

IASCOE DIRECTORS MINUTES

Stoney Creek Inn

Johnston, Iowa

February 1, 2008

6:30 P.M.

Officers Present: President, Steve Kennedy; Vice President, Cindy Mensen and Secretary/Treasurer, Sue Beemer

Directors Present: Glenda VonArb, Jeff Davis, Cindy Pistek, Steve Abbas, Tammy Eibey, John Landgraf, Chris Grieder, Jessica Yuska, Tom Lane, Dan Wells, Patsy Bense, Kelly Cain and Judy Dameron.

Alternate Director: Mary Lageschulte

Guest: Derryl McLaren, SED

President Steve Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

COMMENTS FROM DERRYL MCLAREN, SED

Farm Bill – If a new farm bill is not passed or the old one extended we will revert to permanent legislation. Unless separate legislation is passed there would be no conservation programs, no soybean support and no food stamps, just a support program. If a new farm bill is passed, it will probably be similar to what we have now. The farm bill is always very complex. The Senate and House have not named who will be on the conference committee. In 1996, we went into March and finally went with a one-year extension of the 1990 bill. We might want to hold off on completing new 502's unless it is for a new corporation etc. Go ahead and do reconstitutions – do what you know and do not try to second-guess what might be coming.

Streamlining – An outside agency has been selected to review our procedures to see where we could streamline our system. There would be new computers and off the shelf software. This review will start with IA and PA. They will follow the steps a PT takes to sign up a producer and see where the problems could be. They went to Kossuth County and reviewed DCP, CRP, CDP, MAL and Common Provisions. Derryl chose some additional CED's, DD's, PT's and STO personnel to attend this review.

Budget – The budget looks good through 2008. Everything seems to be holding to the numbers and not cutting back on staff numbers. Derryl might have to move some money around – he has more latitude to move money on the County Office side versus the Federal side. There will be a new position of Eligibility Chief created in State Office. This will be a grade GS-13. It will consist of Conservation Compliance and Eligibility.

We thanked Derryl for the work he did on the Iowa Plan that was submitted to Washington D.C. Ours was approved and there will be no office closures in Iowa.

Derryl left the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

SECRETARY REPORT

Sue presented the minutes of the September Directors' meeting. After review, Dan Wells moved and Steve Abbas seconded the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried by all directors present.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At this time, we opened and counted ballots for Districts 1 – 2 – 3 – 5 and 7. The results are as follows:

District 1

Glenda Von Arb, PT Director – Souix County
Jeff Davis, CED Director – Plymouth County
Nancy Heideman, Alternate PT Director – Clay County
Larry Lago, Alternate CED Director – Dickinson County

District 2

Cindy Pistek, PT Director – Hancock County
Tammy Pruin, CED Director – Wright County
Jeanine Diekhuis, Alternate PT Director – Hancock County
Dave Stromer, Alternate CED Director – Kossuth County

District 3

Tammy Eibey, PT Director – Delaware County
Cindy Mensen, CED Director – Clayton County
Karen McNeil, Alternate PT Director – Winneshiek County
Kevin Keegan, Alternate CED Director – Buchanan County

District 5

Chris Grieder, PT Director – Polk County
Steve Kennedy, CED Director – Jasper County
Teresa Heck, Alternate PT Director – Polk County
Alternate CED Director – This position will remain vacant because Craig Hughes has been accepted as a District Director.

District 7

Sue Beemer, PT Director – Taylor County
Barb Gerzevske, CED Director – Fremont County
Judy Lundgren, Alternate PT Director – Page County
Julie Hall, Alternate CED Director – East Pottawattamie County

After the election results, Jeff Davis moved and Judy Dameron seconded, to destroy the ballots. Motion passed by all directors present.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sue presented the financial report to the Director's for their review. Dan Wells moved and Cindy Pistek seconded the financial report be accepted. Motion carried by all directors.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Awards – Tom Lane gave the report. Tom has received the following nominations.

One nomination for Service to FSA – Agriculture

One nomination for Service to IASCOE/NASCOE

Two nominations for Community Service Award

Tom has already selected people to judge these nominations. Counties have turned in their sick leave recipients. Each Director needs to make sure, when an employee retires in their district; they receive a certificate for their service to IASCOE. Contact Tom for the certificate.

Benefits and Legislation – Jeff and Steve presented the report. Jeff talked about nascoetravel.com. Anyone can use this website for travel accommodations. You do not have to be an IASCOE/NASCOE member. We need to make sure all our friends and relatives know about this. You can usually save some money and NASCOE receives a percentage that goes toward scholarships. Steve had a printout that showed the number of emails sent to Congressmen and Senators.

Scholarships – Cindy Pistek gave the report. She received 16 applications. The NASCOE Scholarship application took out the financial requirement so we only had one form for scholarships. There is a new scholarship this year for employees who wish to further their education. This has an earlier deadline than our normal scholarships. Cindy wants to step down as Scholarship Chairperson for the 2008-2009 IASCOE year. If any of the directors would like to accept this responsibility please contact Steve. Cindy will be on a nationwide task force for NASCOE regarding reorganization of USDA. There will be one CED and PT from each area. Iowa is very fortunate to have Cindy on as a representative for our area.

Membership – Dan and Glenda presented the membership report. Dan handed out the final membership map, reflecting 88.4% membership for the year. Districts 1 and 7 have 100 % membership. At this point, all the COT's are members. Dan reminded us to make contact with new employees in our district about becoming members. We do not have to wait for the new membership year to ask them to join IASCOE. There are 107 associate members and 44 have paid. Glenda has a listing of honorary members for which she has printed out a certificate. She will send out invitations to the honorary members for the annual convention. They do not have to pay a registration fee. Dan will contact the new COT's that have just been hired, concerning membership.

Publicity – Tammy gave the report. She has submitted the following on January 21st for publicity awards:

Best Feature Story – Humor – “A Bit of Humor Amidst an Inconvenient Ice Storm” By Kevin Keegan, CED, Buchanan County – March 2007 Issue

Best Feature Story Human Interest – “My Big Surprise” By Vicky Rechkemmer, PT, Des Moines County – June 2007 Issue

Best Website – Brian Beach, PT, Sac County

The next newsletter will be out around March 1st. Tammy would like articles to her by February 25th. Tammy also discussed CAPWIZ. The Midwest Area has the most people signed up. The CAPWIZ enrollment is as follows:

NE Area – 142
SE Area – 675
MW Area – 835
NW Area – 396
SW Area – 509

Iowa is using CAPWIZ more than any other state. Iowa has 200 signed up but only 63 are really using it. This is good but we need to get more of these people actively involved. We need to encourage everyone (not just IASCOE members) to sign up for CAPWIZ, as this is an important tool that can be used to convey our views to Senators and Congressmen.

Programs – Jessica has volunteered to be Chairperson. She has forwarded three items for consideration. Program items can be submitted all year long but negotiation items have been completed for this year.

Glenda VonArb moved and John Landgraf seconded to approve all the committee reports as presented. All Directors present approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Conference Calling – Steve Kennedy discussed conference calling. The Midwest Area Directors have found this a very useful tool when a decision needs to be made between Director meetings. When a conference call needs to be placed, they use a website to email out the number and pass code. The call costs about \$3.00 per minute. When you sign up, you get a 7-day free trial period and there is no monthly fee. We would not sign up until a conference call was needed so we could take advantage of the free trial period.

Use of Government Equipment – We have gone from many NASCOE emails to almost nothing. We need to be careful using Government equipment to email information about membership and legislative items. We discussed having an email database. We could have members put their email addresses on our membership transmittals. One person from each county office could give Tammy their home email address and she could send any information she felt important to that person. In turn, they would take responsibility to share that information with the county office. You can use the NASCOENOW website at work. There is a link to this on the NASCOE website. The Directors need to give any email address updates to Cindy Mensen, so she can keep her listing current.

Stoney Creek Inn Additional Charge – Steve discussed the additional charge Stoney Creek put on our credit cards after the last Director's meeting. The accounting department apparently found a tax error in the billing. We also paid an additional tax in conjunction with the 2006-2007 annual convention.

NEW BUSINESS

IASCOE Directors – We discussed flowers for retired IASCOE Directors or their spouse upon their death. It was decided the Secretary would send a sympathy card to the family in lieu of flowers. If anyone knows of an IASCOE/NASCOE member who has passed away this year, you need to get a picture and information to one of the officers, so it can be presented at the National Convention in a slide show.

Committee Members – All Directors need to review their committee listings and get any changes to Sue.

Deb Krusemark – If anyone has pictures of Deb, please send them to State Office for her retirement party.

Annual State Convention – Steve Waller will contact the National Guard for the presentation of the flags, Steve Abbas has agreed to do the prayer, Emily Bailey will sing the national anthem and Deb Esselman-Baird, CED from WI, will have the Military Tribute. The speakers who have committed are as follows:

Merlin Plagge – STC Chairperson

Jim Book – Representing State Office – Brad Murray might also speak

JM Marketing – Mary Tayler Clark

Joshua Katcher – Financial Information

Craig Floss – Executive Director of the Iowa Corn Growers, speaking on The Future of Ethanol and the Effect on FSA

We are waiting to hear from an additional speaker, Bob McGrath, a former CED from Nebraska, who is now in WDC. He would speak on the New Workload System Review. Judy will handle the registration. She also handed out the raffle tickets to the Directors to give to the counties in their district. The room fee will be \$77.00 plus tax and the cost of the breakfast will remain the same as last year. Steve will talk with Kelly from Stoney Creek to see if we can have the hospitality room in the same room as the dance. We will check on postage for returning the emblems. Depending on the cost, we may try to do something in conjunction with other states. All Directors need to get items for goodie bags. Sue will organize the yearbook and Jeff will print it. The Director's meeting on Thursday night, March 27, will begin at 6:30 P.M.

Delegates for Midwest Area Rally and National Convention – Jeff Davis moved and Steve Abbas seconded the delegates for the Midwest Area Rally. They will be Steve Kennedy and Judy Dameron. All Directors passed motion. We discussed delegates for the National Convention, but nothing definite was determined.

OTHER ITEMS

Upcoming conventions:

- Illinois State Convention – Springfield – March 14-15
- MWA Rally – Indianapolis, IN – April 18-19
- Wisconsin State Convention – Wausau – April 25-26 (Tentative)
- Minnesota State Convention – (New Ulm) – July 24-25
- National Convention – Omaha, NE – August 6-9

ADJOURNMENT

Jeff Davis moved and Steve Abbas seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by all directors present. Steve adjourned the meeting at 10:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Beemer

Secretary