

GACOE GAZETTE



"Official Voice of the Georgia Association of FSA County Office Employees"

*Sandersville, Georgia
October, 2009*



God Bless our Troops.

To the Brave Men and Women; and their families. - We salute you for your time and sacrifices. May God richly bless and keep you. Thank You.

President's Report: September 21, 2009

Can you believe that a whole year has almost passed with GACOE? It seems as if yesterday we were electing officers for the 2009 year, and it is that time again. Momma said that time begins to pass very fast once you pass 50 and she was right again!

I would like to mention a few of the things that GACOE has been involved in this past year. The Legislative Conference in March was productive. There are new people in DC and NASCOE wanted to get in on the ground floor in meeting and discussing issues with them. When home town folks visit in DC they make an impact, and visiting as an association really makes a difference. NASCOE is well known in DC, where NASCOE has to request that County Office employees receive the COLA that other federal employees receive each year. Also, NASCOE has pushed the issue of County Offices not having the T1 lines to the forefront. (These are the computer lines that make working with the web programs much easier) GACOE presented NASCOE with a listing of these offices in Georgia, and hopefully this issue will be resolved in 2010. GACOE continues to support NASCOE in its efforts for PT reclassification, which I might add has been presented to management, but may be limited due to budget. These are just a few of the items that Georgia employees will benefit from due to the efforts of GACOE/NASCOE.

Some of the items that GACOE is striving to obtain, or keep, for employees are: Emphasizing the need for training; striving to protect and improve benefits that employees currently have; striving to attain proper staffing levels for county offices; and actively pursuing the benefits and privileges that are equal to those enjoyed by other federal employees.

If each of you could just see all the things that go on behind the scenes, I know that Georgia could obtain a 100% membership in our association. There is always someone, somewhere, that is giving of their time to improve our working conditions, to obtain a benefit or two, or striving to keep something we already have. So if you are not a member, take a few moments and look at your benefits. Are they important to you? Then why not join with the others that do not take these for granted and become a member. Get involved with GACOE, seek a place on the Executive Committee, and share your ideas with others to make GACOE the best it can be!

Thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve as GACOE President for 2009. It has been the most challenging and rewarding year for me, and I hope for GACOE.

Barbara



National Association of FSA County Office Employees
Celebrating 50 Years of Serving American
Agriculture
1959-2009

SOUTHEAST AREA REPORT
2009 NASCOE CONVENTION
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
August 12-15, 2009

Two years into this farm bill and still many programs have yet to be implemented, while we in the field have worked hard to provide our farmers with the quality service, the failure on managements part to provide the field with the tools of this farm bill, is having a negative impact on the farming community. As the end of FY 2009 is nearing, we have states that have eliminated all travel, basic supply purchases are limited, and COC meetings cut to a bare minimum. As I look back at our last trip in DC and meeting with a Management we met with CFO and he told us if we thought 2009 was bad, 2010 budget would be worst without a change in the funding provided by Congress. While all of this seems to be negative, I look around in the community I live and realize that we as FSA employees are greatly blessed with the jobs that we have. We have great benefits with leave, health insurance, life insurance, and our retirement plans. Look around and think about what you have in your community, and you too will realize that each day we work for FSA is a blessing.

Southeast Area Concerns

- **PT Reclassification** – Again employees are disappointed that the issue of PT reclassification has been delayed by management, the task force was a positive step in the process and employees are waiting patiently for the results.
- **Training** -FSA must find a way to train the county office employees. It is difficult enough to assist our customers while understaffed – without training it is dangerous. Could we be opening USDA/FSA to potential lawsuits for misinforming producers due to this lack of training?
- **Lack of** – newsletters, supplies, travel money.
- **Computers** – reliability of our web applications must be improved.
- **Leasing** - This new leasing system is ridiculous and time consuming. It causes many county offices to have to pay more rent than they were or than they need to. It costs the taxpayers more money and wastes A LOT of time.

- **FSA Equality** - If FSA is ONE agency – then why is it that FLP side gets to continue to HIRE, travel.
- **Training/communication/leadership** - We need training on how things will actually work when we return to our offices. Not someone reading to us from a handbook that sometimes does not seem to be written in English.
- **Changing a deadline on the actual day of the deadline** “.....the change of ending dates being announced on the original ending date. We work too dang hard to keep producers notified to the importance of getting things completed by a certain date and then having them change the date on that ending date. Not only does it hurt morale in the office after busting our rear ends for the last few dates, it also makes us lose face with the producers. Like we don't know when the ending date is or anything else for that matter.”
- **Black Farmers Lawsuit** - “NASCOE needs to take a strong position on the Black Farmer Lawsuit and back up our employees. NASCOE should request USDA provide the evidence they have of employee’s discriminating. FSA employees are being unjustly being accused of discrimination, throwing applications from black farmers in the trash, processing white farmer application in 30 days and processing black farmer applications in 387 days, and other acts that I have seen no evidence of. I know these accusations are being made by the National Black Farmers organization but it seems USDA is agreeing with them. The secretary has said their was discrimination by FSA employees. When the Secretary makes statements like this it makes all employees look bad and makes our working relationship with minorities more difficult.
- **Records Transfer System – needs to be revamped**
There has to be an easier and quicker way than the way it's done now. Not that many offices are
doing it because there is not enough time and personnel to get it done by this system.”

Special Thanks

I would like to extend a special thanks to each of the Southeast Area committee chairs and judges. I would also like to thank each the Southeast Area State Association Presidents for their hard work. And I want to thank my Alternate Executive Perry Dykes. Each of these people did a great job, to pass along information to our general membership and to gather comments and concerns from the membership. I also want to thank the Officers, Execs, and National Committee Chairs for their hard work and dedication to NASCOE members, not only are you coworkers, friends, but you are family.

Respectfully submitted,
J Cliff Fussell
Southeast Area Executive

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PRESIDENT OF GACOE:

I am announcing my candidacy for the office of President for 2010. I don't think there has been anything in my life that has compared to the last year as President of GACOE. I never imaged what a rewarding, complicated, chaotic, and pleasurable job this would be. And yet I am asking for your support again. Call me Crazy!

I have had the most interesting year of all my years with GACOE. This past year has probably been the most unusual of all GACOE years. It has definitely been a wild ride, and I have enjoyed all of it!! Not only have I gotten to meet a lot of the new people coming into FSA this year, and GACOE, but also have renewed friendships of the past, of which I am very grateful.

I pledge to continue GACOE's purpose, "to promote the general welfare of the employees within the scope of USDA and State FSA rules, regulations, and policies." I pledge to continue to make your concerns, your problems, your ideas, and your solutions known. I am very excited about all the changes that are happening within our work place, and am prepared for GACOE to play a big part in these changes.

I am very humbled, and honored to have served as your President in 2009, and I am asking for your support as I seek this office for 2010.

Barbara Jackson

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SECRETARY OF GACOE

I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Secretary for 2010. This has been a challenging year in all respects – work, home, and life. I've enjoyed the challenge of being Secretary of GACOE. I would like to thank all of you that have supported me during this very difficult year; it has been an honor to serve as GACOE Secretary.

I feel like my toes have not gotten completely wet, but I would like the chance to become emerged in GACOE and I'm asking for your support in the coming year.

Delores V Hartley

2009 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

GACOE annually offers the Vicki Cannady Memorial Scholarship and the Robert F. Williams, Jr. Memorial Scholarship in memory of our lost co-workers to provide financial assistance to deserving individuals to continue their education. GACOE awards four scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

The committee had a tough job this year, but it was great to receive so many wonderful scholarship applications. All applications were submitted to the Southeast Area Scholarship Committee for competition in the SE Area Scholarship Award.

After much thought, review of applications, and discussion by the committee, the committee is proud to present the following winners:

Vicki Cannady Memorial Scholarship Winners

Lindsey C. Hall, daughter of Terri Bolton, PT in Jenkins County. Lindsey will be a 2009 Honor Graduate of Jenkins County High School and plans to attend Georgia Southern University in the fall.

Jimmy C. Jenkins, III, son of Katy S. Jenkins, PT in Screven County. Jimmy will be a 2009 Honor Graduate of Screven County High School. Jimmy has been accepted at Augusta State University, Georgia Southern University, Armstrong Atlantic State University, and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Robert F. Williams, Jr. Scholarship Winners

Joseph Ashton Hall, son of Darby Hall, CED in Berrien County. Ashton will be a 2009 Honor Graduate of Thomas County Central High School. Ashton has been accepted at Georgia Southern University and Valdosta State University.

Casey Norman, son of Tammie Norman, PT in Wilkes-Lincoln County. Casey will graduate in May from Georgia Military College and plans to continue his education at Middle Georgia College.

GACOE is happy to have a small part in the continued education of these young people and wish them success as they pursue their goals for the future. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

*Jo Lynn Futch, Chairperson
Scholarship Committee*

GA-RASCOE at NASCOE



Twelve GA-RASCOE members and four spouses enjoyed a few days in the Tennessee mountains in August as they attended the 50th anniversary of NASCOE in Gatlinburg.

Pictured front row (l-r): LaVann Gaskins; Billy Sirmons; Barbara Webb, GACOE; June Faulk; and Fritz Scarborough. Second row (l-r): Bera Gaskin; Billy Queen; Eula Mae Queen; Nancy Addy; Phil Addy; and Barbara Jackson. Back row (l-r): Jim Cantrell; Billie Ann Cantrell; Freida Cook; Carolyn Powell; Joanne Legg; and Jack Legg.

Barbara Jackson, Deloris Hartley, David Nichols and William Lanier are associate members of GA-RASCOE and we appreciate their support.

REASONS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER JOINING RASCOE

Your retirement income and health insurance are controlled almost entirely by Congress.

Congress can decide to reduce or eliminate COLAs (even if it is due us). They have denied them in the past.

Congress is considering changing the formula for calculating monthly retirement annuities from the “high 3 years” to a “high 4 or 5 years.”

Congress is considering increasing the amount retirees pay for health insurance premiums (this is in addition to what the insurance company would increase).

Alone we can accomplish very little. As a group with many members, we stand a chance of making our voice heard.

At present, RASCOE is represented by Dave Senter (Kimmitt, Senter, Coates & Weinfuter) in Washington. This is a big plus for our legislative visits, information, etc.

We try to keep you informed on matters that pertain to your retirement.

We need you as a member! AND, you need us!

DISTRICT

NEWS

District 1A



Ronnie Morris, COR, became a first time Grandpa on June 27, 2009. Rex Bailey Spiva, 7 lbs. 14 ozs. entered this world. Ronnie said he would not spoil the boy until he grows up some.

Barry Phillips, (husband of Brenda Phillips, Carroll Co PT) is recovering from heart bypass surgery. He had emergency surgery on June 22. We hope he is feeling better now.

Also, Brenda has a new granddaughter - Lyla Grace was born on June 27th.

Gilda Wilson is still recovering form injuries she received in the car accident of May 8th She has returned to work but still going to physical therapy several times a week.

Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle

District 2

Webster-Stewart

News is that a stork will be landing in Webster-Stewart in December! Congratulations Denise and Don on your upcoming new arrival! Abbie, Denise's 10 year old daughter is so excited about having a baby brother.

Denise Otto and family had a GREAT time in Panama City Beach on June 14-21 on vacation. Then it was back to reality!!

Roger Swain, Webster-Stewart CED, and wife, Ann went to Cancun July 5-8 with friends.

Callie Redmond, Webster-Stewart PT and family when to the beach (Panama City). August 2-9. All had R & R and bunches of fun

Macon

Congratulations to Denervia Coogle on being hired into the permanent PT position in Macon County!

The Marion, Chattahoochee, Talbot, Harris, and Muscogee County FSA:
The Harris County Cattlemen's Association received Chapter of the Year; Tomika Sales Cecila Sizemore attended the meeting.





District 3

Lamar

District 3 would like to welcome Lamar Co PT, Rhonda P Ruffin on board.

Washington County

Stacey Yarbrough, daughter of Faye Yarbrough, Washington Co PT received two silver medals in swimming events for Special Olympics .

Wanda Foskey, PT, and Family spent a week at the beach after DCP sign up ended. She needed the break.

Delores Hartley, PT grandbaby arrived a week earlier than expected. Asa Thomas Wall arrived on September 28th, weighing in at 7 lbs 12 oz. He has long legs and fingers. It's a little early, but J T (his Daddy) can't decide if he is going to follow in his footsteps and carry a football or in April's and bounce the round ball. We just have to wait and see.

Barbara Jackson, CED took a trip to New York the last of September. How was your bus trip BJ?

Jefferson

Lisa Otis, PT 1st grandbaby was born Monday, September 28th. Brogan Thomas Otis. They were a little surprised as he was not due until around Oct. 16. All are doing well. He weighed 6lb. 2 oz. with curly blonde hair. Lisa is on cloud nine.

District 4

Some District 4 Employees attended the GACOE Convention in St. Simons and had a great time. Those in attendance were Pam Poole (and husband Jake), CED Effingham, Gay Harris, CED Bulloch County, Martha Kent, CED Emanuel County, Cathy Barlow (and husband Tommy), PT Emanuel County, Carmen Guy, PT Tattnall County, Donna Dykes, PT Tattnall County, Theresa Windham, FLM, and Brian Stuckey, DD. District 4 did their part in supporting the GACOE Scholarship auction. Gay bought a necklace and earring set, Cathy bought a necklace and earring set, Pam bought a weed eater, and Donna bought a tractor.

District 4 Farm Loan Manager, Theresa Windham, won 1st place in the Georgia Strawberry Cook-off held on April 25th in Reynolds. She won 1st place for Cheesecake, Pies, and Savories. We hear she makes a mean salsa!

JENKINS

From CED, Barbara Mobley, "I would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards, and prayers during my stem cell transplant. I know your prayers are what made the procedure easier on me. After 3 months off, I was able to return to work on May 18, 2009. It has been almost 5 years now since I was first diagnosed with cancer in December of 2004. The stem cell transplant was a success. My plasma cell count is way down. I will be on a chemo maintenance program to keep the plasma cell count down. Thanks for the caring of this agency. I am glad to be a part of it. Love to all."

Bobbie's oldest grandchild, Bailey Elizabeth Evans, turned sixteen on September 15th. She had a big party the Saturday night before and got a Volkswagen silver convertible that night. She was so excited.

Bobby will be leaving Friday September the 25th for a New England, Nova Scotia, and Canadian Cruise. She has been planning this cruise for a year and it is hard to believe it is finally time to go.

Lewis Gay, who was the field reporter in Jenkins for years and still works for NRCS, had surgery on September 14th. He had a cancerous growth removed from the outside of this kidney, he was able to come home from the hospital on Saturday, the 19th, and is doing fine. Please keep him in your prayers. We do not know if he will need further treatment.

Lindsey Hall, daughter of Jenkins County PT, Terri Bolton, receiving GACOE Vickie Kent Cannady Scholarship from Judy Kent, Vickie's mother.



Lindsey Hall and Judy Kent

Terri Bolton's oldest son, Dustin Hall, recently became engaged to Courtney Novobilsky. The wedding is planned for May 15, 2009 in Augusta, GA. (Then we will be able to spell & pronounce Courtney's last name)

Terri's youngest son, Hunter Bolton, made the Jenkins County C team football squad. But now that he has a broken hand, he may be sidelined for a bit!

Terri's daughter, Lindsey Hall is in the middle of her first semester at Georgia Southern University. She has been gone just long enough to miss Mama's cooking!!

Megan Fields, daughter of Kellie, is starting her second year of higher education in Columbus, GA. She's been gone long enough that she's learned how to cook like Mama, but she still calls for a recipe every now and then. She's just mastered gravy!

EMANUEL

PT, Cathy Barlow's (some of you might know her as Cathy Fennell) daughter, Audrey Fennell, graduated with honors from Tattnall County High School this year. She has started at East Georgia College to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education. Also, Audrey recently got engaged to Seth Edwards of Mendes. The wedding is being planned for November 2010! Congratulations to Cathy and Audrey!!

Cathy, her sister Diane, her daughter Audrey, and her daughter's boyfriend Seth went to an Atlanta Braves game on May 16th. Unfortunately, the Braves had the worst loss in Turner field history. Cathy has been banned from ALL Braves games. She was banned a few years ago from going to Georgia games. Just kidding! It can't always be Cathy's fault.

Cathy's husband, Tommy, played golf in the 2nd annual Kevin Frawley Lymphoma Golf Tournament at Savannah Harbor and won the longest drive with 294 yards. Go Tommy!

CANDLER

Susanne Deloach, daughter of PT, Lori Deloach, and husband, Charles, graduated Kindergarten from Pinewood Christian Academy in May.



Susanne Deloach

Arleigh Grace Monroe, daughter of PT, Pam Monroe, and husband, Jason, graduated Kindergarten on May 15th from David Emanuel Academy.

TATTNALL

Landyn Guy, son of PT, Carmen Guy, graduated from Vidalia High School on May 23rd.
Congratulations Landyn!! Landyn is attending East Georgia College.

Landyn is the first one standing on the left.



Aaron Guy, son of PT Carmen Guy, celebrated his 10th birthday at Splash in the Boro with his brother Tanner, cousin, Ethan, and friends.

Aaron is the little dude standing up front.



PT, Belinda Thompson and her family went to New Smyrna Beach a week in June for a family vacation. They also went to Columbia, SC on a camping trip. Below are Callie, Carleigh, and Cayla Ann at the zoo.



PT, Donna Dykes and her husband enjoyed a week in Islamorada, FL back in May. She is ready for another vacation!

PT, Carmen Guy and her entire family spent a week at Disney in July.

PTs Carmen Guy and Donna Dykes attended the NASCOE Convention in Gatlinburg, TN in August. It was their first National Convention. They are hooked! They had a blast and are hoping to go to Hot Springs next year. There are no pictures from that weekend.

They also attended the GACOE Convention on St. Simons in September. This was a special one since Carmen was celebrating a special birthday! They had a whole lot of fun then too and there are no pictures from that either! Hopefully!!



Cayla Ann

PT, Belinda Thompson's middle daughter, Cayla Ann, spent the weekend with PT, Donna Dykes back in August. (What was Belinda thinking?) They went to Splash in the Boro and shopped in Statesboro and hung out by the pool.

TOOMBS



Deborah Gregory, CED Toombs County receiving State Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service and Devotion to Community. District Director Brian Stuckey presenting.

Deborah Gregory also became a grandmother recently. Born August 19, 2009 at Memorial Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia, Kinsley Ann Gregory weighed 4lbs 15oz and William Karson Gregory weighed 4lbs and 13 oz. Congratulations!!!

BULLOCH

PT, Cindy McQuaid needs to brag on her grandbabies!

Savanna started playing soccer this year. She was placed as a goalie and did a marvelous job blocking the ball.

Madison just celebrated her sixth birthday. It is hard to believe that six years ago she was 2 pounds 7 ounces. She has come such a long way. She is in Kindergarten this year and doing very well.

Bulloch County welcomes a new PT. Beth Spence was recently hired. She was a temp for a short while before becoming permanent. She got on permanent when Julia Sharpe "graduated" from the COT program. Congratulations to both!!

EFFINGHAM



Shanna & Mason

PT, Shanna Edwards' son, Mason is now almost 16 months old! It's so hard to believe that he's already that old. He's growing so fast and is giving her a run for my money! Walking around and bringing everything down in his sights... but he's so much fun at this stage. He's said his first words, taken his first steps, had his first hair cut, and she's looking forward to so many more firsts and being there for them!

The picture is after his first hair cut!

Your prayers are needed for Kristen Norton, daughter of Effingham CED Pamela Poole. Kristen failed her annual cancer scan, after having her thyroid removed last year due to cancer. Now the cancer is back. The good news is that it is only in her neck and has not spread throughout her body. She must have additional radioactive iodine treatments, but they are thankful that it was found early. By the time that you read this, she will be finished with this last round of treatments. Pam's prayer request is for her daughter Kristen to be cancer free for good. Thank you in advance for your prayers.

SCREVEN

Katy Jenkins, Program Technician in Screven County says Thank you to GACOE for the scholarship her son Jay received. Jay is a freshman at Georgia Southern University and is already saying, "I'll be glad when this stuff is over with."

Allison Flanders, daughter of PT Emily Flanders, made the cheerleader competition team for the Screven County Middle School. She is enjoying this new adventure TREMENDOUSLY. It is definitely keeping Mama and Daddy on their toes--and in the road.

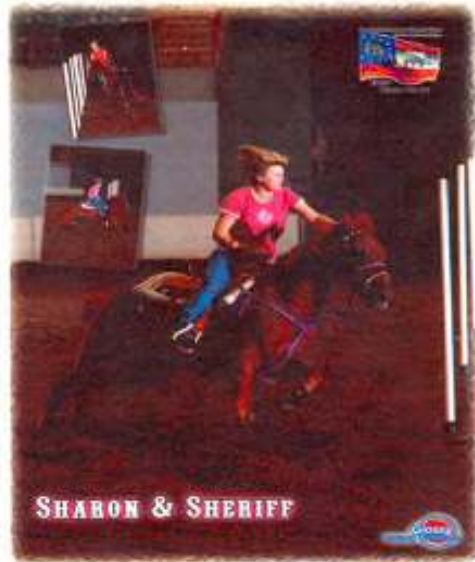
Wayne County PT Sharon Martin qualified with The Bacon County Saddle Club a member of the South Georgia Association in the running event of poles to run in the 43rd Annual Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs State Show

The Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs is a non-profit Equestrian Club. The members of the Federation compete in Judged (Performance) and Timed (Running) events.

There are nine associations in Georgia that form the Federation. Each Association is comprised of local clubs that compete within their own groups throughout the running year for points. The top six point earners in each age and event represent their association on the state level.

The state competition is held at the Reaves Arena, Georgia National Fairgrounds, in Perry, Georgia.

*Ride in Southern Style...
Unbridled Spirits
Endless Passion
And Infinite Grace*



District 5



The Wilcox County COC held a dinner in honor of its employees, Vickie Purvis, Nelda Sue Watson and Cindy Andersen for their service to the producers of Wilcox County. Vickie and Sue are looking toward retirement in 2010 and Cindy has made a career change. Performance awards were also presented to employees by COC Chairman, Ronnie Conner. Congratulations Girls from "Sweet Daddy."

District 6

Worth County

We celebrated two birthdays this month. Our favorite CED is now over half way to 100. It's been very traumatic for us all. Suzanne still is not 40. Susan just got back from funding the light bill in Las Vegas. She came back to work so.....I guess she wasn't a big enough winner.

Keith enjoyed a week at the beach. We enjoyed Keith being at the beach. We really do love him! He's the best.

Vicki took her Grandbaby to the beach fishing. Ella had a ball, Vicki didn't catch many fish.

Lea Anna Crocker, Gina's daughter, graduated from High School in May. Thank-God! One down-one to go.

Leigh Wilson and daughter Jessie enjoyed ten long days in Europe in June. After the first day or two, they really had a ball touring Italy, London, and Paris. We are glad both are home safe, sound, and speaking English. A large time was had by all. Leigh straightened up the leaning tower, Girl Power!

Felecia Fincher (state office employee) paid us a visit and seems to be doing well after her surgery and Kenny's. We wish them the best and miss her a lot.

District 7

Jeff Davis

Jeff Davis County Office is proud to have Brandi Spell as a Newly Hired Program Technician. Brandi was born and raised in Jeff Davis County, has an Animal Science Degree from ABAC, and will prove to be an asset to the FSA office here in Hazlehurst



Pictured is Monica and Todd Watson, Alisa Arnold (daughter) and Ann Watson (Todd's Mother)

Monica Watson, PT Coffee is glad to have her husband home safe from Iraq. An official "Welcome Home" was held July 18th in Douglas, Georgia to welcome the 848th Eng. Company back. Sgt. Michael Todd Watson received a Freedom Ring for having served 2 tours to Iraq.

Always take time to remember those who are unable to make it back. Such a Great Price is paid for Freedom.

Bacon Co.

Teresa Bryan was hired as the new CED in Bacon Co. Congrats to her!!!!

District 8

Grady Co.

Elaine Sherrod, CED Grady Co enjoyed a great 7 day cruise to Alaska and Canada . But, she says she is still a South Georgia Gal.

Teresa Bryan from Grady County was selected as the new CED in Bacon County, and we gave her a going away luncheon and presented gifts and flowers to express our congrats! Berry Laslie, DD and Kenneth Hicks, NRCS also attended.



2009

GACOE

Convention

King & Prince

St Simons, Georgia

September 10-11, 2009

If you didn't make it to the GACOE Convention this is what you missed. The Committees did a great job. We worked; we attended meetings, had fun, and relaxed.

Some of us went a day early to get things ready. A great big THANKS to all of you that worked. Thursday afternoon the committee met with our new SED, Hobby Stripling, Chiefs, and District Directors. The questions and answers that were submitted earlier were discussed.

Friday night the annual silent and live auction was held. For those that have never attended, these proceeds help to fund the Scholarships that GACOE awards each year. The one and only Ronnie Morris was the auctioneer for the live auction. If you never attended one of these events, you have ready missed a treat. We will not go into details – you have to try it – you might like it. Thank you Ronnie for your time, your “personality,” and your little known talent???? We all had fun.

Friday morning the general session began at 8:30 a.m. with the Brunswick Color Guard. A big thank you for those guys and girls that participated in this event.

Monica Watson, Coffee County PT, presented a very touching tribute to the victims and heroes of 911.

Hobby Stripling, SED spoke to the convention. He has served his first 30 days. Thank you Mr. Stripling for participating in the convention. We all look forward to working with you and your county office visits.

Myron Stroups, NASCOE President and his wife made the trip all the way from Missouri to speak to the convention. He spoke on issues we are all concern about. Budget and in a nut shell, everything revolves around "budget." To Myron thank you for taking time to attend GACOE. While he was speaking Friday morning, his wife was touring St. Simons in Jim Mace's, (J M Marketing) car. She stated she really didn't get lost; she just got a little turned around in the turn around in St. Simons.

David Laster, Farm Loan Chief spoke about being the acting SED and thanked everyone
After lunch, he and Mr. Stripling presented "Certification of Appreciation" for 2009 Program Accomplishments to the following counties: District 1 – Oconee County; District 2 – Taylor County; District 3 – Lamar County; District 4 - Bulloch Co; District 5 – Turner County; District 6 – Tift County; District 7 Lowndes County; District 8 Seminole County.

Fritz Scarborough, Carolyn Powell, Brian Stuckey, spoke to the convention.

JoLynn Futch, Scholarship Chairperson gave report on the winners of the 4 scholarships.

Monica Watson, Awards Chairperson presented awards to Roger Swain, "Distinguished Service Award for Service to NASCOE" and he won the southeast area award also.

Deborah Gregory was awarded the "Distinguished Service Award for Service to Community."

Monica also presented certificates of accomplishments for accumulated sick leave.

Thanks to all of you that sold and purchased raffle tickets. This was a grand success. Denise Otto, Vice President was the MC for this event.

Marcus Sapp, Brooks County producer won the 4-wheeler (see picture below) with Marcia Baker selling the winning ticket.

Fred Dilbert, Hart County won the \$500.00 cash, with Chris Camp selling the winning ticket.

The GA RASCOE had a luncheon and meeting at the hotel Friday. I will plug in now and say if you're not a member of RASCOE please consider joining as an associate for only \$20.00 a year. When you retire, you will get the benefits they are working on now.

Friday evening we had a social with DJ. Everyone enjoyed this but the ones that really enjoyed were Abbie Otto, daughter of Denise Otto, her friend Madison and Peggy Greer's little 2 year old granddaughter. They had a ball on the dance floor.



Lobby of the King & Prince

Cecile Ternest, Retiree; Keith Willis; Billy Sermons; Cliff Fussell; Hobby Stripling



Fritz Scarborough, Retiree

Fritz began his career as a field reporter many years ago, then County Executive Director, and State Director. Fritz was also president of GACOE and NASCOE.

His talk was fantastic – See the little book – well when he began his career this was “The Handbook” they used from administrative through compliance. Fritz will give credit to the others who formed NASCOE, but we know he had a hand in it also. Thank you Fritz for all that you have done for NASCOE. Please DO NOT Stop visiting county offices.



Myron Stroup, NASCOE President
Myron Stroup, NASCOE President spoke at the GACOE Convention. This was Myron's 1st convention since being elected NASCOE President in Gatlinburg.



Friday Night Social – Island Time



Barbara, Monica, & Marcia resting in the lobby
after a job well done.



Abbie Otto and her friend (Madison) you can hardly see her had a large time on the dance floor. This is just one of Abbie's many moves.



Michael who???? The unexpected guest Friday night slipped in the back door; stopped by each table and waved, did a few moves on the dance floor and slipped out the back door. This was priceless.



Marcus Sapp, Brooks Co producer with his new 4 wheeler. Marcia Baker, Brooks Co PT delivered to him after the convention.

Bounce This Along!

The US Postal service sent out a message to all letter carriers to put a sheet of Bounce in their uniform pockets to keep yellow-jackets away.

Use them all the time when playing baseball and soccer. I use it when I am working outside. It really works. The insects just veer around you.

All this time you've just been putting Bounce in the dryer!

- 1.** It will chase ants away when you lay a sheet near them. It also repels mice.
- 2.** Spread sheets around foundation areas, or in trailers, or cars that are sitting and it keeps mice from entering your vehicle.
- 3.** It takes the odor out of books and photo albums that don't get opened too often.
- 4.** It repels mosquitoes. Tie a sheet of Bounce through a belt loop when outdoors during mosquito season.
- 5.** Eliminate static electricity from your television (or computer) screen.
- 6.** Since Bounce is designed to help eliminate static cling, wipe your television screen with a used sheet of Bounce to keep dust from resettling.
- 7.** Dissolve soap scum from shower doors. Clean with a sheet of Bounce.
- 8.** To freshen the air in your home - Place an individual sheet of Bounce in a drawer or hang in the closet.
- 9.** Put Bounce sheet in vacuum cleaner.
- 10.** Prevent thread from tangling. Run a threaded needle through a sheet of Bounce before beginning to sew.
- 11.** Prevent musty suitcases. Place an individual sheet of Bounce inside empty luggage before storing.
- 12.** To freshen the air in your car - place a sheet of Bounce under the front seat.
- 13.** Clean baked-on foods from a cooking pan. Put a sheet in a pan, fill with water, let sit overnight, and sponge clean. The anti-static agent apparently weakens the bond between the food and the pan.
- 14.** Eliminate odors in wastebaskets. Place a sheet of Bounce at the bottom of the wastebasket.
- 15.** Collect cat hair. Rubbing the area with a sheet of Bounce will magnetically attract all the loose hairs.
- 16.** Eliminate static electricity from Venetian blinds. Wipe the blinds with a sheet of Bounce to prevent dust from resettling.
- 17.** Wipe up sawdust from drilling or sand papering. A used sheet of Bounce will collect sawdust like a tack cloth.
- 18.** Eliminate odors in dirty laundry. Place an individual sheet of Bounce at the bottom of a laundry bag or hamper.

19. Deodorize shoes or sneakers. Place a sheet of Bounce in your shoes or sneakers overnight.
20. Golfers put a Bounce sheet in their back pocket to keep the bees away.
21. Put a Bounce sheet in your sleeping bag and tent before folding and storing them. It will keep them smelling fresh.
22. Wet a Bounce sheet, hose down your car, and wipe lovebugs off easily with the wet Bounce.

Quick, bounce this along!

Nothing will happen if you don't, but your friends will be glad to hear these hints!

The Gazette can not be completed without your help. I thought this would be put to bed two weeks ago, but things kept happening, mainly my new little grand baby, but I finally made it.

I really mean it when I say without you a Gazette can not be issued. I edit, place, splice, and all the little things, but without your input I could not do it. I would like to say THANK YOU to all that sent in news and pictures. I know it takes time to prepare information that you send. Please – send me news as it happens and I will place it on my little flash drive and start compiling. If you had rather send to your district representative by means do it – just send news.

The next Gazette should go out in December and that is not far away. Would love to have lots of news and pictures.

Thank You
Dee

GACOE District Representatives

We have several new district GACOE representatives for 2010. Some districts have a hard time getting someone to run, so a big thanks to all of you for participating. I challenge you to get to know your representatives and if you have questions or concerns, contact them. They will help you find the answer if they don't know.

For those that returned as representatives; "Thank You" for keeping the light burning in the window and doing the work you do.

To all of the representative past and present you time and your work is appreciated. Many believe you don't do much, but you do. Thank You.



BIRTHDAYS

'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' wishes (belated and upcoming) go out to all of the following... Please let me know if I have anyone who has retired lately or someone who is not in the right District or some one who has left FSA so that I can update my list.

Lydia Phillips – July 22
Susan Reynolds – August 15

Maggie Collier – July 5
Virginia Lovering-August 2
Connie Guined (DCA)-August 24
Freddie Cody – September 8

Marcia Lawrence – September 6
Judi Moore – September 8
Gail Scoggins-September 11

Emily Flanders – August 1
Martha Kent – August 8
Lori Deloach – September 2

Cathy Gibbs – July 20
Steve Sanders – August 5
Wanda McCurdy – September 1
Tony Rogers – September 10
Dianne Batten – September 11
Sherry Peacock – September 18

Helen Gay – June 4
Phil Addy “Big Daddy” – August 16
Krista Knight – August 19

Roger Allen – July 4
Kyndal Leavens – August 13
Linda Thornton – September 4

Elaine Sherrod – July 1
Cathy Summerhill – August 12
Suzy Harrison – September 4
Keith Harris – July 25

~DISTRICT 1B~

Rita Rogers – August 3
Pam Hunter – September 9

~DISTRICT 2~

Delores Culpepper-July 24
Denise Otto-August 18
Jane Hobbs (FLO)-September 10

~DISTRICT 3~

Lynn Beckham - September 7
Penny Forbes – September 15

~DISTRICT 4~

Dianne Smith – August 4
Walon Smith – August 11
Katy Jenkins – September 3

~DISTRICT 5~

Mitch Wilcox – August 4
Glenda Walker – August 28
Becky Delosh – September 25
Stacy Harrell – September 28
Miranda Swain – September 14

~DISTRICT 6~

Keith Willis – July 26
Leigh Wilson – August 12

~DISTRICT 7~

Sharon Russ – July 6
Paula Kneeland – August 18

~DISTRICT 8~

Sharon M. Greene – July 16
Val Turner – August 18
Karen Goines - August 30

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Please Pass Around To All Employees

**Georgia Association of FSA
County Office Employees**

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