

SDASCOE NEWS

November 2008

REPRESENTING YOU THROUGH **SDASCOE**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

President: James Anderson, Brule Buffalo
Vice President: Peggy Groen, Lincoln
Secretary/Treasurer: Dianna Shafer, McPherson

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Alternates:

#1	EJ Goetz, Walworth	Rodney Strand, Edmunds
#2	Stan Lamb, Codington	Joel Foster, Grant
#3	Rachael Kirkebak, Union	Lynn Chilson, Lincoln
#4	Keith Zanter, Clay	Josh Pesek, Bon Homme
#5	Lonnie Sharping, Brule-Buffalo	Carmen Jessop, Lyman
#6	Jennifer Chavez, Hyde	Laurie Pfeifle, Hand
#7	Jodie Schrempp, Ziebach	Alan Voller, Perkins
#8	Kay Massingale, Mellette-Todd	Cindy Walker, Fall River-Custer

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Awards & Scholarship

Colleen Peterson, Jackson

Benefits

Jeanie Emmett, Brookings

Legislative

Larry Olsen, Minnehaha

Membership

Lori Jones, Mellette-Todd

Programs, Emblems

Roxie Stambach, Ziebach

Ways & Means

Cathy Olstad, Fall River-Custer

Publicity

Bonnie Nickelson, Hand & Hyde

Dawn Sheehan, Sully

Webmaster

Jennifer Chavez, Hyde

South Dakota CAPWIZ Coordinator : Becky Zirpel, Gregory County

NORTHWEST AREA

NWA Executive

Cindy Peterson, Minnehaha

Benefits Chair

Becky Zirpel, Gregory County

NATIONAL RASCOE PRESIDENT: Gene Vognild, Minnehaha retiree

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PRESIDENT'S INSIGHT

Each time I sit down to write one of these articles, I always feel like I am preaching to the choir. What can we say or tell you that most of you do not already know. I know it is difficult to keep up with all the issues and I know many of you feel it is the job of SDASCOE to be your watchdog. I agree with this in part. What is SDASCOE to you and what should it do for you? I encourage each of you to think about this and communicate your thoughts to your SDASCOE board. Talk to your director about what you think is an important issue that needs to be addressed by SDASCOE. I would like for all the members of SDASCOE to be more active in the processes of SDASCOE. If I have heard it once I have heard it a thousand times,

SDASCOE is about our jobs and our benefits. I believe the mission of SDASCOE is to be the watchdog on these two areas and to inform you when either is being affected.

The 2008 Fall Board meeting for SDASCOE was to be held in Wall on September 26th and 27th. The normal procedure is to hold this meeting at next year's convention site. The 2009 SDASCOE convention is going to be held in Wall on May 2nd & 3rd, 2009. There was a change in plans. The Fall Board meeting was held in Huron during the Administrative training meeting. The change was not a change of the convention site. The main reason was it would save SDASCOE money as we would not have to pay for rooms and travel. Further, most of the SDASCOE board (officers and directors) and the program chairs were already assembled. The meeting was held at 5:00 PM on September 24th, 2008 at the Crossroads in Huron. The minutes, for this meeting, are included in this newsletter and you need to read them for all the highlights. There is a brief outline of the discussion and decisions pertaining to the 2009 convention in Wall. However, the balance of the details and decisions on the convention were delegated to Colleen Peterson and me. We will finalize the details and you will be notified when all the plans have been completed. This convention will be fun and informative. What else can I say but, you need to make plans now to attend and everyone will want to tour the world famous Wall Drug.

I stated, at the Fall Board meeting, I feel communication and education are two of the key issues we need to improve on in SDASCOE. The SDACOE board has made a commitment to update our program and policy handbooks. Further, we will continue to have discussions on the processes of SDASCOE and how to better communicate with the membership. These sessions will be like the old SDASCOE 101 articles. It is very important that we keep you informed of what is happening and what SDASCOE is doing. We are going to try and help each officer, director and program chair understand what their responsibilities are under their respective areas. This is the reason we are updating the program area handbooks as they will help us all in this education process. It is difficult to get anyone to fill these positions as most of us do not know what is expected of us for the position. We are hoping through education and the updating of the various handbooks, more of you will be interested in getting involved.

Becky Zirpel is our new CAPWIZ chair for SDASCOE. CAPWIZ is a very important tool. We are all paying for this so we all need sign up. We are sent alerts through the CAPWIZ process and they notify us when some action is pending that will affect our jobs and/or benefits. So, why have you not sign up yet? How do you do this? I would suggest you contact Becky for the details.

Finally, I want each of you to think about submitting your personal information to the National Data Base. We all know that our use of the government computer system is getting more restricted. This National Data Base is being developed as a way for NASCOE and SDASCOE to contact you in the future. How will you be contacted when we can no longer use your government e-mail address? I just want you to think about it. SDASCOE has researched this and we have endorsed this process. We are working on a way to gather this information and this may be available on our website.

We are looking for two members to represent SDASCOE at the Area Rally in Reno, NV and Gatlinburg, TN. We will send one member from the SDASCOE board but would like a volunteer from the general membership. There is a delegate's handbook and it covers what is expected of you and what expenses are covered. If you are interested, please contact Peggy or me and we will give you further details.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

Fall is in full force. I hope you're all able to get out and enjoy it!

Since becoming vice president I've been trying to figure out what my duties are. Some kind of handbook would sure be helpful. Did I just say that? Okay, how about a position description. That sounds better - and shorter.



Peggy Groen

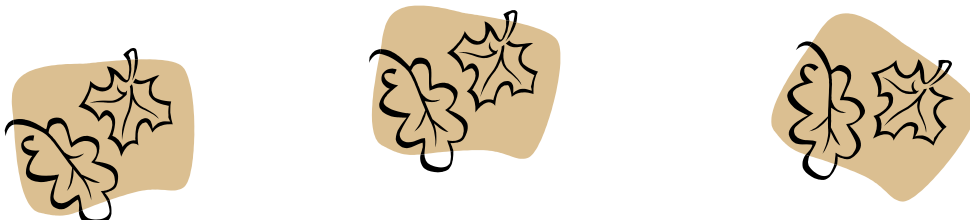
One of the projects Jim and I both would like to see during his Presidential tenure is getting position descriptions written for the SDASCOE positions like directors, committee chairs and vice president!

I've held various positions with SDASCOE and you do kind of go into it blind. Some of us say yes, I'll do it. THEN ask - What do I do? When do I do it? How do I do it?

And some people are even smart enough to ask about the duties of the job BEFORE agreeing to take it. But they still have questions.

The only vice presidential duties that I do know about is that last one on all of our PT work job descriptions - duties as assigned. Jim has assigned this project to me. By the end of October I will be contacting individuals who have held various SDASCOE positions in recent years to get their input. I'm working on the list of who to contact, but if I miss you and you have experiences to share please let me know.

The end result should be a helpful guide for anyone who is asked or who is thinking about taking a position with SDASCOE. It's always good to know what you're getting into!





TAKE A MINUTE TO READ THE MINUTES

SDASCOE Fall Board Meeting Minutes September 24, 2008- Huron, SD

The SDASCOE Board of Directors met in Huron, SD September 24, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm, President Jim Anderson welcomed all in attendance. Jim reminded all present that officers and directors may propose motions and vote. Alternates (unless acting as the director), committee chairs and guests may take part in the discussions but are not permitted to vote.

PRESENT: Officers in attendance were Jim Anderson, President and Peggy Groen, Vice President. Directors and alternates attending were: EJ Goetz and Rodney Strand, District 1; Stan Lamb, District 2; Lynn Chilson, District 3; Keith Zanter, District 4; Laurie Pfeifle, District 6; Jodie Schrempp and Alan Voller, District 7. Committee Chairs attending were: Lori Jones, Bonnie Nickelson, Larry Olsen, Cathy Olstad, Colleen Peterson, Dawn Sheehan and Roxie Stambach, Special Guest in attendance were: Past Presidents, Marcia Bunger and Bill Chase; Donnie McManus and Becky Zirpel.

Jim explained that Peggy will be working on creating duty and policy handbooks for the various SDASCOE positions including directors and committee chairs. Peggy will be contacting various individuals for their input.

NASCOE and NWA Issues include changes in Family Sick Leave, watch for details on this. Our NWA Executive, Cindy Peterson, will be promoting the National Data Base, which will be our home information. In time NASCOE/SDASCOE members may not be able to communicate using government equipment. The NASCOE National Data Base would then be our main source of communication. This information will be protected and not sold to anyone. SDASCOE will also be working on a membership data base.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes from the Spring Board meeting held April 2nd and 3rd were accepted as presented. The financial report was given. Please review the publication of these reports in the SDASCOE newsletter. Keith Zanter made a motion to approve both the minutes and treasurers reports. Jodi Schrempp seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Copies of the respective reports submitted by Colleen Peterson, Awards and Scholarship; Becky Zirpel for Jeanie Emmett, Benefits; Larry Olsen, Legislative; Lori Jones, Membership; Roxie Stambach, Programs and Emblems; Bonnie Nickelson and Dawn Sheehan, Publicity and Cathy Olstad, Ways and Means will be published in the next edition of the SDASCOE newsletter. Keith Zanter made a motion to approve the Committee reports as submitted. Jodi Schrempp seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Jim reported on the SDASCOE website. The cost is \$70 per year for the website. Suggestions as to what membership would like to see on the website are encouraged. Currently plans are to include the President's report, Committee Reports and a SD RASCOE link. Please email reports and website suggestions to Jim and Peggy. Thanks to Jennifer Chavez for her work as webmaster.

Jim reported on the NWA Fund as decided at the NASCOE Convention. Cindy Peterson will have details in her NWA Exec Report. Peggy noted that the NASCOE Convention Delegates Reports from her and Ernie Bures will be published in the next newsletter. She encouraged the membership read the reports as there was a lot of information discussed at the convention.

Larry Olsen reported on the SDASCOE By-Law Change to separate the Secretary and Treasurer positions. This change will be publicized in the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

President Anderson appointed Lynn Chilson as alternate director for district #3 according to Article X, Sec 2 of the By-Laws. The position was vacated when Peggy Groen became Vice President.

A discussion was held on the district boundaries. If the State Office permanently realigns the districts, the SDASCOE bylaws allow us to do the same. Jim appointed Peggy to handle the director elections. All members will be notified of the upcoming elections, they can enter their name as director or alternate.

Becky Zirpel will be the new Cap Wiz coordinator for SDASCOE. The position was vacated when Peggy became Vice President.

The 2009 NWA Rally will be held in conjunction with the SWA in Reno, Nevada. The dates for this All West Rally are yet to be decided. The 2009 NASCOE Convention will be held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee August 11-15, 2009. SDASCOE needs two delegates to represent us at these events. An explanation of the duties and funding of this position will be provided to all members. It was decided that one delegate should be a current director and the other from the general membership. All members will be contacted regarding this opportunity. Anyone wishing to be a delegate can submit their name, there will then be a drawing at the State Convention to select the delegate.

NASCOE will be increasing their dues starting July 2009. Each affiliated state is currently paying \$45 per regular member and \$25 per associate member for NASCOE dues. The increase will be \$60 per regular and \$30 per associate. These dues are a part of the SDASCOE dues we currently pay.

SDASCOE pins for members and for trading at the NASCOE convention was discussed. Stan Lamb made a motion to authorize Mary Johnson to purchase 500 State pins for 2009. E J Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

Cathy Olstad requested a budget for purchasing prints to raffle at the SDASCOE Convention. A discussion was held and Keith Zanter made a motion to approve a \$600 budget for purchasing these prints. E J Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

A discussion was held on the number of SDASCOE members attending the Legislative Conferences. NASCOE covers expenses for our state Legislative Chair to attend. A motion was made by Keith Zanter for SDASCOE to pay for one additional member to attend Mini-Legislative Conferences and up to six additional members to attend Full Legislative Conferences. Stan Lamb seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

Colleen Peterson gave an update on the 2009 SDASCOE Convention to be held in Wall May 2nd and 3rd. The convention activities will be held at the Wall Community Center. Sleeping rooms will be at the All American Inn. A discussion was held on the entertainment budget for the convention. A motion was made by Keith Zanter to allow for an \$1800 budget. Lynn Chilson seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

There being no further business Jim thanked all in attendance for their discussion and time. Jodi Schrempp made a motion to adjourn. Laurie Pfeifle seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Groen, Acting Secretary

**PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE SDASCOE CONSTITUTION
& BY LAWS TO BE**

CONSIDERED AT THE SDASCOE STATE CONVENTION IN WALL, SD 2008

**CURRENT
ARTICLE III---Officers and Directors**

Section 1. A. The officers of this association shall be a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Section 1. A. The officers of this association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Office of President and Vice President may not be held at the same time by the same eligible person. Only the Office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same eligible member at the same time.

**YOUR REPRESENTATIVES... HARD AT WORK
AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING**





TREASURER'S REPORT



	Checking Balance	5/3/2008	\$3,233.29
Receipts:			
	Dues-Regular	\$10,466.54	
	Dues-Associate	\$1,275.00	
	Interest Income-Checking	\$5.93	
	Cash-CD Balance	\$0.00	
	2008 State Convention	\$3,040.00	
	2009 State Convention	\$0.00	
	NW Area Rally	\$2,343.25	
	NASCOE-Legislative	\$0.00	
	NASCOE/Delegates	\$1,456.00	
	Board Meeting	\$30.00	
	Donations	\$200.00	
	Ways & Means	\$1,437.00	
	Emblems	\$808.00	
	Total Receipts		\$21,061.72
Expenses:			
	Dues-Regular	\$6,345.00	
	Dues-Associate	\$1,060.00	
	2008 State Convention	\$4,700.85	
	2009 State Convention	\$0.00	
	NW Area Rally	\$3,368.88	
	Bank Service Fees	\$44.20	
	NASCOE-Delegates	\$2,509.30	
	NWA Rally-Delegates	\$0.00	
	Memorials-Flowers	\$0.00	
	Board Meetings	\$0.00	
	Secretary of State Recording	\$10.00	
	Donations	\$100.00	
	Emblems	\$1,108.00	
	Legislative	\$0.00	
	Postage	\$144.97	
	Publicity	\$342.93	
	Supplies	\$169.06	
	Travel/Mileage	\$2,237.74	
	Ways & Means	\$558.27	
	Awards/Scholarship	\$0.00	
	Membership-Drawings	\$0.00	
	Qwest-Conference Call	\$0.00	
	Equipment-Laptop/Printer	\$0.00	
	Total Expenses		\$22,699.20
NET AMOUNT			\$1,595.81
Dianna Shafer, SDASCOE Secretary-Treasurer			

TREASURER'S REPORT, page 2

Checking Account Summary:					
Location	Balance	APR	Interest		
CorTrust Bank-Leola	\$1,595.81	0.50%	\$11.92		
*Interest earned applied to Checking Account Balance					
Certificate Of Deposit Summary:					
Location	Total Value	APR	Maturity	Initial Value	Interest Accrued
First National Bank-Yankton	\$1,862.02	3.40%	1/17/2009	\$1,770.21	\$91.81
	\$5,050.91	4.16%	4/21/2013	\$5,000.00	\$50.91
	\$5,050.91	4.16%	4/21/2013	\$5,000.00	\$50.91
	\$13,370.09	4.75%	1/20/2011	\$11,906.45	\$1,463.64
	\$11,229.30	4.75%	1/20/2011	\$10,000.00	\$1,229.30
	\$11,229.30	4.75%	1/20/2011	\$10,000.00	\$1,229.30
CorTrust Bank-	\$503.70	3.01%	4/21/2009	\$500.00	\$3.70
Leola	\$503.70	3.00%	4/21/2009	\$500.00	\$3.70
TOTAL CHECKING/CERTIFICATES				\$50,395.74	
*Early Withdrawal Penalty				First National Bank	6 Mo. Interest 30 Days Interest 60 Days Interest
**Interest Accrued applied to Certificate				CorTrust Bank	Interest
Total Cash Summary					
I certify as Secretary-Treasurer of the SDASCOE association the Annual Report Domestic non-profit form has been filed for the year 2008 and the 2008 Annual Electronic 990 Exemption filed.					
Dianna Shafer, SDASCOE Secretary-Treasurer 05/03/2008					

I was not able to be present at the meeting SDASCOE called during the training session .
I had not submitted the report for approval, so this report is an unapproved submission.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianna Shafer, Sec-Treas.



COMMITTEE REPORT

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GREAT DISCOUNT FOR NASCOE AND RASCOE MEMBERS

Discount with

SAM'S Club

What do you need? Take your

[NASCOE or RASCOE membership card for 2008 - 2009](#) ...and

[The entire letter, including the coupon, found on the next page](#)

and present them at your local SAM'S Club Store.

You must complete this discount

[by December 5, 2008.](#)

What are you waiting for? This is just like receiving \$10 off your NASCOE or RASCOE dues!

Time is limited so please act now!!!!

If you are not a member of NASCOE, please contact your State Membership Chair NOW!

Jeanie Emmett, SDASCOE Benefits Chairman

P.S. Don't forget to check out www.nascoetravel.com

**** TESTIMONIAL ****

"I wanted to thank Becky Zirpel for getting the Sam's Club discount. Yesterday I stapled my 2009 RASCOE Membership card (Associate Member) to the letter and sent it to town with my lovely wife. She presented this at the membership counter and had no problems getting both of us enrolled. She spent the \$10 gift card the same day and saved even more. Thanks Becky for your hard work in securing extra benefits for our NASCOE membership.

I do hope other members will take advantage of this savings."

William C. Chase, Corson County CED



In partnership with Sam's Club®, NASCOE and RASCOE

is presenting an exclusive Membership offer. Employees will receive a \$10 Gift Card when they sign up for a new Sam's Club Membership or renew an existing Membership by December 5, 2008.

Sam's Club Advantage Members enjoy terrific savings on merchandise, services and more!

- Advantage Membership includes two annual Membership cards – Annual Membership is \$40, which includes one Membership for you and one for a household member over 18 years of age.
- Full shopping privileges at more than 590 Sam's Club locations nationwide – Each Club is stocked with quality name-brand products such as jewelry, housewares, books, pet supplies, tires, seasonal merchandise and more.
- Hours of Operation

M - F	10 am - 8:30 pm
Sat	9 am - 8:30 pm
Sun	10 am - 6 pm
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed on Merchandise and Membership – We stand behind our merchandise and Membership completely. If you are ever dissatisfied, we'll give you a full refund.

To become a Member, bring this offer to the Member Services Desk of your local Club. Upon payment, you will receive a **\$10 Sam's Club Gift Card.**

Sam's Club® Membership *e-Certificate*

**Enjoy the value of Membership!
Receive a \$10 Gift Card when you join or renew.**

**This certificate is valid for employees and members of NASCOE and RASCOE
Offer valid through Dec. 5, 2008 only.**

*A \$40 (plus tax in some places) primary Advantage Membership includes one primary card and one spouse (or other household member over the age of 18) card. Primary Memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue. The certificate may be redeemed for a new or renewal of an existing Membership. The gift card with this offer cannot be used toward Membership fees. Certificates and special promotions are not valid on samsclub.com or by mail. Offer not to be used for Group Membership. Applies only to first year of Membership. Primary Advantage Membership fee (\$40, plus tax in some places) will apply at the time of renewal.



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COMMITTEE REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

SDASCOE FALL BOARD WALL, SD, (actually Huron) 2008
 By Larry Olsen, SDASCOE Legislative Chair

Much has happened since the SDASCOE convention. First and most important is the passage of the new farm bill in June. Given the present economic problems, we are probably very fortunate that an extension of the previous bill was not passed. South Dakota hosted the North West Area Rally. FSA Administrator Teresa Lassiter attended and spoke to the NWA.

The Knowledge Bank report was brought up. This was the top down to the STO level review. There were I believe 52 recommendations. Many of which are not able to be implemented because they are statutory items and require legislation to change. I had a questions/concern regarding the report. In the report it was suggested that the DDs be the supervisors of the CEDs. I asked why the knowledge bank report went beyond the scope of their review to make this recommendation and on what basis did they make the recommendation. No COC, CED, PT or producer was ever contacted. No one from NASCOE (President, VP, Treas., Sec, or Exec Board member), NAFEC was ever contacted. I would have to call into question the entire report. Ms. Lassiter explained that the report did say that they went beyond the scope of the review and that there were no plans to implement this recommendation.

The NASCOE Convention was held in Omaha, NE.

From the NASCOE Convention. I have plagiarized some of Mike Mayfield and Loren Nelson's (NASCOE Legislative Chairs) reports in mine.

The passage of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 Farm Bill covers the 2008-2012 crop years. NASCOE seems to have been very successful with our efforts during the farm bill development process. Even though conservation administration was not obtained, the message the membership took to their legislators on FSA's abilities, and recommendations of efficiency garnered FSA numerous new responsibilities. In addition, NASCOE is expected to be instrumental if initiated upon the completion of the farm bill. Conservation administration will be a major topic of discussion if reorganization becomes reality.

Is Larry...
 Thinking really hard ?
 Not feeling well ?
 Making a wish ?
 -OR-
 Is he just thinking about
 explaining the new Farm Programs ?
 YOU DECIDE.



Chairman Peterson has indicated that he plans to move on USDA reorganization after a brief break from the Farm Bill. Listed below are some of the farm bill highlights that affect FSA:

- Maintained our position in all current farm programs and conservation programs
- Permanent Disaster Program administration
- Emergency Conservation Program
- Livestock Indemnity Program
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish
- Tree Assistance Program
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program
- Average Crop Revenue Election administration (ACRE)
- FSA IT modernization (Section 1618)
- GSA vs. Local leasing authority review (Section 1620)
- Extended the MILC Program
- Included hay as an eligible commodity for the FSFL program (Section 1614)
- Non Insured Assistance Program Expansion
- Semi-Annual deceased producer reconciliation report (Section 1611)
- Geographically Disadvantaged Farmer Assistance (Section 1621)
- Signature authority clarification (Section 1617)
- Ability to Donate Excess and Surplus Computers in Rural areas (Section 14220)
- Prohibition on closure of Farm Service Agency county offices (Section 14212)
 - According to discussions held with Capitol Hill and USDA, the 20 mile provision will only be applied to approximately 60 offices nationwide. NASCOE will watch this provision closely and will work with the department to make sure this provision is used responsibly.

Crop insurance and several other entities were pushing hard to be assigned some of these new program responsibilities. The track record of FSA and the diligence of NASCOE members in the legislative process have prevailed in the assignment of these duties. Hopefully, some of the operational changes that were suggested by our members and inserted by legislators will assist FSA in getting the job done. Our responsibility will be to deliver these programs with the same fervor, compassion and efficiency as demonstrated over the past 70 years.

NASCOE wants to thank every member that sent a letter, made a personal contact or assisted in any way in our farm bill successes. Members should be very proud of how NASCOE was asked to engage in the development of this bill. As always NASCOE's strength is dependent on the commitment of the members and all deserve a resounding WELL DONE.

At the convention the main issue brought forward was what would we like to see come out of a possible reorganization? The Legislative Committee wants suggestions. NASCOE wants to be in the front of any possible reorganization instead of having to react.

Another smaller issue was the recommendation on whether to have a "Full" Legislative Conference this next year. Since the big push is over with the farm bill passage. There are no major issues to push for, although there are always benefit issues to pursue.

It was suggested that maybe there should be just a mini-legislative conference mainly targeting Ag Committee Member States. It costs around \$70,000.00 to hold a full legislative conference. A mini, costs approximately a third of that.

I suggested a mini legislative conference. With the farm bill passage there are no major issues, but we still need to show presence with our Congressional members for benefit increases and other possible legislative needs in the future. We do not want to give up the good relationships and networking that has taken place. A decision will be made by the NASCOE Execs later on.

**Biggest news item from the Legislative meetings at the convention was
the two House of Representative Bill concerning FERS Sick Leave:**

HR-1108 was passed by the House. YEAH! This bill would give length of service credit for unused FER employee accumulated sick leave. There are some time restrictions on implementation. Only $\frac{3}{4}$ of day credit if exercised within three years of enactment. Three years after enactment days of unused sick leave except those counted in determining avg. pay or annuity eligibility under the subchapter of the bill (not exactly sure what that means), but should mainly be full days. The Senate is expected to pick up the bill as written. Passage in the Senate looks to be certain. It is expected that the President would sign the legislation.

HR 5573 submitted by Congressman Jerry Moran of Virginia has, which NASCOE put out a cap wiz alert on this earlier. Hopefully, everyone responded to this. HR-5573 still has not reached the House floor. This bill would allow a FERS employee to obtain partially compensated for unused sick leave. A lump-sum payment not to exceed \$10,000 for unused sick leave. I do not know the particulars on this bill. The draft of the bill is sketchy.

I learned something else from Barbara Boyd from Human Resources. FERS will max out at 35%, which I assume she meant under the proposed bill. FERS annuity is based on number of years length of service and does not have a 35% or year limit. This would make a difference for some. If your length of service is that or more under FERS, adding on length of service for your unused sick leave would not help you. In that case you would be better off with the lump sum option.

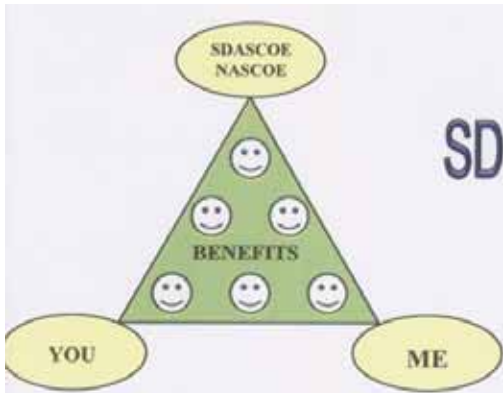
To all SDASCOE members, have a great fall of 2008 and again it is the membership that is the strength of the organization.

The opinions and comments expressed in this report are those of the author. Most of the material in this report is a gathering of bits and pieces of several news articles and personal contacts. This article does not represent official policy.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Olsen, Legislative Chairperson

COMMITTEE REPORT

**M
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LORI JONES SD MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

38945 255TH ST
PLANKINTON SD 57368
605-942-7203 HOME
605-259-3252 WORK
605-770-7874 CELL

FALL NEWSLETTER 2008



CURRENT CAPTAINS REPORT!

It seems there are a few passengers that have fallen off the ship. At this time we are attempting rescue efforts in hopes of getting them all back on board the Cruise Liner.

The head count on the ship at this time is as follows:

268 regular CO members
11 regular GS members
60 Associate members

This puts us at about 97% capacity! Of course the cruise would be just that much better if we could fill it to capacity. Anyone looking to get on board yet should give me a call!



COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING; KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS; WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS!
Henry Ford

CONGRATULATIONS!



CODINGTON COUNTY

IS THE WINNER OF THE **\$100.00** DRAWING FOR HAVING ALL THEIR SDASCOE / NASCOE DUES PAID BY THE DEADLINE.

LOU ELLEN JOHNSON



IS THE WINNER OF THE **\$25.00** DRAWING FOR HAVING HER ASSOCIATE SDASCOE / NASCOE DUES PAID BY THE DEADLINE.

OUR SDASCOE SEC / TREAS WILL ENSURE THAT A CHECK IS ISSUED AND SENT TO THESE LUCKY WINNERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

=====

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TAKE CARE OF THIS BUSINESS SO TIMELY EACH YEAR!

WE ARE OFF TO A GREAT START!

HAVE A GREAT DAY!



COMMITTEE REPORT

P R O G R A M S & E M B L E M S



Greetings to all my fellow SDASCOE members and friends. This is my first time to write a report so bear with me. Jim asked me to be the chair and this is probably going to be the worst part of the job. Ernie has been a great help getting me started, I want to thank him for that.

I would like to remind all of you about the new electronic filled form on the NASCOE web page, www.nascoe.org under programs. If you complete this form it will be directly submitted to the NASCOE Chair Person Bill Putnam. It is not necessary to wait for negotiation/consultation time. I am sure there are a lot of great ideas out there for changes and with the new farm bill coming it may be a good time to get them in so the software can be changed along with new changes coming.

Bill has also posted an updated report for items submitted for 2008-2009. Some very good suggestions have been submitted. I am sure South Dakota has some suggestions out there also. Please submit them either electronically to Bill or on the PDF form and you can send it to me for submission.

Have you checked out the website www.nascoeemblemsonline.com the October specials are: A free tee shirt with every order of \$30 or more. The product number is freetee. Also, Polo Potluck shirts have been reduced again to \$15.00; there is a large inventory that needs to get off the shelves. Help them out, take a look. I contacted Era about sizing and she said the run pretty true to size so if wear a large order a large. All headwear has been reduced 10%. Check this out also; there is a lot there to choose from. Remember a percentage of the sales go to the NASCOE scholarship program.

Hope to see you all in Wall, SD for the State Convention in May 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxie Stambach,



COMMITTEE REPORT

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SDASCOE's WEBSITE

Check it Out :

<http://geocities.com/sdascoe>

Jennifer Chavez, Webmaster

SDASCOE Newsletter Mailing Allocation and Expense Report Summary of Expenses and Allocations

Date	Item	Amount
	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	\$104.07
4/10/2007	Mailing Labels	\$18.72
4/12/2007	2007 Convention Newsletter (302 mailed)	\$78.09
7/12/2007	Bulk Mailing Annual Fee	\$175.00
7/12/2007	Summer Newsletter (301 mailed)	\$138.73
7/26/2007	Allocation	\$400.00
10/16/2007	Fall Newsletter (300 mailed)	\$125.18
11/26/2007	Allocation	\$500.00
12/19/2007	Holiday Newsletter (300 mailed)	\$112.74
1/8/2008	Holiday Newsletter (2 mailed)	\$1.99
4/21/2008	2008 Convention Newsletter (296 mailed - 4 hand delivered to STO)	\$118.26
8/26/2008	Mailing Labels	\$9.51
8/27/2008	August Newsletter (195 Mailed - 4 hand delivered to STO)	\$88.78
8/27/2008	Bulk Mailing Annual Fee	\$180.00
	<i>Ending Balance</i>	(\$42.93)

Our Thanks to Ryan Wenz. STO, who prints the newsletter for us and to Brenda Wicks, STO, who handles the actual mailing of the newsletter .

Thank - you

COMMITTEE REPORT

September 24th, 2008

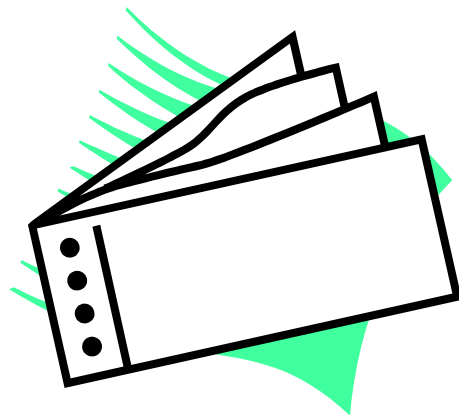
Print Raffle: Tickets were being sold for \$1.00 each and 6 for \$5.00. Artists for this last year's drawings were Terry Redlin and Jon Crane.

Fall Board Meeting: Artists and ticket prices are to remain the same. A budget of \$600 was requested and approved by the board to purchase the prints for 2009.

Room Raffle: Room raffle tickets were \$1.00 each, with the winner receiving a free room for the night of convention or \$50 in cash, if unable to attend.

Fall Board Meeting: Leave tickets at same price.

Cookbook: A small trickle of money keeps coming in – we will keep selling until they are gone.



*Thanks again for your support of
SDASCOE fund raising projects.*

*They are only as good
as you make them!*

Respectfully,

Cathy Olstad

SDASCOE Ways and Means Chairperson

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IN THE MILITARY

THANK - YOU

Name	Branch	Current Location / Service History	SDASCOE / FSA Relative
Craig W. Nelson	Air Force	Stationed in Arizona. Served overseas.	Nephew of Mary Rae Peterson and Peg Schmidt, PT's McCook County.
SPC Katie Boesch	US Army	Currently Deployed to Iraq - 2nd	Niece of Mike Goetzinger CED; Bennett/Shannon
SPC Dan Boesch	US Army	Currently Deployed to Iraq - 2nd	Spouse of SPC Katie Boesch
Cpt. Matthew Strand	Army Infantry	Served in Iraq. Currently at Ft. Benning, GA	Son of Rodney Strand, CED Edmunds
PFC Andy Davis	SD Army NG	Currently serving in Afghanistan	Nephew of Mike Davis, FLM Hand Co.
Staff Sgt. Shaye Melton	Air Force	RAF Mildenhall, England	Son-in-Law of Cathy Olstad, PT Fall River-Custer Co.
TR Hill	Air Force	Stationed in Omaha NE	Nephew of Ret. Charlene Lolley, Meade
CPT Neil L. Sanders	Army	Two rotations in Iraq	Brother-in-law of Kari Sanders, PT Fall River/Custer
Frank Moser	SD Army NG	Served 1 Year in Iraq	Brother-in-law of Kari Sanders, PT Fall River/Custer
Cpt Michael Thompson	Air Force	Currently stationed in Georgia	Son of Stan Thompson, CED Marshall Co.
Sgt. Josh Bryant	SD Army NG	Served in Iraq, now a Recruiter	Son of JoDee Bryant, FLO Faulk Co.
Zach Carter	US Navy	Stationed in Pensacola, Florida	Nephew of Stacy Smith, PT, Pennington
Staff Sgt. Ryton Hitzel	US Air Force	Stationed in Minot, ND	Son of Ruby VanderMay, TPT Jackson
SPC Phillip Olson	SD Army NG	147th 1st Field Artillery, FSC in Webster – On alert	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
SPC James Olson	SD Army NG	147th 1st Field Artillery, FSC in Webster – On alert	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
PV2 Joshua Olson	SD Army NG	147th 1st Field Artillery, FSC in Webster – On alert	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
MP Aaron Monteith	SD Army NG	235th Military Police, Currently serving in Afghanistan	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
SPC Scott Fried	101st Airborne	Deployed to Bagdad, Iraq in Sept.. 2007 for 15 months. (#2)	Son of Peggy Fried, PT Perkins
Cpt. Matthew Thompson	Marine Corp	Currently deployed to Iraq	Son of Stan Thompson, CED Marshall
Rob Schoenwald	Marine Corp	Currently deployed to Iraq	Son of Edie Schoenwald, PT Turner
Sgt. Jason Lunders	SD Army NG	Currently in Mississippi training. Home for Christmas, then to Iraq.	Nephew of Mary Rae Peterson PT in McCook County.
PFC Caleb Schaefer	SD Army NG	In Reserve.	Son of Debra Schaefer, PT ; McPherson
PFC Katherina Schaefer	SD Army NG	In Reserve.	Daughter of Deb Schaefer, PT ; McPherson
SGT / E6 Joshua Schaefer	Admin. NCO	Rapid City, SD	Son of Debra Schaefer, PT McPherson Co.
PFC Tracy Lennick	SD Army NG	In Reserve	Son of Bonnie Nickelson, CED Hand, Hyde

President's Volunteer Service Awards
&
Call to Service Award



During the 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush issued a challenge to all Americans to make time to help their neighbors, communities, and Nation through volunteer service.

The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes those who have achieved a certain standard, measured by the cumulative hours served over the course of a lifetime. All USDA employees are eligible for the award based upon their hours of service to a qualifying organization(s).

The top four applicants, based upon their number of hours of service in the Call to Service Award, received their award on stage at this year's 61st Annual Secretary Honor Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC on October 22.

Presenting the awards was Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Schafer.



Diane Dangel, Spink County donated over 4,000 hours of service and traveled to Washington, DC to receive her award.



Pictured are Farm Service Agency employees Nancy Harris, Wellington TX; Donald W Green, Smithville TN; Kenneth Carey, Grangeville ID; Diane Dangel, Redfield SD.



Terri Roth from Spink County and Doug Hofer from Corson County both volunteered over 100 hours of community service to earn the Bronze Award.



Congratulations to these outstanding SDASCOE Members !!

CREATIVE WRITING CONTRIBUTION



A strange think happened to me today. I woke up old! I mean really old.

I think it started yesterday, or maybe the day before, I'm not sure. I had a birthday recently but I don't think that had anything to do with it. I fairly confident it's not all in my head, at least my head doesn't feel any older on the inside.

Yesterday I put in a pretty good day working on remodeling an old hog barn into a new horse barn. It is fun work, and didn't seem too strenuous so I don't think I over did anything. At some point during the afternoon my wife came and told me she is running away on her bike. If you remember, she does that occasionally. She always tells me which way she is going though. I think this is a hint that she wants me to come and get her. In fact she has taken to drawing big arrows on the road at certain intersections so I can more accurately determine which way she went. I think she is teasing about the running away thing.

I usually let her go for an hour or so, depending on how mad I think she was when she left and computing how long it will take her to get it out of her system. Yesterday I didn't think she was too mad so I gave her an hour and a half or so and then headed out after her. I caught up with her north of Rutland, 22 miles from home. She was headed back east again so I really think she was coming back home on her own. She didn't appear overly unhappy when I threw her bike in the back and hauled her back.

I remember going to bed not feeling old. In fact I distinctly remember her repeating several times "Knock it off and act your age!" So I'm positive I wasn't old when I went to bed. But his morning! My left foot got out of bed but the rest of me couldn't move. I honestly tried to get going but nothing happened. Finally my wife helped by placing her left foot on my back and pushing. Once out of bed I rolled into the bathroom and more evidence of being old hit me.

I had no hair where there was supposed to be hair and hair was there wasn't supposed to be hair. I asked my wife what was happening and she said nothing new, I just cleaned your glasses for you. You mean I always look like this I asked? No, sometimes you look pretty rough. My gosh I thought, I've turned into an old man! I hurt in places that I didn't have yesterday. I look in the mirror and see places that I didn't used to see and can't see some places I used to see!

OLDcontinued

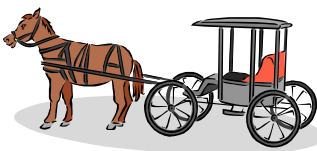
So, now that I'm an old man what do I do I thought? I wanted to call into work and claim an Old Day. You know, like a Sick Day? I think they should have Old Days that you could use occasionally. I could use a few of them right now very easily. And I wouldn't feel nearly as guilty as I do when I use a sick day. Sick is sick but sick will pass. You could call in and say "I'm Old today, so I won't be in for a few days until I get young again."

Old appears to be here to stay. I'm not quite ready for it so I think I'll resist! Now, how do I resist? Well, to start with, I may get a convertible. All old guys get a convertible. And a girlfriend. All old guys run out and get a girlfriend. Preferably a young one. Well, no, no girlfriend. I think I may be too old for a girlfriend. I should have seen this coming and gotten a girlfriend before I got old. Now if I get one people will say something derogative about me getting old and trying to prove I'm still young by getting a girl friend. If had gotten one when I was still young it wouldn't have been so obvious. The same might be true of a convertible.



I think maybe I'll get a new horse. Everyone knows that you have to be in pretty good shape if you can still ride a horse. Old people don't buy horses as they know they surely need something more than they need a horse. Buying a horse, especially an expensive one, is something somebody young and foolish would do. We have already established the foolish part so now we just have to cement in the young part.

Sure, that's what I'll do. I can ride a horse most of the time anyway. Well, most horses. Ok, some horses. But maybe a horse that can pull a buggy will work better. I only know of one guy that has ever been thrown off a buggy. But heck, he's at least a year older than I am so I should be ok. Yep, a horse and buggy will show em I've still got it.



I might start with a pony and cart though, just to see how it goes for the first year or so. Then maybe I can quit proving to my wife that I'm still a young hunk after all and she'll leave me alone and let me rest in peace.

I'm not as young as I used to be. But I like to tell myself I'm as good once as I once was. I tell myself that a lot. Nobody else tells me that, they must be too busy getting old.

Submitted by Marshall County CED, Stan Thompson

SPINK COUNTY



20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Rich Rische, CED and Russ Simon, PT were both recognized for 20 Years of service to FSA.

Pictured in the top photo are Ron Russell, DD, Rich Rische, CED, Randy Stoltenberg and Deanna Bindenagel, COC.

Shown in the bottom photo are Perry Schmidt (COC), Deanna Bindenagel (COC), Randy Stoltenberg (COC), Russ Simon, PT, Rich Rische CED, and DD Ron Russell.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE



BEADLE
COUNTY

The Beadle County COC along with CED Randy Richards presented and congratulated Program Technician Sharla Wipf for her 10 years of dedicated service to FSA.

20, 25, 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



FALL
RIVER -
CUSTER
COUNTY

Three employees received Length of Service Awards in the Fall River - Custer County Office. Their combined length of service is 75 years of experience.

Pictured are Brian Malde CED, 25 Years; Noma Jean Cathey COC Chair; Cindy Walker PT, 20 Years, and Cathy Olstad PT, 30 Years.

HAND COUNTY

20, 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



Bonnie Nickelson (30 years) and Mike Davis (20 years) received certificates and gifts for their dedicated service. Pictured are: Mike Davis, FLM; Ron Russell, DD; Carol Grey, COC; Bonnie Nickelson, CED; Monty Rogers, COC Chair; and George Schade, COC.

SULLY COUNTY

30 YEARS OF SERVICE



Gail Tennant PT in Sully County received her certificate and gift for 30 years of dedicated service to the Farm Service Agency. Pictured are: Brenda Eller, COC Advisor; Gail Tennant; Brian Johnson, COC Chair; Allen Weischedel, COC Vice Chair; and Scott Foth, COC Member.

ahhh...Retirement!



Lynda Steichen retired from Sanborn County on July 3, 2008 with 30 years of service.

SANBORN COUNTY



A 'grain bin' cake, with inspection tag attached, was provided by Marcia Deneke, NRCS. The grain bin, after 30 years, busted out and candy corn was heaped around the bin. The COC felt that damage to the bin was from poor maintenance of the owner.

Lynda wrote: "It was a 'great' 30 years but am I glad it's over!"



Ramblings of a Retired Mind

I thought about making a fitness movie, for folks my age, and call it "*Pumping Rust*".

I thought a lot about old age and decided that old age is when you 'still have something on the ball, but are just too tired to bounce it.'

DISTRICT 6 EXPERIENCES

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Following a Management Meeting and delicious meal at the Krull Lodge south of Harrold, SD, DD Ron Russell led his eager Managers past the Missouri River West Bend Recreation Area to the one and only Mint Farm in the central U.S.



The group witnessed the harvest of the mint plants and followed it all the way through to the extraction of liquid mint. That very same liquid mint, is probably what produced the “minty fresh” feeling following your last stick of gum or the gargle with your favorite mouthwash.



Thanks Ron !

Campbell Co. Cuties



Presley Rae Volk was born on August 22nd weighing in at 7# 22 oz. This is the granddaughter of Deb Schuetzle. Deb and her husband Merle now have 4 grandchildren, 2 girls and 2 boys.



Addison Marie Durband was born August 12th weighing in at 6# 14 oz. She is the granddaughter of Gloria Huber. Gloria and her husband Bernie now have 5 grandchildren, all girls.



Hyde County Honey

Callie Charlotte Chavez (CCC) was born at 4:50 pm on September 30. She weighed 7 lbs 13 oz and was 19 1/4 in long. Proud parents are Jennifer (PT) and Steve Chavez.

Judging by the naming of her first child, Jennifer's dedication to FSA-Price Support clearly shines.

SDASCOE FAMILY ALBUM

SPINK
COUNTY

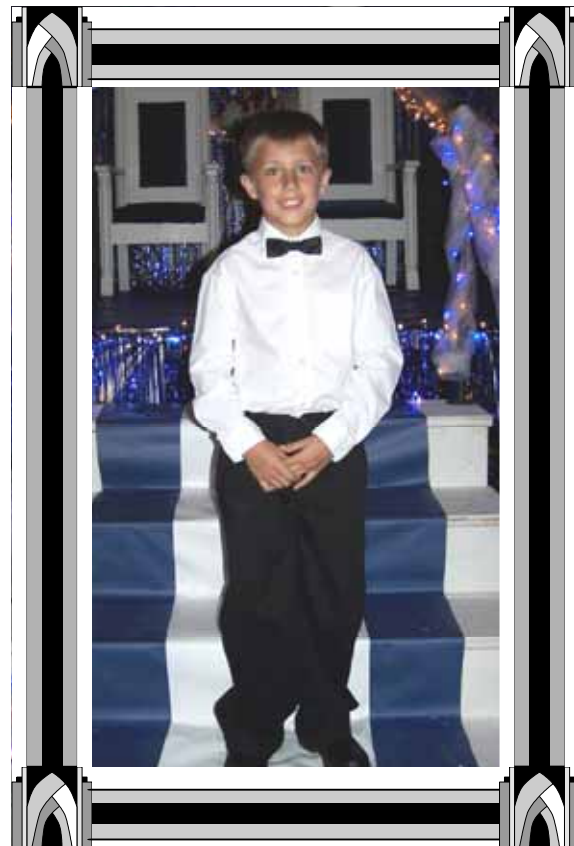


Brooke Dickhaut and Wayne Lepp were united in marriage on September 27. Brooke is the daughter of Barb Dickhaut, PT.

Brexton Roth, son of Michael and Terri Roth, was chosen to be the scroll bearer at the 2008 Homecoming Coronation at Redfield High School.

Brexton is 9 years old and in the 3rd grade. His job was to give the scroll containing the Homecoming Proclamation to the newly crowned King.

Terri is a PT in Spink.



LINCOLN COUNTY

Charlie & Peggy Groen's son, Chad married Kayla Kerns at Roughlock Falls in Spearfish Canyon on June 4, 2008. Chad then adopted Kayla's five year old daughter, Izabella.



Peggy and Charlie Groen are also the proud grandparents of Kyra Lyn Schmitt. Kyra was born June 23, 2008 to Kenny & Jennifer Schmitt. She's Peggy & Charlie's 5th grandchild. Peggy thinks grandkids are the Best Invention there is.



**HAND
&
HYDE
COUNTY**



Jennifer Entringer and Andrew Lennick were united in marriage at the Canyon Lake Church of God in Rapid City, SD on August 15. Pictured are the bride and groom, Andrew's parents, Bonnie & Larry Nickelson, and Agnes Hahn, maternal grandmother.



August 9th had Laurie Pfeifle (Hand County) along with her husband, Kurt and daughter Mackenzie travelling to Blacksburg, VA to attend their son, Ken's, wedding at the Virginia Tech Campus Chapel.



Ken and his wife Heather are both seniors at VT. Kurt's second son, Devin (also pictured) is a sophomore at East Tennessee State.



CAP WIZ

Have you signed up for CAP WIZ? It is easy to do - check out www.nascoe.org and on the front page there is a box to click on CAPWIZ - next fill in your name and click submit to fill in your personal information. You must use your home email! **DO NOT** sign up using your Government email. In order to protect you further, the NASCOE CAPWIZ Coordinator will delete your government email submission.

Recently there was an alert sent to all that are signed up with their home email for you to submit a letter to your congressional contacts about the Credit for the FERS Sick Leave. This was in support of passage of H.R. 1108 and S. 625. FERS section 407 in HR 1108 is attached to the Tobacco Regulation. The letter is already written for you (but you may edit it if you wish).

To date of this report 24 people in SD supported this alert and sent the letter through CAPWIZ to our congressional contacts.

I am asking that you allow me to help you when alerts are sent. Please forward your name, home email and home address to flyngz@gwtc.net in the format as follows:

Name	Home Address	Home e-mail
Becky Zirpel	PO Box 142, Burke, SD 57523	flyngz@gwtc.net

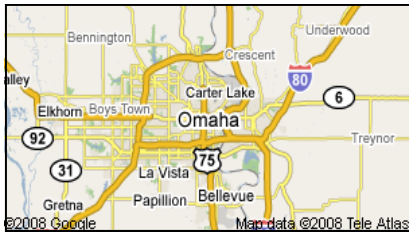
I will set up a CAPWIZ address listing to let you know when an alert comes out or any other pressing NASCOE business.

My promise to you - I will only use your email for CapWiz business and respect that you would do the same with my email. This list will not be given to others for any reason with out your permission.

In order for me to communicate immediate actions needed with important SDASCOE or NASCOE business it is necessary to have an up to date email system.

Please sign up for CapWiz and consider submitting your PI to me for future alerts or urgent information.

**Becky Zirpel ,
SD CAPWIZ Coordinator**



2008 DELEGATES REPORT

Ernie R. Bures

I arrived around 3:30pm in Omaha with SDASCOE President Jim Anderson as my co-pilot. Once we found the Hotel entrance and got the room reservations straightened out I barely had time to get to the

Delegates and Officers Meeting at 5:30pm. We were informed about our role as Delegates, our rules for voting, and a little warm up discussion on the agenda for the 2008 NASCOE Convention. Jeff Jenson, a Tax Accountant was on hand to explain requirements for each State organization to maintain their non-profit status. Each state now has to file a 990N form no matter how much money they handle. At 7:00pm we attended the Pasta Bar Buffet which was very good.

Thursday morning August 7, President Bonnie Heinzman called the 49th NASCOE Convention to order with the presentation of Colors and a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by Emily Spilker of Gage County NE. Roll Call and seating of delegates was held and South Dakota shined with a group response and having the second biggest representation, second only to Nebraska, the host state. Herb Sorley, National Emblems and Scholarship Chairman handed out the “First Time Convention Attendees” packets. The 40 and 45 year 100% Membership awards were handed out with South Dakota leading the pack in that area as well.

FSA Administrator, Teresa Lasseter spoke to the group. She reviewed what FSA has accomplished over the past three years along with going through the IPIA issues, Office Consolidations, and the bad publicity over the deceased producer payment scandal. She then spoke about the challenges facing the agency in the future with the new Farm Bill, the need to modernize and stabilize the computer system of FSA, and the limited budget for FY09 and implementation of the new Farm Programs. The Administrator thanked all of the employees for their service over the past three years.

Next on the agenda was Steven Connelly, Deputy Administrator of Field Operations. He discussed the Office consolidation and that there were 46 offices that are currently within the 20 mile distance category. Only 4 of those offices are scheduled to be closed at this time and it was at the request of the offices involved. There was discussion about the loss of our leasing authority and the problems arising from that. On the “Receipt for Service” FSA is waiting for OMB to clear a new form. FSA is operating under interim rules until all of the rules and regulations are finalized. The Farm Bill reopened the Pigford Lawsuit which will be a challenge. With inadequate funding for the new Farm Bill there is a supplemental appropriation bill of \$173 million for FSA. The problem is if it is not passed before September 30, we will be in a new fiscal year and will be operating under a continuing resolution for an indefinite period of time and would be subject to the 2007 baseline budget. There is a new COT Training Manual being prepared which should be out in the near future. Mr. Connelly cautioned employees about the use of FSA computers and questionable emails being sent in bad taste.

The general session was addressed by the President of NADD, the Treasurer of NACS, the President of NASE and the President of WIFE. All of these groups offered their support of NASCOE in future endeavors.

Next to speak was Tom Hoefeller, Associate Administrator of Operations and Management, which is available for assistance to Administrative Divisions to help overcome challenges of ever changing programs and software. He talked about Govtrip, LincPass, Web T&A, etc. He is also assisting in the preparation of the COT Training Manual

2008 National Convention Delegates Report, page 2.

The group was next addressed by James Mace of J&M Marketing discussing all of the latest programs available to NASCOE Members.

At 1:00pm on Thursday the Committee meetings were held. I attended the Programs Committee meeting. Bill Putnam, National Chairperson hosted the meeting. Also present were Craig Trim, Assistant Deputy of DAFP and Tom Hofeller, Associate Administrator of Operations and Management. There was discussion about program submissions for the past year. It was recommended that all submissions be sent through all area Chairpersons. Mr. Trim and Mr. Hofeller discussed the problems and issues with getting the new farm bill rules and regulations finalized. There may still be adjustments made along the way to help expedite the process to get through this year.

At 2:30pm I attended the NWA meeting which lasted until nearly 6:00pm. Vicki Larson, Heidi Ware, and Bob McGrath met to discuss the budget. The supplemental budget will be subject to Congress getting things done. If not passed in time the first half of the year could be very tight. There was discussion on the new ARS system for tracking our work with the T & A's which will happen sometime in FY2009. There was discussion on how to cut NASCOE expenses such as in the printing of only two newsletters as opposed to four, and limiting the number of Legislative fly-ins, and eliminating the need for a separate person as the Parliamentarian. There was discussion on PT reclassification and it looks like there is some sort of task force being formed to begin soon. Is reorganization a big deal now, or a back burner issue? There was discussion on PAC and the members are encouraged to donate. There was discussion on increasing CapWiz numbers. There are two bills, one House and one Senate to compensate employees for their earned sick leave either with cash or using towards their retirement. Administrator Teresa Lasseter stopped in and was asked about overtime and temporary employees. All of this would be left up to the States and would be driven on how much money FSA gets and if the supplemental budget gets passed in time. She commented that this was the most complex farm bill that has been passed in recent history.



Thursday evening brought the Scholarship auction and silent auction. There were many items on display for all to bid on. The participation seemed to be very good and a good amount of money was raised during the event. After the auction the membership was entertained by the music and dancing to the group "Average Joe".

On Friday morning, August 8, the general session was called to order by Vice President Myron Stroup. All of the current national officers, Bonnie Heizman, President, Myron Stroup, Vice President, Darlen Schouten, Secretary, and Shelly Odenkirk, Treasurer, announced that they would seek another term in their current position and asked for the support of the members. Bob Redding ([our NASCOE Consultant in DC](#)) of Redding and Associates addressed the group. He stated that we needed to continue to work to hold all of FSA's current programs and to acquire as many new programs as possible. NASCOE needs to be prepared to react to any sudden USDA reorganization plans. It was thought that Conservation issues were the most contentious in the reorganization process. If there are new congressional people elected this fall, there will be new contacts to make and keep the process moving forward.

2008 National Convention Delegates Report, page 3.

Dennis Taitano, FSA Chief Financial Officer spoke about the budget. We will get through FY08 in pretty good shape. The trends have been decreasing budget and increasing administrative costs. We have been able to maintain staffing levels for the past three years. The Presidents budget has a 6.4% increase over 2008. There is a supplemental budget amendment for an additional \$172 million to get the new farm bill implemented. With a new President being elected, the current President's budget may not mean much. He said to expect at least a six month continuing resolution for 2009 and maybe longer which would mean no more money than 2008 and a new farm bill to implement.

Heidi Ware, BPMS specialist talked about a better way to share budget data at all levels of FSA. She mentioned the Activity Reporting System that will work through the T&A's using around 25 activities. Expect full implementation by the summer of 2009

John Johnson, the Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs spoke about the farm bill implementation. He stated that nothing is final until the final rules and regulations are published. Expect National Farm Bill Training around September 15, 2009. He discussed the 2008 programs rules and the changes for the 2009-2012, period. The new AGI rules will be complex and there will be one set of rules for Conservation and one set for the rest of the programs. There will be some BIO Mass programs in conjunction with RD.

Tom Hofeller, Associate Administrator for Operations and Management discussed the MIDAS program and it uses. He discussed the importance of the FOIA with the rules becoming more restrictive. He hopes for additional FOIA Training and some new FOIA software coming in the future. He stressed the importance of the protection of PII when being sent from place to place. He cautioned about the use of improper emails.

There was a panel of all of the personnel on hand from Washington DC. There was discussion on the DD supervisory of CED instead of the COC Chairman. This surfaced because of the improper payment issues. PT reclassification will begin with field visits of multiple sites around the country. As far as leasing goes they expect a 15% increase in the cost of new leases. There is no plan to allow the COC Chairman access to IT equipment. CO and GS award allotments will remain separate for 2009. Eligibility flags for 2009 will not rollover as all new 502's will be required due to direct attribution. County Office employees will continue to be asked to come to Washington to help test and develop new software and the rules and regulations to get the farm bill implemented.

In the afternoon I once again attend the Programs Committee meeting. Sandy Bryant attended the meeting and talked about the stages of some software. She stated that the Quality Loss Payments software should be available by September 15. The two AGI flags and the 'actively engaged' flags will be set N for 2009. The 1026 flags will rollover. 2009 payments will be made on the system 36. We will be doing away with CCC-184's after the final 2008 DCP payments and the annual CRP payments. The FSA-578 will be on the web by 2010.

Around 2:30 the NWA meeting was held which I attended. The topics discussed were the final recommendations for cost savings to the NASCOE budget. Print fewer newsletters, only schedule legislative meetings in Washington if needed, and a possible dues increase for NASCOE due to the increase in the cost of doing business. There was discussion on creating a NWA Treasury for handling any area expenses.

2008 National Convention Delegates Report, page 4.

A motion was passed to assess each area member one dollar per year to establish and maintain the fund based on the membership of June 30, 2008. The area alternate exec would be the Treasurer. The spending decisions would be made by the Area Exec, Alternate Exec, and the Area Legislative Chairman. It will be up to the individual states to decide if the money come from current dues, a dues increase or other means. The 2009 Rally will be held jointly with the SWA and held in Reno, Nevada.

The evening events kicked off with a "Hee Haw" skit contest. Many states and areas did an excellent job in their presentation. It was very entertaining and fun for all. The South Dakota Delegation did not have a skit but many brave members dressed up for the occasion as I am sure you will see in the convention pictures.

On Saturday morning, August 9, 2008, the General Session was convened. The morning was started with a very nice Power Point in tribute to all of the FSA employees who have departed this life since last year. Next on the agenda was Gene Vognild, National President of RASCOE. He stated that RASCOE is here to support NASCOE in all of their efforts for their employees. South Dakota has the largest membership in RASCOE of the entire nation.

Dennis Kuhlengel, President of NAFEC addressed the group. He thanked NASCOE for its support in building membership and helping to improve COC's in merged counties.

Bonnie Heinzman gave the President's report. She thanked all of the officers and membership for their support the past year. She talked about NASCOE's accomplishments over the past year and the challenges we face in the future. NASCOE needs to be prepared for all of the changes coming in the new farm bill.

Secretary Darlene Schouten reported that next year's convention will be in Tennessee. The NASCOE annual report was available on CD or hard copy. The cost of the CD's were substantially cheaper to produce and to mail.

Treasurer Shelly Odenkirk reported that has been busy working on the NASCOE budget and audit. She hopes to improve on her budget process for next year.

The selection of the 2010 NASCOE Convention site was discussed. There was a motion from the floor to select Hot Springs, Arkansas as the site for the 2010 NASCOE Convention. There was a second to the motion and the motion carried.

Next on the agenda were the Committee Reports.

The Legislative Committee talked about a successful farm bill negotiation process. We must continue to work to build on CapWiz and the PAC. Maintain the task force for the potential USDA reorganization. A lot of progress has been made on the FERS sick leave issue. Continued work on getting Conservation Administration, duplication of services, animal ID, etc

The Publicity Committee decided to cut cost by mailing only two issues of the NASCOE Newsletter and two other issues will be available on the website.

Programs had 74 submissions the past year and hoped to include the Program's Chairman in all Legislative trips to Washington.

2008 National Convention Delegates Report, page 5.

The Membership **Committee** had a national goal of 85% and reached 84%. There were 34 counties receiving 100% memberships for 40-45 years. South Dakota lead the pack in these awards. We need to continue to build the NASCOE Data base. It was decided that a NASCOE dues increase **is** inevitable.

Benefits Reports gave a summation of the past year and thought that the NASCOE Travel Website was the biggest success of the year.

The Award, Emblems, and Scholarship Reports were given. We exceeded our goals for emblem sales. The NASCOE commission for the year was \$2344.64. The Scholarship Auction raised \$4340.00. There was a recommendation that all scholarship applications require the student's signature on the application.

The Southeast Area submitted a Resolution in support of the FSA County Committee system and county office employee classification. The resolution also mentioned that NASCOE was to be the only organization as the representation for county office employees.

All of the Area Execs gave a report to the general session. NWA Exec Cindy Peterson was re-elected to her position with Cindy Hall retaining her position as Alternate. The NWA has established an area treasury, and has proposed some changes to the scheduling for future National Conventions (I wasn't sure what this meant) The NWA and SWA will hold a joint rally next year in Reno, Nevada.

The afternoon session began with the SEA withdrawing there resolution presented earlier in the day.

There was a motion to raise NASCOE annual dues by \$15 effective July 1, 2009. There was a second to the motion. There was a motion to amend the motion to raise the NASCOE dues to \$15 effective July 1, 2011. The amendment failed. The original motion was voted on and passed.

The election of Officers was next on the agenda. All of the current NASCOE Officers, Bonnie Heinzman, President; Myron Stroup, Vice President; Darlene Schoulten, Secretary; and Shelly Odenkirk, Treasurer were nominated. With no other nominations received they were re-elected by acclamation of the general session.

After the election the general session adjourned with meetings for the Officers, Area Execs and Alternates, National Committee Chairs, current and incoming.

At this time I left for home and did not attend the evening banquet. I would like to thank the SDASCOE Board for giving me the opportunity to represent South Dakota at the National NASCOE Convention in Omaha, NE. It was a great experience and I found it very interesting visiting with other people from across the nation hearing the problems and issues they faced. I would also like to compliment the Nebraska State Delegation for putting on a very good convention.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Ernie R. Bures
2008 Convention Delegate

2008 NASCOE Convention Delegates Report

By Peggy Groen

Don't You Wonder Why?

There was a lot of information shared at the 2008 NASCOE Convention. Ernie did a very good job of covering the convention in his delegates report. The best way to be informed is to be there to hear it first hand. Since that isn't possible for everyone your delegates are your ears. Please thoroughly read his report to educate yourself about your job and your future. Let us know if you have any questions.

As I sat at the General Session of the Convention this year I got to thinking about my fellow NASCOE members in attendance. With higher travel costs, which affects all aspects of our personal spending, there were still over 350 members attending. Think about that. 350 of your fellow employees took their vacation time and their money to travel to the convention, even though it was more costly than usual. Don't You Wonder Why?

South Dakota's Gene Vognild is the only NASCOE member in the nation that has attended 49 out of 49 NASCOE Conventions! Don't You Wonder Why? If you know Gene you know he's not a dumb guy, he doesn't like wasting money and his family is very important to him. Think about all of the money spent, annual leave used and family events Gene has missed to attend 49 National Conventions. Talk to Gene or Leon Edlund, Doris Stucky, Bev Birkeland, Luella Longcor, Delores Cleveland, Marge Miller or any other NASCOE member about the early years of their employment with ASCS, before it was even called ASCS.

In 1959 ASCS employees had no health insurance, no life insurance, no retirement. Several employees from across the nation got together 49 years ago to work for benefits. They realized the power of numbers so they formed a national organization called NASCOE. The benefits we now enjoy as FSA employees are because of the individuals that have given of their time, money, brain power and enthusiasm over the past 49 years. Some of those individuals are sitting at the desk next to you right now. Ask them why they've done it.

When family and friends find out that these employee Conventions I've been attending for years aren't paid by their tax dollars, but out of my own pocket using my own vacation time they ask WHY? That's a reasonable question, but one that's easy to answer. I explain that since we aren't Federal Employees we aren't guaranteed our benefits. We, as an employee organization, must go to DC and ask our representatives (at times argue) for benefits. That's the way it's been for almost 50 years and I want to do my part. (When I first became active in the organization, NASCOE was working to get more benefits. Times have changed and lately we have had to work to just keep our jobs. But NASCOE is still working on benefits, the latest involve Sam's Club discounts and compensation for FERS sick leave at retirement.)

2008 NASCOE Convention Delegates Report- continued

I then tell them about the interesting people I've met, not only from county offices but our management in DC. Employees all over the country have many of the same issues we do in South Dakota. Even though the crops, programs and offices vary we are all looking for ways to not only keep our jobs and benefits but to serve our producers more efficiently. We don't have competition down the street, but our producers are our reasons for wanting to do our jobs better. They are the ones we see at the local ball games, in church and the relatives we share Thanksgiving dinner with. We have a unique job in that we know our customers by name, first name. We know their family members and we know their struggles. They know the same about us. Our jobs are personal and that's why we want to do the best we can for our producers.

Another part of my, now long answer, is because of the friendships that have evolved over the years. There's no distinction between CED and PT, in fact, I don't know the position of a lot of my NASCOE friends, it hasn't been important to draw that line. But I do know about their families, what they do for fun and their reasons for being involved in NASCOE.

If you ever have the opportunity to attend a NASCOE Rally or Convention I encourage you to do so. You'll gain some insights about how NASCOE works and what it is doing for you, you'll have some laughs and make some new friends. And once you've attended you won't have to Wonder Why!

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Groen, Delegate

REPRESENTING
YOU AS
VOTING DELEGATES
AT THE
NATIONAL CONVENTION

Peggy Groen,
Lincoln County

And

Ernie Bures
Bon Homme County



NATIONAL BUSINESS: WHO'S WHO... AT THE NASCOE CONVENTION



**Linda Treese,
John Johnson, DAFP**



**Myron Stroup ,NASCOE VP
Robert Redding, NASCOE**



**Bonnie Henizman
NASCOE President**



**Bonnie Heinzman
NASCOE Pres. Pam Potthoff
WIFE Pres.**



**Barbara
Boyd,
FSA**



**Vicki Larson, Heidi Ware, Chief Admin. Exp. Branch
Dennis Taitano, FSA Chief Financial Officer**

**Gene
Vognild,
Natiional
RASCOE
President**



Craig Trinn, FSA



Tom Hoefeller, Asssoc Admin for Op. & Mgmt. , FSA Administrator, Teresa Lasseter, Steve Sanders and John Chott, DAFO

NWA BUSINESS AT THE 2008 NASCOE CONVENTION



Cindy Peterson, NWA Executive

**Cindy Peterson, SD
NWA Exec.**

**Gloria Covert, ND
NWA Secretary**

**Cindy Hall, NB
Alternate NWA Exec**



N W AREA REPRESENTATION AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

FUN TIMES AT THE 2008 NASCOE CONVENTION





4 things you maybe never knew your cell phone could do.

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:



Bits 'n Pieces

1

The emergency number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile, network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked.

2

Have you locked your keys in the car? If your car has remote keyless entry and you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

3

Hidden battery Power. If your cell battery is very low, press the keys *3370#. Your cell will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell next time.

4

Free directory service for your cell phone. Cell phone companies typically charge \$1 – 1.75 or more for 411 information calls. When you need to use the 411 information option, dial: 800 FREE 411 or 800 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all.

SORRY

Our apologies to Peggy Groen. The last two lines of her creative writing contribution were inadvertently cut off in our last newsletter. Here's the entire last paragraph:

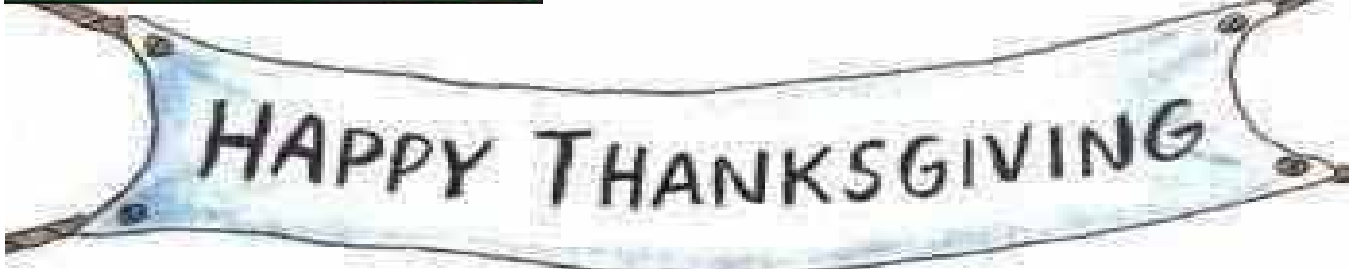


Final Note from the luggage:

I was glad to be home, I was glad Peggy enjoyed herself in Myrtle Beach (even without me and her stuff) and I was glad she fought so hard to get me home. I'm really, really glad that we're traveling to this year's NASCOE Convention by car!!!!



The Funnies....



SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF
FSA COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEES

BONNIE NICKELSON
33490 181ST STREET
HIGHMORE SD 57345

Non Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Carpenter SD 57322
Permit No. 1

A Note from your Editors:

Please send us your news items as soon as they happen — and keep those camera's clicking. Send your news stories, special events, or anything else of interest to both of us:

bonnie.nickelson@sd.usda.gov
dawn.sheehan@sd.usda.gov

Items can also be mailed to the return address above or to the Hand or Sully County FSA Offices. Thanks !

Bonnie and Dawn

Attention Retirees:

Drop us a line and let us know what you are up to now!
Feel free to include photos (old or new).