

NASCOE Now

February 21, 2009

Brenda L. Boomer
RASCOE Publicity Chairperson

The main items that the RASCOE leadership is continuing to work on with Washington DC have been outlined below.

Gene Vognild, President of RASCOE, during the week of Jan. 6, 2009, advanced his organization's 2009 recommendations to the then Barack Obama Presidential transition Team as well as to the 111th Congress.

President Vognild stated that RASCOE fully supports efforts to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which heavily penalize the families of many retired civil servants, including those that have retired from USDA. RASCOE urges President Obama to support actions to help eliminate these unjust provisions of the Social Security program are critical to many of us that have served the farm and ranch families of our nation.

The GPO reduces public employees' Social Security spousal or survivor benefits by an amount equal to two-thirds of their public pensions. Estimates indicate that nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their deceased spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years.

The WEP affects people who have worked in jobs not covered by Social Security and in jobs in which they earned Social Security benefits.

RASCOE also supports an amendment the Internal Revenue Code to permit: (1) federal civilian and military retirees to pay Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and TRICARE supplemental premiums on a pretax basis (i.e., exclude premiums from gross income); and (2) a tax deduction (available to itemizers and non-itemizers) for TRICARE supplemental premiums or enrollment fees.

I do realize that many of you current employees are not that stressed about these issues, but as you get closer to retirement you will want your Health Insurance Benefits as well as your TRICARE supplemental premiums and/or enrollment fees on a PRETAX BASIS!

I am looking forward to the 2009 NASCOE/RASCOE convention in Gatlinburg. It's even more special that it is the 50th Anniversary of NASCOE. Not to mention all the sightseeing, fun in the Sun, and THE shopping that will be going on!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CAP WIZ

NASCOE has invested in a legislative tool called Cap Wiz. Cap Wiz allows a person to view their congressman's voting record, receive alerts from NASCOE when action is needed, contact their representative and senators with a message they write or a prepared message from NASCOE, and use the "tell a Friend" option to get additional people to send the desired message. It is useful and can serve many purposes.

This tool proved to be very valuable during FSA Tomorrow when NASCOE members sent a unified message to Congress and forced the office closure plan to be reevaluated and basically stopped. Sending a unified message has a significant impact.

The past few months may have been quiet but that is because there is little that happens during the transition from one administration to another. However, congress is now back in session, committee appointments have been made, and new legislation is being written. Some of that legislation will have a direct impact on many NASCOE members. There currently is a bill that would give FERS employees credit for their unused sick leave when they retire. There could be bills supporting extending the age for dependents eligible for health care coverage, retirement benefits, reorganization, or budget and staffing. Quite often action needs to be taken on short notice to be effective and have the most impact and Cap Wiz gives us the ability to do that.

You do not have to be a NASCOE member to be a Cap Wiz subscriber and it is very easy to do. The easiest way to signup is to go to the NASCOE web site and click on the Cap Wiz link. Remember you must do this on your own time and can not use your government email address to do Cap Wiz activities. If you don't have a home computer think about setting up a yahoo or hotmail type account that you can access from anywhere and costs nothing.

Currently, there are about 3200 names in the Cap Wiz database. Unfortunately, not everyone sends messages. Just think of the impact 10,000 messages saying the same thing could have on congress. What if we could have 4000 names in the database and 12,000 messages sent on a single item that would benefit all NASCOE members.

Now is the time to signup for Cap Wiz and make your voice heard.

Jon Williams
MWA Executive

CAP WIZ State Summary

Total Subscribers 3236

State	Count		
		Montana	34
Alabama	69	Nebraska	128
Alaska	1	Nevada	3
Arizona	5	New Hampshire	3
Arkansas	107	New Jersey	13
California	28	New Mexico	11
Colorado	23	New York	60
Connecticut	12	North Carolina	135
Delaware	1	North Dakota	121
District of Columbia	3	Ohio	108
Florida	61	Oklahoma	118
Georgia	90	Oregon	2
Idaho	24	Pennsylvania	66
Illinois	140	Rhode Island	2
Indiana	127	South Carolina	40
Iowa	227	South Dakota	137
Kansas	205	Tennessee	130
Kentucky	93	Texas	191
Louisiana	54	Utah	20
Maine	6	Vermont	26
Maryland	13	Virginia	77
Massachusetts	5	Washington	20
Michigan	60	West Virginia	31
Minnesota	124	Wisconsin	118
Mississippi	102	Wyoming	5
Missouri	55	Armed Forces Europe	1

Be part of the NASCOE legislative effort and sign up for CAP WIZ
Sign up at the CAP WIZ icon at www.nascoe.org

NASCOE Now; Awards, Scholarships and Emblems, February 20, 2009

Timing is everything! Please make sure that you get your Award and Scholarship items submitted to your State and Area Chairpersons by the deadlines, because the unsung hero's of this entire process are the Judges and they need the maximum amount of time to make sure they give each and every Award and Scholarship application their full consideration. Thank you!!!

I'm going to keep plugging this until February 20th! Please remind your children that are eligible to apply for the NASCOE Scholarship program (High School Seniors or full time college students up to the Bachelor Degree level) to submit their NASCOE Scholarship application (available on the NASCOE web site (www.nascoe.org) to your State Scholarship Chairperson (or Area Chairperson if your State does not have a Scholarship Chairperson), by the deadline set by your State (most States have a deadline of February 20th, as the original and 5 copies must to be submitted to the Area Chairperson by March 1st).

State Awards Chairpersons: Please ask your County Offices to get you the list of names of persons that have reached one of the Sick Leave milestones (1,000, 1,500, 2,000 or 2,500 hours) and get their names and hours of sick leave to your Area Awards Chairperson. I realize that most States will be holding their conventions this spring, so plan ahead, as it may take a week or so to get the certificates to you. Thank you!!!

Here is some great news from the NASCOE Store! You can get great discounts on the remaining USDA-FSA logo items, and shop for your new convention attire with the new logo!

Be the first in your State to adorn the new FSA Logo! You'll look like a million bucks at a fraction of the cost! Also, please remember that each time you purchase items from the NASCOE Store, a generous commission is paid directly to the NASCOE Scholarship fund! Happy shopping!



Dear Thomas Oasen

Items with the new FSA logo are now available. Items with the old USDA-FSA design are also still available. Browse the 2 new categories at www.nascoeemblemsonline.com - NEW LOGO and BIG/TALL WEARABLES. Order today.

thenascoestore.com Staff

Take care everyone, and please let me or your Area Chairpersons know if you have any questions about the NASCOE Awards, Scholarships or Emblems programs!

Tom Oasen, NASCOE Awards, Scholarship and Emblems Chairperson

WELCOME!

THENASCOESTORE.COM is your one-stop shop for emblem sales. What a variety of things to buy!

The store is provided as a benefit to NASCOE members (as well as all USDA-FSA employees). We provide a variety of officially sanctioned emblem and logo items. We make every effort to process all orders in two weeks. NASCOE's website is www.nascoe.org. Remember, NASCOE gets a percentage of sales from all items ordered online.

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING FOR THE FIRST TIME, BE SURE TO USE YOUR HOME EMAIL ADDRESS, NOT YOUR .GOV ADDRESS.

On orders of \$75 or more, order one of our FREE ITEMS.

www.nascoeemblemsonline.com

- Polo & dress shirts for office attire
- Long & short sleeve denims for both men and women
- Ladies sleeveless denim shirts
- Embroidered **USDA-FSA** t-shirts
- Embroidered sweatshirts
- Screen printed T-shirts
- Embroidered logo jackets
- Head Wear
- USDA and FSA Emblems Items

We have a huge variety of items with either the USDA-FSA or the NASCOE logo on them - anything from umbrellas to beach towels to frisbees to coffee mugs. GIFT CERTIFICATES IN \$10, \$25, \$50, AND \$100 INCREMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. Anything that you need for any purpose; if we don't have it, call us and we will see about offering as an item.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please note that all credit card transactions will show on your statement as BEJs Advertising, 706-867-7571. Charges to your credit card will be made when order is received.

We have Outreach Products available in large quantities for State Outreach Coordinators or for smaller county groups, for county office purchases. Be sure that your State Office approves Outreach Purchases before you submit your order.



MESSAGE FROM ERA

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

New products with the new FSA logo will be available soon. We're entering products as they come in. Take a sneak at them as we get them on the website. Click on the item below or at the left NEW FSA LOGO.

Monthly Specials For February



Ladies Denim
~~\$23.00~~ \$18.00
Save: 22% off



Small Hooded Unisex Polar Fleece Jacket

~~\$15.00~~ \$12.00
Save: 20% off



Basic Long Sleeve Embroidered Tee Shirts

~~\$16.00~~ \$12.00
Save: 25% off



Ladies Fine Pima Pique Polo
~~\$20.00~~ \$15.00
Save: 25% off



Lightweight windshirt
~~\$24.00~~ \$20.00



One-Size-Fits All Fleece Sweater
~~\$15.00~~ \$12.00
Save: 20% off



Ladies' Short Sleeve Polo
~~\$22.00~~ \$18.00
Save: 18% off



Ladies Short Sleeve Denim
~~\$22.00~~ \$15.00
Save: 32% off



Women's Sweatshirt
~~\$22.00~~ \$14.00
Save: 36% off

Upcoming Products

These items will be in stock soon

Item Name	Date Expected
Men's Windcheater Windshirt	02/15/2009
Men's Organic Pique Polo Shirt	02/15/2009
Men's Windcheater Windshirt - Extended Size	02/14/2009
Mesh Back Caps	02/14/2009
Rain Jacket - Extended Size	02/14/2009
Men's Organic Pique Polo Shirt - Extended Size	02/14/2009
Ladies Jacket	02/14/2009
Twill Visor	02/14/2009
Ladies Jacket - Extended Size	02/14/2009
Rain Jacket	02/14/2009



BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

Book all your travel needs through www.nascoetravel.com

Anheuser-Busch Theme Park Club (Discounts at Sea World, Busch Gardens, and Cypress Gardens)

Six Flags Family Parks Discount Coupons (Discounts to Six Flags Parks throughout the U. S.)

Check out discounts on the above through www.nascoetravel.com or if you do not need to reserve a motel, air or car rentals you may check out discounts through:

- www.seaworld.com
- www.4adventure.com
- <http://www.sixflags.com/national/Tickets/seasonpass.aspx>
- www.disneyland.com
- www.disneyworld.com

Agriculture Federal Credit Union, Savings, IRA's (all services offered)

Apple offers Government Employees 17% off. For more information call 1-800-MY-APPLE or www.apple.com/r/store/government/epp.html

There is a web-site and program for USDA employees for purchasing many items and using payroll deduction to pay. No Credit checks! This site has specials and you will want to continue to check out their specials to see what would benefit you. Site is www.gov.purchasingpower.com

Courses available to employees through AgLearn on retirement training - these courses are free!

Another great travel benefit - Government Employees Travel Opportunities or GETO. This is a "space available" leisure travel program that offers government employees an opportunity for condo vacations at resorts around the world. These are available for \$329/weekly. The web site is http://www.gettravelop.com/html/ge_index2.asp. The web site is user friendly and explains everything you may need to know.

Check out www.waepa.org. This is a non-profit association to help federal employees with insurance needs and in many cases you pay less. They also offer a scholarship program for members. This is a user friendly web site and packed with information.

DELL COMPANY www.dell.com

With the need for better communication and issues with use of Government Computers or usage on Government time it is important to become independent and have a home computer or email for you to keep up on NASCOE issues. Dell Company offers Government employees a discount. This discount changes and the product it applies to also changes on a regular basis. Click on the above site and then on the right hand side of screen click on "Government, Education, Health Care and Life Sciences", then click on Employee purchases and check out the discounts offered to you as a Government employee!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR NASCOE BENEFITS: NASCOE Exec Policies – item #33 explains who is eligible and how. Ex) Current and Former FSA employees – if eligible for full membership in NASCOE – must be a full member to take advantage of the benefits. If a person is only eligible for associate membership in NASCOE – you must be an associate member. NADD and NAFEC – must be an associate member of NASCOE to take advantage of the benefits.

A basic exception) If the person is truly a retired NASCOE member then a RASCOE member that are not current FSA employees are eligible for any NASCOE benefit unless that membership is required by the company offering the benefit.



From GovExec
Retirement Planning
Questions and Answers

By Tammy Flanagan National Institute of Transition Planning February 20, 2009

How about a little Q&A this week? I am always impressed by the number and variety questions I receive. Retirement is obviously on the minds of many people in government right now.

But before I get to your questions and comments, I need to clarify something from my recent column on the Medicare Part B late enrollment penalty.

In that column, I wrote about the 10 percent surcharge added to the Part B premium for every year older than 65 that a person is when he or she enrolls. But according to Social Security regulations, the penalty only goes back to age 65 if the individual was not covered by health insurance through their own or a spouse's current employment.

In the example I used, the employee didn't retire until several years after turning 65 and neglected to enroll in Part B during the eight-month special enrollment period following her retirement. If she decides to enroll now, she would only incur a 10 percent surcharge on the premium for Part B for the months that have passed since her retirement, not since she reached 65. So, to use another example, if a person enrolled in Part B at 70 after retiring from federal service at 69, she would incur only a 10 percent surcharge, not 50 percent.

Now, on to the questions and comments.

Military Service Credit Deposit

I joined the federal government about four years ago and paid off my military service credit deposit right before my third anniversary, when the first interest accrual was due. I was very disappointed to find out the only acknowledgement I got from my agency was a one-liner that acknowledged it was paid in full. Nowhere in the document does it acknowledge the amount paid or the amount of time bought back.

The record of your military service deposit will be retained by your payroll office until you leave federal service. When you retire, that record will be submitted to the Office of Personnel Management along with a form indicating your deposit has been paid in full and what period of military service was covered. If you choose not to pay a deposit for military service, your agency will send a form to OPM noting that fact when you retire. This form provides a warning of the consequences of not paying the deposit.

You can request confirmation from your payroll office of the amount you've paid and the fact that your deposit has been paid in full. When I worked in a federal benefits office years ago, we would encourage our employees to keep their canceled checks showing their military deposits had been paid.

Seasonal Service

There are a whole bunch of folks (including me) who started as seasonal employees with land management agencies such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in the late '80s or early '90s, but we didn't get positions that paid benefits for close to a decade. Although our service computation dates reflect our seasonal time (in case of a reduction in force and for leave category purposes), we don't currently have the option to make a deposit and buy back time that will count toward an earlier retirement. So, most of us are looking at working into our 60s. I'd like to have the option of buying back those years as a seasonal. Have you heard of any move by OPM or Congress to allow this?

I understand your dilemma and wish something could be done to allow you to receive credit for federal service that wasn't covered by contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System. Employees with seasonal, temporary or other "nondeduction" civilian service before 1989 can make a service credit payment into FERS to receive credit for the service. But the FERS law did not allow credit for such service performed after 1988. I can see how this can be unfair to employees who work at agencies that use a lot of seasonal employees.

I'm not aware of a bill yet that would allow for post-1988 nondeduction service to be paid into FERS.

Refund Regrets

I was 20 and worked for three years before quitting and taking my Civil Service Retirement System retirement. It was about \$3,800. I came back three years later, and no one told me about paying back the money to the retirement fund. Over 10 years after that I attended a retirement seminar where I discovered I owed a redeposit. I checked into it and it was over \$9,000 with additional interest due. I was told by my personnel office that it was OK if I couldn't pay it back, it would just come out of my annuity when I retired. I attended another retirement seminar eight years later and found out the money is taken from your annuity until you die, not until it is paid back. I refinanced my house to pay the \$17,900 at that time. I still wonder where the government can invest the money to make that kind of return.

If it makes you feel any better, the decision to pay back a refund has a positive as well as a negative angle. You paid back \$17,900 to avoid an actuarial reduction to your retirement, which is designed to provide the same value (taking into account interest) of total lifetime benefits as would have been payable if contributions had remained (or been paid back) to the retirement fund.

If you retired at 60 and owed a \$20,000 redeposit (including refunded CSRS contributions and any interest that has accumulated), the actuarial factor is 188.7. OPM would divide \$20,000 by 188.7 and your retirement benefit would be permanently reduced by \$106 per month. By paying back your redeposit, you've avoided this reduction. And by keeping the money in the equity of your house until you paid back the \$17,900, your house was able to appreciate enough so you had \$17,900 in equity to use for the payback.

In this economy, some people might say you did the right thing at the right time considering you might have refinanced your home at a lower interest rate and were still able to use some of the funds to permanently increase your CSRS retirement benefit. But I agree that there should be a way for all employees to be made aware of these issues closer to their entry into service, rather than when they are nearing retirement.

Military and Medicare

I would like to see an article discussing Medicare, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and TRICARE. My husband turns 65 in 2-1/2 years. Should he apply for Medicare? Right now, Blue Cross Blue Shield FEHBP is our primary and TRICARE is secondary.

Military retirees and their family members become eligible for TRICARE for Life at 65. Medicare Parts A and B are required if you enroll in TFL. Although it is acceptable to have additional coverage such as FEHBP, it is not necessary. OPM will allow a retiree or a retired couple who both have Medicare and TRICARE for Life to suspend their FEHBP coverage indefinitely. OPM has more information on this topic.

Part B or Not?

My current plan is to sign up for Medicare Part A at 65 and continue with FEHBP coverage into retirement at age 70, in lieu of Medicare Part B. Is this a feasible scenario? Does having Part A in any way commit me to having Medicare as a primary payer? Thanks.

Your FEHBP plan will not drop you if you do not sign up for Medicare Part B at age 65. Therefore, if you don't enroll you will still have health coverage. Your FEHBP plan will benefit if you do enroll in Part B when you are retired, since by law Medicare would be the primary payer on most claims. Check the language in your FEHBP 2009 brochure to find out what benefits or incentives your plan provides if you have Part B as primary payer on your outpatient claims.

Keep in mind that if you are in good health, you may not receive as much in Part B coverage benefits as it will cost you in Part B premiums. So keep your focus a little further down the line. You may experience some decline in your health as you age. One suggestion would be to consider enrolling in a lower cost FEHBP plan that waives co-payments and deductibles when Part B is primary. The SAMBA standard option and plans offered by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Government Employees Hospital Association are two examples of plans that have less expensive premiums than Blue Cross Blue Shield and waive most out-of-pocket expenses when Medicare is primary payer.

The goal for many retirees is to receive quality health care at a reasonable cost and to have the freedom to choose your own providers. This can be accomplished by combining Medicare A and B with a reasonably priced FEHBP plan. If you live in an area that is serviced by an HMO, such as Kaiser, or an open access plan, such as Aetna, these also might provide relatively low-cost options for health care after 65. And keep in mind that even though the 2008 open season has ended, the rules allow you to change health plans outside of open season when you turn 65.

Tammy Flanagan is the senior benefits director for the National Institute of Transition Planning Inc., which conducts federal retirement planning workshops and seminars. She has spent 25 years helping federal employees take charge of their retirement by understanding their benefits.

For more retirement planning help, tune in to "For Your Benefit," presented by the National Institute of Transition Planning Inc. live on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. ET on federalnewsradio.com or on WFED AM 1500 in the Washington metro area.

2008/2009 NASCOE Membership Report												as of 2/4/09
STATE	Total CO employee 08-09	Total GS employee 08-09	TOTAL	TOTAL CO Members	No GS Members	CO Members % To date	07-08 %	06-07 %	Associate Members	Allow GS as Members	Current Transmittal # & date submitted	
NORTHEAST											YES	NO
CT/RI	17	5	22	17	0	100%	100%	100%	7	1	2nd qtr 1-5-09	
DE/MD	66	8	74	60		91%	91%	97%	5	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
ME	27		27	22		81%	79%	81%		1	2nd qtr 1-6-09	
MA	16		16	9		56%	67%	71%		1	1st qtr 9-25-08	
NH	12	5	17			0%	67%	70%		1		
NJ	20	7	27	13	0	65%	70%	80%	3	1	1st & 2nd qtr 12-24-08	
NY	131	67	198	109	1	83%	86%	89%	2	1	1st qtr 10-2-08	
PA	135	45	180	80		59%	80%	78%	0	1	2nd qtr 02-04-09	
VT	20	20	40	17		85%	85%	75%	6	1	1st qtr 7-31-08	
WV	54		54	46	0	85%	86%	82%	86	1	1st qtr and final, 11-21-08	
TOTAL	498	157	655	373	1	75%	83%	84%	109	8	2	
SOUTHEAST												
AL	171	25	196	162	9	95%	98%	100%	13	1	1st qtr 11-10-08	
AR	196		196	181	7	92%	95%	96%	39	1	2nd qtr 1-5-09	
FL	81	24	105	74	2	91%	86%	91%	12	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
GA	283	72	355	239	0	84%	86%	92%	37	1	1st qtr and final, 12-8-08	
KY	277	120	397	190	4	69%	72%	77%	10	1	2nd qtr 1-20-09	
LA	137	95	232	129		94%	93%	92%	16	1	2nd qtr 1-27-09	
MS	220	71	291	177	2	80%	95%	97%	44	1	2nd qtr 1-5-09	
NC	302	89	391	241	2	80%	81%	84%	119	1	2nd qtr 1-20-09	
SC	115		115	93		81%	81%	80%	44	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
TN	236		236	211		89%	92%	93%	25	1	2nd qtr 1-20-09	
VA	160		160	111		69%	75%	75%	8	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
TOTAL	2178	496	2674	1808	26	83%	86%	89%	367	9	2	
MIDWEST												
IL	480		480	441	2	92%	92%	90%	42	1	2nd qtr 1-27-09	
IN	330		330	236		72%	74%	79%	9	1	2nd qtr 1-27-09	
IA	569	150	719	507	9	89%	88%	90%	51	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
MI	207	78	285	121		58%	65%	70%	4	1	2nd qtr 1-5-09	
MN	384	80	464	356	4	93%	97%	95%	27	1	3rd qtr 1-30-09	
MO	376	123	499	291	6	77%	77%	91%	17	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
OH	319		319	279		87%	94%	95%	36	1	2nd qtr 1-30-09	
WI	284	72	356	231		81%	84%	82%	6	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
TOTAL	2949	503	3452	2462	21	83%	85%	88%	192	6	2	
NORTHWEST												
ID	101	32	133	79	3	78%	83%	80%	2	1	1st qtr 11-14-08	
MT	182	37	219	126		69%	62%	68%	4	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
NE	374	75	449	234	4	63%	71%	73%	18	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
ND	250	117	367	233	3	93%	94%	94%	38	1	1st qtr 11-14-08	
OR	68	26	94	37	2	54%	62%	57%	10	1	2nd qtr & final 1-27-09	
SD	276	81	357	270	11	98%	98%	98%	66	1	2nd qtr 1-20-09	
WA/AK	86	53	139	62		72%	66%	66%	5	1	2nd qtr 12-4-08	
WY	46		46	32		70%	67%	62%	9	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
TOTAL	1383	421	1804	1073	23	78%	80%	80%	152	6	2	
SOUTHWEST												
AZ	34	23	57	20	0	59%	59%	53%	0	1	1st & 2nd qtr 12-10-08	
CA/HI	119	41	160	73		61%	61%	61%		1	1st qtr & final 12-24-08	
CO	128	22	150	77		60%	61%	66%	29	1	2nd qtr 1-20-09	
KS	452		454	409		90%	90%	90%	47	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
NV	15	4	19	7		47%	29%	38%	0	1	2nd qtr 12-4-08	
NM	52		52	39		75%	78%	78%	4	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
OK	232	135	367	207		89%	91%	90%	47	1	2nd qtr 1-5-09	
TX	596		596	490		82%	81%	79%	106	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
UT	50	22	72	47		94%	94%	90%	1	1	2nd qtr 1-12-09	
TOTAL	1678	247	1925	1369	0	82%	81%	81%	234	5	4	
GRAND TOTALS	8686	1824	10510	7085	71	82%	84%	85%	1054	34	12	



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

Welcome to Iowa
IASCOE / IACS / IASE
2009 Annual Convention
and the
2009 Midwest Area Rally

The joint 2009 IASCOE/IACS/IASE Convention and MWA Rally will be held April 3-4, 2009, at the Stoney Creek Inn located in Johnston, Iowa.

Stoney Creek Inn is conveniently located just off I-80/35 and only a few miles from Des Moines. Numerous restaurants, shopping malls, and other activities are just moments away. The Stoney Creek Inn offers a cozy lodge atmosphere where you can experience the great Outdoors.....Indoors!! Relax by the fireplace or take a dip in Iowa's only year round indoor-outdoor swim through pool.

Friday's activities include committee meetings, a general session, speaker Susan Kerr from the Iowa Attorney General's office will discuss the topic of ID Theft, followed by a hospitality room and dance. A 14-member band called "Eight Track Band" featuring hits from the 60's, 70's, & 80's will be sure to entertain us!

Saturday morning will include a complimentary breakfast for guests of Stoney Creek Inn, an awards ceremony, raffle and silent auction winners, followed by a short Iowa general session. Door Prizes will be awarded throughout the 2 day event.

The Midwest Area Rally will begin Saturday morning and continue into the afternoon. Saturday evening activities will also include plenty of hospitality!

Featured Speakers:

Washington DC & Iowa STO personnel
Jonathan Williams, Midwest Area Executive
Susan Kerr, US Attorney General's Office, speaking on "ID Theft"
Jim Mace, J& M Marketing
Joshua Katcher - EJ Brown and Associates
Deb Esselman, CED WI, Military Tribute

For Reservations call:

Stoney Creek Inn at 1 800 659 2220

Ask for Group Rate "Midwest Rally"

Special Room Rate: \$78.00 (plus tax) per night

March 19, 2009—cut-off date for special Room Rates



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

**IASCOE/IACS/IASE
MWA RALLY
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
APRIL 3 – 4, 2009**

NAME: _____

COUNTY: _____ POSITION: _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____

Pre-registration: \$25.00 EA _____

Registration at \$30.00 EA _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

***Registration includes: Meeting Room rental, Hospitality room and Band for dance.

Please check one of the Following:

- IASCOE Member _____
- IASE Member _____
- IACS Member _____
- IASCOE Associate Member _____
- Out of State Member _____
- Other _____

Mail completed form and payment to:

Judy Dameron
718 Mill St.
Wapello, IA 52653

All pre-registration forms should be received by March 30, 2009
PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO IASCOE

2009 NASCOE FAR WEST RALLY

March 25th through the 28th
Grand Sierra Resort and Casino
Reno, Nevada



Room reservations must be made prior to Monday, February 23, 2009
1-800-648-5080—Let them know your with NASCOE

Grand Sierra Resort Rooms \$99.00 per Night/Luxury Summit Suites
\$120.00 per night

Name: _____ Guest:
(s) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone:

Your State: _____ E-Mail:

Send your registration information to:

Betty Hodik

215 W. Bridge St. , Suite 10A

Yerington, NV 89447

See the reverse side for the registration fees. Registration is due March 1, 2009

REGISTRATION AND TOUR FORM

Number of Attendees: _____ @ \$15.00 per person Total _____

_____ @ \$25.00 per person Total _____ **After 03/01/2009**

Friday Night Banquet: _____ @ \$ 25.00 per person Total _____

Virginia City Tour: _____ @ \$15.00 per person Total _____

Grand Total _____

Number of Bowlers _____

EVENTS

Thursday March 26: Historic Virginia City Tour Leaving the Hotel at 3 pm returning at 8pm
Steam Train, trolley and Guided Walking Tours included in price;

Friday March 27: Conference Meeting 8am—4 pm
California Wine and Cheese Tasting 4:30—6:30 in the Hospitality Room
Banquet 7pm _ ??????

Bowling Tournament—For those who don't want to gamble, WHO IS the best bowler in each Area? We will find out Friday evening after the banquet!

Saturday March 28: Conference Meeting 8am—12pm

You can visit **Carson City**, Nevada's State Capitol

Lake Tahoe is only a short distance from Reno and Carson City. www.renotahoe.com

All kinds of **Snow Skiing** can be found in the Lake Tahoe area if that's your thing.

Shopping—Betty tells me there are two new sporting goods stores that have just opened. One is a Scheels Store and the other is a Cabela's. The Scheels store has been built on the site of a restored copper mine.

Museums, Art Museums, Historical Museums, a whole variety of museums to visit.

Shopping can be found about any direction you want to go.

Shows—A variety shows can be found all over Reno.

Onsite Attractions at the Grand Sierra

1,800-Seat **Grand Theatre**, featuring a wide variety of headline entertainment

Grand Sierra Cinema, an on-site 2-screen movie theater

FUNQUEST family entertainment Center and **Laser Tag Arena**

"**Grand Sierra Bowl**", our 50-Lane Bowling Center

Aqua Golf Lake-top Driving Range and **The Bunker** indoor simulated golf

Spa and Health Facilities

Nikki Beach outdoor pool and recreation area

Thrill Park featuring Ultimate Rush thrill rides, **Malibu Go-Carts**, and **Adventure Mini-golf** On-site

Shopping Arcade with a variety of specialty shops

For those of you flying into Reno, the Grand Sierra Resort has a free airport shuttle that runs every 30 minutes.