

**2007 Legislative Conference  
Midwest Area Session  
March 5, 2007**

**Place:** Crystal City Sheraton Hotel, Washington DC

**Time:** 3:50 pm

**Call to Order:** Mark Van Hoose

**Temp Sec.:** Deb Esselman-Baird, WI

Mark reviewed some points to remember at meetings.

- Be brief
- Try to get commitment for co-sponsorship or action of some sort

**Comment Sheets:** need to be filled out for each visit and put in box in lobby after visit completed. Leave both copies. The sheets are reviewed and hot tips given to Robert Redding.

**CAPWIZ:** Tammy Eibey: Each state was given a packet of information with CAPWIZ participation numbers, etc. 1061 viewed the last alert but only 440 sent the message. Persons can email Tammy if not sure the message was actually sent to legislators. 34% of Midwest signed up so far, best in country. If anyone has any questions, contact Tammy. There is a CAPWIZ coordinator in every state in Midwest. The cost for CAPWIZ: \$6000 for one year, 6% discount for 2 yrs and 10% for 3 years.

**PAC:** Participation is key. Have 7000 members and if each person participated, a little could go a long way. Associations can have PAC signups at state conventions. States can spend up to \$1,000 for reimbursement for a secure internet connection at conventions. This needs to be a priority. The maximum amount you can contribute to a candidate in a year is \$5,000. Robert Redding makes a recommendation to the leg chairs and NASCOE president and they approve contribution from PAC. The Midwest area has more influence in congress regarding the farm bill at this time. PAC information can be provided at state conventions, but it would be better to have RASCOE member actually handing it out and asking questions.

Deadline to submit candidacy must be done by May 1. Convention dates, also.

2009 National convention: May 1 if want to bid for National convention.

**Reception on Tuesday:** The hall can hold up to 85 people. If you have more than one contact coming, more than one person can go to reception. Call Tammy and let her know if contact tells you they know they will attend. When representative leaves, state people leave. Attendees must be professional, reserved, and responsible at reception. States need to determine which NASCOE person will attend reception.

2007 National Convention, do not cancel any rooms, contact Darlene or Mark.

**Conservation Paper:** Dan Root wanted to know if anyone had any concerns. Urban based land conservation districts is a concern because it impacts Ag issues. NACD could be a good partner. NACD wants to spend budget money on technical needs because they know that additional staffing is not an option. Krysta seems very interested in partnering for farm bill.

**PT Classification:** Mark is working on this for NASCOE. Requested information regarding PT issues regarding leaving because they are not getting reclassified or just disgusted. Money is supposedly not the issue in reclassification. The purpose of reclassification is to be sure the position is graded properly. It is based on program responsibility, not volume. Send comments and concerns to Mark.

**Issues to discuss with legislators:**

Reminded everyone to educate aides and be sure they know who we are and what they do. There are many changes in personnel, so be sure to be aware of educational needs.

**IT opportunities:** congress knows that FSA needs money for computers, we have to highlight the fact it cannot come from S&E money.

**Office Closures:** It is NASCOE's responsibility to be sure everything is followed to the letter of the law.

**Future Legislative Conferences:** This is expensive, are there other options? Think about this and communicate ideas to Mark. What are some other things we could do? Trying to get the most bang for the buck. Times, meeting dates, etc.

**Conventions** IL/MO: March 23-24 - The Administrator will be there.  
Indiana: March 30 at Nashville, IN  
Iowa: March 30-31 – The Administrator is scheduled to be there  
Wisconsin: April 20-21 at Green Bay.  
Midwest Rally on May 4-5. Information will be posted to Midwest Website  
Minnesota: July 19-20 at Fergus Falls, MN  
Ohio: November

Adjourned at 4:35 pm

***Respectfully Submitted,***

*Deborah Esselman,*