and key staff persons.

Direction:

Broaden the usage of the CapWiz program to use as a tool for members to advance our message. Continue the education of members to the importance of registering and using the site. We must expand the registered listing of our membership. Encourage field level meetings with influential offices and members. Build personal relationships with key contacts through special events.

Political Action Committee:

NASCOE has established the "NASCOE PAC" and has begun to accept contributions from our members. The PAC will be vital to our participation in the Farm Bill debate and it will most likely depend on the advancement of Payroll Contributions.

Continued...

Objective:

Ensure Congressional Members supporting and advocating NASCOE's objectives are able to continue serving in Congress.

Direction:

NASCOE will continue to support and solicit monies for the NASCOE PAC. NASCOE will work diligently to provide members with an acceptable way of making an electronic "payroll type" deduction. Providing this to our members will be the lifeline of the NASCOE PAC.

Grassroots:

CapWiz provides a tool for members to advance NASCOE's message to Congress; however, we must broaden our contacts by introducing commodity and environmental groups to NASCOE.

Objective:

To provide commodity groups with NASCOE's message.

Direction:

Continue to have a presence at Farm Bill and other hearings around the nation. Provide Commodity groups with our position papers and business cards. Recruit and encourage producers to participate in Farm Bill hearings process, who will communicate a positive message for FSA. Develop coalition partners with commodity and environmental groups and determine which groups will be most beneficial for NASCOE to pursue a working relationship with. Work with the focus groups that may share common goals.

In conclusion, we are in the very beginnings of the farm bill debate. The House is currently conducting Farm Bill hearings and the Senate will begin this summer, with Washington hearings possible in the fall. Items of concern can change rapidly. What was important last week may not be this week and each week may demand a new direction for the Farm Bill. Issues that may determine the direction of the new Farm Bill include the Doha Round Talks (possible extension), November elections, and the need to extend the Trade Promotion Authority. Commodity groups are divided with their wishes and are not choosing to commit this early in the debates. By July we may have a better feel for the direction that the new Farm Bill may take. At this point, NASCOE must be careful not to make commitments to an agenda that later may prove not to be favorable or of great importance to our members. NASCOE must continuously monitor the discussions and be prepared to act when the time is right.

The House Ag Committee has put up a new
"Farm Bill Feedback" web page.

www.agriculture.house.gov/inside/feedbackform.html

This will give the MWA a great opportunity to step up the action if we can get our local producers, commodity, fruit and vegetable and environmental groups to take a stand and support NASCOE and the Mission of FSA.

We need to get the message across that American Farmers and Ranchers want:

1. Continued strong COC involvement in all congressional mandated programs to ensure the "grassroots" foundation.
2. Farm Service Agency to be the Administrative Agency to deliver the mandated programs
3. Expand and prioritize the role of FSA in the administration and technical areas of additional programs.
4. Expand and fully utilize current initiatives
5. Explore opportunities for new areas of program responsibility
6. Congress to adequately fund and staff the County FSA Offices so programs are delivered timely and efficiently to our local producers as intended by law throughout the entire Farm Bill.

Please review the position papers and statements from NASCOE President, Dan Root available at the NASCOE website at www.nascoe.org

Dee-liberations

By Dee Ann Lehn

IASCOE President / CED Keokuk County

I have been your president now for one year. All and all, it's gone by quite quickly but not without leaving some memorable moments behind to reflect upon. There have been some stormy times scattered among the good ones. That's the way life is; taking the bad along with the good and making the most of every situation.



Whether the day is sunny or the rain is falling, your fellow NASCOE employees who represent you are always working to see that we as FSA employees are treated fairly, are given the resources needed to do our jobs and have the benefits we need to make our lives just a little easier. It's an eye opening experience to attend an area rally or a national convention or a legislative conference and see first hand just how hard these dedicated folks are working for all of us.

Right now, on the national front, it would appear we are experiencing the calm before the storm. FSA Tomorrow may be kaput but the budget woes have not disappeared. We will still be seeing some changes in the way we operate as an agency. There is still some rough weather brewing out there, but as FSA employees we have proven over and over again that we can weather the storm.

On the County Office front, the floodgates seemed to be opening once again. Most of us are trying to get GIS maps ready to mail, gearing up for the rush of crop certifications and starting the long process of completing compliance checks for REX. It can easily become overwhelming. The best advice I can give is to take the days one at a time and realize you can only accomplish so much. (It's good advice—I may even try it sometime). The work will still be there tomorrow and the next day and the next day and the next day! Just take pride in what you do get accomplished, knowing you have given your all and have completed the task at hand to the best of your ability. Work hard but at the end of the day-- ***go play even harder!***

We all need to make the most of our lives in whatever road we choose to follow. As summer comes upon us, it's time once again to spend some time with your families and friends enjoying all that Mother Nature has to offer. Get out there! Plant some flowers, mow the yard, go to baseball games but do something while the sun is shining and share it with the ones you love and forget about the office for a few hours.

Life is short...

GO FOR THE GUSTO!!!!

Dee

Tell Me Why ?



The IASCOE / NASCOE drive is currently ongoing. Iowa continues its tradition of strong membership with ~87% in 2005-06. While I hope for a higher percentage, I expect next year to be much the same. Which brings me to the question of "Why isn't everyone an IASCOE / NASCOE?" Sadly, there always seems to be a small minority whose choose not to join. After what we have been through this past year (remember FSA Tomorrow?), I am honestly baffled by this question. Further pondering of the question, I came up with these possible reasons (*and my responses*):

IASCOE / NASCOE dues are too expensive and I just can't afford it:

Come on now, membership dues are less than 20 cents per day for PT's and 30 cents per day for CED's. Compare this to your annual salary and it is pretty obvious that membership is really quite cheap.

Membership dues are spent for parties, conventions, and other entertainment: *I'll admit that before I became involved in IASCOE / NASCOE , I too envisioned the gatherings as something close to a Water Buffalo convention. In reality though, I have observed a group of extremely dedicated individuals who focus on the business at hand with seriousness and professionalism. Sure there is typically the "hospitality" hour after the day's session. It's just good people having a good time. By the way, the adult beverages are paid for by donations of the participants.*

IASCOE / NASCOE is a union: *Whether you support unions or not, IASCOE / NASCOE is NOT a union. There has never been any talk of strikes or slowdowns or picket lines. IASCOE / NASCOE is a vehicle for voicing employees legitimate concerns. As employees, we are responsible to inform management of how policies and decisions affect not only our jobs, but also the service we provide to producers.*

IASCOE / NASCOE members / Directors are just a bunch of (choose: Democrats / Republicans)? *Political affiliations of members or Directors are generally unknown. I have had the privilege of attending a couple of Legislative Conferences in Washington, DC. Whether it be Senator Harkin or Senator Grassley, I guarantee that we are not concerned what political party they are. We just want to tell them our story and why we think our jobs are important to rural America.*

IASCOE / NASCOE hasn't done _____ (fill in the blank): *No, IASCOE / NASCOE doesn't always succeed in attaining its goals, but then what organization does? I could offer up numerous items where IASCOE / NASCOE **has** succeeded, not the least of which was highlighting the flaws of the FSA Tomorrow plan. If there is a particular issue or concern you have, by all means contact you Director. Or better yet, become involved by attending the convention, serving on a committee, or becoming a Director.*

The humorist Will Rogers once said he wouldn't want to be part of an organization that would have him as a member. I sincerely hope that isn't you. We all have a part in making our future a bright one. Being an IASCOE / NASCOE member is one of the best ways of fulfilling that responsibility.

Steve Kennedy
IASCOE Vice President – CED Jasper County

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Greetings From Our Secretary/Treasurer

Greetings from southwest Iowa. Hope everyone has had time to enjoy the spring weather. We have had some cool days but also we have had some absolutely beautiful ones.

The annual convention is over for this year and I felt it was a successful one. Stoney Creek Inn was very nice and I thought we had some very good speakers. Scott Morrison, the financial advisor, had an excellent presentation and if nothing else started you thinking about your retirement options. The Directors are already starting plans for next year's convention and are hoping to get some very good speakers lined up. We really appreciate the members who attend the convention and help to make it a success.



Spring also brings IASCOE dues time. For a very small amount of money, you can be a member of an organization that is truly working for you!!! When you consider what the outcome of FSA Tomorrow could have been I think we should realize what an important role IASCOE/NASCOE has in our lives. Every employee needs to show their support through membership. If you know someone who doesn't belong you need to take the time to explain the benefits IASCOE/NASCOE provides their members and extend them a personal invitation to join. The Senate and House members listen to an organization that has a high percentage of membership participation. It would be great if we could improve our percentage to 90% for 2006-2007.

Well I think I have rambled on long enough. I hope you have a GREAT summer, but remember your true wealth is not measured by your financial statement but by the love and respect of your family and friends.

Sue Beemer
IASCOE Secretary/Treasurer - PT Taylor County

Greetings from Northwest Iowa



My name is Glenda Von Arb and I am a new IASCOE director for District 1. I have worked in the Sioux County Office for 21 years.

I live in Alton with my husband Bob. We have 2 children. Cory runs a landscape business in Hayward, WI. Jody is a Career and Academic Planning Specialist at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.

Whenever we can, we enjoy spending time at our small log home in Northern Wisconsin. We like all sports, especially following the Iowa Hawkeyes and the St. Louis Cardinals.

IASCOE Membership Report - May 2006

By Dan Wells - State Membership Chairperson

The 2005 IASCOE Membership increased from last year and ended up at 87.5% overall. I am also pleased to report that 75 of our 100 counties have a 100% membership in IASCOE. And to top all of that off, District #7 again achieved 100% membership this year.

Our continued goal is to have 100% membership in Iowa. There are several counties and districts very close to achieving that very goal and I would like to challenge each and every one of you to make the commitment to improve on our membership. With a strong membership the goals set forth by our organization can be accomplished and the stronger our association will become. Now that 2005 has been recorded in the history books it's time we focus on 2006.

Each of the county offices will be receiving notice of our annual dues very soon. Please take the time to review and update your current information. This helps with our record keeping and we certainly do not want to leave anyone behind. Each and every FSA employee is important to our organization.

I would like to introduce you to the 2006 IASCOE Membership Committee:

District 1 is represented by Tammy Pruin from Sioux County
District 2 is represented by Vicki Pederson from Floyd County
District 3 is represented by Sheri Rodman from Clayton County
District 4 is represented by Debi Ostrander from Greene County
District 5 is represented by Rod Biensen from Story County
District 6 is represented by Carma Reiss from Benton County
District 7 is represented by Jolene Fechter from Page County
District 8 is represented by Sally Crall from Monroe County
District 9 is represented by Cynde Briggs from Mahaska County

Each member of this committee would be more than willing to answer any questions you may have concerning membership and the benefits associated with being a member. I am also available to all of you. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Membership Committee with the IASCOE Director's concurrence is able to offer the "Early Bird" specials again this year. For those IASCOE members who get their dues into their respective committee members before June 15th are eligible to receive a \$50 refund. Five members will be drawn.

Be sure to get your dues in early. Our winners last year were:

Ruth Engelmann - Humboldt County
Barbara Louw - Scott County
Loretta McClain - Osceola County
Kathy Moorman - Wayne County
Barbara Onnen - Shelby County

I want to personally "Thank" all of you for your continued support and would like for all of you to seriously consider becoming a member of IASCOE. There are several benefits associated with being a member. Do you know that because we are not Federal employees something as simple as our cost of living increases have to be requested for us? NASCOE/IASCOE as our representative makes sure that we receive the same benefits as all Federal employees. The accomplishments that NASCOE/IASCOE has made go on and on.

I would like to invite all of you to join me in becoming a member.

MWA EXECUTIVE REPORT

I just finished attending the spring negotiation session with management so I have a few things to share with you. I want to thank Tammy Eibey for giving me some space in your newsletter. Again, I want to thank you, Iowa, for your strong support in my first year as Midwest Area Executive.

I thought the negotiation session went very well. One of the issues that affect a couple of states in our area is limited issuance of purchase cards to county offices. One of the responses from management was that limited issuance of cards minimizes the time consuming administrative duties associated with the card for state office personnel. My first thought on this was wondering who we should be striving to provide convenience in this case. My feeling is that the state office is there to serve the county office and make work more productive where the rubber meets the road, the county office. I was assured that corrections would be made and relief would be provided to states on this issue.

Another issue was the price support review requested by OMB. There were a large number of errors associated with this review but very few that resulted in erroneous payments being issued. I was pleased that, after the initial shock of the number of errors, management is pushing back to remove errors such as the complete county office address not being on the form, etc. DAFP stated we needed to do a better job in the field pay attention to details when we met with him. When we asked how DAFP was going to provide better software and training to help avoid trivial errors he stated we just do not have the budget to get those changes made. I think we made our point on this issue that there is plenty of blame to go around and the number one problem is not enough staffing! Expect additional reviews ordered by OMB for CRP, CDP, DCP and NAP. I think this may give us some opportunities to make our case for more staffing if we manage this situation properly.

Steve Connelly, DAFO, met with us on the first day. One of the more interesting comments he made was that there would be a new role for the County Emergency Boards (CEB) with more responsibilities. Steve is serving as the FSA action officer the Avian Flu pandemic response. As you know the CED serves as the chair of the CEB and I believe we will see more about Avian Flu and homeland security responsibilities. Did NASCOE position papers on homeland security influence any of this? I would like to think so! I also had dinner one evening with Steve and a couple of the area execs. It was a very candid and straightforward dinner conversation and I can tell you Steve is very sincere in his desire to serve as DAFO. One bit of information gleaned from that meeting was that the current round of office consolidation would take place over this current and next two fiscal years. I think NASCOE can count Mr. Connelly as a friend.

We had a nice meeting with our Administrator in her office as well. Ms. Lasseter continues to be very concerned about county office issues and is working hard in Washington to make sure FSA gets the funding it needs and working to promote our agency.

Do not forget the national convention coming up in Cleveland Ohio August 8th through the 12th. The registration form is on the national NASCOE web site with additional information. I encourage you to travel to Ohio this year for a great convention!

I cannot solicit for the NASCOE Political Action Committee (PAC) but I can still give you some information on it. The executive board did approve a hospitality room for the national convention so watch for information on that if you plan to attend the convention. All indications are that we will soon have the opportunity to do payroll deduction for the PAC. Hopefully more information will be coming out on Capwiz before convention time.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your area exec and please continue to let me know about your concerns.

Sincerely,
Mark VanHoose - Midwest Area Executive
m_vanhoose@yahoo.com
mark.vanhoose@oh.usda.gov

“Getting Green”

Submitted by: Trice Smith, NASCOE Legislative Co-Chair

“**Getting Green**” usually means something good or first class. Maybe you won the lottery, or you newly sown lawn is beginning to grow. In FSA’s green is also something favorable because it means you have obtained a successful rating in the Presidents Management Agenda. The Executive Management Branch scorecard tracks how well the departments and the major agencies are executing the five government-wide management initiatives, which are as follows:

1. Strategic Management of Human Capital
2. Competitive Sourcing
3. Improved Financial Performance
4. Expanded Electronic Government
5. Budget and Performance Integration

The Executive Branch uses the “stoplight” scoring system. **Green for success**, yellow for mixed results, and red for unsatisfactory. It is very important for Departments and Agencies to strive towards reaching a green score on in all of the five initiatives.

A **Green score** indicates the agency is proceeding according to the plans agreed upon with the agencies.

A Yellow score shows some indication that maybe the agency will not achieve their objectives by the set timelines.

Red indicates that the agency will unlikely fulfill their objectives and there is no management intervention.

Why is it so important to stay “**Green?**” The Administration launched a website called www.ExpectMore.gov which posts scores for all agencies so the taxpayer may see which agencies and programs are working and which are not and what they are doing to improve their mode of operation. FSA should strive to be the best agency in all of the initiatives and always try to reduce any unnecessary taxpayer’s costs. We work for the taxpayer and should always have their best interest in mind.

A recent review of the LDP program proved not to be as “**Green**” as it had previously been. Incomplete or wrongly completed paperwork that did not result in an unjustified or incorrect payment is still considered an improper payment. Does this mean we are doing a terrible job? I would say not. There are many factors that play into this type of a report.

One is the staffing level of the agency and another is timelines placed on the employees to accomplish the work. FSA is an agency that works on a minutes notice from the direction of Congress and we continue to work understaffed but still get the job completed on time. As employees of FSA we must strive to stay “**Green.**” We may just have to slow down and try to be more conscientious of our work. If an agency stays in the red scoring area it is very difficult to justify their means or operation. The word outsourcing comes into mind.

If you are interested in Agencies ratings please check out www.ExpectMore.gov for complete information.

Legislative News

By Tammy Eibey - MWA Legislative Chair Person

On May 31, 2006, I was given the opportunity to attend one of the US House of Representatives Agricultural Committee Hearings. The meeting was held at Winona State University in Minnesota. Those attending the meeting representing NASCOE were, Dan Root, NASCOE President, Kevin Beekman, Minnesota Association President, Ann Ulwelling, Minnesota Legislative Co-Chair and Director, Jon Williams, Wisconsin Past President and MWA Alternate Executive, Ben Bosshart, Past NASCOE President and Wisconsin Association member and myself, MWA Legislative Chair and IASCOE District Director. Minnesota SED, John Monson was also in attendance as well as one Ann's County Committee men and 3 Minnesota State Specialists. A total of close to 100 people attended the hearing.

This meeting was set up by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Dairy, Nutrition, and Forestry to review the state of the upper-Midwest dairy industry. Many of the transcripts of the testimonies were available for us to read and follow along with during each panel. One thing that I found very interesting was that all the panel speakers that were farmers or represented producer associations were all in favor of the MILC program. The 3 large corporations (Kemps, Davigso and Schwans) were against the MILC and the Federal Milk Marketing Orders. I think we need to get the people to mention Farm Service Agency when they refer to the programs, in this instance it was MILC.



Front: Ben, Ann and Tammy
Back: John, Dan, Kevin, Jon

The transcripts from all the hearings that have been held this Spring, can be found at:
<http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/index.html>

The transcripts are usually posted soon after each hearing.

WITNESS LIST:

Panel I

Mr. Lloyd Day, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Accompanied by: Mr. H. Paul Kyburz, Market Administrator, Upper Midwest Milk Marketing Area, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Robert A. Cropp, Professor Emeritus, Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

Panel II

Dr. Dana Allen, Director, Minnesota Milk Producers Association, Eyota, Minnesota

Mr. Bruce Maas, Director, Associated Milk Producers Inc., Walnut Grove, Minnesota

Mr. John Vrieze, President, Wisconsin Dairy Business Association, Baldwin, Wisconsin

Mr. Mark Clark, Delegate, Land O'Lakes, Rollingstone, Minnesota

Panel III

Mr. Clint Fall, President and Chief Executive Officer, First District Association, Litchfield, Minnesota

Mr. James B. Green, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kemps LLC, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Mark Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Davigso Foods International, Inc., Le Sueur, Minnesota

Mr. Gordon Crow, Director of Government and Community Affairs, The Schwan Food Company, Marshall, Minnesota

Rally! Rally! Rally!

Submitted by Dee Ann Lehn – IASCOE President

Rally! Rally! Rally! Feel like you are watching some kind of ball game and your team needs a miracle to win? Some days at FSA, it seems we need a miracle to succeed and a gathering like the MWA/NWA Rally helps our team come up with a game plan that can help us do just that.

This year's joint rally was held in Excelsior Springs, Missouri at the Elms Resort and Spa. The Missouri Association did an excellent job of hosting the rally and should be commended for their efforts (*Rah! Rah! Sis-boom-bah!*)



Speakers ranged from the MASCOE President, Roger Colbert to the FSA Administrator, Teresa Lasseter. Representatives from NAFEC and RASCOE spoke of the part they play in helping with program issues and benefits. Missouri SED, Tim Kelley talked about FSA's role in supporting the Ag industry and making inexpensive food possible for our country and how FSA makes a positive difference in the lives of the American farmers.

NASCOE President, Dan Root and Vice President, Bonnie Heinzman reflected on the issues we are now facing. Bonnie commented on how we all have full lives and need to take some time for ourselves and our families. We need to take time to consider what we do for FSA and the farmers and appreciate ourselves for all that we accomplish.

Many questions were asked of Ken Nagel from DAFO and Ms. Lasseter. Although, some of the questions could not be answered at the time, both Mr. Nagel and Ms. Lasseter promised to take our questions back to Washington D.C. and present them to the appropriate people. Both were very down-to earth and very approachable and realize the challenges facing the county offices today.

Saturday afternoon, the Midwest states and the Northwest states split up and tended to business that affected their particular area. MWA Executive, Mark Van Hoose and MWA Alternate Executive, Jon Williams conducted our business meeting.

After a hard day of planning strategies, we all headed off to a pep rally of sorts in the evening. Friday night included a BBQ and a "biker theme" dance. Saturday night donned the awards banquet and a "1950/60's theme" dance.

As a team, we can make things happen. We can face the challenges and the changes that lie ahead of us, but we all need to pull together—one person doesn't make a team. I encourage all of you to get in the game: attend your state convention; attend the MWA Rally, and the National convention. Your contribution may just be the winning play!

"Put me in Coach!"

MWA/NWA RALLY

Ok, the break down on attendance is as follows...

We had 130 people registered 17 States Represented

MIDWEST

MO – 53
MI – 2
IL – 8
WI – 9
IA – 8
IN – 1
MN – 3
OH – 5
DC – 3
WV – 1
KS – 2
Midwest Had 88

NORTHWEST

SD – 6
ND – 12
ID – 6
WA – 2
MT – 4
NE – 6
Northwest had 36



MWA Scholarship Winner

Hello Everyone!

The numbers are in, and the new MWA Scholarship Winner has been notified.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Elliott Stevenson who is a student at the University of Minnesota is this years MWA Scholarship award winner.

Elliott's Mother and Father live in the little town of Seneca Wisconsin. His mother Myrna works for the FSA office in Crawford County.

Please inform your membership that the MWA Scholarship award winner has been announced. There were 48 applications this year, and unfortunately there can only be one student selected. Based on the comments from our judges, each and every one of the students are winners!

I thank all of you for your unprecedented commitment to the children of our fellow NASCOEites, your State Scholarship program, and the NASCOE Scholarship program!

As always, if anyone has any questions that I may be able to help you with, please let me know.

Tom Oasen, MWA Scholarship Chairperson



NASCOE'S 47th NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 9, 10, 11 and 12th, 2006

Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

24 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Tele (216) 696-5600/(800) 468-3571

Hotel Registration must be made by July 14, 2006

CLEVELAND KICKS IN 2006!!

Name _____ **Guest** _____

Delegate Member RASCOE NAFEC **Youth** _____ **Age(s)** _____

Address _____ **City/State/Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Your STO** _____ **Email** _____

Airline Flight Number _____ **Arrival Time** _____

REGISTRATION – for age 13 and older	number	price	total
Pre-registration – postmarked by July 5 Eligible for \$100 cash drawing if registered by July 5		\$20.00	
Registration – postmarked after July 5		\$25.00	

Evening Events – August 8, 9, 10, 11, 12				number	total
<i>Tuesday</i>	Cleveland Indians vs Los Angeles Angels	Game Time 7:05 PM	\$26 ea		
<i>Wednesday</i>	Ohio Night Come dressed as your favorite rock star!	Pasta/Chicken Bar 6:30 PM Karaoke	FREE		
<i>Thursday</i>	Goodtime III/Dancing & Buffet Dinner on Lake Erie/ Gilligans Island Theme	6:30 PM	\$20		
<i>Friday</i>	Retirees Luncheon		\$15		
<i>Friday</i>	M*A*S*H Theme Night / Scholarship Auction/Dance with <i>Running on Empty</i>	Quesadilla Bar 6:00 PM Auction/7:00 PM	FREE		
<i>Saturday</i>	Banquet / Dance featuring <i>The Danger Brothers</i>	7:00 PM	\$30		

TOURS AND GOLF – Wednesday August 9

Please indicate if any special accommodations are needed

		number	number	total
9 am	Golf at Shawnee Hills		\$45	
10 am - 9 pm/Self Tour	Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame & Museum	9-15 Yr/\$11	Adult \$15	
9 am	Geauga Lake Amusement Park	Under 48"/ \$30	Adult \$40	
9 am (includes lunch)	Pro Football HOF/Chocolate Factory	Child/\$35	Adult \$45	
9 am (includes lunch)	Covered Bridges/Winery		\$40	

Junior Rockers Club (Youth)

August 9, 10, 11 & 12

		number	price	total
Wednesday, 6:30 pm	Let's Get Rockin Pizza Party		\$5.00	
Thursday, 9 am	Scavenger Hunt Wm Mather Steamship/USS Cod Tour		\$7.00 (over 5) Under age 5 free	
Friday, 9 am (includes lunch) Friday Nite, 7 pm	Cleveland Metroparks Zoo & The RainForest Taco Party/Swimming		\$12 (12 & up) \$8 (ages 3-11) \$5	
Saturday, 9 am (includes lunch) Saturday Nite, 7 pm	Great Lakes Science Center/IMAX Theatre Sub & Movie Nite		\$12 Free	

National Convention Tee-Shirt for Cleveland

	size	number	price	total
Tie-Dyed Style	small		\$12	
	medium		\$12	
	large		\$12	
	x-large		\$15	
	xx-large		\$15	
	xxx-large		\$15	

Registration Total _____

Make check payable to OASCOE

Payment must be included with registration

Mail payment and registration form to: Don Henry, 557 Sunbury Rd, Suite C, Delaware OH 43015-8656



NASCOE Area Publicity Contest Winners!!!

And the winners are:

Midwest Area Winners:

Best Newsletter Winner: Iowa - Editor: Tammy Eibey
Best Single Issue: Iowa December Issue- Editor: Tammy Eibey
Best Feature Story Humor: No Entry
Best Feature Story Human Interest: "Walk a Mile" by: Charlene Neukomm, IL
Best Website: Iowa - Webmaster: Brian Beach

Southeast Area Winners:

Best Newsletter Winner: South Carolina - Editor: Anita Bryant
Best Single Issue: South Carolina - Editor: Anita Bryant
Best Feature Story Humor: "FSA Top 10", Eddie Coggin & Rhonda Little, Authors, Arkansas
Best Feature Story Human Interest: "Commitment to Love", Kyle Daniel,
Author, South Carolina
Best Website: Georgia – Webmaster: Rita Rogers

Northeast Area Winners:

Best Newsletter Winner: West Virginia - Editor: Melodie Bailey
Best Single Issue: West Virginia - Editor: Melodie Bailey
Best Feature Story Humor: "Why Laugh", Melodie Bailey, Author, WV
Best Feature Story Human Interest: "A Retirement Message to Evilene
Beverage", Patty Triplett, Author, WV
Best Website: West Virginia – Webmaster: Melodie Bailey

Northwest Area Winners:

Best Newsletter Winner: South Dakota - Editor: Peggy Groen
Best Single Issue: South Dakota - Editor: Peggy Groen
Best Feature Story Humor: No Entry
Best Feature Story Human Interest: "Laughter With Louie Again", Kerry Smith,
Author, North Dakota
Best Website: North Dakota – Webmaster: Nicki Miranowski

Southwest Area Winners:

Best Newsletter Winner: Texas
Best Single Issue: Texas
Best Feature Story Humor: "Sanitizing my Palm PC", Kelly Lindsey, Author, Texas
Best Feature Story Human Interest: "Rescue Us", Sharon Curtis, Author, Texas
Best Website: Texas – Webmaster: Keith Hiser



Contribute To The Next IASCOE Newsletter

If you have any stories, photos, jokes, quotes, or information that you would like to include in the next IASCOE Newsletter, send them to Tammy Eibey at tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov

NATIONAL PUBLICITY WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

By Cindy Peterson, National Publicity Chairperson

The scores are in! The WINNERS are:

Best Newsletter Winner: South Carolina - Editor: Anita Bryant
Best Newsletter-Honorable Mention: South Dakota - Editor: Peggy Groen
Best Website: Iowa - Webmaster: Brian Beach
Best Single Issue: South Carolina - Editor: Anita Bryant
Best Feature Story Human Interest: "Commitment to Love", Kyle Daniel,
Author, South Carolina
Best Feature Story Humor: "Why Laugh", Melodie Bailey, Author, WV

Congratulations to All the Winners! Thank you to all the contestants! As I say every year, the members of NASCOE are the real winners. The quality and quantity of information available because of these people is truly amazing. Thank you again!



Hear The Roar! Feel the Thunder!

Nothing else sounds like a HARLEY! And you have a chance to win a one of your own!

South Carolina is holding a raffle to raise funds for the 2007 National Convention at Myrtle Beach.

For a mere \$25.00 you can purchase a chance to win a 2007 Harley Davidson Black Pearl "Fatboy"

Additional Prizes are...

4 winners of \$500.00 CASH!

5 winners of \$250.00 CASH!

The drawing will be held at the 2007 National Convention at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach on August 11, 2007.

If you are interested in buying a raffle ticket or selling some tickets, please contact Dee Ann Lehn at deeann@iowatelecom.net The person who sells the winning Harley Davidson ticket will receive \$750.00 CASH from the South Carolina Association



NASCOE 2006 Distinguished Service Awards

NASCOE is proud to announce the Area DSA Award winners for our NASCOE DSA Program. Congratulations are in order for each of those nominated and I would like to say "thanks" to those that took the time to nominate "that someone special."



The Area winners are as follows:

Service to NASCOE:

Patti McDowell NE Area Nominated by Keith Richmond
Mary Johnson NW Area Nominated by Linda Boschee
Trent Johnson SW Area Nominated by Mary Lee Mitzelfelt
Robin Hudson SE Area Nominated by Martha Mills
Linda Feldkamp MW Area Nominated by Tom Oasen

Service to FSA/Agriculture:

William Sirmons SE Area Nominated by Gary Wilson
Donna Webb NW Area Nominated by Bob Rahja
Becky Blehm SW Area Nominated by Gary Rogers
Teresa Heck MW Area Nominated by Cindy Pistek
Deborah Brown NE Area Nominated by John Burtman

Service to Community:

Mike Lee SW Area Nominated by Laurie Jarman
Laurie Pfeifle NW Area Nominated by Shelley Moncur
Crystal Bowden SE Area Nominated by Jeanie Setser
Anya Pinkerton MW Area Nominated by Terry Wilds

WAY TO GO TERESA HECK FROM POLK COUNTY, IOWA!

-----IASCOE-----

Thank you!



I would like to say "Thank You" to Cindy Pistek for nominating me for the Distinguished Service Award for Service to Agriculture and to the IASCOE Awards Committee for granting this award to me. It was a wonderful surprise at the convention to be given this award. I have also been granted this same award from the Midwest Area at the Midwest Rally. I was unable to attend to receive this in person due to family conflicts, but the award is enroute to me. Again, thank you very much for granting this award to me.

Teresa Heck
PT, Polk County FSA Office

NASCOE has started two new awards,
[The Extra Mile Award](#) and [The Military Extra Mile Award](#)

The following people received the [Extra Mile Award](#)

Polly Frank	Iowa
Lynn Beier	Iowa
James R Brock	Illinois
Bev Rockwell	Ohio
Amy Hanko	Ohio

The following people received the [Military Extra Mile Award](#)

Craig Butler	Wisconsin
Stephen Bobowski	Wisconsin
L Cpl Nathan Stevenson	Wisconsin
Kevin Esselman	Wisconsin
Robert Esselman	Wisconsin
Sgt Gordon H Pulford	Michigan

The NASCOE AWARDS PROGRAM booklet is available
on the NASCOE website at <http://www.nascoe.org>

Rosie Kahl
Midwest Area Awards Chairperson

EDUCATE YOURSELF – ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

OPM wants federal employees to be aware of the vital need for individuals to sign up as organ and tissue donors.

The federal government supports employees who want to become donors by granting them extra leave. The rule is that a federal employee who donates organs or tissues is eligible to use a separate category of leave distinct from annual and sick leave. An employee may use up to 7 days of paid leave each calendar year to serve as a bone-marrow donor. An employee also may use up to 30 days of paid leave each calendar year to serve as an organ donor.



Information about organ and tissue donation and downloadable donor cards are available at <http://www.optn.org/about/> or by calling 1-800-355-SHARE. For information about the government's donor leave program, click on www.opm.gov/oca/leave/HTML/DONOR.htm

IASCOE SCHOLARSHIPS

Greetings members, the winners of the 2006 IASCOE Scholarships were announced at the IASCOE Convention on April 1, 2006.



Congratulations to the following winners in 2006.

STEPHEN PAUL SCHMIDT is from Harlan, Iowa. Stephen is the son of Mike and Donna Schmidt. Donna is a Program Technician in the Shelby County FSA Office. Stephen has three siblings- Bryan, Collin and Chantel. Stephen attends Harlan Community High School and currently has a GPA of 3.2. Stephen plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa this fall and pursue a degree in construction management. Stephen's hobbies include soccer, running, tractor pulling, farming and construction.

SAMANTHA NEWBURY is from Atlantic, Iowa. Samantha is the daughter of David and Jamie Newbury. Samantha's mother is a Program Technician from Cass County. Samantha has two siblings- Nigel and Chloe'. Samantha is a 2005 graduate from Atlantic High School currently attending Central College in Pella. She is studying Musicology and Music Performance with a current 3.6 GPA. Samantha's hobbies include instrumental music and art.

SAMANTHA TASLER is from Churdan, Iowa. Samantha is the daughter of Mike and Karen Tasler. Samantha's mother is a Program Technician in Calhoun County. Samantha has three siblings- Martah, Maria and Clayton. Samantha attends Paton-Churdan School and currently has a GPA of 3.6. Samantha plans to attend Grandview College this fall and intends to pursue a degree in Sports Psychology. She will also be playing volleyball at college. Her hobbies include all sports, hanging out with friends, shopping and watching movies.

BRANDON VOGEL is from Donnellson, Iowa. Brandon is the son of Doug and Donna Vogel. Brandon's mother is a Program Technician from the Lee County Office. Brandon has two siblings- Ben and Bradley. Brandon attends Central Lee High School and currently has a GPA of 3.7. Brandon plans to attend Iowa State University this fall and intends to pursue a degree in Engineering. Brandon has just recently returned from a trip to Burns, LA where he and nine other high school youth worked with Katrina survivors as they clean up from the devastation after the hurricane. Brandon's hobbies include sports, weight-lifting and fishing.



IASCOE Scholarship Committee -
Thank you for choosing me for one of your scholarship applicants. I am very grateful for this honor. Next year I will be attending Iowa State University, majoring in Engineering - where this scholarship money will help with expenses. Thanks again.

Brandon Vogel

NAFEC

National Association of Farmer Elected Committees

<p><u>PRESIDENT</u> Roger Richardson 1947 Furnace Rd. Eden, MD 21822 Tel: 410-749-1022 Fax: 410-749-5470</p>	<p><u>1ST VICE PRESIDENT</u> Lenny Hensgens 223 E. Hutchinson Rd. Crowley, LA 70526 Tel: 337-783-3283 Fax: 337-788-0900</p>	<p><u>2ND VICE PRESIDENT</u> Dennis Kuhlengel 15389 Dog Alley Rd. Okawville, IL 62271 Tel: 618-243-5963</p>
<p><u>SECRETARY- TREASURER</u> Paul Clark 751 Knox Hwy. 12 Gilson, IL 61436 Phone: 309-876-2278 Fax: 309-876-2514</p>	<p><u>WASHINGTON CONSULTANT</u> Kimmitt, Senter, Coates & Weinfurter 1730 M St. NW Suite 911 Washington, DC 20036 Phone: 202-331-4349 Fax: 202-331-7400</p>	<p><u>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</u> Cole Sims P.O. Box 471 Mer Rouge, LA 71261 Tel: 318-647-5005 Fax: 318-647-3889</p>

NAFEC'S Mission

NAFEC was organized in 1965 and our mission has not changed from then to the present. "The primary purpose of our organization is, and will 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 legislation we feel we need."

NAFEC is dedicated to keeping the county committee system of program delivery intact. With all the different factions in Washington wanting to do away with the COC, it is becoming more difficult, but we will prevail. County Committees provide the spark and imagination as well as the judgment needed in locally adopting and running FSA farm programs. They have earned the confidence of their neighbors by doing a capable, vigorous and dedicated job. There have been numerous attempts to strip the committee of its authority, provided in statute, of supervision, selection of the CED's and virtually every aspect of their jurisdiction. NAFEC has lobbied to assure that the COC authority, written by Congress in the Code of Federal Regulations, is not diminished.

NAFEC has worked with Congress and the administration to provide a level playing field for county committees and the employees in the FSA offices. NAFEC has worked diligently this past year trying to keep the county offices open. If we fail at this, the county as well as the state will be the big losers. Many employees will not have a job and the county committees will cease to exist. NAFEC has not always been successful in every attempt they have undertaken, however they have won the friendship of many within the Congress and the Administration through their continued efforts to promote the interests of the American farmers and ranchers. Our association has played a role in shaping several farm bills and expects to do the same in the future.

Membership is the key to making any association successful and NAFEC is no exception. NAFEC membership is vital to the future of both the Committee

Continued...

Association and the County Office Employees Association. NAFEC needs help to carry our messages. We urge all members of the County Committees, the advisors and county office employees to join NAFEC so we may continue to work for programs that will keep the American farmers and ranchers in business and help the entire county office system move forward. We dare not let down. Without members, the organization cannot carry our voice to policy makers. Membership dues are only \$35.00 per year for county committee members and \$20.00 for associate members. If NAFEC fails to survive, the county committee system may cease to exist also. Without the county committee doing the checks and balances, the Washington offices will make all the decisions for producers. NAFEC cannot let that happen.

Support NAFEC and encourage fellow COC members, office staff, and others to join us in our work to protect our industry, our community, and our life.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FARMER ELECTED COMMITTEE

Membership Application/Renewal Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

FAX NUMBER: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Would you prefer to have the newsletter electronically? Yes ___ No ___

Are you submitting an FSA-444 to your County FSA office for automatic dues withholding? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please remember to send your personal information to NAFEC or have your FSA office do so.

_____ Committee members - \$35

_____ FSA employee or Associate member - \$20

If paying by check, please make payable to **NAFEC**.

Mail to: Paul Clark - NAFEC Secretary-Treasurer
751 Knox Highway 12
Gilson, IL 61436

Jon Williams

For Midwest Alternate Executive

My name is Jon Williams and I am a candidate for Midwest Alternate Exec. I have served in that capacity for the 2005 -06 year and hope to be able to serve in that capacity again in 2006-07.

I have been a CED in Juneau County, Wisconsin for more than 19 years. It's a small county in south central Wisconsin with diverse agriculture and a little bit of everything when it comes to farm programs. I have served as President of the Wisconsin Association for almost six years. I have also represented Wisconsin at five Legislative Conferences and several National Conventions. I have attended many Midwest state conventions and area rallies over the past few years and think I have a good feel for the issues that face the Midwest.

Communications between the Exec and Alternate are very important. I feel they need to work as a team just as the Executive board and Officers must work as a unit and establish a sense of unity and a common goal. It is imperative that NASCOE position itself for the next farm bill and the more experience a person has at the area and National level the more prepared they will be to represent NASCOE members during the challenging times ahead.

I have enjoyed the past year serving as the Alternate Exec for the Midwest area with Mark Van Hoose and I have tried to represent NASCOE at several state conventions and the MWA/NWA Rally this year. I will also do my best to represent the concerns of the Midwest Area to the NASCOE leadership if you give me that opportunity. I will greatly appreciate your support for a second term as Midwest Area Alternate Executive.

Sincerely,
Jon Williams



Lisa Lambert of Sioux County has been with the Farm Service Agency for 20 years. Tammy Pruin, CED, is shown here presenting Lisa with a certificate of appreciation. Lisa also received a gift for her service to FSA.

Congratulations, Lisa!!!



Exclusive Benefits for NASCOE Members

The following Benefits are offered through J.M. Marketing, Inc.

- Cancer and Intensive Care
- Long Term Care Protection (Nursing Home)
- Heart/Stroke Insurance, with option Cancer First Occurrence and Intensive Care Riders
- Specs Vision Plan
- Accident Policies
- Disability Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Hospital Indemnity Plan
- Final Expense Policy
- Directors Liability Policy
- Association Liability Policy
- Dental
- Critical Illness

Dental and Life Insurance.

*Dental Policy is a true group policy only available to members of NASCOE

*Life Insurance has not had an open season since 1993 until now. There was a 60-day SPECIAL open enrollment for all members beginning in late November 2005, then a 30 day open enrollment after each state convention attended by a representative of J. M. Marketing in 2006. If a state does not have a state convention, special arrangements may be made to have an offering. There is a Children's Rider available with the policies to add a \$10,000 policy on each child for a single price for all children in the family.

Please call J. M. Marketing at 1 (800) 330-6223 or visit their web site at www.jmmarketing.biz for more details about the above policies and benefits.

OTHER EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS FOR NASCOE MEMBERS

- Agriculture Federal Credit Union, Savings, IRA's
- Legal Services for NASCOE Members
- Liability Coverage for State Affiliates during NASCOE related functions.

Family Fun/Amusement Parks

Six Flags Great America
P.O. Box 1776
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847)249-2133

Wyandot Lake
10101 Riverside Drive
Powell, Ohio 43065
(614)889-9283

Six Flags World of Adventure
1060 N. Aurora Road
Aurora, Ohio 44202
(330)562-7131

Sea World Ohio
Aurora. OH
(get discounts via website)

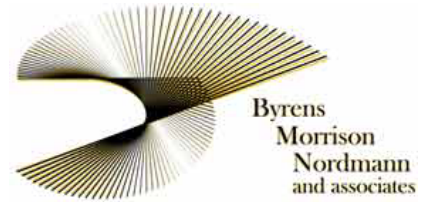
Six Flags St. Louis
P.O. Box 60
Eureka, Missouri 63025

These are just sites in the Midwest Area. There is a complete listing at www.nascoe.org Some other sites include Busch Gardens, Dollywood, Wyandot Lake, Sea World, Enchanted Village & Wild Waves. If you are interested in obtaining tickets you need to contact the Midwest area chairperson, Kay Lumsden at kay.lumsden@mi.usda.gov She will need your name, state, theme park you are interested in, number of tickets and the dates of your trip. Please plan ahead. It does take about 4 to 6 weeks to get.

Submitted by Kathy White - CED Iowa County & IASCOE Benefits Chairperson

Investment, Retirement, And Estate Planning

Byrens, Morrison, Nordmann & Associates



For 19 years, we have individually consulted with federal employees and agencies regarding investment, retirement, and estate planning. As of January 1, 2004, the newly formed agency of Byrens, Morrison, Nordmann and associates, a branch office of INVEST Financial Corporation, we will continue to make our 45 years of collective federal benefits planning experience a cornerstone of our financial services practice.

We have provided consultation in the form of individual appointment and federal benefits seminars. We have successfully assisted employees of many agencies including the IRS, FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, USDA, Social Security, Air Traffic Control, Veterans Administration Medical, and all individual unions of the U.S. Postal Service.

Our expertise extensively reviews the features of CSRS, CSRS-Offset, FERS, FERS-Transfers, and Thrift Savings Plan. We consult employees regarding complicated issues such as Deposit Time, Re-Deposit Time, Military Buyback, Federal Employees Group Life, and Survivor Benefits. We will alert employees of all Social Security penalties specific to federal employment such as the Windfall Elimination, Government Pension Offset, and Catch 62 Military penalties.

As registered representatives of INVEST Financial, we market financial planning products and services designed to educate a prospective client about the federal benefits they have, while also identifying those benefits which will not address individual needs, and where a supplemental plan is warranted.

As part of our ongoing services, we keep our clients up to date with the constant changes of the federal benefits package, as well as the ever-changing landscape of the investment world.

We invite you visit our website at www.federalbenefits.net to learn more about the commitment we have made to financial services designed for federal employees.

Please contact Scott Morrison for more information at:

Toll Free: 888-211-7307

Cell Phone: 269-209-9757

Email: scott.morrison@investfinancial.com

Web: www.federalbenefits.net

Mail: 112 E. Lawrence Avenue, Charlotte, MI 48813

FSA Members

New Opportunity for Planning for Retirement!
IASCOE has entered into an agreement with EJ Brown & Associates
to help you with your retirement planning.

EJ Brown & Associates will help you find your
financial solutions, one goal, one step at a time.

Our Goal: To help our IASCOE members achieve what they would want....if they knew the possibilities.

Our Focus: The effective use of information and products to protect, preserve, and grow assets.

Our Process: 1. Analyze
2. Design
3. Implement

The IASCOE board of directors has had several requests to help provide its' membership with good solid financial advice. It's a "Hot" topic, especially with those members nearing retirement. In future issues of IASCOE NEWS we will be bringing you general financial information that will be of interest to FAS employees. These topics will range from tax planning, retirement planning and strategies that have worked for current retiree's. Personal backgrounds of EJ Brown & Associates will also be provided. We encourage you to give them a call to arrange a no obligation consultation. With all the changes in tax law, interest rates, stock market and benefit programs we all need to have a plan and review it on a regular basis.



Kathy Walvoord
Customer Service

Joshua J. Katcher
Registered Representative

Edward J. Brown, CLU
Registered Representative

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866-304-0043 ext 218
ed.brown@ffcltd.com

P.O. Box 363
Hampton, IA 50441
641-425-2573
joshua.katcher@ingfp.com

Securities offered through ING Financial Partners.
EJ Brown & Associates in not a subsidiary of nor controlled by ING Financial Partners

IASCOE GOLF!

Gary Brewer Memorial / FSA Golf Tournament Announcement

The annual IASCOE Golf Tournament returns to central Iowa and will be held in Ankeny at the Otter Creek golf course on September 8, 2006. Hopefully it will be a little cooler then and people will have the State Fair and summer vacations behind them.



I am toying with the idea of making it an 18-hole, 6-person best shot, rather than just 9-holes because some have commented in the past it seems like you tee off and are done before you know it. This is still up in the air so please email me any thoughts you have on playing 18 vs. 9 holes. Of course, the big downside is the additional cost.



So, mark September 8, 2006 on your calendar and I hope to see you then! More information to follow as arrangements come together...

From Brad Murray, Tournament Chair



**Let your voice be heard.
Sign up for CapWiz**

CapWiz makes it easy to contact your Congressional Representatives and to find out what is happening in Congress. You will get email alerts from NASCOE leadership that let you know about any hot topics. Suggested letters are already written and you can change the wording to your liking or simply add your name and forward on as an email to the members of Congress.

Go to www.iascoe.org and it will take you less than five minutes to sign up. Add to our numbers—help keep IOWA FSA employees leading the nation! Be proactive and let your representatives know how you feel—tell them the pride you have in your job and what resources you need to do a good job for our farmer customers.

It's a good way to also stay abreast of issues regarding our benefits—those you consider to be "routine" right now and those that hopefully will continue into your retirement someday.

I urge you to do this small part.... sign up for CAPWIZ today!

Submitted by Cindy Mensen

IASCOE Director Profile

My name is John Landgraf. I serve as CED in Sac County where I work with 5 wonderful people that make a full time job out of making me look good. I interviewed for the COT position in 1987 when Bob Furleigh was the SED, the STO was in the Federal Building (without security) and the highest grade Program Assistant was CO-5.

I became an IASCOE member as soon as I learned what the Association's purpose was and that it's success was based on the combined effort of the membership. Pretty obvious that this operation didn't run on automatic pilot and needed all the support it could get. I have been an IASCOE Director since 1995 representing west central Iowa.

My wife and I have 4 children, each of which hold an individual record. My oldest, Nick is pursuing his Masters degree in Health Care Administration while working as an Intern and Chief Financial Officer in this field. Nick holds the family record for **"fastest exit off the farm as soon as the opportunity presented itself"** (smart kid) Lindsay graduated from High School last spring and attended UNI this year. The 2005 Buena Vista County Fair Queen (try living with one of those for a year) and the only incoming Freshman to make the UNI Dance Company, Lindsay holds the family record for **"most physical damage inflicted upon a motorized vehicle during 4 years of high school without a citation"**. Devin, a high school junior, plays lots of basketball and is a big help on the farm. He currently holds the family teenage record for **"no moving violations at this time"**. This amazing feat could be better defined or simply translates into: "ain't been caught yet". My 9-year-old Trevor (aka Turbo), an avid Star Wars/Lord of the Rings/ Harry Potter fan, holds the all time high family record for **"most notes sent home from school due to an expanded vocabulary"**.

We live on a farm near Storm Lake where we raise lots of livestock including a few Clydesdales that we hitch for parades, school functions and other special events. This last year at Sac City's Sesquicentennial we hitched the Clydes and pulled the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids float in the 150th celebration parade and also the Relay For Life in the Storm Lake Star Spangled Spectacular on the 4th of July.



I have enjoyed serving you as an IASCOE Officer and Director. This Association's objective: an effective unified representation has a 46 year old record of success that has served the membership extremely well. Your Association has made reality out of employee benefits that previous generations within the Agency never thought possible.

Your dues are workin!

A TRIP TO REMEMBER

Submitted by Kathy White, CED Iowa Co

We had been talking about visiting Ireland for years and last fall decided it was time to plan a trip. As the time approached it was hard to believe that we were actually going to Ireland for 10 days. My husbands' maternal-grandfather along with his brother immigrated to the United States in the early 1900's. When their father passed away in Ireland his brother took his wife and two children and went back to Ireland. His family still lives on the farm where Jerry's grandfather was born and raised.



At 6 o'clock on the evening of March 29th we left Chicago for our 9-hour flight to Shannon, Ireland. We arrived at 10 o'clock on the morning of March 30th. The time change made for an awful short night. After picking up our rental car we checked into the Great Southern Hotel, which was right at the airport (the hotel was closer than the short-term parking area at a US airport).

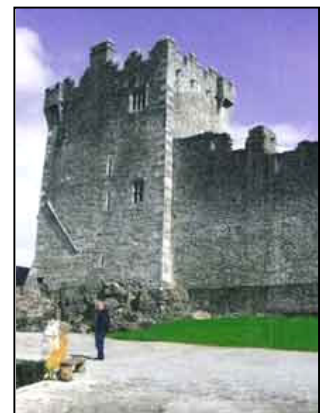
After a couple of hours of rest Jerry decided it was time to go for a ride and see if he could drive on the wrong side of the road and shift with his left hand. No sooner had we left the hotel parking lot than we encountered our first "round about". The roads were as narrow as everyone had told us and the stone walls were way too close to the passenger side of the car. Jerry got along great and decided he liked the roundabouts, if you missed where you needed to go you had another chance to go around and try again. The signs were an experience, there could be ten or more on the same pole all pointing in various directions and not necessarily the direction the roads went. I also soon discovered that they don't have rest areas on the highways and the gas stations also don't have restrooms.



It was spring in Ireland, the temperature was 55 to 60 and the spring flowers were in full bloom. The scenery was impressive to say the least.

The highlight of our trip was spending 4 days with Jerry's cousins and seeing the farm and area where his grandfather was born and raised. His cousins still live in the house where his grandfather was born and raised. Agriculture in Ireland is very different from farming in Keokuk Co, Iowa. Farms are much smaller and land sells for around \$16,000 per acre. Coleman took Jerry to see the farming operation, which included the home farm and rented pastures and hay. They don't raise grain or row crops in this part of Ireland. He did have a new total confinement building with a pit (which was built with a grant from the EU) for his cow herd. The cows are in total confinement for the winter thru calving and in the spring after calving they are moved out to pasture.

Some of the other highlights of the trip were the castles, especially the Blarney Castle where Jerry kissed the blarney stone, shopping in Killarney and taking a "jaunting car ride" (horse/buggy) through the national park, the Dingle Peninsula and Connors Pass, Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, tours of the Jameson whiskey distillery and Waterford Crystal factory, a visit to Cobh (the port where his grandfather sailed from), and of course the Irish pubs. It still amazes me how old some of the castles, churches, and ruins are. We stopped at one fort that was from 500 BC and several of the castles and churches were from the 12th and 14th century. It was definitely a trip we will always remember.





WELCOME TO MUSCATINE "The Pearl of the Mississippi"

RAGBRAI 2006 ROUTE

JULY 29, 2006 MUSCATINE IOWA IS THE ENDING CITY FOR "THE RAGBRAI XXXIV". A HUGE CELEBRATION IS PLANNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH MUSCATINE'S ANNUAL "FAMILY FRIENDLY" GREAT RIVER DAYS REUNION

After riding 444 miles, starting at Sergeant Bluff, Iowa park the bike, rest up, relax, and enjoy yourself. Be entertained with live bands that will Jamacia-your weekend. There are games for the kids, a variety of foods and beverages, an eye-catching carnival with midway and much, much more. Partake in the festivities of the GREAT RIVER DAYS REUNION finale. GREAT RIVER DAYS REUNION is an annual event that coincides with the week of RAGBRAI. There is something for the whole family at the GREAT RIVER DAYS REUNION. RAGBRAI riders, admission is free (just show your arm band).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ENTERTAINMENT, MAPS, LODGING VISIT THE WEBSITE WWW.MUSCATINE.COM



Some years ago, FSA District 2 held a "Cutest Baby Contest".
The following are some "runners-up".
Can you guess who these employees are?



Hint: A very talented person, seen in many IASCOE convention shows!
Inspiration for books!



Hint: Had no hair until she was 3, has lots now, but you never know what color!!!



Hint: This girl has taken may spills in her life!

Answers On Next Page

Meet The Traugers

What a year this has been for Jane and Larry Trauger. Jane is a PT in Humboldt County and Larry is a Civil Engineer Technician for NRCS and is stationed in Kossuth County. Their daughter Liz has had an exceptional 4 years of basketball for Twin River Valley High School (TRV), Class 1A.

The 6' 1" freshman began her career with 28 points in the season opener and has not stopped since. She broke the state record with a total 609 points that year, surpassing the previous record of 553. She was selected second team all state. Liz ended that year placing third overall in the state.

Her sophomore had a major bump in the road. Liz tore her ACL ligament on the first day of practice disabling her to play basketball until the last 4 games of the season that year.

Then, junior year rolled around and Liz tore up the net! She averaged 24.4 points per game all season, which was top in the state of Iowa. She easily achieved her 1000-point career total mid season that year. She was selected first team all state that year.

This year was very exciting for the Traugers. The team went undefeated all season. They advanced to the State Basketball Tournament in which she achieved her 2000-point total in the first round of district play. TRV won their first round of state tournament, against Central Decatur, and were defeated in the semifinals by IKM Manila who went on and won the Class 1A Championship. Again, she was selected first team all state and academic all state.

Liz ended her high school career 2115 points and 987 rebounds. Her team over all record in four years was 93-9. Six of those games were lost her sophomore year.

Liz graduated last week with academic honors from TRV High School and received numerous scholarships including 2 from Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she will attend college for the next four years! Mom and Dad are elated!!!! She will continue to play basketball with the MSU Mavericks this fall and major in accounting.



Congratulations Liz, Jane and Larry!!!!

Answers to Baby Pictures:

1. **John Bahnsen.** He has appeared in many shows, is an inspiration to a novelist, looks good in a skirt...
2. **Connie Straw.** Her mother, Darlene Schwickerath, was so afraid that she wouldn't have any hair and no one would know she was a girl. Every baby picture has this tam included...
3. **Julie Vulk,** spills taken on bicycles, still rides but is riding more in golf carts these days rather than bicycles.

Aunt Lisa

By Lisa Forburger – PT Kossuth County

I became an aunt when I was 9 years old. My oldest sister, Marilyn, gave birth to a beautiful little girl, Catherine Lea. One niece was short lived, because it wasn't long and there was Billy and Kim. Then my sister added Brenda, so that made 4 by the time I was a teenager. Danny and Adam were added to Marilyn's family to keep her busy and I too was busy with babysitting. Mom always volunteered me because I was at that "perfect" age. I loved Sunday growing up because Mom would always make a big dinner to welcome back siblings and families. That included 5 pies baked fresh that morning.

Marlene was married the year after my mother passed on and it did not take long for her family to begin. April was born in May followed by Jason (364 days later).

The kids were growing and then my brother Nick decided it was his turn to use the baby things so Shawn was added, followed by Greg, Troy and at last, pretty little Jackie. Max and Ruth were married within 2 weeks of each other and then came Ryan, Jake, and Brady, along with Sara and Alison.

Can't forget Jack, he married and added Abbey and Mathew. By that time, Marlene added three more, Travis, Alicia, and Tyler. Marilyn had Ellen, and Ruth gave birth to Andrea and Tricia. Tricia was born in Des Moines during the flood of 1993 and there was no water for her to shower in the hospital, yuck!! Needless to say, she went home the same day because there was water in Waukee.

Then Danny my little brother jumped in the ball game and his wife and added Nicole and Jamie. Jack remarried so we were happy to add Shawn, Sara, and Sadie.

When I married my husband Rick, his youngest sister was 12. It did not take long to acquire Amy, Anne, Cody, Nikki and Josh. And then many more weddings came about followed by Ben, Lucas, Jake, Heather and Holly (twins), Cera and Cullen, Mathew and Lindsey, Samantha, Emma, and Hagen. And I can't forget John, Jennifer, and Justin, or Alexandria, Mary Catherine, and Zachary and Anita's baby Daniel. I am fortunate to live close to Ashley and Jenna, Brittany, Rachel, Emily and Charles.

Wow, you think that is a load, I became a great aunt on June 21, 1991, the same year my son Richard was born. Austin now has a sister Macy, who is the same age as my daughter Cedes. We also have John (JT), Ben and Levi, Jonah, Valerie, Logan and Collin, Alexis, Kalianna who only weighed a little over 3 pounds when she was born but is now 3 years old and doing very well. I can't forget Madison, Dawson, Mason, Chase and Alexa. The latest addition to the family is Tate who was born on May 11th, and Jason and Rebecca are expecting a boy they tell me in September.

Email is important to keep in touch with many of these kids. Abbey is teaching English in Buenos Aires but keeps Aunt Lisa up to date, thank goodness for email. I can't say I know the exact days of their birthday but I could probably give you a month and maybe a year.

What a blessing it is for me to find everyone healthy and happy. Being from a large family is awesome!!!! Oh, by the way that totals 77 nieces and nephews; do you think that I could hit 100? Wouldn't it be fun to have a picture with all of them!

The following e-mail is from Lt. David Bringle - U.S. Navy. Lt. Bringle is the nephew and godson of John Landgraf - CED Sac County. He is in Djibouti, Africa, which is a very small country right next to Somalia.

Just checking in on you guys to see how things are going. Things here are going well. Nothing too exciting. It was pretty hot the first week I was here, I mean really hot, but now I don't know if it's me getting used to it or the fact that it has cooled down a little bit.

I am staying in a tent. It is nicer than the tent I was in last time. This one has walls in it so everyone has their own cubby.

The food has been pretty good, basically the same as the boat though. It is kind of tough to eat healthy, it seems like everything is fried.

I have ventured out a little bit since I have been here, and let me tell you I can truly say I have seen third world now. There are few well cared for roads, and it seems like if it is worth having you walk it off. Not quite what we are used to, it really makes you appreciate what we have back home.

The people I have met here are nice. They are really supportive and have a desire for us to be here. I can't go into the details, but I do think that we can/are making a real difference. It is exciting being a part of something that has the potential of making the world better off. Of course, this is only one aspect of what needs to be done. The amount of humanitarian assistance that needs to be added is great, but being one link in this chain makes me feel good.

Well, I have to get going,

Hope you are doing well.



CONGRATULATIONS GRANDPA!



Wendy Elizabeth Veit.

D.O.B. 5/3/2006 - 6lb 8oz. 19".
Parents are Jason and Kristen Veit, Erie PA. Grand parents are Tom and Kathy Veit. Tom is the FLO in Buena Vista County. Kristen's parents are Frank and Sandy Krahulik of Pittsburg PA



Notes from the Military Mom:

As many of you know already, I am the proud mom of twin sons who are in the Army and are presently stationed in Iraq. This week is unusually difficult because the boys were home for two weeks on leave for my daughter's wedding and I took them back to the airport last Friday. The best Mother's Day present of all was to have ALL my children home with me that day. We took some great pictures and I truly cherished the time with my sons. Even though they were not with me very much they were still "home". I know that any military parent can relate to what I mean.

I started a website: www.usdamilitaryfamilies.org as a way of providing support and information to military families. Since I began the site, I have collected and linked many sites that provide support for families, information on sending mail to soldiers, and adopting a soldier or a platoon. There is also a prayer list that you can have your soldier added to and at the present time there are over 50 names from all over the country. Be sure to have your favorite soldier added to the list. You can even send a picture of your soldier and have that added to the photo album. There is a vast amount of information on veteran benefits, survivor information, and much, much more. There is now a tribute to fallen soldiers, too.

The newest effort under way is the "Wisconsin High School Challenge". I began this effort after visiting the local high school and noticing that there was no military tribute anywhere in the school. There were 11 young men and women from my boys' class alone that are in the military and this is a lot since Colby High School is a relatively small school. I went to the principal and asked for a space in the showcase to put up a display. The school graciously allowed me a spot near the office and I set up a display with names of all the soldiers that we could locate. After setting up the display, I decided to start my high school challenge and have begun my mission to get other military families involved and have them go to the schools where their soldiers attended and have some type of tribute done. In most smaller towns the high school is the focal point of community activity and what better way to show support for the military than to have some type of dedication done by the school. There is also a two-fold purpose to the challenge: it not only pays tribute to our soldiers, but it provides some kind of therapy to parents. Getting involved and "doing something" helps a parent deal with the fact that their child is involved in a war. All it takes is one person to go to the school and initiate such action. One person can make a difference. **Why not let that person be YOU?**

Since I started the High School Challenge, 3 schools have taken the challenge. I also have secured the support of WI Governor Doye, the Lieutenant Governor, 3 state representatives and Congressman Green. 2 representatives have sent letters to all the schools in their districts. This is a non-partisan effort and I thank the Wisconsin legislators for their support and cooperation. Do you know any legislators that would back this effort in your state?

If your school is already doing some type of tribute, please contact me at debessel@pcpros.net and I will be sure to add that school to the list as a Thank You for the effort. Please send the name of the school, the town and state where located and what type of tribute has been done.

Be sure to check out www.usdamilitaryfamilies.org if you or someone you know has anyone they care for in the military for help, support and encouragement.

It's over 100 degrees in Iraq right now, so remember to pray for our military who not only have to endure the heat but have to do it in full body armor.

Thank you for your time,
Military Mom
Deb Esselman, WI



Here's a picture of the boys at the wedding.

The Great Morel!

A Tribute to Shroomers!

By: Tammy Eibey, Delaware County FLO

The Great Morel has emerged upon us and has begun its migratory march north. The woods in which we venture are in their seasonal transition, readying itself for the great morel. Sadly for some, this glorious rite of spring has slowly passed us by, while others hastily set out to embarked on this unexplainable, yet euphoric ritual with family and friends. This year my son Keith, a senior at West Delaware, and his friend Trent, found over 40 pounds of Mushrooms in one outing and found that selling them in Cedar Rapids for \$25.00 a pound was easier than picking up rocks to finance their Prom expenses! Keith's younger sisters got some of the profits by helping the Boys clean and bag them!

YES, I MANAGED TO CONFISCATE A FEW!

The Season

The morel mushroom season varies in time span across various regions of the United States. Typically it arrives in the spring months beginning late March and may run on into early June. Seasons will typically last three to four weeks from start to finish, although this can vary depending on the cooperation of Mother Nature. Many variables such as ground temperature and rain levels dictate the growing cycle and how bountiful the crop. There have been many studies as to how, where and why the morels make their grand appearance in certain conditions and not others. Most mushroom hunters will present all kinds of "SWATS" (Scientific Wild Ass Theories...per my crazy brother in law!) on how, where and when to find them. Almost every mushroom hunter will have a few "SWATS" of their own, some with merit, while others are just that.... theories.



"I am basically a new shroomer (15 years) but still a shroomer nevertheless. My brother in law is what I'd call a professional shroomer. (He wears camouflage clothes when I go with him...tricky guy!) He and his wonderful wife let me in on this delicious recipe. Pretty simple. Adjust recipe depending on your number of table guests or personal gluttony."

continued...

Ritz Crackers & Parmesan Cheese

Ingredients:

- One extra large egg, beaten.
- One part each -Ritz crackers (crushed fine) and shaker style parmesan cheese.
- Add fresh black pepper to taste.
- Approximately 8 to 10, 2-3 inch morels (halved)
- Unsalted Real Butter



Preparation:

Melt butter medium to high heat. Halve and wash the morels in cold water, use NO salt. Bathe them in the beaten egg, turning and making sure every nook and cranny is coated with egg. Sprinkle lightly with black pepper (optional-mix the black pepper with the dredge mixture). Dredge through the cheese and cracker mixture until coated well. Drop coated morels into the hot skillet with real unsalted butter, turn once and cook until golden brown. I am sure there are no calories or fat issues here! Serve hot -Enjoy the bounty.

After tasting these I thought I'd died and gone to Heaven....But you see I was a city girl who never would have dreamed of eating something also known as a "fungus" .

Grandmother's Morel Recipe

- 1 Batch of Morels, halved, cleaned & soaked "a while" or overnight in salt water with a heavy plate weighing them down in the water, then rinsed well & drained at cooking time.
- In a wide shallow bowl: 1 Country Egg mixed with 1/4 c. milk
- In a thick paper bag: 2 c. cornmeal with 1 t. black pepper mixed in.
- In a deep well-seasoned cast-iron skillet, melt bacon grease 1" deep. Get it good and hot but not smoking.
- Now dip your mushrooms in the milk and let them soak a little while your grease is heating. Pick a handful out of the bowl and shake them a little to get off some of the liquid excess then drop them in the bag of cornmeal. Hold your hand on the bottom of the bag so it doesn't break, and gently shake. Add more mushrooms, shaking gently after each addition.
- When they are all coated very well, start laying them in a single layer in the hot skillet. Try to only turn them once, that way your coating stays on better. Don't salt, bacon grease is salty. When golden, drain on paper.
- Being lazy, I gently dump the coated morels in a colander set in a larger bowl. This lets the loose stuff fall off and if you need to touch up any bare spots your coating is right there.

My husband's family uses cracker crumbs and they made a production line out of it for extra family fun. It truly doesn't get any better than this, and if there aren't Morels in Heaven, I'm not sure I want to go there!

**Good Luck
To All Shroomers!**



This 41" Northern Pike recently made Cedar Rapids TV Channel 9 "Big Old Fish" segment. Angler Kara Johnson, daughter of Sandra Johnson PT in Washington county, pulled it from Lake Kabetogema, MN last season.

THE PERILS OF POLLY P.T.

PART EIGHTEEN

Written By Roseanne Woerner, CED Black Hawk County

Created by Dee Lehn, CED Keokuk County

Visit our website at
www.iascoe.org for the
entire story of
"The Perils of Polly PT"

Last month's unfortunate email incident has caused me to be on my best behavior in every aspect of my professional life, for the time being anyway. I'm not only working to my fullest capability, I look good too. I'm kind of a fashionista now. I'm paying extra-special attention to my wardrobe. I iron EVERYTHING! I figure, if Tessa likes clothes, the care I take with my clothes might have some sort of positive influence in her judgment of me. Today for instance, I'm wearing high heels and those knicker things. I don't know what you call them. They're definitely not Capri's or Beach Comber's. They're not a skirt. Gaucho pants maybe.

So far, Tessa hasn't said anything, but I'm figuring that she's the kind of person who doesn't notice changes in other people right away because she's so self-involved, but that's a whole other story. (*meow*) So, I'm not deterred. Not yet anyway.

Tessa calls me into her office just after lunch. "We're going to the field," she tells me.

I look down at myself. "Uh...that really doesn't work for me. I'm wearing heels."

She looks up from the folder that she's been perusing and gives me one of those 'elevator eye' glances. Up and down. Up and down again. "Oh," she says. "So you are. Hmmm. Well, you know what, that's not going to be a problem because this CRP field that we're going to look at is right along the road. There's no reason to get out of the car that I can see."

"Oh. Well then. Fine. When are we leaving?"

"Now," she says. She hops up out of her chair and zooms past me. "Come on. I'll drive."

Tessa has so much stuff in her car, I have to stand next to the door and wait for three full minutes while she clears me a place. It's not that she's a messy person because all of her stacks and piles are neat, but gees; I was raised to believe that a car is a car and a closet is a closet and one isn't synonymous with the other.

To Be Continued...

OUR MOST POPULAR LADIES SHIRTS ON SALE !

The ladies fine pima cotton v-neck polo ([Item No. 3036](#)) is the most popular item being sold from the website this season. We have put the item on sale until the end of June and added a new color -- Lime. Lime is an "in" color this year; you will definitely want one of these shirts in this color. The shirts are reduced 10% - from \$24 to \$21.60.



We have also reduced our [Basic Ladies Polo Shirt \(Item No. 3004\)](#) 10% - from \$24 to \$21.60. Earlier this year we added new colors to this style also. Order several today.