

IASCOE DIRECTORS MINUTES
Stoney Creek Inn
Johnston, Iowa
September 21, 2007
7:00 P.M.

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

Directors Present: Glenda VonArb, Cindy Pistek, Steve Abbas, Debi Ostrander, John Landgraf, Chris Grieder, Jessica Yuska, Dan Wells, Patsy Bence, Kelly Cain, Judy Dameron and Dee Ann Lehn.

Alternate Directors: Karen McNeil.

Sharon Dunfee has resigned from FSA so Patsy Bence from Madison County is the Director for District 8.

President Steve Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Derryl McLaren, SED was unable to attend.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

The Directors reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting held March 2007. After review, Dan Wells moved and Cindy Pistek seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried by all directors present. The financial report was then presented for the Directors' review. There was a breakdown between the 2006-2007 financial year and the 2006-2007 State Convention. Dan Wells moved and Dee Ann Lehn seconded the financial report be accepted. Motion carried by all directors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards – Tom Lane was not present.

Scholarships – Cindy Pistek gave the report. Two scholarship winners need to get their paperwork to Sue so their scholarship money can be paid. Cindy read a very nice thank you letter from Nick Skow. At the national level they have purposed to take out the financial portion on the application. It has passed the committee but needs to be voted on by the Directors. Cindy didn't know if it would apply to this year. Iowa will have two applications – as voted on by the Directors in a previous meeting.

Membership – Dan Wells and Glenda VonArb presented the membership report. Thanks to Glenda for all the work she has done on the Trivia Challenge. Think everyone really enjoys these challenges. Dan passed a list around with the current members and their districts. He also had a map with the number of members per county. He has sent personal letters to everyone who is not a member with information about IASCOE, a FSA-444 and an application. If you know of someone in your district who is not a member try and contact them and discuss the advantages of membership. We then had the Early Bird Drawing. The following members will receive \$50.00:

Bremer County – Christy Leyh
Humboldt County – Jane Trauger
Benton County – Paula Frazier
Crawford County – Cynthia Ohl
Franklin County – Pam Giddings

Glenda has been helping with the Honorary Membership. She passed out a list of eligible members who could be considered for Honorary Membership. These members receive a certificate and can attend the annual convention and don't have to pay a registration fee. Steve Abbas moved to approve all eligible members on the list for Honorary Membership. Jessica Yuska seconds the motion with all directors voting in favor.

Publicity – Tammy Eibey was not present. We discussed articles and goals for the newsletter. Tammy and Brian do an excellent job of coordinating the newsletter and we really appreciate all the work they do. Steve Abbas moved to have March – June – September and December as the newsletter schedule. Cindy Mensen seconds the motion and motion passed by all directors present.

Programs – Sharon Dunfee has resigned from FSA so we need a new Programs Chairperson. There was some discussion on what this committee entails. You just can't complain you also have to have a solution to the problem. You need to write up things you don't like and have a solution to the problem. These suggestions should be sent to the Committee Chairperson and then it will be sent on to the MWA Chairperson. From there it goes to the National level. As directors we need to make sure all employees know about this.

Benefits and Legislative – Steve Abbas and Jeff Davis are the chairpersons. Cindy Pistek gave us a handout for review. On September 11-12, 2007 there was a Fly-In to Washington, DC. Tammy Eibey and Cindy Pistek attended. They met as a group on Sept 11th with Bob Redding, Bonnie Heinzman (NASCOE Pres.) Myron Stroup (NASCOE VP), Mike Mayfield (Legislative Chair), Tammy Eibey (MWA Legislative) and several others. Mr. Redding gave them talking points and discussed who the key players would be. They emphasized that FSA should be given all administrative duties of the conservation programs and NRCS would concentrate on the technical duties. They also stressed the point of duplication with crop reporting and that FSA should be the key agency to take reports and they could be sent to RMA from our system. They attended Senator Tom Harkin's Breakfast on Sept. 12th. Those in attendance seemed quite receptive to the concept of FSA doing the administrative and NRCS the technical work. It costs NRCS approximately 22% to administer conservation and it costs FSA 6% to administer programs. They also seemed interested in the crop reporting issue. Susan Keith (Harkin's Ag Committee Advisor) asked about usury fees. She wanted to know how the producers would respond to usury fees. If they did this the money would possibly go to IT expenses. They also met with Amanda Taylor from Senator Grassley's office. She is an Ag Legislative Assistant. She agreed with the positions NASCOE was presenting. She also talked about the Disaster Trust Fund and how getting funds from this would be dependent upon the producer having insurance – more insurance, more benefits. Thanks to Tammy and Cindy for attending.

CAP-WIZ – Iowa leads the nation with 200 subscribers but we really need more members. The alerts now are mainly about the Farm Bill and conservation. Be sure and follow through when an alert comes down. CAPWIZ was renewed for another three years.

John Landgraf moved to accept all the committee reports and Dan Wells seconded the motion. Motion passed by all directors.

OLD BUSINESS

2007 National Convention Report – Cindy Mensen handed out a summary of the convention. This was the 48th annual convention. Teresa Lasseter addressed the convention. Other groups present were RASCOE, NAFEC, NADD, NACS and NASE. They had a preview of the new Activity Reporting System – new time and attendance. There were reports from the different committees, Robert Redding, NASCOE’s political consultant spoke, and there was a panel from WDC. There has been 41 states submit plans. Iowa’s is in review and only 1 of 7 that offered “no closings”. There will be CDP training this fall. CAPWIZ has been approved for another three years. PT classifications – no overall PT upgrade will be possible but may look at position descriptions for DT’s and CED assistants. The new NASCOE officers are:

Bonnie Heinzman – President
Myron Stroup – Vice President
Darlene Schouten – Secretary
Shelly Odenkirk – Treasurer
Jon Williams – MWA Exec.
Charlene Neukomm – MWA Alt. Exec.

Our own Tammy Eibey from Delaware County is the new National Publicity Chairperson.

2008 National Convention – This will be held in Omaha August 6-9, 2008 at the Double Tree Hotel. Iowa will be helping out and we hope Iowa will be very well represented.

NEW BUSINESS

IASCOE Nomination Papers – Sue handed out the nomination papers for Districts 1 – 2 – 3 – 5 and 7. Please have them filled out and returned to Sue by the first part of November.

2008 State Convention – The annual convention will be at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston March 28th and 29th 2008. Room rates may go up. Last year they were \$74.00 but may go to \$80.00 this year. Steve will visit with Stoney Creek to see if we can keep the \$74.00 one more year but if not the \$80.00 rate will be OK. We discussed members who have passed away and doing some kind of a memorial for our annual convention but no decision was made. Cindy Pistek has contacted DJ Ray and he has agreed to be the DJ for our dance. We discussed the possibility of having a larger area for the hospitality room and moving the bar to the dance area. Everyone needs to be thinking on different possibilities for a convention speaker.

We discussed having a calling card for conducting conference calls between directors. This would not take the place of a director’s meeting but could be used to conduct business between quarterly meetings or if a decision was needed on short notice. Jessica Yuska moved and Glenda VonArb seconds a motion for Steve to look into this and find the best plan. All directors voted in favor. Steve Kennedy will pursue this action and bring back more information at our January meeting.

We reviewed the Administrator’s Memo on using government equipment for other than official business. Maybe should just send a message that the newsletter has been updated and each employee will have to go to the IASCOE website to print or read it.

Iowa will have the MWA Rally in 2009 and we will have extra expenses because of it. We need to be thinking about fund raisers for this purpose.

OTHER ITEMS

Upcoming Conventions: Ohio State Convention – Nov 2-3, 2007

Dee Ann Lehn and Judy Dameron are thinking about attending.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Wells moved and Steve Abbas seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by all directors present. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
/s/ Sue Beemer Secretary