

SDASCOE NEWS

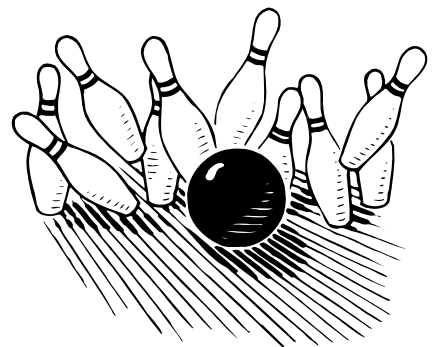
April 2008

Watertown :: South Dakota's Rising Star



SD STATE CONVENTION

May 2-3, 2008



REPRESENTING YOU THROUGH SDASCOE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

President: William Chase, Corson
Vice President: James Anderson, Brule Buffalo
Secretary/Treasurer: Dianna Shafer, McPherson

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Alternates:

#1	EJ Goetz, Walworth	Rodney Strand, Edmunds
#2	Stan Lamb, Codington	** Vacant **
#3	Rachael Kirkebak, Union	Peggy Groen, Lincoln
#4	Keith Zanter, Clay	Josh Pesek, Bon Homme
#5	Lonnie Sharping, Brule-Buffalo	Carmen Jessop, Lyman
#6	Kathy Zilverberg, 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, Kadoka

Benefits

Diane Dangel, Spink

Legislative

Larry Olsen, Minnehaha

Membership

Lori Jones, Mellette-Todd

Programs, Emblems

Ernie Bures, Bon Homme

Ways & Means

Cathy Olstad, Fall River-Custer

Publicity

Bonnie Nickelson, Hand

Dawn Sheehan, Sully

NORTHWEST AREA

NWA Executive

Cindy Peterson, Minnehaha

Benefits Chair

Becky Zirpel, Gregory County

NASCOE

Benefits Chair

Becky Zirpel, Gregory

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Please send your comments, suggestions, news articles and photos to:

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

Items for scanning can be mailed to Bonnie at the address on the back cover.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Hello South Dakota:

This will be my last report as President of SDASCOE so I wanted to tell you what a privilege it has been to be part of this wonderful organization! Serving SDASCOE isn't always easy but it has been immensely rewarding for me spiritually. SDASCOE has such a long strong history of great accomplishments and this is because of the hard work put forth by so many members over the past 49 years. Will you be the next to assist SDASCOE?



We just came back from our Spring Board meeting. Some may think that these functions are just another party but I assure you this is not the case. Our meeting started at 5:00 PM with a general discussion on concerns from the Counties. Mr. Cutler, Mr. Kostel, and the State Committee later joined us and stayed for 3 hours discussing these topics. This was a great opportunity to share with management the ideas and concerns that you, the membership, have brought up. Afterwards our Board discussed business until 11:00 PM. Business then continued for another 4 hours the next morning before we adjourned. I am so proud of your SDASCOE Board. Sure we have some fun, but you can see working for SDASCOE is not a party.

As the outgoing President I related to the Board that I wanted to present each of my Committee Chairs with a plaque to show my deep gratitude for their hard work these past two years. This is when Lori Jones (Membership Chair) told the group that a plaque or award was not needed. She was glad to serve and was doing all of this just to help our membership. Wow, that says it all. Plus the rest of these volunteer Chairpersons felt the same way. These good folks serving as Officers, Directors, Alternates, and Committee Chairs aren't working hard and volunteering their time for their own sake. They are working to serve YOU, just as all of the others before them. SDASCOE is YOUR employee association working hard to provide YOU with benefits, information, and support.

My question is: Are YOU ready to help? Your annual membership is very important as there is strength in numbers and therefore I thank you. However we would love to see everyone take a turn at serving on the Board. Come to the State Convention. Volunteer to help work at a booth, participate at the Committee meetings, run for office, and get involved. I promise you will learn a lot, feel good inside, and have great fun along the way. SDASCOE is like our large extended family. Come to our family reunion in Watertown for good times and good information.

Respectfully,
Bill Chase

COMMENTS FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT



As I write this article, I reflect on the past couple of years. I have to say there were times when I wondered what was I thinking when I agreed to become an officer of SDASCOE. I have to say it has been a great experience and privilege for me to be able to work with such a dedicated and talented group of individuals as we have as directors, officers and committee chairpersons. A big thank you to each of you for all you do for the members of SDASCOE.

I do not know if this is the right place but I am going to do it any way. I have to say it has been an honor to be the Vice-President of SDASCOE under the Presidency of William Chase. We have become good friends and I admire his insight, his integrity and his

sincerity. What a privilege it was for me to be on the board with this man. If you did not get to meet this man during the past couple of years, you missed out on meeting one of the best. Thanks, Bill, for all you have done for the members of SDASCOE.

What's up in SDASCOE? One topic is the election of directors from the even numbered districts. So, what does this mean to you? This is the time you can get involved in SDASCOE by running for the director of your district. Each district does have a director but these directors may want off the board. Some of them have served in this capacity for a long time and feel it may be time for someone else. If you are interested, you can either talk to your director or contact me. The directors are the governing body of SDASCOE. You need to contact the director in your district if you have a concern and the director is the person who brings the concern to the attention of the SDASCOE board.

Now, continuing on with election talk. Yes, I am going to be a candidate for the position of president of SDASCOE. I was going to put a cute announcement in this newsletter, but I have decided to just announce my candidacy this way. I could bore all of you with what I have been involved in but most of you know me and what I have done. As many of you know, I speak my mind and I follow through with what I say I am going to do. I promise to listen to you and to fight for each and every member. The only thing I will ask of you is, for you, to think before you say no to someone asking you to serve in some capacity. We know SDASCOE is full of talented members and we will be asking some of you to put those talents to work for us. I am asking for your support and your vote.

The 2008 SDASCOE convention is going to be held on May 2nd and 3rd in Watertown at the Ramkota Convention Center. I hope everyone is making plans to attend. This will be a fun filled and informative weekend. Look at the agenda located in this newsletter for the details and the time of the events. Thanks to Stan Lamb and the Codington County staff for hosting and their hard work.

Jim Anderson
SDASCOE, VP



2008 SDASCOE STATE CONVENTION

Watertown, SD

May 2-3, 2008

**Secure your reservation at the
Ramkota Hotel by calling:**

1-605-886-8011.

**Ask for the SDASCOE block of rooms,
\$73 plus tax.**

EVENT	When	Advance Registration Fee	# persons	Total
Dakota Sioux Casino discount package and transportation available	Thurs. night	Contact Stan Lamb, if interested		
Bowling	Friday 9:00 a.m.	Pay at the Bowling Alley		
Golf	Friday 9:00 a.m.	Pay at the Golf Course		
Friday night: Social, banquet, dance	Friday & Saturday Package	\$35		
Saturday Meetings, Noon luncheon		(\$40 at the door)		
Friday night: Social, banquet, dance	Friday only	\$25		
Saturday Meetings, Noon Luncheon	Saturday Only	\$15		
Payment must be included with registration form Please make checks payable to SDASCOE			Grand Total	

COMPLETE AND

RETURN THIS

FORM

by APRIL 18

TO:

SDASCOE Convention

Hamlin County FSA

PO Box 38

Hayti SD 57241

Please mark on the registration form if you plan on golfing or bowling.

NAME COUNTY AMOUNT ENCLOSED



TAKE A MINUTE TO READ THE MINUTES

**SDASCOE Spring Board Meeting Minutes 2008
April 2-3, 2008 Huron Best Western**

The SDASCOE Board of Directors met in Huron, SD on April 2-3rd, 2008. SDASCOE Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs met with the State Committee, Mr. Cutler and Mr. Kostel at the Tailgate from 6-9pm for a question and answer session. (Editor's note: SDASCOE Directors will provide their district membership with information regarding this session.) The Board meeting was then moved to the Best Western meeting room.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15pm and all present were welcomed by President Bill Chase. Bill then stated as a reminder for all present that officers and directors may propose motions and committee chairs and guests may voice opinions but are not permitted to vote.

PRESENT: Officers in attendance were Bill Chase, President; Jim Anderson, Vice President; and Dianna Shafer, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors attending were EJ Goetz, District 1; Stan Lamb, District 2; Racheal Kirkebak, District 3; Keith Zanter, District 4; Lonnie Sharping, District 5; Kathy Zilverberg, District 6; Jodie Schrempp, District 7 and Kay Massingale, District 8. Committee Chairs attending were Colleen Peterson, Diane Dangel, Larry Olsen, Lori Jones, Ernie Bures, Bonnie Nickelson and Dawn Sheehan. Special Guests present were Al Dangel, Cindy Peterson, Becky Zirpel and Peggy Groen.

Representing RASCOE was SD President Al Dangel who gave an update on the curriculum and the actions being taken. He stated their Bill HR-1110 to offer retiree's the same benefits as current employees; to pay health insurance on a pretax basis has passed a couple committees with full support, so it looks hopeful. The Bill to eliminate the GPO & WEP has had some hearings held in the Senate but no action taken. He also wanted to encourage all members for support and anyone interested in becoming an associate member that the membership dues had increased to \$25.00 annually.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The minutes for the Fall Board meeting held September 28-29th, 2007 were accepted as presented. The financial report was given. Please review publication in the newsletter. EJ Goetz made a motion to approve both the minutes and treasurers reports. Kay Massingale seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Copies of the respective reports submitted by Colleen Peterson, Awards and Scholarship; Ernie Bures, Programs and Emblems; Larry Olsen, Legislative; Lori Jones, Membership; Bonnie Nickelson, Publicity; Diane Dangel, Benefits and Cathy Olstad, Ways and Means; will be published in the newsletter.

SPRING BOARD MEETING MINUTES, continued.

Colleen Peterson gave the Awards report. Diane Dangel gave the Benefits Report. She encouraged members to review the NASCOE website and sign-up for the newsletter prompts to keep updated and informed. The theme for Convention is Benefits and what's in it for you. Larry Olsen gave the Legislative report. Please be sure to read the report published in the newsletter. Ernie Bures gave the Programs and Emblems reports. Bonnie Nickelson gave the Publicity report. She has been reviewing the newsletter mailing list for expired membership deletions and would like to receive more personal stories from members to be published. In the absence of Cathy Olstad, Bill gave the Ways and Means report. Lori Jones gave the Membership report.

E J Goetz made a motion to approve the Committee reports as submitted. Kay Massingale seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Peggy Groen then gave an update on CapWiz reporting on the notifications that had gone out recently and the effect that CapWiz has and can have on the representative contacts. Keith Zanter made a motion to approve a \$60.00 budget with bills to be submitted for postage reimbursement. Stan Lamb seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Bill commented on the use of conference calls through Qwest and the savings cost using the calls versus special meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15pm until 8:00am April 3.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim is presently working on the even number district election and ballots will be mailed out next week with instructions. The decision was made to invite newly elected directors to the board of directors meeting held during convention.

Cindy Peterson, NWA Executive thanked all those present for the invitation. She presented the group with the do's and don'ts when using a government computer and cautioned the use. There is a wide variety of strictness and some states have been shut down, others allowed no SDASCOE business on government computers. You should limit personal use to breaks or lunch hours. She stated NASCOE is setting up a data base of home addresses and encourages everyone to visit the national website. The website home page carries up to date information and members can subscribe to receive information at home and at work. The NWA Rally registration form has been posted on the website. She also encourages all members to sign-up for CapWiz which must be done through home computers only. NASCOE has designated a task force for the purpose of collecting information in preparation for future re-organization of government offices. Accumulating what membership wants to see in the re-organization will help NASCOE and membership is encouraged to voice your opinion and remember the task force purpose is to collect information only. For further information on the re-organization please check the NASCOE website.

SPRING BOARD MEETING MINUTES, continued

Cindy stated we have some very honorable speakers attending the NWA Rally and encourages everyone to attend. Some of the speakers proposing to attend are Teresa Lasseter, Bonnie Heinzman, SED's Steve Cutler, SD; Don Dixon, ID and Chad Padget, AK. Speakers that have not confirmed are SED Gary Nelson, ND and Congressman Collin Peterson, MN who may consider a conference call during the meeting. Cindy stated the information being received is that the position of the Farm Bill completion is farther apart in agreement mainly due to Payment Limitation issues right now. Speculation is the Farm Bill will be extended for another year. If you have any questions there is an ASK ME button on the website that sends questions directly to Cindy.

Becky Zirpel, National Benefits Chairman thanked all present for the invitation. Currently Becky is working on the membership data base which will be a big benefit. She has been working with the major fitness centers and contacting Dell Computer Company for discounts. You need to check the benefits website through the NASCOE home page for further information on retirement, ag learn, retirement calculators, FERS sick leave legislation action, cell phone discounts, theme park package benefits, requests being worked on to change the insurance age rate from 22 to 25 and the new travel website. The travel website pulls from all travel websites such as Cheap Tickets, Kayak, Etc. and all royalties could help decrease dues. Please read the newsletter article submitted for clarification and check the website. If you have any question there is an ASK ME button on the website that sends questions directly to Becky.

The 2009 National Convention will be held in Tennessee and in support we have received raffle tickets in the amount of \$10 for a TV to sell for the host county.

STATE CONVENTION PLANS DISCUSSED

Stan Lamb gave an update on the 2008 State Convention plans to be held May 2-3rd, 2008 at the Ramkota Inn Event Center in Watertown. Arrangements have been made for those arriving Thursday evening and wish to spend the evening at the casino. Joel Foster will be heading up activities for bowling and golfing Friday morning. The discussion was to have Committee meetings planned for 1:00pm on Friday afternoon, plus a presentation given by Wendy Olson on benefits to county office employees. The suggestion was made to have the legislative meeting prior to Wendy Olson's benefits presentation, then followed by committee meetings. RASCOE will be meeting at 1:00pm in the Prairie Room. The Board of Directors meeting planned for 4:00pm will be held in the Prairie Room. The hospitality room #104 will be located by the pool. The banquet Friday evening will be followed by a dance with a local band, Fly by Night. The registration fees will cover expenses of the meals. Registration forms are on the website and a block of rooms have been reserved under SDASCOE. Registration will begin at 9:00am on Friday and 8:00am on Saturday. Door prizes are to be furnished by district 2 and 3, two (2) items per county office. A discussion was held regarding directors assigning all members in their district to committees for convention.

NWA RALLY DISCUSSION

Stan Lamb gave an update on plans for the NWA Rally to be held in Watertown, SD at the Ramkota Inn Event Center on June 20-21st, 2008. Arrangements are being made for a casino night on Thursday for those arriving early in a discount package with a seafood buffet, deli, lounge, gaming machines and tables. Please indicate your interest on the registration form. Friday tentative plans for the tour are to leave the hotel around 9:30am traveling to the Terry Redlin Art Center, lunch included in a Commemorative Redlin tin, then moving on to the Glacial Lakes Energy Ethanol Plant and the Mellette House returning around 3-4:00pm. As an added bonus the Norman Rockwell Exhibit will be on display. Not listed as part of the tour but available is the Bodies Human Exhibit. Following the lunch at the Redlin Center at 1:00pm will be golfing at the Watertown Municipal Golf Course. The hospitality room will be 153. There are no specific tours for children but activities which may be enjoyed are the Aquatic Center and Zoo. Friday evening will be the banquet, band and dance. Saturday morning will be a continental breakfast included in the registration. Saturday noon luncheon not included. Directors need to contact county offices for Rally door prizes one per county office.

Delegate Laurie Pfeifle and alternate Kathy Zilverberg will be unable to attend the National Convention and NWA Rally and fulfill their obligations so alternate Ernie Bures will attend the National Convention and NWA Rally and delegate Cathy Olstad will attend the National Convention. Keith Zanter made a motion to select Jodie Schrempp as an alternate to attend the NWA Rally. Lonnie Sharping seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Delegate representatives are responsible for purchasing two gift items to donate to the auction for a \$75 or less budget.

SDACOE pins for members and trading were ordered by Mary Johnson in the amount of \$535.00. A discussion was held as to the purpose and continuance of ordering the pins. Lonnie Sharping made a motion to pay the C Saunders bill for the pins and have Mary Johnson publish an article in the newsletter regarding the history and purpose of the pin order for membership. Kathy Zilverberg seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried. A discussion was held to have the continuation of the pin order to be brought before the Emblems Committee for a proposal to the general assembly.

A discussion was held regarding the caucus room at the 2008 National Convention in Omaha, NE. August 6-9th, 2008. The cost of the room is estimated at \$700 + tax. The NWA donates to the expense of the caucus room. Stan Lamb made a motion to cover the cost of the room for caucus purposes. Racheal Kirkebak seconded the motion. A discussion was held as to the purpose and expense of the caucus room.

SPRING BOARD MEETING MINUTES, continued

There was a \$2500.00 cash amount raised through raffles in years past that was absorbed into SDASCOE finances when funds were short and the interest received. The decision was made to recommend the Ways & Means Committee review the history and recommend to the general public through the committee to re-establish the original \$2500.00 and conditions for further raffles. One opposed vote on motion, all others in favor; motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the 2009 State Convention to be held in Wall, SD on May 1-2nd, 2009. The details of hotel rooms, meetings rooms and dates are in progress according to Colleen Peterson.

Plans are being discussed for the 2010 State Convention to tentatively be held at the Royal River Casino at Flandreau, SD.

The FSA Fish-n-Fun weekend has been scheduled for June 27-28th, 2008 in Pierre.

A discussion was held on appreciation plaques to be presented to committee chairs when appointed by the president whose term has been expired. The decision was made to have the committee review and recommend a decision to the general assembly.

A discussion was held to consider the need for a SDASCOE credit card. A motion was made by Keith Zanter to research and establish a credit card to be maintained by the President and Secretary-Treasurer. Kay Massinagale seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

There being no further business Bill thanked the special guests for attending and their input and a thank you to all attending. Rachel Kirkebak made a motion to adjourn. Kathy Zilverberg seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianna Shafer, Secretary-Treasurer





TREASURER'S Report

Income / Expenses

Checking Balance Carried Forward 09/29/07

\$7,392.93

Receipts:

Dues-Regular	\$9,058.61	
Dues-Associate	\$150.00	
Interest Income-Checking	\$12.28	
2008 State Convention	\$0.00	
NASCOE-Delegates	\$0.00	
NASCOE-Legislative	\$0.00	
Board Meeting	\$0.00	
Donations	\$0.00	
Ways & Means	\$100.00	
Emblems	\$0.00	
Postage	\$0.00	
Travel	\$0.00	
Total Receipts		\$9,320.89

Expenses:

Dues-Regular	\$9,080.00	
Dues-Associate	\$1,780.00	
2008 State Convention	\$598.60	
Qwest-Conference Call	\$224.45	
NASCOE-Delegates	\$0.00	
NWA Rally-Delegates	\$0.00	
Memorials-Flowers	\$0.00	
Board Meetings	\$788.40	
Secretary of State	\$0.00	
Awards-Scholarship	\$0.00	
Donations-Hospitality Reimb	\$0.00	
Emblems	\$0.00	
Legislative	\$0.00	
Membership	\$0.00	
Postage	\$516.00	
Publicity	\$0.00	
Service Fees-Bank	\$12.40	
Supplies	\$0.00	
Travel/Mileage	\$1,255.18	
Ways & Means	\$0.00	
Total Expenses		\$14,255.03

NET AMOUNT

\$2,458.79



TREASURER'S Report

Summaries

Checking Account Summary:

Location	Balance	APR	Interest
CorTrust Bank-Leola	\$2,458.79	0.49%	\$12.28
*Interest earned applied to Checking Account Balance			

Certificate Of Deposit Summary:

Location	Total Value	Rate	Maturity	Initial Value	Interest Accrued
First National Bank-Yankton	\$1,843.48	3.40%	1/17/2009	\$1,770.21	\$73.27
Bank West-Kennebec	\$12,688.34	2.65%	3/17/2009	\$12,675.49	\$12.85
	\$13,064.93	4.75%	1/20/2011	\$11,906.45	\$1,158.48
	\$10,973.00	4.75%	1/20/2011	\$10,000.00	\$973.00
	\$10,973.00	4.75%	1/20/2011	\$10,000.00	\$973.00

CorTrust Bank-Leola

TOTAL CHECKING/CERTIFICATES \$52,001.54

*Early Withdrawal Penalty

First National Bank	12 Mo. Interest
Bank West	No Penalty
CorTrust Bank	30 Days Interest

**Interest Accrued applied to Certificate

I certify as Secretary-Treasurer of the SDASCOE association a non-profit form has been filed for the year 2007.

Dianna Shafer, SDASCOE Secretary-Treasurer 04/02/2008

For the past seven years I have had the opportunity to serve membership as your secretary-treasurer and during that expanse of time to really get involved with SDASCOE. I never hesitated to pay my annual dues in my 23 years of employment, but until I actually got involved with the association did I realize the rewards and benefits those annual dues represent. I have great admiration for membership and especially those past and present who have served as Officer, Director, Delegate and Committee chairs for all of the hard work they so selflessly have put forth for the benefits we all enjoy and to make SDASCOE the great organization it is today. I am asking for your continued support in announcing my candidacy for the SDASCOE secretary-treasurer position for the upcoming election. I will continue to support our organization to the best of my ability if elected.

Thank you, Dianna Shafer

COMMITTEE REPORT

It's hard to believe that another award year has come and gone. The work is behind us as far as members submitting nominations, the judging is complete and it will soon be time to announce the winners.

Distinguished Service Award nominations were received in the following categories: FSA/Agriculture and SDASCOE/NASCOE

The area winners have been forwarded to the Northwest Area chairperson for judging.

I received nine scholarship applications, which have also been forwarded to the NorthWest area chairperson for judging.

I will be sending an e-mail asking for sick leave hours from SDASCOE members so that we can make that presentation at the State Convention.

I would like to remind all members to visit the NASCOE Website for a full booklet of information and instructions on making and presenting nominations for various awards.

Have you ever wondered how you could recognize another SDASCOE member? There are a couple of awards that have no deadline and can be submitted anytime during the year. This might be a good time to gather information and submit a member for an award before we get hit with a new farm bill.

- The **Professional Improvement Award** is an award that recognizes an individual who has taken advantage of educational opportunities available to them. Any member may submit an application or nomination for another member any time during the year to the state awards chairperson. The nomination must be for an employee with a permanent appointment.

The **Extra Mile Award** recognizes NASCOE members and their children that go the Extra Mile in their community, church, job, or in their school. These nominations can be submitted throughout the year to the respective State Awards Chair, then to the Area Awards Chair, then to the National Chair who will issue the certificates. For this award there are NO DEADLINES and they are not judged.

I would like to invite any member who is interested to attend the Awards Committee meeting at the State Convention and share any new ideas you may have or make suggestions to the awards program.

Again thank you to Bill for asking me to chair this committee and having enough confidence in me to do it.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Peterson
SDASCOE Awards Chairperson

COMMITTEE REPORT

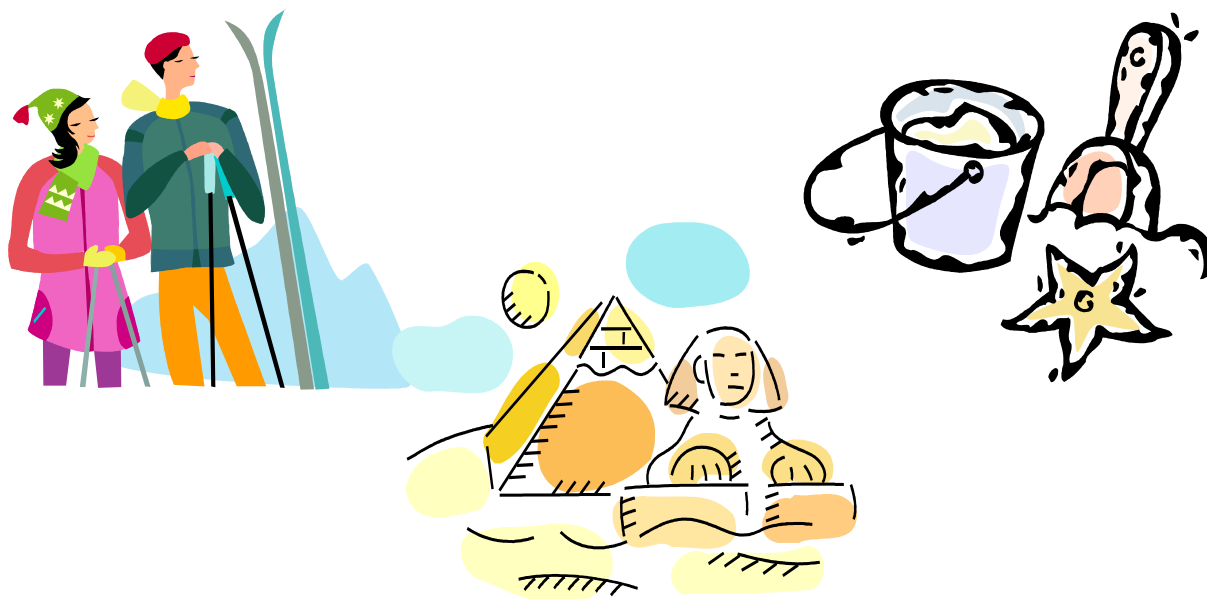
By Diane Dangel, SDASCOE Benefits Chairperson

Every FSA office recently received the spring NASCOE newsletter. Pages 22 and 23 are devoted to your benefits as a NASCOE member. Take time to review these pages. The article by Jim Mace for JM Marketing is very informative. Can't find the issue in your office? You can always find all of the benefits on the NASCOE website. Becky Zirpel, NASCOE Benefits Chairperson, keeps her section current and informative.

The easiest and quickest way to stay informed and to be notified of any changes is to subscribe to the NASCOE website. Simply log on to www.nascoe.org and follow the "Sign Up Now" prompts.



The fun part of benefits is the NASCOE Travel Website and the Travel Advantage Newsletter. Both links are also on the main page of the NASCOE website. Even if you aren't planning a big vacation, it is always fun to look!



**B
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COMMITTEE REPORT

**By Larry Olsen, Chairman
March, 2008**

Spring is here (somewhat). Normally in March I have a report from the NASCOE Legislative Conference in WDC. This year (2008) NASCOE did not have a Legislative Conference. There was a large one held last year and a follow-up mini-conference in September of 07 because of the pending farm bill legislation. Instead I will report on what I know about so far in the Legislative process known as the "New Farm Bill".

The progress toward a new farm bill can be summed up in two word phrases. "Not Yet", "Unbelievably Slow", "Next Year". The last one is looking the most likely (unfortunately).

Shortly after the Congress reconvened from the Christmas break, the Senate passed their version of the farm bill. Then both the house and Senate Bills went to conference. Well at least the senate named conferees. The House has yet to name conferees, because Speaker Pelosi wants a tentative agreement between the House, Senate, and the Administration before naming the House Conferees.

Senators on the Conference Committee:

Chairman Tom Harkin (IA)
Max Baucus (MT)
Kent Conrad **(ND)**
Pat Leahy (VT)
Blanche Lincoln (AR)
Debbie Stabenow **(MI)**

Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (GA)
Richard Lugar **(IN)**
Charles Grassley **(IA)**
Thad Cochran **(MS)**
Pat Roberts **(KS)**

Probable House Conferees:

Chairman Collin Peterson (MN)
Tim Holden (PA)
Joe Baca **(CA)**
Bob Etheridge **(NC)**
Dennis Cardoza **(CA)**
Leonard Boswell **(IA)**
Mike McIntyre **(NC)**

Ranking Member Bob Goodlatte (VA)
Frank Lucas **(OK)**
Jerry Moran (KS)
Steve King (IA)
Randy Neugebauer **(TX)**
Robin Hayes (NC)
Marilyn Musgrave **(CO)**

The Chairman of the House Ag Committee Rep. Colin Peterson and Ranking Member Rep. Robert Goodlatte, along with Senate Ag Committee Chair Senator Tom Harkin and Ranking Member Senator Saxby Chambliss have been working together with the Ag Dept. (Chuck Connors) to come up with a compromise plan.

(continued on following page)

LEGISLATIVE REPORT- continued.

Some items were agreed to in principle. The bill would be allowed 10 billion over budget baseline spending as long as reductions in spending could be found to offset the amount. That is the Billion dollars question. Where will the reductions come from? Add to that committee squabbling over control of the "new source" funding. Bottom line is no agreement reached as of yet.

Rep. Colin Peterson has stated that if an agreement is not reached in the first week when congress reconvenes in April, it is very likely that a 1 year extension of the current farm bill will be necessary.

In my opinion, that is what will happen. A one year extension of the DCP. What happens then?

Congressman Jerry Moran of Virginia has submitted HR 5573, which would partially compensate FERS employees for unused sick leave. NASCOE put out a cap wiz alert on this earlier. Hopefully everyone responded to this. While the bill may not be what everyone would like, it is a start.

At the national level, the main focus of the NASCOE Legislative Committee is Conservation Administration. There is wide support, but according to Legislative Committee it has been very difficult to get a particular congressional member to take this on as a priority. The House Ag Committee Chair Colin Peterson is one of the biggest supporters of this.

USDA reorganization. The words that make us all stop, look, and listen. House Ag Committee Chair Colin Peterson made comments regarding this issue during the development of the House version of the Farm Bill. A discussion process of reorganization has begun. NASCOE has formed a task force and wants to be at the front of this instead of trying to react to a possible reorganization plan later. So far there is no reorganization plan.

In my opinion, and yes this is just my opinion (and you know what they say about opinions). I do not see how differences (lack of a better term) will be resolved in the short run to get an agreement on the farm bill. A one year extension of the current farm bill will be passed. What does this mean for the new farm bill? Further reductions? Congressional Ag Committee Members are concerned that a delay in passage of the new farm bill would open the funding to further budget cuts. The \$286 Billion dollar farm bill is a tempting target. Especially these days.

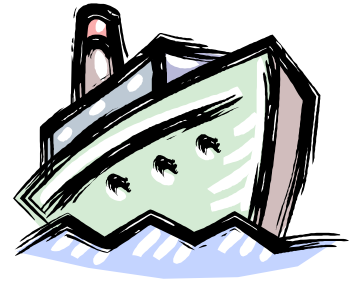
Goodbye to an old friend. Ryan Stoschein from Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth/Sandlin has taken a job with the Air Transport Association. I wish him the very best. Ryan was Rep. Herseth/Sandlin's Counsel and Legislative aide. Ryan did a tremendous job for us and he will be missed. His replacement is the very capable Ashley Martin (Agricultural issues). I look forward to working with her in the future.

To all SDASCOE members, have a great Spring of 2008 and see you at the convention in Watertown!

-The opinions expressed are those of the author.

M E M B E R S H I P

ALL ABOARD!

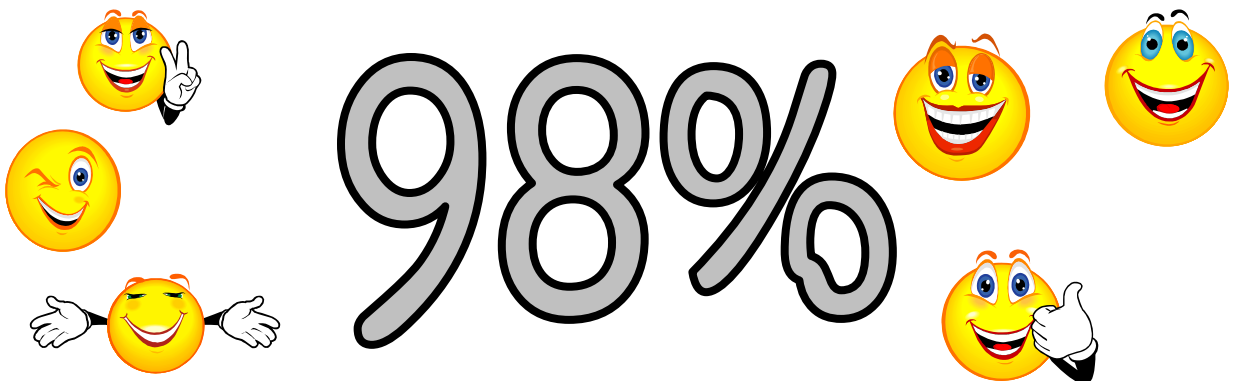


The "Captain" is still looking for a few more passengers for the 2007 – 2008 dues year! It is really quite a GREAT trip with lots of benefits! Some of the outstanding benefits offered on this "*Cruise Line*" are the DONATED LEAVE PROGRAM – AL – SL – FSL – WGI's – COLA's -- Etc. In addition, there are a number of other wonderful benefits available to you just for being on board. For more info on some of the additional money saving benefits contact our SDASCOE Benefits Chairperson --- Diane Dangel.

If you are interested in becoming a Regular Member (current county office employees) of SDASCOE / NASCOE you can simply contact me --- Lori Jones --- and I will help you get everything taken care of.

If you are interested in becoming an Associate Member (retired employees and others) --- you can simply send your \$25.00 dues to me at Lori Jones - 38945 255TH ST - PLANKINTON SD 57368 à à made payable to SDASCOE. I will then get you hooked up with the SDASCOE and NASCOE Newsletters to keep you up to date on what is going on in the agency. Quite the deal for the money!

CURRENT SD MEMBERSHIP



COMMITTEE REPORT

****Ernie R. Bures****

-Chair-

Greetings to all of my fellow SDASCOE friends across the state. I don't know about the rest of you, but after this winter, I don't lay awake as many nights worrying about global warming. Maybe it is just my age but it seemed like this was a tough winter and it started way too early. Hopefully "Mother Nature" will be kind and make it up to us with a very nice spring and summer.

I would like to remind everyone about program efficiency forms that you as employees can use if you come up with an idea on how to improve on some of the tasks that we deal with day in and day out. Our jobs continue to demand more of our time and it seems like we have to constantly figure out how to get more done with less time and resources. This is the employee's opportunity to have some input on the way we do business. There have been many success stories in the past so keep the good ideas coming. There is a new electronic Program Efficiency Form available at the www.nascoe.org website. This can be found by clicking on the Programs link. You are asked to follow the normal channels to send any recommendations through your State Chairperson.

Under the Emblems Committee, all employees, past and present can now access the website www.nascoeemblemsonline.com to see that they have over 90 new items available. There is constantly new things being offered and there are certain times of the year when the store runs some special sales, so it is there for you to use. The NASCOE Store also has available gift certificates in the increments of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 for your convenience. Learn more about how this works on the NASCOE website. A percentage of all sales from the NASCOE Store will go towards the NASCOE Scholarship Fund. The Emblems Committee will have a variety of items on hand in Watertown at the SDASCOE State Convention for you to view or buy. I hope to see you all there.



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COMMITTEE REPORT

WAYS

&

MEANS

Cathy Olstad
--Chair--
April 2nd & 3rd, 2008



Print Raffle: Tickets are being sold for \$1.00 each and 6 for \$5.00. Artists for this year's drawings again are Terry Redlin and Jon Crane. The Terry Redlin print is titled 'Welcome to Paradise' and the Jon Crane print is titled 'Snowy Monday'.

Both prints, as always, are framed and matted to fit into anyone's décor.

Room Raffle: Room raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, with the winner receiving a free room for the night of May 2nd at the convention in Watertown or \$50 in cash, if unable to attend.

Thanks again for your support of these SDASCOE fund raising projects. They are only as good as you make them!



Terry Redlin's-
"Welcome to Paradise"

Jon Crane's-
"Snowy Monday"



RASCOE Notes

Submitted by the SD RASCOE President, Al Dangel:

Greetings to everyone that survived another winter. We are a hardy bunch. As I get older it seems the winters get colder. My wife and I were able to get away to Florida in January. The Dangel's of Redfield joined us for some sun and golf. While we were down there we had a chance to get together with the Vognild's and Leon Edland for a day of golf and fun. It is always a treat to watch the patented "Vognild foot wedge" in action. Best club he ever owned. As you have probably heard many times before, it is nice to enjoy the fruits of your labor, the retirement benefits, good health insurance, just to mention a few.

Easter has come and gone. The frost wasn't out yet so I didn't get my potatoes planted on Good Friday. Along with thoughts of spring come thoughts of the SDASCOE convention. A time to renew friendships and share thoughts with our comrades. Information on the convention in Watertown is contained elsewhere in this issue. I hope everyone; both current employees and retirees will plan to attend.

Spring is usually a time for legislative endeavors. RASCOE has retained the services of David Senter to assist us in our efforts to push some of the legislative issues that we would like to see passed. I think it was a good move. It allows our national officers to remain on top of legislation as it finds its way through the maze we call congress. Mr. Senter does a very good job keeping them informed.

This is a reminder to all RASCOE members both regular and associate; the 2008-2009 dues are now \$25. I know many of you renew your membership at the SDASCOE convention. We haven't had a dues increase since we started this organization. It is still a pretty good bargain at \$25.

Hope to see all of you at Watertown on May 2nd and 3rd. And don't forget to get your RASCOE 50/50 Raffle tickets. See you all in Watertown.



Pictured (L- R): Dianne & Doug Dangel, Shamu (Leon Edlund), Shirlee Vognild, (kneeling), Gene Vognild, and Marsha & Al Dangel.

The Joys of Retirement

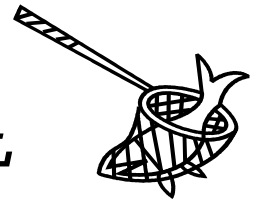
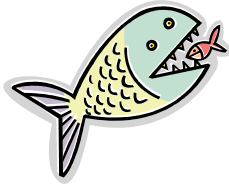
As Al mentioned in his RASCOE report, there were a few South Dakota folk that took a break from the harsh SD weather and spent some time in Florida enjoying the nice sunny days and a few rounds of golf. Some think Dianne Dangel was testing the "retirement waters" as she approaches her eligibility in 2008.

Everyone had a great time and it was nice to have a "mini" SD convention in Florida. It is reported that for some of them, the best job they have ever had is "retirement" !!

25th ANNUAL

FISH AND FUN SOCIAL

JUNE 27-29, 2008



**Pierre Inn and Suites (Old Iron Horse Inn)
Pierre, South Dakota**

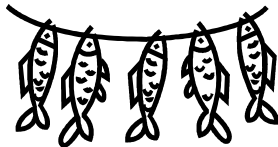
Call 605-224-5981 when requesting Room Reservations
(tell them you're with FSA)

Friday Night

6:30 p.m. -- Hospitality Hour & Brat Feed
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. -- Calcutta

Saturday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. -- Fishing Time
5:05 p.m. -- Weighing of Fish
6:00 p.m. -- Hospitality Hour



Sunday

7:00 a.m. to Noon -- Fishing Time
12:05 p.m. -- Weighing of Fish
12:30 p.m. -- Presentation of Awards



25th Annual Fish and Fun Social is Here!

By Lynn Stoltenburg

WOW! Can you believe the "Silver Anniversary" of the FSA Fish and Fun is upon us already? This long awaited anticipated annual event will be held in Pierre on June 27 - June 29, 2008. As in all great events, it is recommended that everyone show up on the evening of June 27th to share in the "Brat Feast" and listen to TALL fish tales as told by the likes of the "Vognild Crew", "Marx Brothers Team", the "Miner County Hooker Team", or the Husband/Wife Teams of Ward/Ward, Young/Young, Nickelson/Nickelson, Birkeland/Birkeland, and others tell fish tales from the past 24 years.

Everyone will be teaming with enthusiasm, as participants will be scheming up ideas of how to dethrone the defending Champion, Brad Olson, better known as "Busse". As in any good fishing adventure, Missouri river maps will be studied and plans of action will be determined on how to attack the "Mighty Mo" and outwit the "Wily Walleye" on Saturday morning.

Also, on Friday night, the 6th Annual FSA Calcutta will be held as the Calcutta was once again a "Big Hit" with the "fisher people" last year! And last, but not least, on Sunday afternoon – we will witness the passing of our Traveling Trophy, "Charlie the Tuna" to the individual who tries really hard, but just catches no fish. This prestigious award will be presented by "two-time winner and current defending holder" of the Trophy, Ron Russell who is very eager to pass it on to the next deserving individual. You just never know – this could be the year YOU could win "Charlie the Tuna"!!

As Willie Deibert once said "He was glad the River was not Bud Light, because everyone would be fishing on a dry river bed". This is your invitation to come to the "Wildest Weekend on the Water". You can reserve your rooms by calling the Pierre Inn and Suites at 605-224-5981, the sooner, the better as there is a lot of activity going on in Pierre that weekend. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

**For More Info, contact: "Big Jim" Iverson – Golden Age Retiree (853-3120)
Lynn Stoltenburg - State Office (352-1182) or
Lori Young – Brown County Office (226-3360)**





National Association of Farmer Elected Committees

The following are excerpts from the February, 2008 NAFEC Newsletter:

Greetings to all NAFEC members from your President in Southern Illinois.

2007 was a very busy year for NAFEC as we monitored several areas of concern:

- 1) Office Closings
- 2) COC Authority
- 3) Farm Bill.

In 2005 we had the FSA Tomorrow plan for closing FSA Offices across the country. This plan was stopped by Congress. This plan, however, was soon replaced by FSA directing that each state office draw up a consolidation plan for the respective states. This plan is still in progress. It has been completed by some states, but most states are at various stages of the process. Numerous problems have developed in the plans of some states, Included examples are Georgia, Texas, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. If your county is being closed and the County Committee does not agree with the action, you must document your position in the minutes of your County Committee meeting. This will allow you to appeal the decision.

The COC authority has met many challenges this past year. The office consolidation has caused some directed reassignments of CED's and PT's. If your committee wishes to challenge this action, you must document your position in your meeting minutes.

The National Association of District Directors (NADD) made an effort to replace the COC as the supervisor of the CED. They said this was necessary for some of them to retain their GS rating of 13. NAFEC took a strong position against this action, and we received solid support from NASCOE as well as support from many DD's. This issue was finally resolved by NADD and FSA in Washington with the DD's retaining their GS-13 rating without being the direct supervisor of CED's.

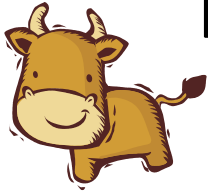
The COC has lost its authority to lease their office space and to hire janitorial service. We have endeavored to reestablish this authority with amendments to appropriation bills and other legislative methods, but to this point, we have not been successful.

The 2007 farm bill has passed the House and the Senate. There are two area that NAFEC has endorsed: The first is The Supplemental Disaster Program and opposition to any efforts to redirect funds away from it and the second is the moratorium agreed upon by the house and senate to stop the closing of any offices until the end of the 2007 Farm Bill, except in the case of non-critical offices that have no employees.

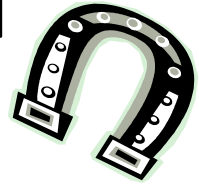
Dennis Kuhlengel, President

Dues information and membership forms can be found at www.nafec.org.

The dues are only \$35 for County Committee members
and \$20 for FSA Employees or Associate members.



Down on the Farm



by Stan Thompson....

It started out with one of those really good plans that I come up with now and then. I could tell by the look in my wife's eyes that she was thinking back to some of my other really good plans. Such as the "Why don't we get married?" plan, and that all time favorite, "Let's get the kids a puppy" plan. Well sure there might have been a few little bumps along the way but all in all they were good plans. Well, ok maybe the puppy grew into a huge dog and maybe that time I lifted him into the back of the pickup and ruined my back and had to have surgery, maybe that wasn't too good of an idea. But I never said anything when I carried her over the threshold and hurt my back. It might not have been the puppy's fault after all.

But, I digress. We were planning on working cows that fine fall day. Ear tag, give shots, vaccinate, all the usual fall games that you play when you have cattle and a willing wife with working age children (Son#1 10 & Son #2 8 1/2). I thought that it might be fun to have someone on the roof of the barn filming all this fun, for posterity you know. One of my sons, being slightly quicker than the other son, and seeing the advantage of sitting on the barn versus being knocked around by a bunch of cows, quickly volunteered to be the camera man.



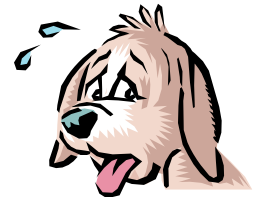
The cattle sorting went as usual, and after all bloody noses were patched up and a general peace truce was agreed upon, we commenced with running the cattle through the chute. We seemed to hit a glitch with Son # 2 not quite running the head gate the way he should, so I calmly said to Son #1 "Do you want to turn that off for a second please?" Whereupon he did and I had a few quiet words with Son #2 on how to improve his performance, I signaled to the camera man to start up again, and we went back to our games.

Two cows later we went through the same process. "Can you turn that off again for a minute?" And I again pointed out some slight failure in our process, this time addressing the valuable information to my wife. A couple of cows later, "Shut the camera off!" Here again I passed on some much needed advice. Several cows later "What in the world are you doing? What? Yes, shut off the stupid camera! Why is this so hard for you guys to figure out?" As you might have surmised, things were starting to go slightly down hill. It was at this time that I felt my leadership ability might be better expressed through example so I asked them to sit down for a couple of cows while I demonstrated the performance I was asking of them. (Somehow this was transformed via camera into "Just get out of the way while I show you how simple this can be!")

After one cow escaped, I forgot to vaccinate two head and I got my hand caught in the head gate, I figured they had the general idea and I allowed them to rejoin the operation. Soon after my wife pinched her toe, Son #2 was crying, small girl child was cringing in fear out by the pickup which was serving as the main wing of the fence, I instructed Son #1 to come down off the barn and help with the work, I mean games.

One game that was a success was my teaching the dog to play Dodge the Stick. It works like this:

Dog chases wrong cow wrong way. I take swipe at dog with stick.
Dog dodges stick. This was such a big success I decided to play another game I'm good at. It's called Transference. It is played liked this. I transfer all energy that I'm not passing on to dog via the Dodge Stick game to my immediate working staff. I used to be very good at this game.



The taped documentation revealed many discrepancies between memory and fact that day. Where I remember saying "Maybe we should work a little faster" the camera portrayed this as "Get your butt in gear!" Where I remember "I wonder what happened there?" the camera remembers "What in the @\$% % did you do that for!" While I distinctly remember inquiring to Son #2 "Did you happen to see which way that last tag went in?" the camera record me saying "Get your head out of your #\$5# and look at what you are doing!" The film generally supported her version but I'm pretty sure she must have dubbed some of the conversation in.

We did the get the project completed. Finally. We all went our separate ways for the day and by supper they had forgiven me to the point that I was allowed to fix supper and wash dishes. I think I even got to watch what I wanted on TV that night. I believe they went to a movie in Pierre.

The whole episode was quietly shut away in the back of our minds to ponder, an experience to grow from. We all carried our own version of the incident around until, many years later, while browsing through some old VCR movies we came across one labeled "Cow Games." Not having quite the memory that my wife does, I said "Hey, let's watch this. Just for old time's sake." Well, we watched the movie, or at least up to the part that Son #1 had to get down off the barn and help. If I remember right, I was allowed to fix my own supper again that night. I'm not sure why she would be still unhappy with me after all these years. I'm sure I said I was sorry many, many times since then. I wonder if it is because on film I had pantomimed kicking her in her pants pocket several times, or maybe it was where I almost attempted to teach her the Dodge Stick game behind her back. These are the only frames really in focus during the whole stupid movie. Thank you Son # 1. I tired to cover up by sweetly stating that I didn't see any truth to the saying that the TV adds 10 pounds to everyone as she didn't look any bigger then than she does now. I could tell by the look I got from that remark that I better hit the mute button more often.

the end.....for now

(Stan is the CED for Marshall County)



IN THE MILITARY

pg. 1

THANK - YOU

Name	Service Branch	Current Location / Service History	SDASCOE / FSA Relative
Craig W. Nelson	Air Force	Stationed in Arizona. Served previous tour of duty overseas; scheduled again in May, 2008.	Nephew of Mary Rae Peterson and Peg Schmidt, PT's McCook County.
SPC Katie Boesch	US Army	Stationed in Texas. Has served in Iraq & is scheduled to again deploy in '08	Niece of Mike Goetzinger CED; Bennett/Shannon
SPC Dan Boesch	US Army	Stationed in Texas. Has served in Iraq & is scheduled to again deploy in '08	Spouse of SPC Katie Boesch
Cpt. Matthew Strand	Army Infantry	Returned from Iraq in July, '06. Currently at Ft. Benning, GA	Son of Rodney Strand, CED Edmunds Co.
PFC Andy Davis	SD Army National Guard	Currently serving in Afghanistan	Nephew of Mike Davis, FLM Hand Co.
Staff Sgt. Shaye Melton	Air Force	Currently stationed in RAF Mildenhall, England	Son-in-Law of Cathy Olstad, PT Fall River-Custer Co.
TR Hill	Air Force	Stationed in Omaha NE	Nephew of Charlene Lolley, Meade Retiree
CPT Neil L. Sanders	Army	Returned Home from 2nd deployment to Iraq	Brother-in-law of Kari Sanders, PT Fall River/Custer
Frank Moser	SD Army National Guard	Served 1 Year in Iraq	Brother-in-law of Kari Sanders, PT Fall River/Custer
Mstr. Sgt. Ricky D Peck	Army	Stationed in Ft. Sill OK. Earned the Purple Heart and Bronze Star in Iraq.	Nephew of Larry Galinat, CED Hughes/Stamley FSA)
SGT / E6 Joshua Schaefer	Admin. NCO	Huron, SD	Son of Debra Schaefer, PT McPherson Co.
Cpt Michael Thompson	Air Force	Currently stationed in Georgia	Son of Stan Thompson, CED Marshall Co.
Sgt. Josh Bryant	SD Army National Guard	Served in Iraq from Dec., '03 to Feb.05. Is now a Recruiter in Redfield, SD	Son of JoDee Bryant, FLO Faulk Co.
Zach Carter	US Navy	Stationed in Pensacola, Florida	Nephew of Stacy Smith, PT Pennington Co.
Staff Sgt. Ryton Hitzel	US Air Force	Stationed in Minot, ND	Son of Ruby VanderMay, TPT Jackson County
SPC Phillip Olson	SD Army National Guard	147th 1st Field Artillery, FSC in Webster – On alert	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
SPC James Olson	SD Army National Guard	147th 1st Field Artillery, FSC in Webster – On alert	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
PV2 Joshua Olson	SD Army National Guard	147th 1st Field Artillery, FSC in Webster – On alert	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
MP Aaron Monteith	SD Army National Guard Military Police	235th Military Police, Army National Guard out of Rapid City. Currently serving in Afghanistan	Nephew of Kathy Lindquist, STO
SPC Scott Fried	101st Airborne	Deployed to Bagdad, Iraq in September. 2007 for 15 months. (2nd deployment).	Son of Peggy Fried, PT Perkins



IN THE MILITARY

pg. 2

Name	Service Branch	Current Location / Service History	SDASCOE / FSA Relative
1st Lt. Matthew Thompson	Marine Corp	Currently deployed to Iraq	Son of Stan Thompson, CED Marshall Co.
Rob Schoenwald	Marine Corp	Currently deployed to Iraq	Son of Edie Schoenwald, PT Turner Co.
Sgt. Jason Lunders	SD Army National Guard	Currently in Mississippi training. Will be home for Christmas then off to Iraq.	Nephew of Mary Rae Peterson PT in McCook County.
PFC Caleb Schaefer	SD Army National Guard	Attending Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, SD .	Son of Debra Schaefer, PT McPherson Co.
Katherina Schaefer	SD Army National Guard	Will be attending Basic Training at Ft. Jackson SC in February, 2008.	Daughter of Debra Schaefer, PT McPherson Co.
Major Bart Johnke	US Army	Stationed in Florida as an ROTC instructor. Served in Iraq.	Son of the late Leroy and Cheri Johnke
PV2 Tracy Lennick	SD Army National Guard	Senior in High School Will attend AIT - Summer '08	Son of Bonnie Nickelson, CED Hand Co.

REFLECTIONS FROM A SOLDIER

The following reflections are from Aaron Monteith who's been stationed in Afghanistan for the past year and has recently returned home. He has not been allowed to share much of what he has experienced, but, he has written some poems that he emailed to his mother. They give insight to military life in Afghanistan. As we go through an election year, at least we get to have a

Political process that allows individuals to campaign and American citizens to vote for the next President. Our freedom isn't free and we should never take our freedoms for granted. Thank you.

SEARCHING

Walking down the hard road alone
 Searching for the one place I can call home
 Tears down my face from remembering when
 The times I spent with my family and friends
 How can I make them all understand
 That I am living my life the best I can
 If we don't see each other before I die
 Then we will meet again way up in the sky

By Aaron Monteith

ANSWER THE PHONE

Right before the mission, trying to call home
 Letting it ring, hoping they will pick up the phone
 Knowing today, the mission would be dangerous
 Just wanting to know if you would pray for us
 The time was here, and still no answer
 Having to hang up and load my weapon with tracers
 The mission was happening in the middle of the night
 Driving through an area with past firefights
 All he wanted was to hear your voice
 Now he has to go, he has no choice
 The bad feelings creeping up the back of his neck
 Heading out full of worry, and full of regret
 Of not being able to hear you say
 You love him so much and you will pray
 That nothing will happen to this young man
 And that he makes it back safely as fast as he can

By Aaron Monteith

SOLDIER FOR YOU

Lonely nights that never seem to end
Thoughts of death are becoming a trend
A soldier who spends so much time away
Will he ever see the light of day
His deployment that lasts every bit of a year
He just wants all of you to hear
That he loves you more then words can express
And he will try to make it home, he'll try his best
But if on the battlefield he should fall
He wants you to know he will watch over you all
And he will see you again one day
But if you need to talk just kneel and pray
He will listen to every word you say
For he is one of gods angels and he is your angel today
So if you think his life came to an end
Your wrong, his life just began

By Aaron Monteith



GODS FIGHT

We face a battle everyday
For every battle I kneel and pray
Lord, please help me through
I need you to be my glue
Hold me together, keep me strong
So I am ready for anything that goes wrong
You only give me what I can take
But I still need you so I don't break
Help me stand proud and tall
Please do not let me fall
But if I need to fall for you to see
Then I will fall straight to my knees
I will keep my faith to the end
Since you are my one true friend
So take me to heaven to be with you and all your glory
Let that be the end to my lifes story

By Aaron Monteith



CHRISTMAS AT BAGRAM

Calling home on Christmas day
Wishing everyone happy holiday's
I told them even though we are apart
I still love you with all of my heart
The time with family I don't get to enjoy
All for the reason that I am deployed
They said that Christmas wasn't the same
And knowing that causes me great pain
Don't worry about me, I will be fine
You need to enjoy all this family time
I know you miss me on this day so much
And that's why I called to keep in touch
We have this day because we are free
And that's why i am here for both you and me
So please don't show me any sorrow
I love you all and will call again tomorrow

By Aaron Monteith



The Boy and the Man

I think he was somewhere around 5 and it was his first wrestling match. Big for his age, he would be paired against someone comparable in his weight class, indubitably older than him. When you are 5, someone even a few months older than you is a big difference in your eyes.

If you have ever been to a youth wrestling tournament, keeping track of your own boys is difficult at best as it seems there are a hundred young would be wrestlers running all over the place. Confusion, bedlam and underneath great excitement and worry over this, the first wrestling match.

I soon found my young son, standing on the corner of the mat, tears rolling down his cheeks. My heart lurched with agony at this look of pure fright and anguish. I calmly walked over and asked him what the matter was. He stuttered out a "That boy hit me in the nose!" I was grateful that it was just a physical pain, which for some reason or other, seemed like a relief to me at the time. I was more concerned that his feelings hadn't been hurt. He seemed prone to this at that age. I soon had him under control and once more eager for the wrestling to begin!

I had no sooner found my seat and turned to locate him to once again, only to discover new tears silently trickling down his face. I found my way back to him and once again asked what the matter was. Again he sobbed out a reply "I have to wrestle that boy that hit me in the nose!" Oh how great was his trepidation at that point in his life. Not only had he been exposed to the pain and humiliation of a sock in the nose by a bully but now he was expected to have to formerly compete against this very same rouge.

I don't really remember how the match went but I would assume the bully had his way with him. At that age he was more marshmallow than steel. His time was yet to come. I watched this young boy grow from this disappointing wrestling career through his years of accomplishments and defeats as he went through his high school years. I traveled to Colorado to watch him compete in collegiate boxing matches where here too, somebody's son punched him in the nose. This time he punched back, advancing to second place at regional. I worried as his mother and I witnessed his first parachute jump. And his first solo flight in the glider.

His time is now. We have just been informed that he will be deployed overseas as part of the Air Force lending its pilots to the war in Iraq. A graduate of the Air Force Academy, he has grown to be a fine, strong young man of exemplary character and moral values. He is married and has a child of his own. He is strong physically and emotionally. He is confident in his abilities and sure of his direction in life. He is a man. Better than most, equal to all. He stands at the edge of a great and serious step in his life and he does it with his head up and the challenge fixed firmly in his eyes. He goes to join thousands of others like him and also thousands of others that have gone before him. You may see him as just another boy that has chosen to serve his country.

All I can see is the young boy stepping bravely out onto the edge of the wrestling mat and a slow tear trickles down my cheek.

Career Days

In Sanborn County

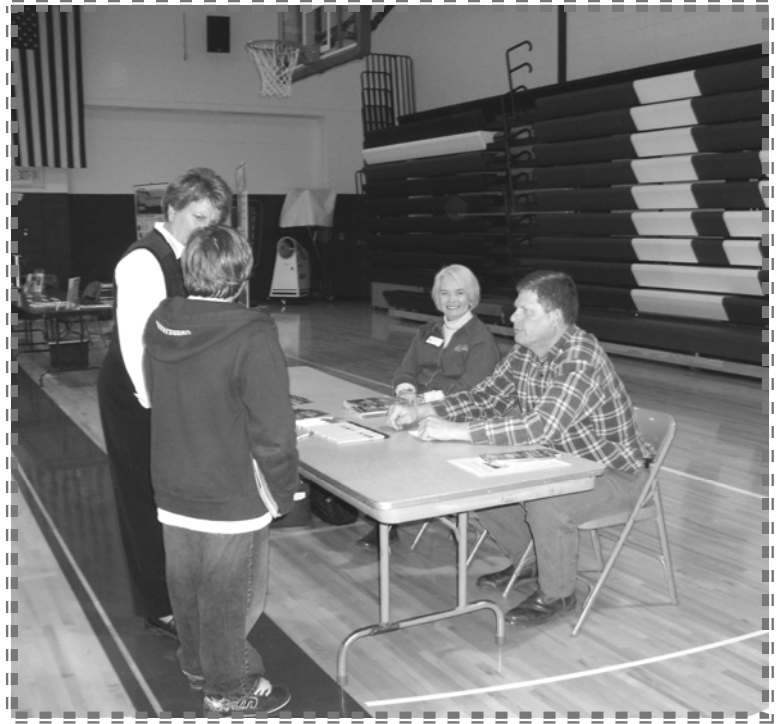
Sanborn County employees Owen Anderson and Lynda Steichen attended the Woonsocket School Career Day on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

The Career Day included all K-12 students.

FSA pens and pencils were available to each student visiting the table.

Our day ended with our table collapsing, dumping the brochures, pens & pencils to the floor. It was a “smashing” success!

Picture courtesy
Brenda Cano, NRCS



Senator Thune In Campbell County

Campbell County FSA office had another visit from Senator Thune at noon Wednesday, March 26, 2008. He was in Selby for a meeting concerning the new Basin Electric power plant and stopped by the office just see how the staff was doing. They were very excited to have Senator Thune visit again!!

Middle right: Deb Schuetzle, Senator Thune, Gloria Huber and Vanessa Goehring.



Bottom right: Senator Thune takes a few minutes to visit with producers at the Campbell County FSA office.



Hand County's "American Dream" Comes True !!



Hand PT's with their float: Susi Odden, Laurie Pfeifle, Gwendolyn Blackwell, Kim Joy-Nelson, Kris Stevens, Shelly Moncur.

OUR MILLENNIUM DREAM

"The American Dream" was the theme for the Miller, SD 4th of July parade in the year 2000.

The Hand County FSA staff made a float with farmers in mind. If the farmers could get great prices, they would surely be living the American Dream!

The prices we 'dreamed' about in 2000 were: Wheat - \$6; Corn - \$4; Sunflowers - \$15; and Soybeans - \$7.

LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

Codington County

25



Cathy Dally, PT , receives her certificate for 25 years of service to FSA from John Anderson, DD, on the right and Stan Lamb, CED, on the left. Congratulations Cathy!

25

Stan Lamb, County Executive Director receives his certificate for 25 years of service to USDA from Jim Beskow, COC Chair (on right).



LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

Debra Schuetzle was awarded her 25 year certificate by a special guest. Senator John Thune made a visit to the Campbell County FSA Office on March 26th and was kind enough to present Debra's award. Congratulations Deb and thank you Senator Thune.



Corson County KIDS !!

At bottom on Right: On April Fool's Day, Doug Hofer, PT brought one of his "kids to work." This Corson County bachelor has 6 kids now and is expecting 6 more this spring!

Below is Sherry Ternes, FLO. She must be outreaching by rounding up KIDS for "YOUTH LOANS".



Minnehaha County

Retiring COC member, Dale Lueth, received a plaque in Appreciation of his 9 years of dedicated service.

Presenting him the plaque is CED Larry Olsen.



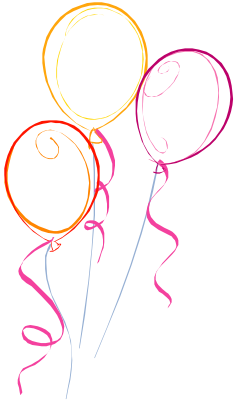
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GOOD LUCK , KENNY !



The Spink County FSA "girls" had a last picture with Kenny Fehlman. Kenny resigned his part time farming and full time PT position to farm full time in the Ashton area. His official last day was March 28th. Kenny worked in the Spink County Office for 18 years. His last programs were disaster, DCP and NAP. The service center employees and the county committee members had a bowling party for Kenny and Corinna and presented them with a portable grill and grilling tools to use with their new camper. Good luck, Kenny.



HAPPY RETIREMENT

**Diane Bartnick
Roberts County**



Diane's coworkers, former coworkers, family and friends helped celebrate her retirement after 30+ years of Service. Diane retired on January 3, 2008.

Congratulations and Good Luck Diane!

Pictured at left are Curt Sylte, CED, Diane and Deb Olerud, STO.



The Roberts
County staff



Diane is shown here with other retired FSA employees from Roberts County: Elaine Alwin, Mary O'Brien, Harlan Hammer, Clarice Arbach, Gloria Estwick and Grace Robinson.

Happy 50th !

Sue Sigman arrived at the office one morning to find out that, although SHE had stopped counting birthdays at 29, no one else had.

Bennett / Shannon

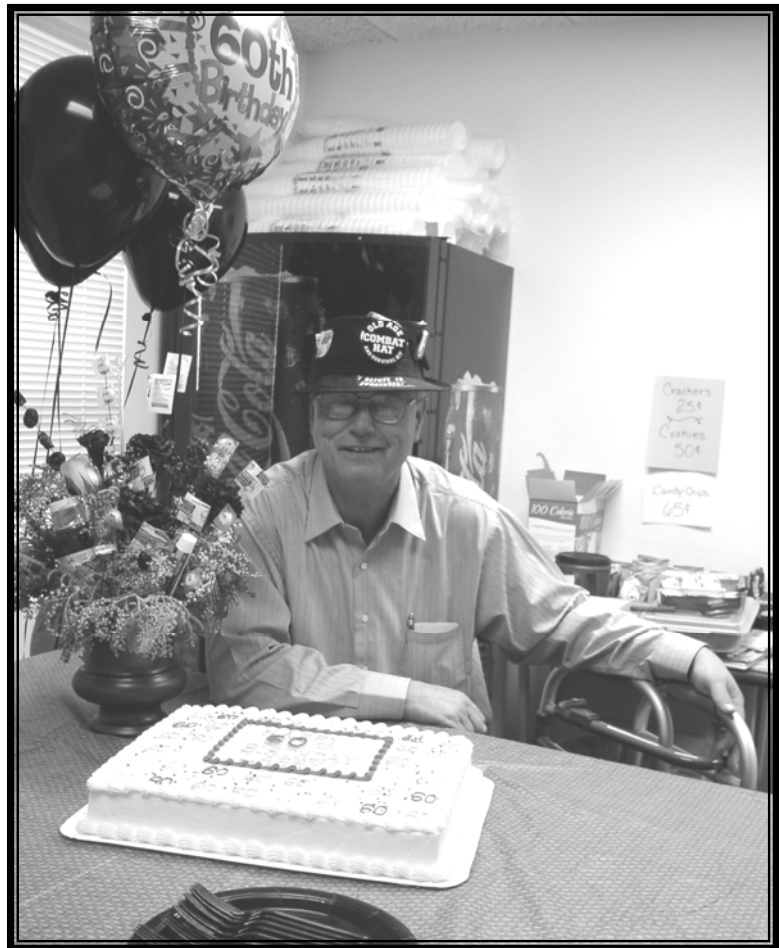


Happy 60th !

Larry Had A Birthday!

Turner County helped Larry celebrate his 60th birthday! His office was tastefully balloons and streamers decorated with black . The entire office staff wore black. A pot luck dinner was served and the District Director, County Committee and NRCS joined us. In the afternoon we celebrated his big day with a birthday cake and ice cream! We wish Larry many more Happy Birthdays!

Turner County



Happy 40th !

SULLY COUNTY



Leaping into a new decade of birthdays... Karen LaFurge, Program Technician in Sully County celebrated her 40th birthday on February 29, 2008. For this special occasion she received multiple bouquets of flowers and balloons along with several over the counter aging supplies to aid her on the way to 50!

SANBORN COUNTY



Happy 50th !

Sanborn County staff celebrated with County Executive Director Owen Anderson. Happy 50th Birthday Owen!

Babies

Ziebach County FSA Office

Welcomes
Minda Kay Woodward
to the FSA Family.

She is the daughter of Nila (PT in Ziebach) and Elbert Woodward. Minda joins 3 brothers, Kody, Jess and Brent, and 2 sisters Cassy and Marlene.



Sully County

On March 19, 2008 Alivia Marie was born to Alana and Andy Lacina. Alivia is the granddaughter of Gail Tennant, Program Technician in Sully County.



Hand & Hyde County

Anthony Jacob Lennick

Grandma Bonnie Nickelson, CED is pretty proud of her grandson, born January 13. His parents Andrew (Her son) and Jennifer are also pretty proud.



SDASCOE FAMILY ALBUM



**AURORA/DOUGLAS FSA Offices
welcomed**

**ELLA MAE FAGERHAUG
BORN 2/1/08
WEIGHING IN AT 5 LBS 8 OZ &
18" LONG**

**County Executive Director OWEN
FAGERHAUG & his wife Shannon are
the proud new parents.**

Winter Survival

... Pennington Style



Stacy Smith (Program Technician) and her husband endured the winter blahs by spending a week in sunny Costa Rica with next door neighbors. Stacy commented that it is a beautiful country with wonderful, uncrowded beaches. During their stay they got to sail, snorkel, kayak, explore the beaches, visit an active volcano, zip-line and ATV through the jungle, and watch endangered Leatherback turtles nest and lay their eggs on the beach.

Sarah Huston

The following information was provided by June Huston,
Sarah's mother and Program Technician in Haakon County.
June's family has been blessed with a beautiful daughter and
supportive FSA family. We continue to send our thoughts
and prayers Sarah's way.



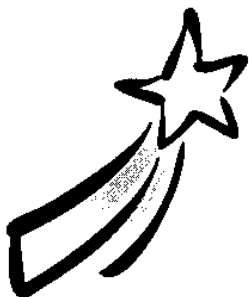
Thanks to all of you who have been so generous to our family during Sarah's cancer treatment. Everyone has been so supportive, concerned and helpful. We have received so many cards, emails, gifts and all the donated leave it has been a rather humbling experience. Sarah is 2 now and had a reoccurrence of a tumor in her right eye last May. We have been struggling with it all summer and fall but when we went back after Thanksgiving we had great news that the tumor looked like it was dieing! Please keep her in you thoughts and prayers in the upcoming year . She has come a long way but will still have some rough times ahead. Thank you seems so inadequate but again we will say thanks again and God Bless You all.

The Huston Family

NORTHWEST AREA RALLY June 19 - 21, 2008

Welcome to South Dakota, and to

Watertown :: South Dakota's Rising Star



RAMKOTA HOTEL

1901 9th Avenue Southwest
Watertown, South Dakota 57201

Phone: (605) 886-8011 • Fax: (605) 886-3667
NWA Block of Rooms, \$73.00 plus tax



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Guest(s):# _____ Names: _____

FUNCTIONS:

Registration*

	Price	Number Attending	Total Amount
If post-marked by June 1, 2008	\$25.00	_____	_____
If post-marked After June 1, 2008	\$30.00	_____	_____

*Includes: Friday night Banquet and Entertainment
Saturday Continental Breakfast in meeting room

Friday Activities:

Tour: 9:30 a.m. (includes lunch and transportation)	\$20.00	_____	_____
Terry Redlin Art Center (Golfers leave for golf course after lunch, tour continues) Glacial Lakes Energy Ethanol Plant Mellette House			

Golf: 1:00 p.m., following lunch at Redlin Center	9 holes: \$16.50	_____	Pay at
Watertown Municipal Golf Course	18 holes: \$22.50	_____	Clubhouse
Rental clubs & carts available			

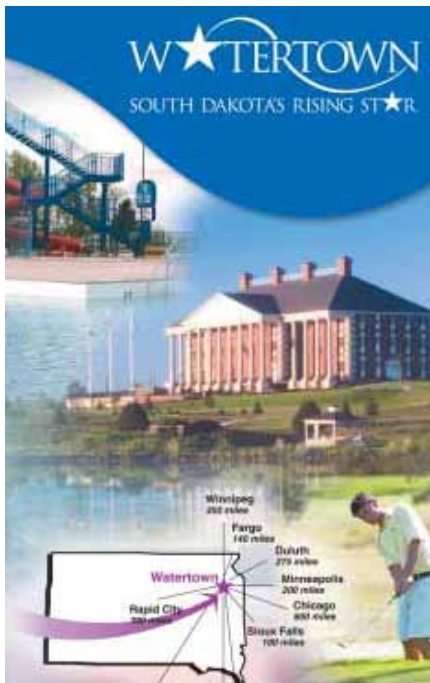
GRAND TOTAL _____

Send Registration forms to: NWA Rally
Codington County FSA
810 10th Ave. SE, Ste 1
Watertown SD 57201

Please make checks payable to: SDASCOE

If you will be in Watertown Thursday night, A Seafood Buffet, deli, lounge, gaming machines & tables are available at the Dakota Sioux Casino near Watertown. A discount package and transportation can be arranged for our group. Please check if you would be interested ☐

If questions, contact Stan Lamb at 605-886-8202 or stan.lamb@sd.usda.gov



SDASCOE WELCOMES YOU.....

TO WATERTOWN for the NWA RALLY

Watertown, South Dakota's 4th largest city located along I-29 and US 212 in Northeastern South Dakota. A quiet, safe, progressive city. A perfect place to make memories for a lifetime.

Here's a sampling of the great attractions, which will be a part of the tour scheduled for Friday, June 20th.

The Redlin Art Center. Terry Redlin's interest in out-of-doors themes can be traced to his childhood in Watertown, South Dakota. Few artists can rival the standards of excellence achieved by Master Artist Terry Redlin over the past 25 years. He is truly one of the country's most widely collected painters

of wildlife and Americana. His new series, *"An American Portrait"* is a collection of paintings that capture the emotion of seven heartfelt firsts. Each painting in the series stands alone, yet is built upon the preceding images... first friend, first day of school, first date, first graduation, first homecoming, first good-bye, and ultimately, the last good-bye. This is Terry Redlin's tribute to America. It is his way of honoring Veterans, Servicemen and Servicewomen, and the families who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Glacial Lakes Energy Ethanol Plant, LLC (GLE) was an original 40 mgly nameplate ethanol production facility which underwent an expansion in 2007 and currently is running at 100+ mgly in Watertown, SD. Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC ethanol plant was formed in May 2001 by the Glacial Lakes Corn Processors (GLCP) and Glacial Lakes Capital, LLC (GLC). GLCP is a South Dakota Cooperative comprised of over 4,000 members. GLE purchased the ownership held by GLC in July 2004. After the transaction, GLCP became the sole owner of GLE.

The Mellette House is the Watertown home of South Dakota's first governor, Arthur Calvin Mellette. Experience life first hand in an elegant Italianate 1885 Dakota Territory home. Mellette House is renowned not only because of its spectacular architecture but because of the remarkable family that built it and occupied it for the first ten years of its existence.

In addition to these attractions, Watertown boasts of its wonderful Bramble Park Zoo, its fantastic aquatic center, shopping centers and so much more! Transportation and a discount package are available for The Dakota Sioux Casino on Thursday night – just let Stan know if you are interested: **Stan Lamb: 605-886-8202 or stan.lamb@sd.usda.gov**. Please check out these websites for detailed information and links on what Watertown has to offer.

www.watertowneventcenter.com

www.watertownsd.com

<http://watertown.ramkota.com>

www.dakotasioux.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN WATERTOWN !!!!

CAPWIZ



Thank you to the SDASCOE members and friends that have subscribed to CAPWIZ then responded to the many action alerts.

South Dakota currently has 101 individuals actively participating in CAPWIZ. Those individuals have sent 1140 CAPWIZ messages to our Senators and Representative. That's Great, you should be Proud!!

One of our fellow SDASCOE members (Lynda Steichen) has responded to 61 alerts! We have 17 members that have responded to 20 or more.

There are a number of individuals that have subscribed but haven't yet responded to an alert. And there are others that have been automatically disabled, this may be because they have changed their email address or attempted to subscribe on a government computer. I am in the process of contacting these individuals to get them on the right CAPWIZ track.

As a reminder, subscribe to CAPWIZ on a NON-government computer.

There are topic and time issues that can not always be handled via government email, phone or on government time. For that reason, a statewide database of home email addresses is being built. This will give our SDASCOE/NASCOE leadership a way to timely share important information as issues arise. If you want to be a part of this 'informed' group, please send me or your Director your home email address.

If you have a CAPWIZ question please let me know. If you have subscribed to CAPWIZ but haven't acted on an alert yet, I encourage you to do so. Our NASCOE Board and Legislative Committee have made this an easy process for us, but it can have BIG results!

**It is easy to sit up and take notice.
What is difficult is getting up and taking action. (Al Balt)**

To all of you who have taken action for your fellow SDASCOE members, Thank You!!

**Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Groen
SD CAPWIZ Coordinator**

**LET'S HAVE A BALL
IN OMAHA !
49TH NASCOE CONVENTION
AUGUST 6TH – 9TH 2008**



CALLING ALL CONVENTION TRAVELERS – Make your Plans now for travel to Omaha, Nebraska for the 49th annual NASCOE convention. The Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center in Omaha, Nebraska will be welcoming NASCOE to their facilities. If you think you will be attending, I urge you to make your reservations soon.

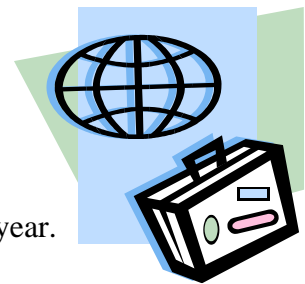
For more information, please go to the Nebraska website at www.nebrascoe.com, and click on 2008 National Convention. There is also a link to the Doubletree Hotel. The registration form has now been included in the recent NASCOE Spring Newsletter. Looks to be a lot of fun!

I WILL NOT BE MAKING A BLOCK OF ROOM RESERVATIONS as I have in the past. Arrangements have been made for our South Dakota caucus room. Because this convention will be in our southern back-yard, I am hopeful that we will have many folks attending. This room is used for all of us to gather and discuss the issues and any elections that will be taking place. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend a NASCOE convention.....it won't get much closer than this – so 2008 would be a great year to get involved!

We are always looking for new and more travelers for the NASCOE convention. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to give me a holler!

Mary Johnson, your Travel Coordinator

**Northwest Area Rally
Watertown, SD
June 20 – 21, 2008**



The NW Area Rally will be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Watertown, SD on June 20th & 21st. How fun, that we are getting to host the Rally this year. Be sure to put this event on your calendar and plan to attend.

Better yet, why don't you drop an email or make a phone call to Stan Lamb in Codington County making the offer to help them out with the Rally plans. I'm sure that he will need help on planning, registration, tours, etc. Let him know what you can do to help!!

If you'd like more information on attending either the NW Area Rally or the NASCOE Convention, please contact me anytime – we'd love to have more travelers join us! You can contact me at the Office (605) 539-9232 or Home (605) 853-3299. Or email me at mary.johnson@hur.midco.net.

Mary Johnson, your Travel Coordinator

Bits 'n Pieces



HOW THE FIGHT STARTED....

I rear-ended a car this morning. So there we are alongside the road and slowly the driver gets out of the car . . and you know how you just-get-sooo stressed and life-stuff seems to get funny?

Yeah, well, I could NOT believe it . . . he was a DWARF!

He storms over to my car, looks up at me and says, "I AM NOT HAPPY!"

So, I look down at him and say, "Well, which one are you then?" . . . and that's when the fight started.

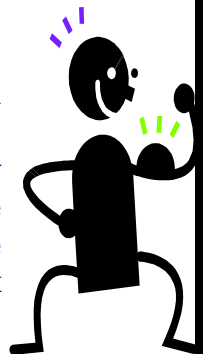
AHHH YES!

Three men were sitting together, bragging about how they had been giving their new wives duties. The first man had married a woman from Iowa and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and house cleaning that needed done at their house. He said that it took a couple of days, but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

The second man had married a woman from Missouri. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done, and he had a huge dinner on the table.....

The third man had married a South Dakota girl. He said that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed, and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything. The second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, just enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and telephone a landscaper.

... Gotta love those South Dakota girls!



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

Oh No
This could be your last issue!



Newsletters are provided at no cost to paid members and associate members. For some time now, we have provided complimentary copies to several persons, for a variety of reasons. The increased costs in postage have caused us to review this policy. Our mailing list will be revised following the mailing of this edition.

To ensure receipt of future editions of the ***SDASCOE NEWS***, be sure to send your associate membership dues to Lori Jones, Membership Chair. See page 15 for details.

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please contact the editors, or any of the SDASCOE officers or Directors listed inside the front cover of this issue.