

# IASCOE

The Iowa Association Of FSA County Office Employees



**JUNE  
IN  
IOWA**



# 2009/2010 IASCOE OFFICERS

**President**  
**Cindy Mensen**  
**CED Clayton County**



Office 563 245-1713  
[cindy.mensen@ia.usda.gov](mailto:cindy.mensen@ia.usda.gov)

**Vice-President**  
**Jeff Davis**  
**CED Plymouth County**



Office 712 546-4178  
[jeff.davis@ia.usda.gov](mailto:jeff.davis@ia.usda.gov)

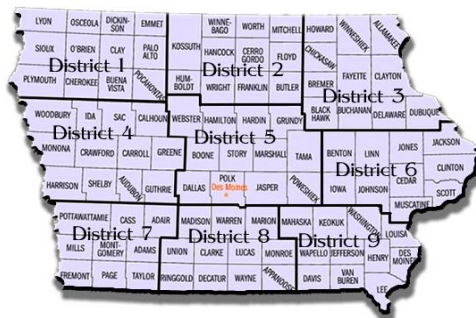
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Sue Beemer**  
**PT Taylor County**



Office 712 523-2118  
[sue.beemer@ia.usda.gov](mailto:sue.beemer@ia.usda.gov)

## 2009/2010 IASCOE DIRECTORS

DISTRICT	P.T. DIRECTOR	CED DIRECTOR
1	<b>Karen LaCour - Dickinson</b> Alt - Nancy Heideman - Clay	<b>Jeff Davis - Plymouth</b> Alt - Larry Lago - Dickinson
2	<b>Cindy Pistek - Hancock</b> Alt - Jeanine Diekhuis - Hancock	<b>Tammy Pruin - Wright</b> Alt - Barry Terhark - Cerro Gordo
3	<b>Tammy Eibey - Delaware</b> Alt - Karen McNeil - Winneshiek	<b>Cindy Mensen - Clayton</b> Alt - Kevin Keegan - Buchanan
4	<b>Mary Lageschulte - Ida</b> Alt - Amy Carlson-Hammen - Calhoun	<b>John Landgraf - Sac</b> Alt - Kevin Fitzpatrick - Greene
5	<b>Chris Grieder - Polk</b> Alt - Teresa Heck - Polk	<b>Steve Kennedy - Jasper</b> Alt - Lee Ann Davis - Boone
6	<b>Jessica Yuska - Scott</b> Alt - Joni Birkhofer - Muscatine	<b>Devalyn Wilson - Cedar</b> Alt - Randy Madsen - Muscatine/Scott
7	<b>Sue Beemer - Taylor</b> Alt - Judy Lundgren - Page	<b>Cindy Bebout - Fremont</b> Alt - Lynette Gruchow - East Pottawattame
8	<b>Patsy Bence - Madison</b> Alt - Connie Bence - Madison	<b>Kelly Cain - Madison</b> Alt - Joyce Frost - Wayne
9	<b>Judy Dameron - Louisa</b> Alt - Dawn Stewart - Henry	<b>Dee Ann Lehn - Keokuk</b> Alt - John Bartenhagen - Louisa





2010 IASCOE Directors

### 2009/2010 IASCOE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Legislative

Dee Lehn  
CED Keokuk County  
Office 641 622-2800  
[dee.lehn@ia.usda.gov](mailto:dee.lehn@ia.usda.gov)

Tammy Eibey  
FLPO Delaware County  
Office 563 927-4250  
[tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov](mailto:tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov)

#### Membership

Mary Lageschulte  
PT Ida County  
Office 712 364-2126  
[mary.lageschulte@ia.usda.gov](mailto:mary.lageschulte@ia.usda.gov)

#### Benefits

Kelly Cain - CED Madison County  
Office 515 462-4884  
[kelly.cain@ia.usda.gov](mailto:kelly.cain@ia.usda.gov)

#### Publicity

Cindy Pistek - PT Hancock County  
Office 641 923-3666  
[cindy.pistek@ia.usda.gov](mailto:cindy.pistek@ia.usda.gov)

#### Awards

Devalyn Wilson - CED Cedar County  
Office 563 886-6061  
[devalyn.wilson@ia.usda.gov](mailto:devalyn.wilson@ia.usda.gov)

#### Scholarship

Tammy Pruin - CED Wright County  
Office 515 532-2849  
[tammy.pruin@ia.usda.gov](mailto:tammy.pruin@ia.usda.gov)

#### Programs

Jessica Yuska - PT Scott County  
Office 563 391-3335  
[jessica.yuska@ia.usda.gov](mailto:jessica.yuska@ia.usda.gov)

#### Emblems

Chris Grieder - PT Polk County  
Office 515 964-4295  
[chris.grieder@ia.usda.gov](mailto:chris.grieder@ia.usda.gov)

## 2009/2010 IASCOE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### District 1

Benefits/Legislative: Rex Wittrock, Buena Vista  
Awards/Scholarship: Larry Lago - Dickinson  
Publicity: Kelsey White, Emmet  
Membership: Mark VonArb - Cherokee

### District 2

Benefits/Legislative: David Stromer - Kossuth  
Awards/Scholarship: Jeanine Diekhuis - Hancock  
Publicity: Barry Terhark, Cerro Gordo  
Membership: Janine Schwarck - Mitchell

### District 3

Benefits/Legislative: Karen McNeil - Winneshiek  
Awards/Scholarship: Connie Straw - Chickasaw  
Publicity: Rose Woerner - Black Hawk  
Membership: Sheri Rodman - Clayton

### District 4

Benefits/Legislative: Pat Warmbier - Harrison  
Awards/Scholarship: Denise Dugan - Woodbury  
Publicity: Heather Muenchrath - Shelby  
Membership: Cathleen "Skip" Borst - Carroll

### District 5

Bene./Legislative: Teresa Simonton - Poweshiek  
Awards/Scholarship: Connie Safley - Dallas  
Publicity: Kitty Benda - Marshall  
Membership: Rodney Biensen - Story

### District 6

Bene./Legis.: Joni Birkhofer - Muscatine  
Awards/Scholarship: Angie Reynolds - Muscatine  
Publicity: Jessica Yuska, Scott  
Membership: Renee Schultz - Cedar

### District 7

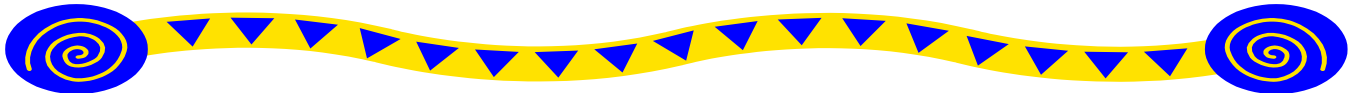
Benefits/Legislative: Chris Irvin - Page  
Awards/Scholarship: Phyllis Reineke - Taylor  
Publicity: Carole Dawson - Taylor  
Membership: Dan Wells - Adair

### District 8

Benefits/Legislative: Kelly Cain - Madison  
Awards/Scholarship: Dave Wynn - Monroe  
Publicity: Rhonda Cooper - Union  
Membership: Marla Morlan - Monroe

### District 9

Benefits/Legislative: John Bartenhagen - Louisa  
Awards/Scholarship: Carol Long - Mahaska  
Publicity: Anna Hornbaker - Van Buren  
Membership: Cynde Briggs - Mahaska



## Other Roles

### CAPWIZ Co-ordinator

Tammy Eibey - FLPO Delaware County  
Office 563 927-4250  
[tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov](mailto:tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov)

### IASCOE Web Manager

Brian Beach - PT Sac County  
Office 712-662-7159  
[brian.beach@ia.usda.gov](mailto:brian.beach@ia.usda.gov)

### Convention Registration

Judy Dameron - PT Louisa County  
Office 319 523-6381  
[judy.dameron@ia.usda.gov](mailto:judy.dameron@ia.usda.gov)

### Newsletter Editor

Cindy Pistek - PT Hancock County  
Office 641 923-3666  
[cindy.pistek@ia.usda.gov](mailto:cindy.pistek@ia.usda.gov)

### Newsletter Copy Editor

Anna Hornbaker - PT Van Buren County  
Office 319 293-3371  
[anna.hornbaker@ia.usda.gov](mailto:anna.hornbaker@ia.usda.gov)



2010 Awards & Scholarship Committee



2010 Publicity Committee



2010 Membership Committee



2010 Legislative and Benefits Committee

## PAST IASCOE PRESIDENTS

1959-61 Kenneth Hatcher  
1961-62 Raymond D Vanderhorst  
1962-63 Luther Stock  
1963-64 William H Holiday  
1964-65 Charles Bacon  
1965-66 Gaylor A Thayer  
1966-67 V. Deane Thornton  
1967-68 Marguerite Liddle  
1969-70 Warner C Walrath  
1970-71 Janet Hemm  
1971-72 Carl Lantz  
1972-74 James A Riekens  
1974-76 Cecil F Zollars  
1977-79 Garnita Ewart  
1979-80 John Ace Parker/Gary Brewer  
1980-82 Gary Brewer  
1982-84 Larry Niles

1984-86 Joe McLaughlin  
1986-87 Pat Drew / Ronald Parker  
1987-88 Mike Houston  
1988-90 Ronald Reuvers  
1990-92 Steve Abbas  
1992-94 Kevin Fitzpatrick  
1994-95 Jerry Frank  
1995-97 Kevin McClure  
1997-99 Jolene Fechter  
1999-01 Trice Smith  
2001-03 John Landgraf  
2003-05 Tom Lane/Alan Donaldson  
/John Landgraf  
2005-07 Dee Lehn  
2007-09 Steve Kennedy  
2009-11 Cindy Mensen

## A Message from our State Executive Director

I have been to 50 county offices in effort to visit all the county offices this year. I have found that our offices are filled with warm, caring staff (I already thought so) and I found some great cooks! On that last note, I'll need to walk a lot this summer. I plan to continue these visits starting again in July. Why wait until July? I realize that May and June will be extremely busy in our offices and I enjoy having all of the staff available to take part in the visit. I believe that for me, to hear first hand from all of you will give me a better understanding of your day to day challenges.



We have had participation by members of the FSA State Committee in all of our visits. They have all commented to me of the great job the staff are doing in serving Iowa's farmers. Our chair, John Judge, has traveled to all of the visits and continues to say that as service organization, we are top notch.

I want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we work to implement the new disaster program (SURE). This program has been very complicated and too often it has furnished you with bad information used to put together the applications. I have been working with the national staff to get a letter of explanation out so that producers will know that the county offices did not cause these mistakes. The problems we have had really bring to light the fact that our agency needs to tear down the "silos" of information we work with. When we are trying to cross-reference data about individual operations and within our own agency, we do not keep the same data sets about that operation, then errors are bound to occur. Of course, I am certain that the data which we have is accurate (the other branch of USDA believes the same thing).

I have really enjoyed the pictures of the various gardens which have been planted at our service centers. Our garden at the STO is growing nicely and is drawing in visitors. The visitors with cameras who really are there to see the garden are much more welcome than the "visitors" (wildlife) who come for a free lunch! We had deer tracks in the garden the morning after we planted it. The deer repellent seems to be working well now, but it is not keeping the geese out. We may have to become a little more creative!

John Whitaker, SED

## A President's Perspective

Cindy Mensen, IASCOE President



I wish all of you could have attended the 2010 Joint Annual Convention which was held the last weekend in March. We were fortunate to have some great speakers and welcomed many lowans as well as guests from several states. Keep in mind – we're planning on the same location --West Des Moines, Iowa, at the West Des Moines Marriott (just off Interstate 80 on the Jordan Creek Parkway) next year during the last weekend in March, 2011. Put it on your calendars -- Here's a summary of some topics that were discussed by our NASCOE President, Myron Stroup:

NASCOE shares recognition for the FERS sick leave credit! We have worked hard for this.

NAFEC & NASCOE have a good relationship and both met with FSA management in WDC and were able to distribute copies of suggested budget savings during the meetings.

**PT Classification:** this has been in process for a long time, but the wheels of Washington DC move slowly. There is a notice in clearance and the position announced will be a key district contact person.

MIDAS: consider this 2 year commitment to working on IT project revamping – recreating new ways to do business. They need good people to make this work. Excel workbooks should not take the place of actual software.

Budget concerns – lack of proper funding for FSA – for example: reducing newsletters or COC meetings is a concern that was brought to the table discussion.

NASCOE seeks input from their members – recently in a survey about IT proficiency. These results helped formulate a response presented to a Congressional hearing. It was a great privilege for NASCOE to be invited to comment at the hearing. (check out [www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org) to read the entire presentation given by Mike Mayfield (TN CED & NASCOE Legislative Co-Chair)

NASCOE strives to protect our benefits – and one of the most important benefits is our paychecks -- which means staying employed with valuable work to perform.

2012 Farm Bill Hearings: Myron stressed it is important to use the NASCOE talking points when attending Farm Bill hearings. Try some visualization: imagine if DCP direct payments were eliminated from FSA workload—how would that affect your office?

Be pro-active – pay attention to CAPWIZ alerts, take action by sending the message to your representatives.

Educate yourself about the NASCOE PAC. A small contribution may mean a big difference in your work life. NASCOE has a goal to be in the top 5 Ag organizations with the PAC and then we will have a much stronger voice with Congress. (Note: PAC increases from Iowa members made great strides at our convention – we more than doubled our participation! Good support can always get better – once again, visit [www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org) for more information – or call your IASCOE Directors/officers.)

**National Convention:** August 4-7 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Your attendance is welcome!



Hello All,

As the winter ends and spring arrives it makes me happy to say, I made it through. Was that a winter for the record books or what? It really seems that Mother Nature can't make up her mind as to what she wants either. It is nice and in the seventies one day and cold so you think we are headed back to winter the next day. As I see the weather change I also have seen a few lives change over the last few months. Some people that I have known for years have taken that next step into the unknown- retirement.

I often think back to where we would all be if IASCOE/NASCOE didn't come to be. What kind of a retirement would we really have? I have talked to a number of retired individuals and they say it is great and they wish they would have done it years before.

A couple of things to remember (and this is how it was given to me many years ago):

If the General Schedule (GS) employees get a benefit it does not mean that a County Office (CO) employee will automatically get the same benefit. I am talking about wages and any other thing that would be considered a benefit to federal employees.

When the bad things happen such as closing offices and Reduction in Force (RIF) it seems to always be that the CO employees are first to be delivered up for sacrifice; first and unfairly.

IASCOE/NASCOE is the organization that leads the fight. They lead the fight to get us what we deserve for benefits and reduce the chances of CO employees taking an unfair share of some of the bad things that happen.

In closing, I know there are days when we think that we get nothing but the raw end of the deal when it comes to work, but we really need to realize where we are. Most offices are in small towns and the wages and benefits are more than competitive for the area. I know we do a lot of work and handle a lot of different rules and regulations but sometimes we need to just take a step back and look at the big picture. Where would we be if there was no IASCOE/NASCOE? Retirement looks pretty good, but until that day I am happy to say that I am part of an organization that will fight to the end for the members of IASCOE/NASCOE.

Pass the word and let's get IASCOE to be one step closer to 100% membership. Remember, retirement is just around the corner for some and a long ways off for others but IASCOE/NASCOE is there for all of us. We need your support to make things happen!

See You Later,

Jeff Davis, IASCOE Vice President





### Midwest Area Executive Report

This is probably my last article I will be writing as your Area Exec so first I want to thank you for the support you have given me during my tenure. It has been an honor to represent the Midwest Area on the NASCOE Executive board. The cooperation I have received from the states has been greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Spring is a season of change and renewal. As this year unwinds, we need to prepare ourselves for significant changes in all aspects as a FSA employee. We have already seen changes in the way we issue payments and collect receivables. We have seen some new programs come along like SURE and BCAP. We can expect a major shift in the types of programs we deliver as a result of the next farm bill. We will see significant changes in our computer system if things go according to proposed plan. I'm sure there will be many other things that will be changing in the near future and we as FSA County Office employees must be ready for change and be able to adapt to that change.

NASCOE is being proactive in its preparation for change. The Executive board has asked the Administration to be involved with any decisions that will result in significant changes in the way the programs are delivered. The purpose is to help the Administration implement those changes in a way that will be user friendly in the field. If this happens, we hope we can avoid some of the big problems like we experienced last fall during the DCP and CRP payment processes. We hope our involvement will help the administration be better prepared and informed before a process is implemented. A good example of this is the request for field people to go to Washington to work on the MIDAS project.

We also have to be very pleased with the efforts of the Administrator making field visits to Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa to visit with County office employees and farmers to see and hear first hand the issues that are important to the field when it comes to the computer system.

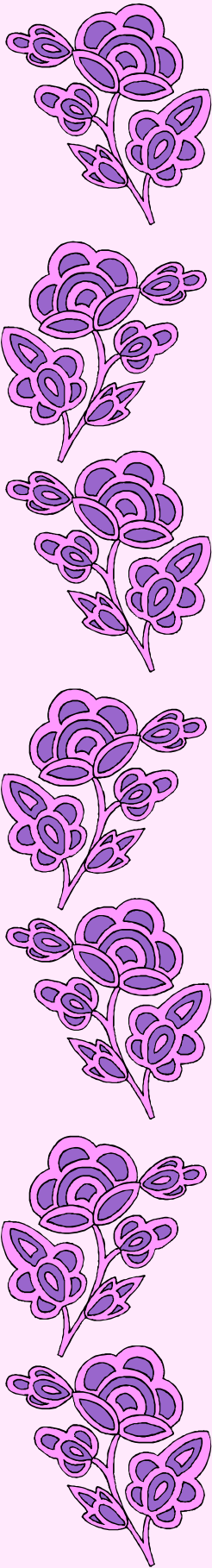
Budget demands are forcing many changes within the USDA and not just FSA. These demands will force agencies to change the way they do business and the agencies that become the most efficient and effective in delivering programs to the public will be the ones that survive the transition. NASCOE wants to be involved and be part of the transition so we can ensure the place of the County Committee and the CO employees in those future programs.

NASCOE is the most effective way to convey messages to management and the Congress but it takes the involvement of membership to deliver that message. Tools, such as CapWiz and the NASCOE PAC are in place to help deliver the message to congress and need to be utilized by the membership. The NASCOE Programs committee and the Negotiation Process are ways that employees can suggest changes to current program delivery and policy. We need members to use all of these tools.

Change is inevitable and if we don't embrace change and take advantage of the opportunities it provides we will fall by the wayside and be left behind. Don't let that happen.

Take care and I wish you all the best. Thank you.

Jon Williams  
MWA Executive



## Membership Committee

Greetings from the membership committee, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself, Mary Lageschulte, I am the new membership chairperson for 2010-2011. I am a PT in Ida County I have been with the agency for 24 years. I am taking the place of Glenda Von Arb who retired in May. I would like to thank Glenda for all of her hard work and dedication to IASCOE, we wish her a happy retirement.

It is nice to see that spring is here with green grass and spring planting is being done. It was a long winter and everyone is grateful that spring has sprung!!!!

We have 89.4% membership for 2009-2010. Districts 1 & 7 have 100% membership for their district, 74 of the 100 counties also have 100% membership.

This year we have four counties that have earned 100% consecutive membership.  
20 Years - Decatur County  
50 Years - Fremont County, Jackson County & Johnson County

We also recognized honorary life members to IASCOE, these are employees that have been members of IASCOE since they started with the agency until their retirement. Those members are as follows:

Carma Reiss - Benton County  
Linda Cashen - Buchanan County  
Martha Buttolph - Calhoun County  
Steve Waller - Clay County  
Connie Johnson - Fayette County\*  
Diann Iversen - Harrison County  
Ginger Sheetz - Keokuk County  
Kathleen Burg - Keokuk County  
Sandra Richards - Mahaska County  
Joan Helmers - O'Brien County\*  
Betty Vonnahme - Pocahontas County  
Shirley Whitiker - Polk County  
Laverda Fitzgerald - Poweshiek County  
Kathy Siders - Sioux County  
Joyce Wright - Story County  
\*(deceased)

Membership has an Early Bird special, for those members dues who are received by June 15th. These members are eligible for a drawing for a \$50.00 refund. The winners for 2009-2010 are:

Angie Reynonds - Muscatine County  
Vikki Massuen - Plymouth County  
Denise Dugan - Woodbury County  
Dorothy Allen - Adair County  
Chad Osterbuhr - Butler County

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Lageschulte, Membership Chair

## Benefits Update

Submitted by Dee Ann Lehn  
MWA Benefits Chairperson

One of our Iowa members, David Stromer, has found a U. S. Cellular discount for USDA employees. U. S. Cellular now offers a 15% Company Partnership Employee Discount Program for qualifying plans and USDA employees are eligible for the discount. Interested members should contact U. S. Cellular at 1-800-819-9373 and give the representative their USDA e-mail address when asked for such information. If the representative says that the e-mail is not recognized as eligible, ask the representative to manually check for USDA. Another option is to go through your local U S Cellular store or by dialing customer service (611) from your cell phone and asking for the Company Partnership discount for USDA employees. I was able to secure my discount by calling customer service. The process may not go as smoothly as we would like but the discount is probably worth the extra effort and hopefully will become easier as more members request the discount.

Theme Parks are starting to send discount coupons to area chairpersons. At this point, I have coupons on hand for Wisconsin Dells, Holiday World in Indiana, and Adventureland in Altoona, Iowa. Adventureland discount coupons also apply to the new water park, Adventure Bay which opens in June of this year. Other discounts can be secured through the NASCOE web page.

Sam's Club discount expired on April 11, 2010. Currently, we are only allowed to secure this \$10.00 membership discount once every 6 months but our National efits Chairperson is working with Sam's Club to see if we could secure a discount year round.

Commissions from NASCOE Travel website total \$3830.95 as of March. Remember anyone can use this website not only for air travel and room rentals but also to secure a passport, do foreign currency exchanges, book cruises, order flowers and concert tickets. Group rates are available for conventions with even greater discounts on airfare and room rental.

As you all know by now the new health care reform bill allows an employee's child to remain on their parents' health insurance until the age of 26 but what happens if an eligible child turns 22 before January of 2011? There is provision in our federal Health program called Temporary Continuation of Coverage which states children of plan participants can retain their health insurance coverage up to 36 months after they turn 22.

Johnny Rosier of JM Marketing informed me there are also short term policies available through private insurers which can be purchased on a monthly (as needed) basis. These policies are generally a more inexpensive route to go if the child has no pre-existing conditions, etc. JM Marketing could assist any member with questions concerning a policy of this type.

JM Marketing has also secured a new \$1000 accidental death/dismemberment policy for all NASCOE members. What do you have to do to get this coverage—just be a NASCOE member! We've included a beneficiary form in this newsletter. You will probably want to declare a beneficiary and fax that information to JM Marketing. Otherwise, the courts will decide a beneficiary if ever a need arises.





# NASCOE Group Accident Death & Dismemberment Insurance Beneficiary Designation Form

## Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M F DOB: / / SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ M F DOB: / / SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

County Office (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Beneficiary Information

Complete the following:

Your Beneficiary's Name	Relationship to You	Date of Birth	Social Security Number
Primary			
Contingent			

**IMPORTANT:** When naming a female beneficiary, show the name as Jane J. Doe, not Mrs. John H. Doe. A Contingent Beneficiary will receive benefits only if the Primary Beneficiary does not survive you. To designate more than one Primary or Contingent Beneficiary, attach a complete Standard Designation of Beneficiary form (obtain this form from your Benefits Administrator). Your intentions must be clearly set forth.

### READ, SIGN AND DATE BELOW

**I understand and agree that:** The information provided on this Enrollment Application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Benefits are subject to terms and conditions of the Policy. I certify that I am a NASCOE member.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 10190  
Kansas City, MO 64171

**Shipping Address:**  
410 Archibald St.  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**Toll Free:** 877-523-0176  
**Office:** 816-841-3597  
**Fax:** 816-841-3790

[info@jminsuredirect.com](mailto:info@jminsuredirect.com)  
[www.jminsuredirect.com](http://www.jminsuredirect.com)

## PUBLICITY NEWS

Every year the National Association of FSA County Office Employees (NASCOE) conducts a Publicity Contest. In order to be a contender for NASCOE awards, you must first be an area winner. Several categories are eligible for the area and national awards; Best Feature Story (Human Interest), Best Feature Story (Humorous), Best Single Issue, Best Website and Best Newsletter. This past January we submitted entries in all categories with the hope of maybe winning an award in one of the categories. Well, in February we received notification that we were winners, not only in one category but 4 categories! The winners are...

Barry Terhark for his humorous article "Hornets at the Terhark Home"



Dee Lehn for her human interest article "Provincial Reconstruction Team"



We also were honored to receive awards for **Best Single Issue (September 2009)** and **Best Newsletter**. The newsletter awards are judged based upon news coverage including NASCOE news, county and district news and convention news. The judges also look for personal and feature stories. Including photos in newsletters is also a judging criterion along with originality and good format.

These awards could not have been possible without the hard work put forth by all of those who submitted articles, ideas and helped put them all into a prize-winning newsletter. Congratulations go out to all of you!!

## IASCOE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2010

Every year IASCOE takes applications from children of IASCOE members for college scholarships. This year we were able to award four \$300 scholarships to the following students. As always, all applicants were excellent candidates and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

**EMILY JO MADSEN** is a 2010 scholarship winner from Durant, Iowa.

Emily is the daughter of Randy Madsen and Deb Madsen. Emily's father is a County Executive Director in Muscatine and Scott County. Emily has a brother Sam.

Emily attends Durant Community High School and currently has a GPA of 3.991.

Emily plans to attend the University of Iowa this fall and intends to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy.

Emily's hobbies include running, working out, and being with her family and friends. She plays French horn and has been in several honor bands. Emily is a member of the National Honor Society and has lettered in Academics, Band, Drama, and track.

**GILES MUNDEN** is a 2010 scholarship winner from Lorimor, Iowa.

Giles is the son of Mark and Lois Munden. Giles' mother is a Program Technician in Clarke County.

Giles attends East Union Community High School and currently has a 3.78 GPA. While attending East Union, Giles served as president of student council and participated in football, basketball, and track.

Giles plans to attend Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Engineering.

Giles' hobbies include fishing and hunting.

**JESSICA LUNDQUIST** is a 2010 scholarship winner from Chariton, Iowa.

Jessica is the daughter of David Lundquist, the County Executive Director in Lucas County.

Jessica attends Chariton High School and currently has a GPA of 3.996. While at Chariton, she served as president of the National Honor Society, participated in many musicals, and played volleyball and tennis. She is a lector at her church and does much volunteer work.

Jessica plans to attend Central College in Pella this fall and intends to pursue a degree in elementary education. She is also interested in applying for an endorsement to teach English as a second language to Spanish speaking children.

Her hobbies include tennis and reading. She also enjoys volunteer and church activities.

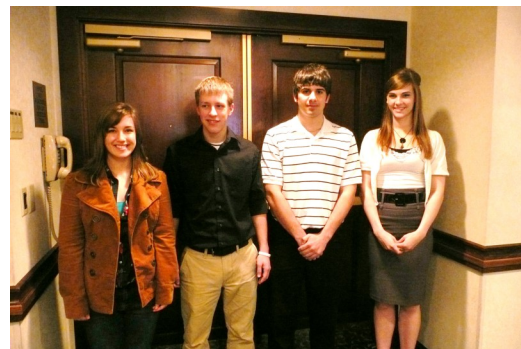
**ZACHARY LANCASTER** is a 2010 scholarship winner from LeMars, Iowa.

Zach is the son of Todd and Roma Lancaster. His mother is a Program Technician in the Plymouth County FSA Office. Zach has a brother, Matt.

Zach attends Simpson College and currently has a freshman GPA of 3.3. He is pursuing a degree in Biology, which he will use in the health field.

Zach is a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at Simpson. He also works for the Sports Information Department there.

Zach's hobbies include playing intramurals and watching all sports.



## Legislative Meeting IASCOE Convention Report

The 2010 IASCOE Convention is now well behind us and we are into the planting season. This year some of the planting was completed in record time, making the season one for the books. Our offices have survived the June 1<sup>st</sup> sign up deadline and we are well into certifications.

I want to refresh your memory on the items brought up by our NASCOE Legislative Committee Co Chair, Mike Mayfield. Mike is a CED from Tennessee and was the guest speaker for the legislative committee meeting and general session at the IASCOE Convention in March. Mike had 9 items he hit on during the meeting and I will just briefly touch on each issue. Keep in mind that some of the points were time-sensitive and it has been some time since the meeting.

- 1 - House Sub Committee-** The Appropriations Committee had a hearing regarding the IT system in FSA. NASCOE and NAFEC were asked to testify and spoke of the need for FSA's computers to be state-of-the-art if FSA is going to properly administer programs mandated by Congress. FSA's administrator, Jonathan Coppess was asked to commit that FSA's IT funds would not be diverted to other areas. Congress expressed their concerns over FSA's IT abilities and lack thereof.
- 2 - Health CARE-** This issue was finalized with the passage of the Health Care Bill, but there are items that NASCOE is monitoring which are of concern for its members.
  - An Excise Tax becomes effective in 2018
  - Children over 22 are not immediately covered- need to wait for open season
  - The amount we can put in our HSA's is decreased
- 3 - House Bill 4865-** We supported the bill, which allows retirees to roll the lump sum payments into TSP funds. A CapWiz alert was sent out on this item, thanks to those that responded.
- 4 - 2010 Farm Bill Hearings-** These meetings are starting in April 2010 across the country. States will be asked to have members at the meetings for NASCOE representation.
- 5 - Climate Bill-** It makes sense that the carbon credits come from FSA. It is uncertain if this will go any further this session with all the time spent on Health Care and the Economy.
- 6 - Conservation Payments-** FSA should administer conservation payments. We need to be alert and monitor this issue since there is a push to eliminate direct payments and price support programs. If this happens, FSA would lose a sizeable amount of workload.
- 7 - The Development Plan for NASCOE has a 3-prong approach**
  - Education
  - A Grass Roots connection to legislators
  - Utilize the NASCOE PAC and CAP WIZ more
- 8 - NASCOE PAC-** Since the convention in March, the NASCOE PAC has passed the Corn Growers in size. This is very significant as we work with legislators for the benefit of our customer and NASCOE members. The promotion for PAC contributions has gone well. States with the biggest % of members beginning allocations or upping by \$3 will get \$250 presented at the National Convention in Arkansas. PAC info can be found on the NASCOE website. You need to register to get a password, your membership to IASCOE/NASCOE will be verified and a password will be sent to you. Only members can contribute to the PAC. If you have questions, let one of us know.
- 9 - CAP WIZ-** This is a legislative tool being used to get a unified message out quickly to our legislators. We need to increase active participation in CAP WIZ. We have many members signed up, but they don't take action on the alerts. The lack of response to alerts was very disappointing. If you have questions on CAP WIZ, contact me, Tammy. I am the National Coordinator for CAP WIZ and will gladly assist you.

Please note that two alerts were posted in regards to the Health Issue listed above (item 2) at the end of May. If you didn't respond to them, please do so. If you aren't a member yet, join today and let your legislator hear from you! Thank you for all that you do for the legislative efforts of NASCOE. Your efforts not only help keep our benefits and jobs, but also help to secure a future for FSA. If you have any questions, JUST ASK!

Thank you!

Tammy Eibey and Dee Lehn

**Mike Mayfield Legislative Co-Chair and Tammy Eibey**



## IASCOE Convention Highlights from a First Timer



I attended my very first IASCOE convention on March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This was a perfect opportunity to meet fellow FSA employees from across the state. I had heard many great things about IASCOE from my CED while working as a temporary, so that intrigued me to see what IASCOE was really all about. Also, one should never pass up an opportunity to learn more about the agency and meet new people.

We learned that it is time to start financial planning now so when we want to retire, we can. There was some great information about retirement benefits and how to get started with a financial planner. Retirement and financial planning are very complicated and it's easy to get left in the dust.

After the informational meetings were over, I attended the nightly social. The skits were over before I got there, but heard that there is some great talent within the agency. At the social, I met many new people and had the opportunity to learn more about them and get helpful tips that will assist me throughout my journey with FSA.

On Saturday, there was a wonderful breakfast and more networking opportunities. It was nice to have an invocation and a color guard present. Having Military in my family, I truly appreciated the presentation of the flags and the Military Mom presentation. We need to remember our military and honor them for all they do to ensure our freedom.

Every FSA employee should attend at least one IASCOE convention in their career. You will receive some great information and have the opportunity to make new friends from across the state. I truly enjoyed talking to everyone I met this year and hope to stay in touch! I look forward getting more involved with IASCOE in the future and meeting more people at the next convention.

Finally, a big Thank You to IASCOE for drawing my name as the winner of the free hotel room. That was a great surprise!!

Submitted by Mary Roberts, COT



## IASCOE AWARDS AT CONVENTION

IASCOE presented two Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) at this year's convention. DSA's recognize NASCOE members who make outstanding contributions in one of three areas: 1) Service to NASCOE/IASCOE 2) Service to FSA-Agriculture and 3) Community Service.

Mary Lageschulte, nominated by Linda Hanson, was awarded a Distinguished Service Award for Service to FSA-Agriculture.

Glenda Von Arb, nominated by Tammy Pruin, was awarded a Distinguished Service Award for Service to NASCOE/IASCOE.

Mary and Glenda were very deserving of their awards. We are very proud to have them part of our Iowa FSA team. A special Thank You to Linda and Tammy for taking the time to nominate and recognize our IASCOE members for their contributions.



EXTRA-MILE AWARDS were presented to Tammy Pruin and Glenda Von Arb for making our last IASCOE cookbook a success. Tammy and Glenda were very dedicated to this project and spent many hours making it happen. In addition to the great product we have, the project netted right at \$7,000 for our association. AWESOME JOB LADIES!!!



Myron Stroup,  
NASCOE President was a guest speaker at the  
IASCOE Convention



# 2010 IASCOE CONVENTION

## “FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE”

IASCOE Convention 2010 had several speakers with a wealth of information. On Friday evening we were able to get together and relax a little with our friends. DJ Ray provided us with non-stop music that kept us all “rockin”. Those that didn’t want to miss the big UNI basketball game were able to watch the game with their friends while the music played on. Who could ask for anything more than beverages, snacks, a big game AND non-stop music with their friends? Well, we were all surprised by some special guests of the evening.

The little “E” trade babies stopped by for a little chat. They sure were cute!

Elmer Fudd stopped by along with Cindy Mensen and Mary Langesculte.

Julie Vulk and Rex Wittrock performed some special songs. They even had a special guest from the audience.. can you guess who?

Tiny Tim gave a great rendition of his “Tip-Toe Through the Tulips” accompanied by the tulips.

“SUREly” we all get this one!

A producer came to the FSA counter for SURE benefits.

The employee hands him a check for \$70,000

The producer asks for his stimulus check and we give him a 25,000 “stimulus” check.

SURE PAYMENTS MADE CORRECTLY – priceless!



Julie Vulk and “guest”



“E” trade babies



Tiny Tim (Dee Lehn) and her Tulips

\*\*\*\*\*



Katina Hanson People’s Garden Initiative from WDC speaking at the IASCOE Convention



Jeff Davis and Cindy Mensen, VP and President

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW??

Over the past several years IASCOE has been able to give many scholarships to deserving students of our employees. It might be fun to know what a couple of those lucky winners are doing now....

Kelsey McQueen (a 2005 scholarship winner) will be graduating on May 7, 2010 from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education. She also has her Coaching Endorsement and will have her Reading Endorsement by July 2010. She is currently student teaching 2nd grade at Pleasant Hill Elementary and is actively applying to schools for a teaching position. Kelsey is the daughter of Carrie McQueen from Sibley.

Ben Diekhuis is the son of Jeanine Diekhuis from Hancock County. She says he was lucky enough to receive an IASCOE Scholarship in the spring of 2002. Ben graduated from Garner Hayfield High School in May 2002. Iowa State was his first college choice as he planned to enroll in the engineer program, even though he was an Iowa Hawkeye fan. He entered the engineering program in the fall of 2002, not sure of what area of engineering to specialize in. After the first few weeks, he chose mechanical engineering and even went a little further into the agricultural engineering program. It was a "no brainier" for him as there were 1000 students in the mechanical program and only about 100 in the ag program, with those numbers he would have more one-on-one time with the students and professors in the ag area. Four and half years later he graduated from ISU in January 2007. Stellar Industries, Garner IA, where he had worked part-time in programming, hired him as an engineer and he started work shortly after graduation. Stellar Industries make various cranes, mechanic trucks, hook lifts, and tire service trucks and cable hoists. His job actually involves more in the industrial and/or manufacturing area of engineering. As he puts it, he makes sure the design engineers plans can be made or makes jigs or improvements to help make the floor employee's job easier. In working with the blueprints, he can make project improvements or can justify new or improve equipment. Stellar has a robotic welder and he is in charge of all programming and troubleshooting. Ben fits very well into this job, as he would not be happy stuck in an office in front of a computer all day. With this job he is able to be on the floor and manufacture jigs etc, and still enjoy having a desk and computer for designing. Ben bought acreage two years ago and has been using his engineering skills in remodeling the house.

Submitted by Tammy Pruin, Scholarship Chairman



*Are you a SUPERSTAR?*

Many years ago when I working in London, I had to giggle when my boss would call me a star!! Someone would provide a really good idea and she'd say, "You are a superstar!" Well we all are stars in FSA. And as Program chairperson I am looking for a few *superstars* to share their ideas.

Have you encountered difficulty in your program? Do you have a solution you would like to share? I guarantee you are not alone, let your voice be heard! Submit a program suggestion through the NASCOE programs committee. It is easy to provide a recommendation using the [NASCOE Program Efficiency Submission Form](#) posted on the NASCOE, Programs website.

Using the form posted you will list: Issue, Fact/Explanation, and Solution. Then forward your SUPER recommendation to either me your State Program Chair or through the NASCOE website to the National Program Committee Chair, John M. Marquess, Jr., directly. If you need help formulating your submission I would be happy to help. We are the stars at the county office level & without us, there wouldn't be much of an FSA.

So superstars, I am waiting to hear from you! I know there must a few recommendations out there to improve our programs. I look forward to all you FSA Stars to forward me your ideas!!

Jessica Yuska  
Iowa Programs Chair

## 2012 Farm Bill Hearing

*submitted by Steve Kennedy, CED – Jasper County, IA*

The US House Agriculture Committee held a 2012 Farm Bill Hearing on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. I took the afternoon off so that I could attend and hopefully gather some information on behalf of NASCOE. It seems like we just started implementing the 2008 Farm Bill and some might wonder why they are already talking about the 2012 Farm Bill which is still two-and-half years away. Chairman Peterson indicated he wants to get a head start in planning for the next farm bill with hopes of completing the new Farm Bill prior to the 2012 Presidential election. Of course, remember what a long dragged out process the last Farm Bill was?

The 2012 Farm Bill Hearing included Agriculture Committee members: Collin Peterson (D-MN), Chairman; Frank Lucas (R-OK), Ranking Minority Member; Leonard Boswell (D-IA); Steve King, (R-IA); Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD), and Jim Costa (D-CA). The Committee heard testimonies from nine panelist which included Iowa farmers (crop, livestock, and milk producers) and agricultural businessmen (ethanol cooperative manager, Anderson Erickson CEO, and crop insurance agent).

You can read these testimonies in full at:  
<http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html>

Each panelist had their own concerns and suggestions. Generally they favored the current Farm Bill, but felt that changes should be made. Several of them expressed their disapproval of the ACRE program by suggesting that it was too complicated and not designed for the farmer. Chairman Peterson was quick to defend ACRE program. Several on the Committee appear to be questioning the effects of Direct Payments.

What I walked away with from this meeting is that there are tremendous challenges to be met for the next Farm Bill. Chairman Peterson mentioned that with the budget deficit “we will be lucky to keep what we have”. The budget is certainly the 800 pound gorilla that all of us are facing. It appears that the Chairman and the Committee are ready to consider changes in all areas of the Farm Bill, but want to see improvements in the structure of the farm safety net.

In my opinion, some of the panelists didn’t fully understand the ACRE program or understand its purpose. I was somewhat dumbfounded by the fact that not an utterance of the SURE program was heard. I am not sure if they just didn’t want to talk about the SURE program or that we won’t see it in the future.

Lastly, I am convinced that we as NASCOE members must keep in tune with the changes that ARE coming. While we are involved with shaping the policy, we certainly need to continually remind our leaders that FSA stands ready to efficiently deliver USDA programs.

## THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance is something we all know, but do we really know what each phrase means?

**I pledge allegiance.... This means you promise to do it with love. Your right hand over your heart shows that you promise to love America.**

**To the flag... The American flag is like a banner with stars and stripes.**

**Of the United States... The United States is what we became when we left the British and their rules to become an independent country.**

**Of America... The country where people have died for our freedoms**

**And to the republic... Republics are a group of people who work at the White House. They swear to tell the truth and work for the good of the people.**

**For which it stands... Stand up and think about those who died for our country, rise up on your feet.**

**One Nation... This means a country filled with praying people**

**Under God... We are below God’s watching eyes, we can trust God to take care of Americans**

**Indivisible... We can not see it, the hidden truth. God will help us see if we only trust and obey.**

**With Liberty... Freedom**

**And justice... Doing the right thing; knowing the difference between right and wrong**

**For All... This means everybody is included.**

This was as described by a six-year-old American kid who is happy to say the Pledge of Allegiance in school while looking at the American flag.

Submitted by: Cindy Pistek

## Iowa Staff members attend FSA Administrator's IT Listening Session in Rock Island Co. Illinois



Picture of Iowa Staff with the FSA Administrator and the IT Staff

**Front Row (L to R):** Judy Rains – Jackson Co, Vanessa Spratt – Iowa Co, Joni Birkhofer – Muscatine Co, Jessica Yuska – Scott Co, and Kimberly Graham- MIDAS Deputy Director  
**Back Row (L to R):** Tom Lane – Jackson Co, Randy Madsen – Muscatine/Scott Co, Charles McClam – USDA Deputy CIO, Jonathan Coppess – FSA Administrator, Chris Smith – USDA CIO, Harvinder Singh – MIDAS Support Team

On April 9, 2010, I- along with Judy Rains from Jackson Co.; Vanessa Spratt from Iowa Co.; Joni Birkhofer from Muscatine Co.; Jessica Yuska from Scott Co. and Randy Madsen from Muscatine & Scott Counties- had the opportunity to attend an IT Listening Session in the Rock Island County USDA Service Center in Milan, IL.

We got to the Rock Island Co. Office about 9:00 AM and there were several staff members from neighboring Illinois Counties already there. I would say approximately 25-30 persons, including the IL SED and the District Director for that District, were in attendance total.

The SED introduced Mr. Coppess and Mr. Coppess introduced Chris Smith, USDA CIO; Charles McClam, USDA Deputy CIO; Kimberly Graham, MIDAS Deputy Director and Harvinder Singh, MIDAS Support Team. Mr. Coppess gave his opening remarks. He shared that both he and the Secretary have named the replacement of our antiquated computer system as a #1 priority because the present system is putting us in a bind. He also stated that this process was to identify “pain points” within our IT system and address those as we go so that we can build our system correctly. Mr. Coppess said “It is an investment in creating the tools needed to get the job done, not an attempt to require everyone to do business on the web and close office facilities throughout the nation.”

Once he had finished his remarks, he then asked that we go around the room and introduce ourselves and where we were from and give just a couple of the highest priority issues that concern us. I would say that the Conservation software and the CRP program policies in general were the largest single topic of discussion. The cumbersome process for fully completing an application/contract—the rules of the program—the software for cost-share—just the entire CRP process was a huge concern. Additionally, the 2009 DCP/CRP payment process was discussed at length, involving all the related issues dealing with that area, including NRRS and the receivable processes.

Passwords, screens timing out, recon software and its issues, the process for getting access for TO's, the fact that some programs allow using the last 4 digits of ID # to get access while others require all nine and the ID # has been removed from forms so we must go to SCIMS to look up the number and then go back to the desired application to complete our business, difficulty in finding how payments were offset or providing payment information to the customer in general.

I would venture to guess that before the whole meeting was completed that no program area was left untouched.

One comment that was offered concerning the constant need for entering passwords was that once we moved to the ID cards and the card readers on the computers, we wouldn't need to have passwords any longer because that system validates us for access to the system and the need for passwords goes away.

The concerns I had about the ability to query the web files like we are presently able to do on the System 36 were addressed. They acknowledged those capabilities were needed at the county office level and were going to be sure it was available. Also, I believe they are considering rolling over the eligibility flags going forward (except AGI of course) instead of the mess they left us in last year.

Another item that stuck with me was the fact that Farm Loan Programs had addressed some of these issues in their conversion to the web and yet the folks dealing with the Farm Programs IT issues had no idea that they had completed that process. They were going to go back and ask the FLP folks about it.

My overall impression of the meeting is a very good one. The Administrator and his team appeared to be listening and absorbing all the concerns of the group. The Administrator offered another comment I found interesting as it related to IT modernization- “follow the money”. All the discussions/listening sessions in the world won't do any good if the funding is not there to follow through. The funding to complete this project has been included in the President's budget for USDA. It is like I have shared with others- if they aren't serious about this, they sure knew how to play the part because I felt they were genuinely interested in what the group had to say!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Lane, Jackson Co.



Submitted By: Tammy Eibey, FLO, Delaware County, Iowa

I live on a farm, I work at the FSA office, my friends are farmers but yet I never really thought about know your farmer...know your food promotion with USDA. You probably wonder why. We raise our own beef cattle, so I had my own meat and I have a small garden with produce and sweet corn and I can easily go to the local grocery stores for the other needs. Everything was easily accessible in our rural community. Last Summer I became a big fan of our local Farmer's Market. Here I found a huge selection of fruits, vegetables, honey, jellies, breads, soy candles and much more. I knew most of these vendors there selling their products. I also found a vendor selling processed pork products. I was very excited since I knew Pat and Carolyn Maloney and their son Kevin. I had served on the Delaware County Cattlemen's Board with them. I found that I able to purchase the cuts of pork that my family liked from them each Saturday morning. A plus is that the processor was our local locker that processes our beef as well, they also purchase the sew pigs from another local Delaware County Hog Farm. Maloney's feed out the hogs and raise their own beef cattle at their farm sites. This week they opened a store Maloney Meats where they offer beef and pork products plus other miscellaneous local farm products.

So here is more about my Know your Food...Know your Farmer at Maloney Meats

Pat and Carolyn Maloney have been farming since they were married in November 1971. They started out farming 120 acres that they rented from Carolyn's parents. They milked a few cows and raised a few pigs. In 1978 they bought the family farm, sold the dairy cows and started raising more hogs and beef cattle. They now wean to finish 24,000 head of hogs and they have a 40 head beef cow herd. They now own 680 acres which they raise corn and beans on plus they cash rent another 1200 acres of crop ground. One farm has been in the family over 100 years.



Pat and Carolyn raised 2 children on the farm. Colleen is married to Randy Goedken. They have purchased his family farm and live near Lamont, Iowa. They have two children. Jaxon and Audry. Kevin and his wife Sheena have twins Charles and Anna. They own their own farm as well. Both Kevin and Randy work on the Maloney farm helping with the hogs, cattle and field work.



For several years the Maloney's have been selling their pork out of their freezer under the Maloney Farms Label. Last year they decided to try and make a little extra money at the local farmer's market in Manchester, Iowa. It was a huge success. After a few months of thinking about it, they decided to open a store selling their own meat. It had always been their dream to try. They are very proud of the fact that the product is locally born, locally grown and locally processed. They have worked hard as a family to make this possible. Not only has this been extra income to the family but it has been fun and rewarding as well. They are proud that it takes the whole family to make it happen and that it is done all locally.



Maloney Meats is located at 1204 W. Main Street in Manchester and is selling both pork and beef products. Hopefully this summer fresh farm vegetables will also be added.

I encourage everyone to look around their area and communities to really KNOW YOUR FARMER...KNOW YOUR FOOD! It is great to buy from your neighbors. As it says on the USDA website, Every Family needs a Farmer, do you know yours? I most definitely know my farmers in Delaware County, Iowa and I also a lot more about my food. For more information on USDA's Website go to: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>



### **White Oak Vineyards – A Taste of the Midwest**

White Oak Vineyards producer wines from their own vineyard which gives us a chance to experience tasty wines from the Midwest. Grapes take 4 to 5 years until the first crop is harvested. The beginning plantings of specific grapes were in 2000, 2002, 2003 and in 2005 their own signature grapes were planted. This was all possible after clearing and purchasing more adjacent land. Before that they grew corn and soybeans on a small farm. Therefore, it is a newer business but yet around long enough to provide quality with experience.

Below you will find a picture of White Oak Vineyards so you can visualize the elegances yet country character and charm of it. It's spacious and can accommodate special weddings (gazebo), receptions, private parties and meetings in the banquet facility or smaller gatherings can use the tasting room which includes their gift shop. They are located fifteen minutes from Des Moines and Ames. Their address is 15065 NE White Oak Dr., Cambridge, IA. Their hours are Tues. through Sat. 10 am to 6 pm.

They feature Friday night wine downs with bands which can be enjoyed while experiencing some of their hand crafted wines, olde main beer and catering service. They produced their wines in small batches to maintain quality and consistency. Currently they produce 9 different wines as follows: White Oak White, White Oak Red, Prairie Rose, Evelyns Blush, Country Road Red, Celebrate, Summer Breeze, St. Croix and La Crescent. The wines can also be purchased from several local businesses such as, Living History Farms, Hy-Vee, Target, Dahls, Casey's or even from their web site.

Submitted by Kitty Brenda, Marshall County



### **Flag Day -June 14th**

Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation.....one nation, under God, indivisible. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon.

As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag today and every day with pride!

## **TRAVEL IOWA PARKS**

The summer months are here and who doesn't like a day at the park? In order to help us all with "choosing" just the right spot, the Publicity Committee is willing to share their favorite spots with you all!

### ***District 2 - MASON CITY EAST PARK***

***By Barry Terhawk, Cerro Gordo County***

Barry TerHark says the park he likes best is Mason City's East Park. The playground equipment for the kids (and sometimes adults) is very nice with plenty of selection. A river for fishing, a garden area, wildlife to watch and 2 miles of trails make this park a great place to visit. During the summer special events like Cannonball Day, Civil War Battlement & Encampment, Up In Smoke BBQ Bash and various band concerts make this a "destination" park for people with varied interests. The best thing about this park is that I get there by walking or bike riding from my house. If I feel lazy I might drive there, and I have yet to worry about finding a place to park!

### ***District 3 - GEORGE WYTH STATE PARK***

***By Rose Woerner, Black Hawk County***

My leisurely adventures usually include my bike, so a park with a trail is my kind of place. There are 5.5 miles of multi-use trails, in George Wyth State Park, that connect to an 80 mile trail network within the Waterloo and Cedar Falls area.

If your preference is fishing or boating, you're in luck, the park is surrounded by four lakes and the Cedar River. There is a beach for swimmers, fishing jetties, for those who don't own boats, plus 10 miles of water trail for canoeing and kayaking.

The park is dotted with grills and picnic tables. Pl there is a rentable lodge and shelter, if you're passing potato salad to a fairly large group.

George Wyth speaks to a variety of outdoor activities and it's easy to find, located just off Hwy. 218. For more info: [http://www.stateparks.com/george\\_wyth\\_memorial.html](http://www.stateparks.com/george_wyth_memorial.html)

### ***District 4 – PRAIRIE ROSE STATE PARK***

***By Heather Muenchrath, Shelby County***

Prairie Rose State Park is one of the most attractive outdoor recreation areas in western Iowa. The 422-acre region of scenic hills is located 6 miles east and 3 miles south of Harlan. Prairie Rose provides a number of beautiful picnic areas with excellent views of the 218 acre lake. There are ideal places for family cookouts and 2 open picnic shelters that may be reserved on-line . Both shelters have electrical outlets available. The state park also offers 95 campsites and approximately 7 miles of multi-purpose trails within the park. Activities on the lake include boating, from canoes and sailboats to motor boats and ice fishing during the winter months. Come visit Prairie Rose State Park near Harlan!

### ***District 9 - LACEY STATE PARK***

***By Anna Hornbaker, Van Buren County***

Lacey-Keosauqua State Park is one of the largest and most picturesque of Iowa state parks and recreation areas. The park's 1,653 acres of hills, bluffs and valleys wind along the Des Moines River in Van Buren County.

During the middle of the 19th century, the great Mormon trek westward across Iowa occurred. Ely Ford, now the site of a beautiful picnic area, was a river crossing point. It is now a component of the Mormon Pioneer Trail.

Originally, the park was named "Big Bend," but when it was dedicated in 1921, a more colorful name was sought. For the next five years, it was called Keosauqua, a Native American term meaning "the stream bearing a floating mass of snow, slush, or ice." In 1926, the name was changed to Lacey-Keosauqua in honor of Major John Fletcher Lacey who fought in the Civil War, was elected to Iowa House of Representatives in 1868, and by 1888, was a member of Congress. Major Lacey campaigned for conservation legislation long before Teddy Roosevelt and was instrumental in the establishment of a state park system in Iowa.

**District 6 – I can't just choose one!**  
**By Donna L Knapper, Scott County**  
**Iowa Parks, where would we be without them?**



I'm not sure when it all started, way back when I was a child one of my favorite memories was when Mom would pack a picnic lunch and we would all go out to wooded pasture and have lunch. We would put down the blanket and unpack the green woven picnic basket with the brown lid and enjoy the delicious food inside. When we were done there was time for tree climbing and exploring the great green landscape.

To this day there is nothing more enjoyable to me than visiting one of our great Iowa Parks and Recreation Areas. Just in this District the possibilities are endless. Jackson County offers the magnificent Maquoketa River. It has great canoeing opportunities with ample sandbar and pasture camping along the way. If you hit the water level just right there are even some moderate rapids. The Maquoketa Caves offers an exciting family outing and has camping facilities also.

Linn County will start out your Cedar River excursion in Palisades-Kepler State Park. Entering Cedar County the river has several parks along the way big and small. South Cedar offers Primitive Camping at it's best and there are other boat ramps and small towns along the way. So sad that the Sutliff Bridge is gone. Boat up the river from Rochester to Sutliff, stop along the way and hang out on Goose Island Sandbar before having a cold drink and hamburger at Sutliff. Oh, and they have Deep Fried Chicken Gizzards.

Keep going into Muscatine County and spend the night at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area. This spot on the Cedar River offers quiet camping and fishing or group up for a party night.

Johnson and Iowa Counties both offer an excellent County Parks. Kent Park north of Iowa City and Lake Iowa just south of I80 on Y52 each has fishing, camping, hiking, swimming and picnicking. There is something for everyone. If you don't like to fish push the babies around and enjoy the beautiful landscape.

New York has nothing on Jones County. Central Park is a blast. Maybe not a fisherman's paradise but a super park for the family with lots of possibilities.

Clinton and Scott offer many hunting, stream and river options. Not quite the big lake fishing like other counties but we have the Wapsi River to Canoe and fish.

I've never camped in Benton County but if you look in the Iowa Sportsman's Atlas the possibilities look endless.

The Iowa Sportsman's Atlas is a fabulous book showing you what each county has to offer. It's a great reference book and will help you branch out and discover park after park. Canada, Minnesota and the rest of our neighboring states have nothing on us. It's all within a few hours of your home and the best part, you don't need a passport.

I told Jessica I couldn't pick just one, there are so many cool places in our District, but I will say that it won't be too many weekends before we head out to Lake Iowa for our first Camp/Fish of 2010 and drown some worms in the lake.

Have a great summer, Donna L Knapper, Scott County FSA



For a listing of State Parks in Iowa, go to:  
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/index.html>



## RETIREMENTS

After many years of service to FSA, the following individuals have decided to retire and begin a new chapter in their life. We wish all of them well.

*Don Fry*

*Linda Krukow*

*LaVerne Arndt*

*Barb Adams*

*Glenda VonArb*

*Des Moines County CED*

*Franklin County PT*

*Calhoun County CED*

*Humboldt County PT*

*Sioux County PT*

We have tried to include the names of all individuals who have retired. Our apologies if we have missed someone.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST



Front Row: John Bahnsen, Mike Houston, Kevin Fitzpatric, ???

Back Row: Garnita Ewart, Deb Krusemark, Jim Johnson, Pat Sorgenfrey, Dennis Olson

??? Do you know who this person is?

## RETIREMENT ISN'T FOR SISSIES!

Glenda Von Arb

Everyone looks forward to retirement – living out their “golden years” in peace and quiet with the freedom to do all the things they’ve looked forward to. But let me warn you – it’s not as easy as you might think. There are a number of adjustments for the new retiree. First of all, I had to train myself to sleep beyond 5:30. After 25 years of having to wake up before breakfast this isn’t as easy as you may think. .... Oh, wait a minute. Yes, it is.



Secondly, I have to go about my daily chores without the concern that there may be a change in procedure on how I should dust or make taco soup or water the plants. For those of us who have worked in this agency for many years, anticipating the next “rule change,” this is a difficult adjustment. .... Ha ha ha. No, it isn’t.

And I’m very disappointed that I won’t be around to experience Web TA.....or that I won’t get my Linc Pass Card. I almost delayed my retirement for a year (or 2 or 3) just so I wouldn’t miss out on this.



Next winter as I wake to the howling wind and the blowing snow, I won’t get to bundle up in my heavy winter coat, gloves, & boots – go out in sub-zero weather to buck the snow drifts, trying to determine where the road ends and the ditch begins so I can get to work. I’ll really miss this.....**NOT!**



But I will miss all of you, my “FSA friends,” and the opportunities I would never have had without this job. When I first started working, I “lived” in a very small world. I didn’t know the people who worked in the other county offices – now many of them have become close friends. Thanks for the memories. I hope to see you “down the road.” Until then.....

*I'll let the birds be my alarm clock  
Watch the sun rise; watch it set  
Spend more time with family  
The friends I've missed; those not yet met  
I hope the days are long enough  
To do the things I dreamed I could  
Like take a trip or take a walk.  
I'm retired and life is good.*

---

### Grandma Rosemary & Granddaughter Emery Rose



Pictured is Rosemary Chapman of Marshall County, 1<sup>st</sup> time Grandmother and her new beautiful Granddaughter Emery Rose Chapman. Emery was born on September 3, 2009, she weighed 6 lbs 6 ozs, was 18” long and has dark hair like Grandma. As you can see Rosemary is not the least bit proud! HA! HA! As for Emery who knows what she is thinking, it could be anything from I feel a little gassy to why is Grandma smiling but not looking at me. But we think she is staring at her Grandma and saying, “I finally get to meet my Grandma in person, can it really be her? Yep, that’s her voice. I’m so lucky! She holds me like a precious Rose and I have her wrapped around my fingers already, all 10 of them, see them Grandma they are right here, see them! I know this is true because when she first met me she was counting all of my fingers to make sure I had 10 of them!!!”

Submitted by: Kitty J Benda of Marshall County

## EASY SUMMER RECIPES

### ICE CREAM IN A BAG

1 gallon size zip top bag  
1 pint size zip top bag  
Ice  
Salt  
1 1/2 cups ice cream mix

Put ice cream mix into pint size bag and zip shut securely. Place pint size bag inside gallon size bag. Add ice and salt and zip large bag shut securely. With hands, mix and shake contents until ice cream mix freezes. This takes about 10 minutes.

After ice cream is made, discard gallon bag along with ice and water. Wipe off outside of pint bag before opening.

Kids love this!

### SIRLOIN STEAK WITH GARLIC BUTTER

1/2 cup butter  
2 tsp garlic powder  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
4 lbs beef top sirloin steak  
Salt and pepper to taste



Preheat grill for high heat.

In a small saucepan, melt butter with garlic powder and minced garlic. Set aside.

Salt and pepper steaks, grill until done and place on warm plate. Brush steaks with garlic butter and let rest 2 to 3 minutes before serving.



### GRILLED VEGETABLES

4 - 5 potatoes, quartered lengthwise  
3 carrots, sliced lengthwise (or use baby carrots to taste)  
1 or 2 onions, sliced  
Fresh Mushrooms, sliced (as you like)  
2 cloves fresh garlic, minced  
Julienne sliced red peppers  
Olive Oil  
4 TBS butter  
Dill Weed  
Note: You can add any other type of vegetable that you enjoy.

Combine all vegetables with garlic and olive oil in a zip-lock bag and mix until coated. Olive oil doesn't need to be measured, just add enough to lightly coat the vegetables (depending upon how many vegetables you have). Take a large piece of heavy duty tin-foil and coat with some butter. Make sure the foil is large enough to seal the vegetables into a pouch for grilling. Hint: you could also use a grilling bag. Put the vegetables on the foil, dot remaining butter on the top. Sprinkle dill weed over all, salt or pepper if you like, and seal. Put vegetable pouch on the grill turning the bag at least once to avoid burning. The vegetables should take about 30 minutes to cook, depending upon the grill temperature. These go well with any type of meat on the grill.



# 51<sup>st</sup> NASCOE National Convention August 3-7, 2010

Arlington Hotel & Spa

Hot Springs, AR

800-643-1502

Ask for NASCOE when making reservations.

Rooms \$ 84.00 Single



Hotel consists of an eleven story central portion with two seven-story wings. Two domed towers rise from the intersection of the wings with the central portion of the building.

The Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa is nestled in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains of Hot Springs National Park, Ark. The world-famous spring-fed mineral baths in the Arlington Spa will relax guests before enjoying the many services offered at the beauty and facial salons, the sumptuous cuisine available in one of three restaurants.

Bask in the glorious Arkansas sun while taking advantage of the Arlington's many outdoor amenities, including twin heated cascading pools, mountainside hot tub and sun deck. Guests can dress up for fine dining in the evenings, followed by after-dinner drinks in the comfortable cocktail lounge. Also of interest to business travelers and party planners is the 45,000 square feet of meeting and conference space, for both large and small gatherings. Guests are encouraged to explore their athletic sides in the hotel fitness center, while children can have fun playing video games in the arcade. The hotel also has a number of specialty boutiques for shoppers who want to take gifts home. The 481 guestrooms and suites are elegantly fashioned in a classic tradition, with rich floral-patterned duvets and mahogany furniture.



i Photos and information compliments of the Arlington Hotel & Spa.

# 51st NASCOE Convention

August 3-7, 2010

## Tours and Information

Additional information can be found at [www.aascoe.org](http://www.aascoe.org)

Bath House Row/Downtown Walking Tour  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Event Date: August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Price per person: FREE

Take a stroll down Hot Springs' Central Avenue. This historic area of Hot Springs has two Bath Houses that are currently in use and many others in various stages of renovation. Take in the beautiful architecture with either a guided or a self-guided tour. At the end of Bath House Row, you can view the display springs and feel the 143 degrees Fahrenheit water of the actual hot springs.

Downtown Hot Springs has a large variety of shops and places to eat that are within walking distance of the Arlington Hotel.

---

Clinton Presidential Library Tour, Little Rock Arkansas  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Event Date: August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Price per person: \$47.00

The 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States chose Little Rock as the site of his Presidential Library. During this tour, groups can view exhibits provided by the National Archives at the Popular Clinton Presidential Center and Park. A private luncheon will be held for our group at the Clinton Library. In addition, the excursion includes a driving tour around the Arkansas Governor's Mansion District in the Quapaw Quarter in downtown Little Rock. The beautiful historic homes from Victorian times to the 1920's are still showcases of Little Rock's past. Little Rock is approximately 1 hour from Hot Springs. Snacks and drinks available on the bus.

---

Garvan Gardens Getaway  
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Event Date: August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Price per person: \$45.00

Garvan Woodland Gardens is located on Lake Hamilton on the edge of Hot Springs in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains. These gardens feature the plants and trees in their natural environment in a woodland setting. These gardens are too beautiful to miss! Tour includes an Arkansas BBQ lunch served in the pavilion on the Garden Grounds.

---

## Youth Tours

Magic Springs/Crystal Falls  
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Event Date: August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Price per person: \$50.00

This is a water park and an amusement park – two parks in one! Crystal Falls will be the first stop with multiple water attractions – The Rapid Falls Raceway, Seven Falls, Crystal Falls Wave Pool, Crystal Lagoon Wading Pool, High Sierra Slide Tower, Grizzly Creek Splash Zone and more! Stay cool on a hot Arkansas Day by taking it easy or riding the biggest and highest water rides. Later, change clothes and head to Magic Springs, the Mid-South's Premier Amusement Park. Lunch not included on this tour.

---

Mid American Science Museum/Coleman Quartz Mine  
Time: 8:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Event Date: August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Price per person: \$47.00

To begin the tour, guests will get a chance to dig for crystals at the Coleman Quartz Mine. Each person is guaranteed at least \$20 worth of crystals, either from what they find or from the shop at the Mines if their dig isn't successful. Next the tour heads to the Mid American Science Museum. The Interactive Museum has over 100 exhibits for kids of all ages. A small snack and drink will be provided—Bring Money for Lunch.

---

Downtown Tour  
Time: 10:00 a.m.–3:30p.m.

Event Date: August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Price per Age 3-12: \$23.00  
Price per Age 13-up: \$32.00

To begin the tour, guests will get to visit the Tussaud Josephine Wax Museum. Then it is off for a ride on the famous Duck Boat, that will take them on a tour of Hot Springs and a boat ride on the Lake. Last they will be taken to the Hot Springs Tower in which they can go up to the top and overlook the beautiful Hot Springs National Park. \*Lunch included

# *Clinton Presidential Tour/Little Rock City Tour*

NASCOE

August 4, 2010

8:30-2 pm

The 42nd President of the United States chose Little Rock as the site of his Presidential Library, and Arkansas Destinations is proud to take your group to enjoy the exhibits provided by the National Archives at the popular Clinton Presidential Center and Park. A private luncheon will be held for our group at 42 in the Clinton Library for our group.

In addition, we will have the opportunity to drive around the Arkansas Governor's Mansion District in the Quapaw Quarter in downtown Little Rock. The beautiful historic homes in our area from the Victorian times to the 1920's are still showcases of Little Rock's past. Come join us for this great day of education and fun!

Little Rock is approximately 1 hour from Hot Springs. Snacks and drinks available on the bus.



Arkansas  
Destinations

Ticket Price: \$47 per person

701A Collins \* Little Rock, AR 72202  
(501) 603-0113 \* FAX (501) 663-4449 \* [www.arkdestinations.com](http://www.arkdestinations.com)

# Garvan Gardens Getaway

**NASCOE, August 4, 2010**

Garvan Woodland Gardens is located on Lake Hamilton on the edge of Hot Springs in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains.

Built on land donated from the University of Arkansas by a private donor, these gardens feature the plants and trees in their natural environment in a woodland setting. Our guide will point out the various plants, and their role at the gardens.

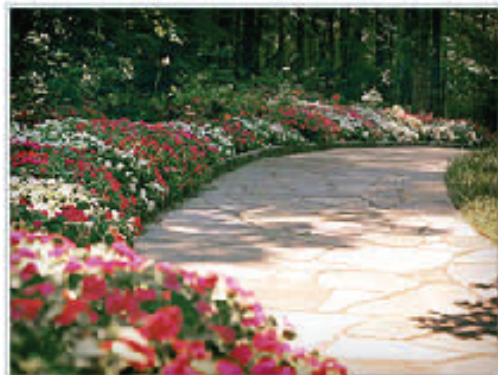
A private luncheon will be held in the pavilion on the Garden Grounds where plenty of Arkansas BBQ will be provided to the group.

## Attractions Include:

Paul W. Klipsch Amphitheater   Anthony Chapel  
The Hixson Family Woodland Nature Preserve   Evans Children's Adventure Garden  
Garden of Pine Wind   Verna Cook Garvan Pavilion  
Singing Springs Gorge and Millsap Canopy Bridge   The Ellipse  
Three Sisters of Amity Daffodil Hill   Old Brick Hill   Weyerhaeuser Bonsai Garden   Dierks Promenade  
Edmondson Great Lawn   Joy Manning Scott Full Moon Bridge

Includes professional guide service, motor coach transportation, entry into attractions, lunch, reservations and other services where mentioned.

**\$45 per person**



Arkansas  
Destinations

# *Exploration and Wonder*

**Children's Tour, NASCOE, August 6, 2010, 8:30 am—1 pm**

---

People have been exploring Hot Springs for centuries, and our kids will have the opportunity to experience two wonderful attractions in one morning!

The Coleman Quartz Mine has been in business for decades, bringing some of the most amazing crystals in the world to anyone willing to “dig them up”. In addition there is professional mining available for the kids to see. Each person is guaranteed at least \$20 worth of crystals, either from what he or she finds, or from the shop if you happen to be less successful.

Next we will head to the Mid America Science Museum, where “Science Comes to Life!” Interactive exhibits—over 100 of them—engage kids of all ages. Fly a balloon, watch your hair stand on end or experience a laser show—it is all here at Mid American Science Museum.

The participants will be back before lunch. A small snack and drink will be served.

Includes Motor Coach  
Transportation, professional guide  
service, entry into attractions,  
reservations and other services  
where mentioned.  
\$47 per person



---

Arkansas  
Destinations



# *Magic Springs / Crystal Falls*

**Children's Tour, NASCOE, August 5, 2010, 10:30 — 5 pm**

A water park and an amusement park—two parks in one! A perfect day for kids of all ages. The bus will come get the kids and their chaperones and take them to the biggest attraction in Arkansas.

Crystal Falls will be our first stop with multiple water attractions—the Rapid Falls Raceway, Seven Falls, Crystal Falls Wave Pool, Crystal Lagoon Wading Pool, High Sierra Slide Tower, Grizzly Creek Splash Zone and more! Stay cool on a hot Arkansas Day by taking it easy or riding the biggest and highest water rides.

Later we'll change clothes and head toward Magic Springs, the Mid-South's Premier Amusement Park. Featuring the Arkansas Twister, the Gauntlet and other thrill rides, Magic Springs rides compete with the beauty of the Ouachita Mountains all around you. Children's rides and games are also featured in this popular summer attractions.

Join us for a day of fun and thrills!

**Includes Motor Coach  
Transportation and entry  
into Magic  
Springs/Crystal Falls  
\$50 per person  
Lunch on your own**



**Arkansas  
Destinations**

# A Chance to win

#1 BENELLI M2 SHOTGUN

#1 BENELLI M2 SHOTGUN

#2 \$500 CASH

#3 26" LCD HD/TV

#4 \$250 CASH

#5 IPOD NANO

1 Ticket for \$3

or 2 for \$5



Help Support the  
National Convention!

To be given  
away @ the  
National Convention!

AASCOE RAFFLE

For more info or Tickets

Contact

Nancy Chlapecka @ 870-255-3573 ext. 108

Autographed by Tim Bradley  
Benelli Exhibition Shooter



**Remembering  
O'Quinn in  
2007**

**51<sup>st</sup> NASCOE Convention August 3 – 7, 2010**  
 Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa  
 Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas  
 800-643-1502



**2010 REGISTRATION FORM**

Name:		Other Guests	
Circle one: Delegate Member DD NASCOE NAPEC Honorary Mbr			
Address:			
Work Phone:		Cell:	FAX: Email:

*This year's annual NASCOE Convention will be held in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains of Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas at the historic Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa. Guests are reminded to ask for NASCOE when making reservations to take advantage of the special \$84.00 per night single room. Cut-off date for reservations is July 4, 2010. **Everyone over the age of 13 must register, except NASCOE Honorary Life Members***

Date/Times	Events	Cost per person	How many?	Total due
	Registration FEE before June 15, 2010 \$30	\$30		
	Registration FEE after June 15, 2010 \$35	\$35		
Tues & Wed All Day Sunday - TBA	**Shuttle Service Round Trip to & from Little Rock Airport	\$35		
Wednesday Aug. 4 <sup>th</sup> All Day	Walking Tour on your own: Bath House Row, Historic District, Park & other Museums within walking distance of Hotel	Free		
Wednesday Aug. 4th 8am-?	NASCOE GOLF TOURNAMENT (including lunch) Belvedere Golf Resort – Hot Springs <u>Handicap:</u>	\$45		
Wednesday Aug. 4th 9:30am-1:00pm	Garvin Gardens Getaway (including lunch)*	\$45		
Wednesday Aug. 4th 8:30am-2:00pm	Clinton Presidential Library Tour in Little Rock * (includes lunch)	\$47		
Wednesday Aug. 4th 8 pm-Midnight	Hot Tub Club @ the Pool Area w/ Refreshments <b>Membership Required Hot Tub Club T-shirt or Hat</b> If you need Membership order T or Hat Here Bring T or Hat if you already have membership	\$20 Circle: Hat T-shirt	<u>Size</u>	
Thursday Aug. 5th 6pm-8:30pm	Scholarship Auction	Free		
Thursday Aug. 5th 8:30pm-Midnight	Gangster Night – Dress as your favorite Gangster Dance with Live Band	Free		
Friday Aug. 6th 11:30am-1pm	Retiree Luncheon	\$22.50		
Friday Aug. 6th 6pm-9pm	Arkansas Night – Southern Cookout Live Entertainment Theme Night: "A Little on the Trashy Side!"	Free		
Friday Aug. 6th 9pm-Midnight	Dance with DJ Theme Night: "A Little on the Trashy Side!"	Free		
Saturday Aug. 7th 6pm-7pm	Social Hour	Cash Bar		
Saturday Aug. 7th 7pm-9pm	Diamonds & Pearls Gala Awards Banquet	\$28		
Saturday Aug. 7th 9pm-1am	Dance with Live Band	Free		

Please register for all events (even Free) you are interested in!!

Sub-Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_