

IASCOE DIRECTORS MINUTES

Iowa State Office
West Des Moines, IA
October 8, 2010
5:40 P.M.

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

Directors Present: Karen LaCour, Tammy Pruin, Cindy Pistek, Mary Lageschulte, John Landgraf, Chris Grieder, Steve Kennedy, Cindy Bebout, Patsy Bence, Kelly Cain, Judy Dameron and Dee Ann Lehn.

Alternate Directors: Karen McNeil and Joni Birkhofer

President Cindy Mensen called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M.

John Whitaker, SED joined our meeting for a discussion on several topics. John thanked all the offices for the prompt payments of the CRP. He felt it went very well. We are currently on a continuing resolution and probably will be until December. There are numerous rumors about the budget. John is hoping for budget amounts to be able to keep everything about the same. May not get enough funding to keep temporary employees. Temporaries add to work load and get things done in the office. John will sit down with the DD's and the department heads and see what we can do and what training could be done. Picking three or four sites around the state has already helped with budget. Performance work plans were discussed. Awards are one way success is measured. Will be getting some new guidelines for awards. The question was asked about RMA taking certifications instead of FSA. FSA is much better qualified to do the work. Thirteen states donated money back so other states could continue to pay full time salaries. John has not heard anything about a hiring freeze. We discussed the new Web TA process. You can only enter thirty workload descriptions and then you have to combine entries the best you can. If that is the case, how good will the information gathered from workload be? Hoping FSA will be involved in the new farm bill right from the start. Some things that might be included in the new farm bill:

1. Something for young producers.
2. All of crop reporting to FSA.
3. Could be some alterations to CRP – program is really growing.
4. ECP – hard for producers to understand if fixed in 2008 we can't fix again even if a major rain washes terraces out.
5. DCP and ACRE – maybe should be a county trigger instead of state.

John left our meeting at 6:55 P.M. at which time we broke for pizza. We reconvened at 7:25 P.M.

SECRETARY REPORT

Sue Beemer presented the minutes of the March Directors' meeting. After review, Jeff moved and Judy 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. Karen moved and Cindy seconded the financial report be accepted. Motion carried by all directors. Sue has filed our tax return for our 2009-2010 tax year. We have had some trouble getting the IRS to recognize our tax-exempt status. The accountant has mailed a copy of a letter from NASCOE to the IRS adding Iowa to the exempt listing along with our tax returns in hopes of getting our status straightened out. We also discussed members filling out their FSA-444 with updated information. Sometimes employees forget to update the form when they receive a grade increase. There are approximately 10 members that still need to get their dues updated.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Awards – Chairperson Devalyn Wilson was absent. We discussed the different awards available to IASCOE members. 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. 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. The Extra Mile Award any be made anytime during the year. Nominees for this award must be NASCOE members or their children. This award is for someone you feel has gone the “Extra Mile”. Cindy will ask Devalyn about a certificate of appreciation for retirees.

Benefits – Kelly Cain presented the report. 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 and you can join anytime during the year. There is not an enrollment period. You need to show you are a member of NASCOE and when you join, you will receive a \$10.00 gift card. There is a web site, www.workingadvantage.com that has discounts for movie tickets, hotels etc. You will need a password to sign up for this benefit. You can get the password from Dee or Kelly. J M Marketing has an Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy for **ALL** NASCOE members. All you need to do is complete the form to designate a beneficiary. J M Marketing is purposing an on call 24-hour travel assistance – medical emergency service. There would be no additional charge but you would need to request the service. They are also considering an ID Theft Recovery service. They would help to recover up to \$25000.00 in theft. This is not a prevention service. This would also be a no charge service.

Legislative – Dee Ann Lehn presented the report. NASCOE had an organizational meeting to discuss their goals for the 2010-2011 year. The following are some of the things discussed:

1. Monitor Farm Bill development
2. Working with CAP-WIZ – want to increase participation to 50% of membership. There were five alerts sent our last year. Iowa had 821 responses, which was the highest in the nation.
3. PAC – they would like to increase payroll elections to gain membership.
4. FSA would be the primary acreage-reporting agency.
5. FSA would be the agency to administer all conservation programs.
6. FSA would be the administrative agency for any new programs.

NASCOE will hold a two-day legislative conference for 2011.

Emblems – Chris Grieder gave the presentation. Last year NASCOE had \$45,000.00 in emblem sales. We discussed getting the standard emblems packet for convention versus picking our own items and have more sizes in those items. In that case, we would make our own order and pay the shipping costs. Each Director could poll their district and see what items the members would be interested in having at the convention. We need to get the information we collect to Chris so she can compile an order

Scholarships – Tammy Pruin gave the report. Last year we only had four scholarship applications. Usually we have lots more than that. Hoping for more this year. January 31, 2011 is the deadline for scholarship applications. All scholarships, regardless if they are one of the four winners will be sent to the MWA for judging. After some discussion, a motion was made by Judy to have four \$300 scholarships for the 2010-2011 year. Karen seconded the motion and motion passed by all directors present. The MWA scholarship is \$1500 and the NASCOE scholarship is \$2500. The deadline for employee scholarships is March 15, 2011.

Membership – Mary Lageschulte presented the report. Currently we are at 89% membership. Letters were sent to all COT's explaining the benefits of IASCOE. We need a replacement on the membership committee for District 5. RASCOE is really interested in getting more members in their organization. We discussed ways to keep track of retirees. Maybe we could have the members on the membership committee keep track of retirees in their district. We had the drawing for five early bird winners. The following members were the lucky winners:

Buena Vista County – Karen Widman
Clayton County – Candace Fette
East Pottawattamie County – Tracy Zimmerman
Hamilton County – Tom Abbas
Taylor County – Sue Beemer

Publicity – Cindy Pistek presented the report. There was a poor response for newsletter awards so there will be no area contests – only the National Awards. Cindy would like to have more human-interest stories.

Programs – Jessica was absent, so Joni presented the following: The deadline is December 15 for negotiations items. Program suggestions can be submitted anytime. Use forms on the web site or email Jessica.

Patsy moved and Cindy seconded to accept all the committee reports. Motion carried by all directors present.

OLD BUSINESS

The Secretary of State has affirmed our non-profit status so we are again now an “active” organization. We discussed changing our name to what we currently use. There was a handout summarizing our responses to what we liked or wished could be change for the annual convention. Tammy Eibey, Jeff Davis, Dee Ann Lehn, Judy Dameron, Cindy Pistek, Cindy Mensen and Kevin Keegan represented Iowa in Arkansas at the National Convention. The 2011

National Convention will be in Corpus Christi Texas and the 2012 convention will be in Boise, Idaho. Congratulations to our own Tammy Eibey as National Publicity Chairperson for 2010-2011. Charlene Neukomm (IL) is the MWA Executive and Dennis Ray (MO) is the Alternate Executive.

NEW BUSINESS

IASCOE Districts up for election this year are districts 4, 6, 8 and 9. Sue has already sent out the nomination papers and when those are returned, she will send ballots to all the counties in the above districts.

We discussed a proposal to split the Secretary/Treasurer duties in the next IASCOE year. Sue handed out a listing of the different duties for each position. We would possibly have to have two computers and printers. We also discussed who would hold the official documents of the organization. There was no decision determined and there will be further discussions at a future directors meeting.

Tammy Eibey has accepted the FLM position in Cedar County. Due to the fact, Tammy is not a Program Technician and also not working in the district, she was elected to represent; alternate Karen McNeil will assume those duties until the next director election. We have been very fortunate to have Tammy as a Director for so many years and we thank her for her generous service to IASCOE. She will certainly be welcome at all the directors meetings and we hope she will continue to share her expertise with us.

We discussed raising the associated dues for the 2011-2012 membership year. These dues affect non-county office employees such as STO and retirees. We currently collect \$25.00 from associate members, which is exactly what we have to send to NASCOE. A motion was made by Karen to raise the associate dues to \$30.00 for the 2011-2012 membership year. Joni seconded the motion and the motion carried by all directors present. The extra \$5.00 will help cover postage costs for mailings for membership. The decision to raise associate dues will be published in the next two newsletters.

The 2011 Iowa Annual Convention will be held March 24-26 at the West Des Moines Marriott. Cindy will contact DJ Ray and book him for the dance. We discussed speakers and a STO panel for questions. We also discussed changing the days of future conventions – no decisions were made.

TASCOE (Texas) is selling cookbooks to raise money for the 2011 convention. We are purchasing 20 books for \$15.00 each. We will sell the books for \$20.00. This will help TASCOE and we will make \$5.00 per cookbook.

Jeff presented a proposal for Iowa to bid to host a future (2013) National Convention, probably in the Dubuque area. A committee was formed consisting of:

Jeff Davis – Committee Chairperson
Steve Kennedy
Karen LaCour
Judy Dameron

This committee will look at different locations, speakers, entertainment and all the particulars of hosting a National Convention. They will present the proposal at our next directors meeting and

if the directors decide to go ahead with the idea, the committee will submit their presentation to NASCOE by April 1st.

We discussed the travel policy to attend National Conventions. Usually the delegate meetings begin on Wednesday late afternoon. We usually pay for four nights of lodging. Depending on the location of the convention, we might have to pay for an additional night.

OTHER ITEMS

Upcoming conventions:

- Next IASCOE Director's Meeting - January 29, 2011
- Legislative Conference in WDC – Probably 1st week in March
- MWA Rally – Springfield, IL – March 11-12, 2011
- Annual IASCOE Convention – March 24-26, 2011
- IN, OH, KY Joint Convention in Indiana – April 1-2, 2011
- MI Convention – April 29-30, 2011
- National 2010 NASCOE Convention at Corpus Christi, TX – August 11-13, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

Jeff moved and Judy seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed by all directors present. President Mensen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Sue Beemer
Secretary