



NASCOE Now

August 28, 2009



National Association of FSA County Office Employees
Celebrating 50 Years of Serving American Agriculture
1959-2009

Bonnie Heinzman, President 711 5th St, New Martinsville, WV 26155 Cell (304) 266 2480 bheinzman@suddenlink.net

Dear NASCOE Members and Friends:

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving these past two years as NASCOE President especially during this 50th anniversary year. It has at times been challenging, but, always interesting. I feel truly blessed to have been given this opportunity.

Thank you for your support and encouragement over the years. One of the greatest blessings of being involved in NASCOE is the friendship I've enjoyed with so many of you. I look forward to many years of friendship ahead.

The new Executive Committee will begin their journey September 1st. I wish each of them Good Luck and God Bless!

Bonnie Heinzman

NASCOE President

NASCOE

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Putnam, Chairperson
2009 National Convention
Gatlinburg, TN August 15, 2009

Programs Committee

- NEA – Howard Rood
- SEA – Beverly Roberson
- MWA – Jake Bourget
- NWA – Greg Chewakin
- SWA – Lori Annushat

Change is an inescapable reality! We have seen plenty of change in recent months, not only in staff on national, state and local levels, but also in programs, guidance and directives. Sometimes we see change upon change, only to be changed yet again as varying departments weight in on important decisions regarding actions that should or should not be taken at the field office level.

We all try our best to roll with the punches, go with the flow, and adapt to rules, requirements, mandates, directives and guidance as they affect our daily routines within our framework of responsibility, our sphere of influence. Once in a while we might be subjected to some guidance or directive that seems so contrary that we feel the need to respond in some fashion. Or we might discover some process or change in form layout/design that would greatly enhance our effectiveness. Or perhaps, and only in rare instances I'm sure, that written guidance is either not clearly explicit or perhaps even contradictory, and we would ask for clarification.

The Programs Committee was established with these situations in mind. The function of the Programs Committee is to accept your program submissions that offer ideas, suggestions and proposed solutions to address these inefficiencies, concerns and issues; then to research both the expressed concern and the proposed solution and present the issue to our Administrative staff in Washington for resolution.

An additional function of the Programs Committee that needs to be expanded is the transmission of positive feedback to our DC administrative staff. They need to know what does work just as importantly as they need to hear what doesn't work. This takes on even more importance with the development and rollout of the MIDAS initiative and the modernization/stabilization program currently underway.

This year saw a 33% reduction in items submitted. To date, we have only 48 items tracked in the "Issues/Solutions/Response" report – compared to 72 listed for last year. With the exception of 11 items, we have received responses from our DC Administration on your submitted items, concerns and suggestions. Please check out a detailed accounting of submitted items and corresponding responses on the Programs page on the NASCOE website.

As I've stated in other correspondence, at times the received responses might not have been what we wished for. But there were several occasions when one of your submissions was directly responsible for change. So please, continue to not only use the program submissions as we have in the past to share concerns, ideas and suggestions, but also to convey to Washington the things that are working to help you in your daily activities. We have been and will continue to be in a volatile transition period. Things will improve, and drastically, but it will take time and patience. Feedback from the field, both positive and negative is extremely important and valuable to our administrative staff as they develop guidance to help us administer our programs.

At the committee meeting we reviewed our goals, our accomplishments, and in general discussed any ideas for change and/or improvement that would better serve our members in the upcoming year.

Last year, the recommendation of the committee that the Programs Chairperson be made a permanent member of the NASCOE negotiations process was adopted by the executive committee. As a result, the programs chair was part of the team that went to Washington for both negotiation sessions held this past year. Reports generated from those sessions either have been made available to members, or will be released soon. While the response rate always increases due to these face to face sessions, we probably will never quite hit the 100% goal.

Area chairs will be presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their dedication and contribution to the success of this committee. So many of our agricultural products vary from area to area around the country and I find there are many crops that we in Vermont don't have and don't grow and some programs we don't utilize as much as other parts of the country. The area chairs have been a tremendous help in researching those aspects unfamiliar to me and providing guidance when needed as items were written up and presented to our DC staff.

Our committee was very pleased to have in attendance several DC officials during our committee meetings. These individuals addressed the members regarding updates on happenings in DC and then participated in a Q&A panel to answer questions from the floor. We are very grateful for their participation and thank them very much. Our guests were Jim Gwinn, Chuck Benjamin, Laura Schlote and Candace Thompson on Thursday, August 13th and Sandy Bryant, Brent Orr and Brandon Willis on Friday, August 14th.

We had excellent sessions on both days, with many valuable questions and an excellent exchange of information both from our WDC guests as well as among the attendees from various parts of the country. I am very impressed with our administrative staff and very optimistic that we will see positive change over time. I am very encouraged that while we are far from the end of this rough transition period, that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it's getting brighter each month. Given time, patience, and of course money, our Agency will come out of this rough period with a better and stronger work environment that can only enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of what is already an outstanding, extremely talented and dedicated work force.

Lastly, I would like to thank our President, Bonnie Heinzman for placing her trust in me by asking me to serve as the chair of this committee. I will admit that it has been a real eye opener to see this executive group in action, to realize and recognize the tremendous dedication and time commitment this group of people invests in the success of this organization.

The committee did not have any recommendations to present to the Executive Committee this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Putnam

Programs Chairperson





Grizzly Get-a-way

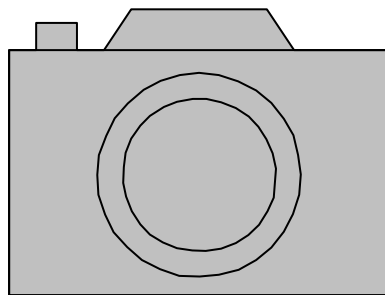
Submitted by Dee Ann Lehn
Mid West Area Benefits Chairperson

NACSOE has secured discounts for our members at Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort in Utica, Illinois. The resort is located on 60 wooded acres at Starved Rock State Park and is the perfect destination for a family getaway. Grizzly Jack's offers a 24,000 foot year-round indoor water park as well as an indoor amusement park.

Starved Rock State Park sets along the Illinois River. Hiking trails are open all year long and guests may also camp, fish, boat and enjoy horseback riding. The 18 canyons which grace the park dramatically slice through tree-covered, sandstone bluffs enhancing the scenic surroundings.

Starved Rock State Park derives its name from a Native American legend. In the 1760's, a chief of the Ottawa tribe was slain by a member of Illiniwek tribe while attending a tribal council. According to legend, battles raged between the tribes after the incident. A band of Illiniwek sought refuge atop a 125-foot sandstone butte. The Ottawa and Potawatomi (allies of the Ottawa) surrounded the bluff and held their ground until the hapless Illiniwek died of starvation hence the name "Starved Rock".

For information about discount coupons for Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear resort as well as other amusement park membership discounts, contact your area Benefits chairperson.



Keep an eye open to future NASCOE Now and the Fall National Newsletter for pictures and more reports from the 50th Anniversary National Convention held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee!

2009 NASCOE Membership Awards

50 Years of 100% Membership

Northeast Area

Berkley/Morgan County, West Virginia
High County, West Virginia
Jackson County, West Virginia
Kanawha/Putnam County, West Virginia
Lewis/Upshur County, West Virginia
Mill Run County, West Virginia
Mineral County, West Virginia
New River County, West Virginia
Nicholas/Webster County, West Virginia
Northern Panhandle County, West Virginia
Pocahontas County, West Virginia
Preston County, West Virginia

Midwest Area

Aitkin/Itasca County, Minnesota
Beltrami County, Minnesota
Crow Wing/Cass County, Minnesota
Red Lake County, Minnesota

Clark County, Wisconsin
Juneau County, Wisconsin
Monroe County, Wisconsin
Outagamie County, Wisconsin
Taylor County, Wisconsin

Northwest Area

Burleigh County, North Dakota

Aurora, South Dakota
Fall River/Custer County, South Dakota
Hamlin County, South Dakota
Hyde County, South Dakota
Jones County, South Dakota
Lyman County, South Dakota
McCook County, South Dakota
Meade County, South Dakota
Miner County, South Dakota
Minnehaha County, South Dakota
Spink County, South Dakota

Sully County, South Dakota
Turner County, South Dakota
Ziebach County, South Dakota

Southeast Area

Alcorn County, Mississippi
Bolivar County, Mississippi
Choctaw County, Mississippi
Clarke County, Mississippi
Lauderdale County, Mississippi
Lee County, Mississippi
Leflore County, Mississippi
Lincoln/Franklin County, Mississippi
Monroe County, Mississippi
Panola County, Mississippi
Pike County, Mississippi
Stone/Harrison/Pearl River/Hancock County,
Mississippi
Sunflower County, Mississippi
Tallahatchie County, Mississippi
Walthall County, Mississippi
Webster County, Mississippi
Yalobusha County, Mississippi

Allendale County, South Carolina
Bamberg County, South Carolina
Barnwell County, South Carolina
Chesterfield County, South Carolina
Dorchester County, South Carolina
Georgetown County, South Carolina
Lexington County, South Carolina
Spartanburg/Union/Cherokee County,
South Carolina
York County, South Carolina

2009 NASCOE Membership Awards

45 Years of 100% Membership

Northeast

*Grant County, West Virginia
Hampshire County, West Virginia
Mason County, West Virginia*

Northwest

*Bon Homme County, South Dakota
Douglas County, South Dakota
Jerauld County, South Dakota
Lincoln County, South Dakota*

Midwest

*Carroll County, Illinois
Henry County, Illinois
Jersey County, Illinois
Richland County, Illinois
Wayne/Edwards County, Illinois*

LeSueur County, Minnesota

40 Years of 100% Membership

Northwest Area

*Beadle County, South Dakota
Butte/Lawrence County, South Dakota*

Midwest

Champaign County, Illinois

Nicollet County, Minnesota

Mary Ann Creager, Ohio

Linda Feldkamp, Wisconsin

**Congratulations to these counties and individuals on their
many years of NASCOE membership.**

2008 – 2009 Honorary Life Memberships

Midwest Area

Betty J Metzger MN
 Jean Brustuen MN
 Helen Madden MN

Northeast Area

Laura M Rand ME
 Margaret Arnold DE/MD
 John Burtman DE/MD

Northwest Area

Pat Watkins ID
 Jeannie Lutz SD
 Kenny Fehlman SD
 Diane Dangel SD
 Bette Kethwig SD
 Sarah Hargens SD
 Mary Putnam SD
 Lynda Steichen SD
 Lois Buus SD

Southeast Area

Myrtis Brumfield MS

Southwest Area

Donald Baehne TX
 Brenda Boomer TX
 Dorothy G Dykes TX
 Hattie Beth Fojtek TX
 Jerry May TX
 Mary Gail Nichols TX
 Fern Bonnie Hagar TX
 Ruby Inman TX
 Patricia Elliott TX
 Dorothy M Steel TX
 Tim Gilbert TX
 Billie W Schomburg TX
 Sue Ward TX
 Virginia Cornett TX
 Dora H Johnson TX
 Barbara N Holik TX
 Linda Davis TX
 Dorothy Henke TX
 Doris Watts TX
 Jim Bob Salsbery TX

Awards, Scholarships and Emblems Report, NASCOE Now August 21, 2009

I survived my first NASCOE Convention on my own without the mentoring of our dear friend to NASCOE, Mr. Herb Sorley who ran the Awards, Scholarships and Emblems so effortlessly for the past three years prior to me taking over last year (ok – I’ll admit that I did need to ask Herb on several occasions in Gatlinburg “what do I do next, what do I do next”, and as I expected he greeted me with his warm smile and arm around my shoulders and pointed me in the proper direction!). Thank you Herb!

I will post the Distinguished Service Award winners information and photos to the web as soon as I can. Our NASCOE Scholarship winner has also agreed to allow me to post her acceptance speech and photo on the NASCOE web site as well.

For those of you that were not able to make it to the 50th anniversary of NASCOE, I was proud to report and thank all NASCOE members for purchasing over \$41,000 worth of NASCOE Emblems items which provided over \$3,000 in commissions towards the NASCOE Scholarship fund!

The NASCOE Scholarship auction raised just shy of \$4,800! Thank you to all of you that donated the wonderful items and to all of you that donated so generously during the auction!

At the end of the Auction, Cristy Cook, the South East Area Awards Chairperson auctioned off 10 cookbooks donated by James L Gantt from Prince Edward County, Virginia. The cookbooks were from 2001, the year the National convention was hosted in Little Rock, Arkansas. Morris O'Quin was president of the AASCOE at that time. We were able to raise \$1000 to be donated to the O'Quin Children's College Fund. James wrote the first check out for \$100 and hoped that some other individuals would be willing to match him. It was phenomenal, as it took less than 30 seconds to sell the remaining cook books for \$100 each! The love and generosity in our NASCOE Family is beyond words!

Thank you to all that purchased Emblems items at the convention (almost \$3,800 in sales)! The remaining items are on there way to Missouri for their State Convention to be sold. Chances are that most sizes of the special edition tee shirts will be sold out, but any remaining sizes will be sold at the NASCOE store (www.nascoeemblemsonline.com) until they are gone! I wanted to mention that I told you about the special Swiss Army Knife in my last article, and they are selling about as fast as they can be made! Era sent a sample of 20 to the convention and they were sold out within the first few hours! For just \$6.00 each, you will never find a better deal! If you bought the special shirt at the convention and received your \$5.00 off coupon, it will be like getting the special NASCOE/FSA edition Swiss Army Knife for a buck! Remember, the commissions we raise from sales go directly towards the NASCOE Scholarship program! Shop early and Shop Often!

I do not want to take anything away from the articles above, nor from the NASCOE Benefits committee report, but I need to publicly and personally thank Jim and Teresa Mase and JM Marketing for the thousands of dollars and scholarship auction items they donate each year! Jim and Teresa sit and listen as intently to each report throughout the entire convention as NASCOE Members do. If you did not know them you would swear they work for FSA! Jim and Teresa have both said that they feel as though they are part of the family and will do everything in their power to make sure they can provide us with the best products for the best price. But they have both said that most importantly, they want to remain a part of the NASCOE family! I'm sure you will see in the benefits report offerings of special products that are only available to NASCOE Members. If you need any testimonials about the money paid out to NASCOE Members to make a decision, just ask me. Two of my best friends in Wisconsin will be happy to let you know how JM Marketing went over and above to ensure that they received every penny that was due them in their time of need when they, and their spouses were diagnosed with cancer.

Thank you so much for your time and patients with me over the past year. I look forward to helping you in anyway I can in the upcoming NASCOE year

Sincerely submitted,

Tom Oasen, NASCOE Awards, Scholarships and Emblems Chairperson