

The IASCOE Directors conference call meeting on July 6, 2017 was called to order by President Jennifer Comer at 7:00pm. The following members were present: Karen LaCour, Cindy Pistek, Angie Christian, Candace Fette, Jesse Wegner, Steve Luke, Karla Novotny, Angie Reynolds, Matt Berg, Jennifer Comer, Cindy About, Kathy Henely, Judy Dameron, Wendi Denham, Katie Kramer and Ronda Harrison.

Jennifer announced that conference calls would occur one time per month to keep everyone on track, and a face to face meeting would occur closer to fall, probably in September.

Reports:

- Awards: CED Steve Abbas will be honored at the National Convention for state and national Service to FSA awards. Congratulations to Steve!
- Scholarships: The torch is being passed onto Kathy Henely. Applications are due in January; so, it is necessary to get them out in September to get kids applying.
- Membership: Judy Dameron has only received a handful of membership transmittals. There is a question regarding the early bird promotion. It was suggested to do a gift card like last year; but, it cannot be remembered if it was just for a new member. This will need to be researched.
- MWA: Angie Christian hasn't received any feedback on how Iowa is doing with program submissions; assumption all is going well. If anyone has questions or would like help submitting a program submission, please contact Angie. She is willing to submit on your behalf, walk you through it, or provide step by step instructions. Jennifer said the instructions are posted to the website and has submitted a program submission and the process went well; it just takes time to get a response from submission being researched.
- Steve Luke and Jesse Wegner completed the list of local congressional representatives and got it done ahead of schedule. They sent the list to the committee chairs. This came down from NASCOE. Local contacts compiled were sent onto MWA. Each area now to do the same. Jennifer reminded all that if someone is coming through your area, you will need to represent IASCOE/NASCOE. You will need to take leave for these meetings and conferences. You are not there as a FSA employee. Farm bill talks are starting up.
- Newsletter: Jesse Wegner reported on this since Tammy Eibey was not on the call. Tammy has done a great job with it. It contains minutes from the state convention, information on officers, pictures from the convention, etc... Hopefully, we can keep on track with newsletters. There was a discussion with Chris Hare regarding some CO's with a decrease in membership numbers. These offices feel IASCOE/NASCOE hasn't done anything for them. As such, the point was raised that it is necessary for us to toot our own horns. Jennifer said that we are on the fence about whether to put information on this in the newsletter? She is looking for feedback on this. Angie Christian suggested that it makes it easier to sell membership if information on what IASCOE/NASCOE has done is compiled. Katie Kramer suggested a separate document directed at selling the organization. Wendi Denham asked about a membership brochure, and it was stated that there is one available that is fairly current. The separate document could be posted on the IASCOE website for quick access to that information. Katie suggested highlighting the networking benefit of the organization, such as by highlighting a few employees and where they are now. For example, Acting SED Bob Wegand was a former IASCOE President, as was PA Chief Kevin McClure. Jennifer asked Judy Dameron if membership timing would be thrown off. Judy responded that it would not. She will not turn down members, no matter what time of year it is. It was decided that the document does need to be separate from the newsletter as the newsletter is already lengthy. There were no objections to this. The document would be a reminder about who we are and why membership is so important. Angie asked who received the newsletter. It was stated that officers received it, as well as a few others, for proofreading.

NASCOE News:

- Jennifer stated there was not a lot to report. There has been no word on budget. The hiring freeze is still in place. Although news has suggested maybe the budget will not be cut as much as first thought.

- NASCOE Convention: It will take place the first weekend in August in St. Charles, MO. It would be good to attend to show support. Let Jennifer know if you plan for the option of carpooling, etc... Some hotel rooms may still be available. Steve Abbas was able to get a room at the group rate.
- MIDAS Issues – MIDAS has not lived up to its anticipated potential. MIDAS has not been finished and the implementation of it went millions over budget.

Director At Large positions:

- Some changes to the agenda include interest from Crystal Schotte for District 3; possible interest from Dustin Miller vs. Paul Berte for District 1; Katie Pille was nominated but is not interested in running. However, Katie is willing to be involved with IASCOE and help with convention, etc...
- Two directors are needed from odd number districts, and two directors are needed from even number districts. In 2017, the board will appoint 2 from even numbers, and then 2 from odd numbers in year after. These directors will serve until they no longer wish to serve, or until the board no longer desires them to serve.
- It was decided that there has not yet been enough interest to vote on the directors tonight.
- It was mentioned that no inquiries have been received back from emails regarding the need for these directors. Jesse suggested that sometimes people need to be inspired by a personal phone call.
- Jennifer determined to table this vote until the next conference call. She said that contacts need to be made by July 14th, with additional nominees sent to her by that date as well. The next call will be held on July 18th at 7 p.m. The names sent to Jennifer will be put on the agenda for the July 18th call. Appointments will be made that night regardless of the number of volunteers.

Director Duties/Roles and Responsibilities

- As there are not any handbooks, we need some material, especially for those who are new. Jennifer called for volunteers for compiling such a handbook, both seasoned and new. Cindy Pistek volunteered to assist. Katie Kramer asked where the information would come from. Jennifer stated that it would come from the by-laws and experience. This is our chance to create what we want IASCOE to be. Cindy Bebout asked if any other states have something similar. Jennifer said she would need to check. This is going to be a work in progress and should help put more people on the ballot. Some may not know what their expectations are, what time commitments are involved, etc... This will be a reference guide. Jeff Davis may be willing to help too, and Jennifer is willing to assist as experienced board members. If anyone else would like to volunteer, let Cindy Pistek know.
- It was also stated that updated email addresses would be helpful for the district representatives to be able to pass information along to membership.

State Convention/MWA Rally

- Angie went to several hotels, including some downtown and in the Jordan Creek area. There were not enough rooms and/or meeting space at many, or they were not willing to do much for a menu. The Marriott downtown will honor the Government per diem rate and meals will count toward contracted stay. As such, this hotel was chosen. The event will be Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A scavenger hunt is available on Thursday night; a rock band is lined up for Friday night; the live auction will take place on Saturday night. Games will be planned by Gary Yoch and Danielle Sidles. Fundraising has been handed off to Katie Kramer, for such things as parking funds. If it is decided upon later as a group, the hotel is open to providing \$10 vouchers for parking to go to guests if we want to do that. The rock band will cost \$1,500 plus two hotel rooms, and it played at the casino during the state convention. They do not take breaks; they play for 4 hours straight. Their music type is country and classic rock. The cash bar also counts toward the required food and drink requirement as well. Also, for every 35 rooms booked, the hotel will give us a free room. Marriott will also give us \$5 guest breakfasts

and other incentives, such as a compensated suite for every 100 rooms booked. Rooms with glass are available to see downtown and provide hospitality. Renovations to the hotel will be complete by the end of February. Judy Dameron asked what the food and drink minimum requirement is. Angie stated it is \$8,500. One suggestion for fundraising for this event is through Schwan's website. The link for the promotion can be shared. Katie Kramer also suggested that Amazon Prime has a fundraising opportunity as well.

- It was asked when the newsletter would go out in hopes of including some information on the Schwan's fundraiser in it. Jennifer stated it should go out as soon as possible. IASCOE is waiting on the two day approval process from Schwan's.

Cindy Bebout made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Angie Christian 2nd the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm with a reminder that a new call in number would be provided for the next teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendi Muir Denham
IASCOE Secretary