

## IASCOE DIRECTORS MINUTES

Iowa State Office  
West Des Moines, IA  
November 20, 2009  
6:30 P.M.

Officers Present: President, Cindy Mensen; Vice President, Jeff Davis and Secretary/Treasurer, Sue Beemer

Directors Present: Tammy Pruin, Tammy Eibey, Mary Lageschulte, John Landgraf, Chris Grieder, Steve Kennedy, Jessica Yuska, Devalyn Wilson, Chris Irvin, Patsy Bence, Kelly Cain and Judy Dameron,

Alternate Directors: Jeanine Diekhuis and John Bartenhagen

President Cindy Mensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

### **SECRETARY REPORT**

Sue Beemer presented the minutes of the August Directors' meeting. After review, Tammy Eibey moved and Tammy Pruin seconded the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried by all directors present.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Sue also presented the financial report to the Director's for their review. Kelly Cain moved and Patsy Bence seconded the financial report be accepted. Motion carried by all directors. Sue has filed our tax return for our 2008-2009 tax year.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Awards – Chairperson Devalyn Wilson handed out a summary of previous awards and sick leave certificates. She will send out an email for sick leave awards for the annual convention. The Extra Mile Award may be made anytime during the year. The three categories for Distinguished Service Awards are:

1. Service to FSA – Agriculture
2. Service to IASCOE/NASCOE
3. Service to Community

Nominees must be NASCOE members or their children. The NASCOE website has a fillable document you could use to nominate someone and a list of the winners of each category from last year. Jeff Davis will get the plaques needed for the award ceremony – he will just need the names of the winners.

Benefits and Legislation – Kelly Cain and Tammy Eibey presented the report. Kelly said NASCOE has a new dental plan through JM Marketing. She suggested everyone should review his or her health insurance. Some might want to make changes during open season. NASCOE has an agreement with Sam's Club if you join during November 1 through December 31 you will receive a \$10.00 gift receipt. Tammy discussed a CapWiz Alert on health care. There could possibly be another one in the near future. The FERS sick leave bill has been signed. If you retire from Jan 1, 2010 through Dec 31, 2013, you will get credit for 50% of your unused sick

leave. After Jan 1, 2014, you will get 100% credit for any unused sick leave. It only takes about three years of retirement to recoup the dues you have paid. Just another great reason to be an IASCOE member.

Emblems – Chris Grieder gave the presentation. We discussed getting the standard emblems packet for convention versus picking approximately 12 items and have more sizes in those items. Directors need to review the website and see what items they might like to have. Each Director could also poll their district and see what items the members would be interested in having at the convention. We will review the results at our next meeting. Currently there are some clearance items on the website.

Scholarships – Tammy Pruin gave the report. Tammy will have an article in the next newsletter concerning scholarships. The deadline of January 30 is the same as last year. All scholarships will be sent to the MWA for judging. IASCOE will have four \$300 scholarships, the MWA scholarship is \$1500 and the NASCOE scholarship is \$2500.

Membership – Glenda VonArb was not present so Mary Lageschulte presented the report. Packets for new members have been made. Steve Kennedy and Dan Wells spoke to the new COT group about the benefits of being a member of IASCOE. The membership database that Glenda has completed is very nice.

Publicity – Cindy Pistek was absent to Jeanine Diekhuis gave the report. The newsletter will be out soon. There will be a new feature called “Blast from the Past”. It will feature photos from the past. Everyone needs to get articles to Cindy by December 31. Steve Kennedy made a suggestion to have the storms of Iowa written up for a human-interest story.

Programs – Jessica Yuska presented the following: The deadline is December 15 for any recommendations that go to NASCOE and then on to Washington D.C. We had two suggestions this spring. There are two categories:

1. Program suggestions that can be made year round
2. Negotiation items that need to be made by December 15

Jessica Yuska moved and Chris Irvin seconded to approve all the committee reports as presented. All Directors present approved the motion.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The IASCOE Articles of Incorporation will expire in January 2010. Sue mailed the amendment to all county offices. It needed to be in the County Office for review two weeks before the directors voted to ratify it. The proposed Amendment to Article X is as follows:

The legal life of this Corporation began on January 7, 1960, by authority of the Secretary of State of Iowa. This corporation shall continue to operate as a not for pecuniary profit corporation and will have perpetual life unless sooner dissolved by a three-fourths vote of all members thereof, by an Act of the General Assembly, or by operation of law.

All directors present ratified the purposed amendment.

## NEW BUSINESS

We reviewed the corporate “inactive” status of our organization with the Secretary of State. Our organization was dissolved in 1997 according to the SOS because a biennial report was not filed. Our first request for reinstatement was denied. We are currently in appeal status. We are going to incur some legal fees associated with this process. Steve Kennedy moved and John Landgraf seconded to have Cindy Mensen, Jeff Davis and Sue Beemer continue to carry through with the process of getting IASCOE back to “active” status with the SOS. Hopefully, costs associated with this will be reasonable. The people named also have the authority to pay retainer fees if necessary.

2010 Iowa Convention – March 25-27, 2010 at the West Des Moines Marriott. DJ Ray has been booked for Friday night. The Convention rates will be \$69.00 plus tax per night\$. We discussed some incentive ideas for new attendees, such as picking a name and they would receive the night free. No decision was made concerning this.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

SED John Whitaker and AO Dennis Olson – President Mensen welcomed John and Dennis to our meeting. John started farming in 1979 in Van Buren and Henry counties. He graduated from Iowa State and has three children. He was a supervisor in Van Buren County for 10 years and in the Iowa Legislature for 6 1/2 years. He was asked about our budget. He feels we will have to reinvest in IT. There will possibly be a 20% staff cut in Washington D.C. and those dollars will be used for CO and STO. Hopefully we will get some recovery act money for USDA. FSA does not have a budget at this time but NRCS does. Their staff dollars were increased. WDC will support personnel versus office equipment. There has not been any talk about county reorganization – it is the last thing WDC wants. Through reports, they will know exactly how much each county office costs to run. Mr. Whitaker intends to keep staffing levels the same with no RIFS. He is hoping for an increase in staffing dollars for 2011. Both CO and GS are understaffed.

CO ceiling	575	GS ceiling	155
Currently	564	Currently	149

He has asked WDC for 14 more COTS. Fifty percent of USDA employees are eligible to retire within the time period of this administration. They will interview for six COT's shortly. We now have three COT's available with three openings as of December 1. He was asked about the status of the STC. Currently John is the acting STC. They have just finished appointing the last of the SED's so will now start filling the STC. There will be five serving on the STC but have asked for up to fifteen names.

John and Dennis discussed the SURE training and thought it was handled very well. They are hoping to have enough travel money to do more training. Everyone prefers face-to-face training.

DD's and COR's will all have government cars. Some already have them and the rest will be getting them shortly. Right now, the DD meetings will be every other month alternating with a conference call.

When an office is closed due to weather, there will be a report to fill out before going home

President Mensen asked Mr. Whitaker if he would like to become an associate member of IASCOE. He was very receptive of the idea and paid his \$25.00 dues.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

Upcoming conventions:

- Illinois Convention (Rock Island) March 19-20, 2010
- Iowa Convention (West Des Moines Marriott) – March 25-27, 2010
- MWA Rally and OASCOE Convention – April 9-10, 2010  
At Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark OH
- Indiana Convention (Indianapolis, IN) – April 15-16, 2010
- Wisconsin Convention – April 23-24, 2010
- National 2010 NASCOE Convention (Hot Spring, AR) – August 3-8, 2010

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Tammy Pruin moved and Mary Lageschulte seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed by all directors present. President Mensen adjourned the meeting at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Sue Beemer  
Secretary