

**Г Я С О Е**

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*February, 2010*

**2009-2010 ГЯСОЕ Executive Committee**



Pictured Back Row L to R: Keith Willis, Jason Adams, Kyle Brown, Thomas Verner, Kyle Mansfield, Pam Poole. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row L to R: Cindy Brown, Jo Lynn Futch, Pam Dennis, Penny Payne, Marcia Baker, Megan Kennedy, Donna Dykes. Front row L to R: Roger Swain, Delores Hartley, Rita Rogers, Barbara Jackson, Joe Hester.

## President's Report – January 2010

Thanks to everyone for allowing me the honor of serving as your President in 2009. I will not even begin to try and describe the whirlwind that seemed to push me along last year. Thanks for allowing me this special honor for 2010.

2010 is going to be another whirlwind year, I can already tell! It is just January and already we have SURE, LFP, BCAP, NAP, DCP, and don't forget those IRS forms! Isn't it great to have a job like ours? One that is filled with so many new and exciting events it is hard to keep up.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were elected to the Executive Committee for 2010. Congratulations also to Vice President, Joe Hester, Secretary, Delores Hartley, and Treasurer, Rita Rogers. Your willingness to serve on the committee and as an officer is greatly appreciated and will be a rewarding experience. This committee is made up of some new faces intertwined with some old faces which together make a fantastic committee. This is a very good time for GACOE to move into the future with new ideas and new ways of doing things. Make your representatives, and officers, aware of any questions you have, they are all willing to help you.

One of the main accomplishments of GACOE/NASCOE for 2009 was the retirement changes with FERS. For this reason alone, all FERS employees should join GACOE. Some give NASCOE all the credit for any changes within our benefits, however without the States associations there would be no NASCOE. Your GACOE representatives, working with NASCOE, gave of their time, leave, and own finances for many years to make this happen, and I for one am very grateful.

I am looking forward to 2010 with great expectations. Changes are going to happen, if for no other reason than budget, and GACOE has the opportunity to become a part of these changes. GACOE can look forward to meeting new people, sharing new ideas and concerns, and possibly providing solutions. Together we can make a difference.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication and support of GACOE.

Barbara

Hello everyone. I am very humbled to be your Vice-president and will make every effort to do a job worthy of this fine association.

The subject of my writings today will be concerning membership and why it is so important to me.

I started with our agency in 1978 as a field assistant measuring crops in Berrien County. I enjoyed my work and had the opportunity to apply for the CED training program in 1980. While in Berrien County, I got to know the staff there very well and they were old school. When I say old school I mean they worked through the 50's, 60's, and 70's. While in the training program, I trained in several offices and every office had 100 % membership and was very quick to question me about my membership. Most offices had a clerk or two that were old school.

The old school members had a very positive feeling regarding our association that seems to have diminished through the years. The old school members remembered the grade ceilings of the 50's and 60's and 70's and the increase in those grades through the negotiations of our national association. This concerns the CED and PT positions. I remember the number of grade 12 CEDs being located in five or six large offices when I was hired in 1980. No grade 6 or 7 PTs only a few Chief Clerks in the Grade 12 counties.

I won't go on and on about the old school benefits and our current benefits but I do realize we stand on the shoulders of GIANTS. When I say GIANTS, I mean the old school members that formed our association and helped develop the items that were negotiated and won. Can you imagine the items negotiated and won that we so easily take for granted and consider our rights.

I will borrow a statement our old Administrative Officer, Powell J. Legg would make each time after our GACOE representative would speak during our training meeting.

**IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF GACOE, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!**

I remember the old school PTs and CEDs and their stories of the past. The past is history but we study history to

learn and keep from repeating the mistakes of the past. I honor the past members that worked so hard to get us this far by continuing their efforts.

Be proud members of GACOE and encourage our fellow workers to join our association which supports all our membership and works for the benefit of all the employees of FSA both members and non members.

Joe Hester

GACOE Vice President

## **ATTENTION GACOE MEMBERS – SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES**

It's that time of year when our children begin thinking of their college careers. Whether they are beginning this new and exciting adventure in their life or continuing their journey, it is an expensive one!

GACOE annually awards the Vickie Kent Cannady Memorial Scholarship and the Robert F. Williams, Jr. Memorial Scholarship to eligible applicants pursuing their college education. There will be \$1000.00 awarded to 4 recipients. Also, all applications will be submitted to the Southeast area Scholarship Committee and will be eligible for a \$1,500.00 scholarship. The southeast area winner will be submitted to the national committee and the national winner will receive an additional \$2,500.00 scholarship.

This is an excellent opportunity for eligible participants. Applicant eligibility and additional information and the Scholarship Application can be found on the NASCOE website at [www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org) under "*Scholarship.*" Applications must be **received** no later than **February 20, 2010.**

Also, this year marks the third year of the NASCOE Members Scholarship Program. This scholarship program is set up specifically for NASCOE ***Members*** who are enrolled in adult education courses to further enhance their careers with FSA. JM Marketing has generously donated \$800.00 towards this scholarship awards program! NASCOE will award one deserving individual in each Area with a \$200.00 award! Please consider taking a few minutes from your studies and complete the nomination form to compete for the award! The deadline to submit the scholarship application to your **Area** Chairperson is **January 15, 2010.**

NASCOE Member Scholarship Program Applications should be submitted to:

Donny Green  
647 Bright Hill Road  
Smithville, TN 37166-2023

GACOE/NASCOE Scholarship Applications should be submitted to:

Jo Lynn Futch  
414 County Farm Road, Room 3  
Ashburn, Georgia 31714

If you have any questions, please visit the NASCOE website at [www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org) or any member of the scholarship committee.

Thanks,

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November 25, 2009

Dear NASCOE Members,

I would like to update you all on where the Program Technician Classification efforts are at this time. But first I would like to recap the process that has occurred since July 1 for those that did not have the opportunity to attend the 2009 National Convention.

In July the work group met and reviewed the three positions NASCOE was sending to WDC for classification review. The three positions are Assistant CED, District Program Specialist, and Office Operations Coordinator. The group also discussed other positions besides the ones listed. A report was issued along with a description of the three positions to WDC. The process is an internal working product and more information will be forthcoming once approved.

This report was reviewed by our WDC Human Resources Department, Deputy Administrators, and our Administrator. Some additional work was needed to the language on the position descriptions to help enhance a positive view. After this was completed WDC Officials made another review.

After the second review was completed a decision memo was drafted and sent to the original work group for review and comment. This period is about completed. Again, once approved, additional information will be provided.

The NASCOE representatives on this work group have spent many hours working on this issue to achieve the best possible outcome for all employees. I wanted to update each of you on where this process is at. The process is still moving forward, although not at the pace some would like, but still moving forward. When the process is final, a detailed report will be issued to all employees.

Before closing NASCOE and the NASCOE representatives would like to thank everyone who sent comments in on positions descriptions and your job functions. All comments were reviewed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

**Myron Stroup**  
NASCOE President

## District 1A

Jackie Akins, PT will celebrate her birthday on January 14, 2010.

Happy Birthday Jackie!

## District 1B

"Wade Hood retired from the Walton County Farm Service Agency as CED on January 1, 2010 after serving more than 32 years of dedicated service with FSA. He is truly missed by all his

past and present co-workers, friends, and agricultural producers. The Walton County office held an informal dinner and fellowship in his honor on January 8, 2010."

## District 2

Webster-Stewart

Denise Otto, Webster-Stewart PT, and Don Otto are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy. Ashton Roy Otto was born on November 24, 2009, weighed 6 pounds 12 ozs, and was 18.5 inches long. Although he gave his family a big scare the first two weeks of his life, he is doing fine along with mama. Big Sister Abbie just loves her new brother!!



Abbie, Big Sister, and Ashton, 1 month

## District 3

Sherry Ledbetter and her husband Jason had a baby boy on Jan 6th at 1249 PM. His name is Jedidiah Christian Ledbetter and he weighed 6 pounds 15 oz. and was 20 inches long. Sherry is the DCA for District 3.

## District 5



### **District 05 – Jeff Harden DD**

**Jeff Harden, DD hosted a Christmas Party for district 05 in Wilcox County. Gary Wilson, Mitch Wilcox, Jody Walker, and Brett Hall grilled pork chops; to complete the meal salad, baked potato, green beans and rolls were served. Delicious snacks and desserts were provided by each county office. Length of Service Awards and Certificates of Merit were given out. It was a special day of friends, fellowship, and food. Special guests were retirees and Neal Leonard State Outreach Coordinator.**

RETIREES attending the Christmas gathering



**In the picture from left to right: Betty Clark – Retiree Wheeler County, Charles Bobo- Retiree Turner County, Delores Pope-Retiree Turner County, Brenda Dunaway-Retiree Pulaski County, Ann Stembridge-Retiree Wilcox County, Billy Sirmons-Retiree Laurens County, Bubba Collins –DD Retiree and John Lee Hobbs-Retiree Crisp County (not pictured – Mary Clyde Adams- Retiree Wilcox County)**

## Turner County

Rebecca McCurdy, daughter of PT Wanda McCurdy, was married April 25th. It was a beautiful outside wedding at the home of Randy and Mary Jo Hudson in Ocilla. Jo Lynn, Gwen, and Dawn served the ice cream at the ice cream bar. There was always a line. Even Lynn Harden felt sorry for them and helped. Diane Batten, Ben Hill PT, helped serve tea. It was fun but glad that it is over.



Jo Lynn, Dawn, and Gwen working very hard.



Standing: Glenda Walker, Linda Weaver, Wanda McCurdy, Diane Batten

Seated: Jo Lynn Futch, Dawn Gibbs, Gwen Daniels

Not pictured: Gina Paulk, Jeff Harden

I failed to put write up and pictures of Wanda's daughters wedding in the last gazette. Thanks dh.

### District 6 Christmas Party

District 6 enjoyed their Christmas Party/Meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> in Baker County at Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat. Kenneth Deese, owner, cooked and provided the meal. Each office brought a dessert. Though 'the weather outside was frightful' due to low temperatures and wind, all enjoyed a great time of food and fellowship. Ty Godfrey, DD, presented length of service certificates and awards to the following:

Mary Porter	30 years
Freddie Cody	30 years
Jeanette Miller	30 years
Jay Arnold	25 years
Keith Willis	25 years
Peggy Greer	25 years
Jesse Batten	25 years
Donna Massey	20 years
Brenda Cooley	20 years
Leigh Wilson	20 years

Vicki Moore      20 years  
Marty Gahring    20 years  
Jennifer McCormick 20 years  
Julie Senn        10 years  
June Johnston    5 years  
Ginger Carter     5 years

A special goodbye was given to Jan Clifton upon her retirement on December 31<sup>st</sup>.







## District 7

Pierce County PT's welcome Walon Smith as their new CED and to District 7. He is already learning that they keep tabs on everything and he has had to cut way back on the Mountain Dews and Mello Yellows. Don't worry Sara we will have him whipped into shape in no time. It is like having 4 mothers or 4 more wives (heaven forbid) and with these 4 watch out, they say what they think.

Gail who never goes anywhere has taken 2 trips to Mississippi. She is very proud of daughter, Amanda, who is going to Radiology School and is top in her class. Her granddaughter, Braizlyn will celebrate her first birthday January 12<sup>th</sup>. Grandson Blake is loving school and really enjoyed the Christmas lights this year. Gail's daughter Ashleigh married in September. Daughter, Dacia graduated from Armstrong in December with a nursing degree and hopes to work in ICU at the Jesup hospital.

Linda spent the holidays and her leave keeping the roads hot with grandchildren, her favorite thing. Two grandsons' killed deer this season. Granddaughter, Lillie (4 yrs old) has her first car, a new Barbie jeep, she is going to follow in grandma's footsteps and keep the roads hot. Grandson, Seth (9 months old) is climbing everything; his favorite is the coffee table. The three grandsons in Pierce County still like grandma's cooking and call to place their orders often.

Nancy has been nursing husband, Andy through hip replacement surgery. She has done a great job and he is ready to go back to work. She also now has the privilege of taking granddaughter Kallan, to pre-k every morning. At first, Kallan told her she would cry when she left, but not to worry she quit in just a minute. Grandson, Beau is getting big enough to ask to spend the night (he says "me stay with Papa") and of course, what grandmother can say no.

While we all still enjoy are grandchildren, Kaye has 2 new children, a 9 month and 6 month old Boston terrier, Sam and Sophie. Sam is deaf, so Sophie came along to be his ears, but as children tend to do they both ignore her. She and both daughters and both granddaughters took a spur of the moment shopping trip to Jacksonville. They decided to go, threw clothes together and were on the road in less than an hour. They shopped until midnight, ate at the Cheesecake Factory around 10 pm and the whole time youngest granddaughter, Ashley, kept saying my bedtime is 8:30. They started again by 7 am on Saturday and shopped till they dropped.

Walon and Sara's grandsons, Chase (8) and Christopher (4) both played soccer this year, so he and Sara cheered them on from the bleachers. When the boys came over one night before bed, Christopher decided he just needed to spend the night, thankfully he already had pj's on and it was just a matter of delivering him to school the next morning.

District 7 Christmas Party





Pictured above program technicians and CED that received certificates at District 7 Christmas Party.

County Office Trainees (Georgia)



Great looking Georgia Bunch!! Julia Sharpe, COT; Howard Rumph, COT; Teresa Bryan, CED Bacon County; Cindy Stone, CED Jeff Davis County completed their National Management Training in Norfolk, Virginia December 7th-11th 2009.



35th National Management Training took place in beautiful Norfolk, Virginia December 2009. In attendance from

Georgia; Teresa Bryan, Julia Sharpe, Howard Rumph, and Cindy Stone. In attendance from Kentucky; Travis Chick, Adam Haggard, and Larry Mills. In attendance from Maryland; John Barga and Bo Epting. In attendance from Massachusetts; Steven Ward. In attendance from Missouri; Julie Asher, Randon Leathers. In attendance from South Carolina; Marty Dorroh, Jr., Brandon Lambert. In attendance from Tennessee; Grant Hildabrand. In attendance from Vermont; Heather Mateja. Unable to attend for reasons beyond their control were Pam Wilkes from Georgia and Curtis Crawford from Missouri.

Our awesome instructors were: David Vidrine-CED, Louisiana; Kevin Bergquist-CED, Minnesota; Coke Gray-CED, North Carolina; Sherwin Smith-CED, Montana; Arlene Bailey - National FSA Management Training Program Manager, Washington, DC.

51st NASCOE National Convention  
August 3-7, 2010

Arlington Hotel & Spa  
Hot Springs, AR  
800-643 -1502

Ask for NASCOE when making  
reservations.  
Rooms \$ 84.00 Single

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