

MINUTES
of the
Georgia Association of FSA County Office Employees
Executive Committee

The Executive Committee and Officers of the Georgia Association of FSA County Office Employees met October 15, 2008 in Moultrie Georgia at the Colquitt County FSA Building.

Those present were Chad Scruggs, President Barbara Jackson, Vice President
 Pam Wilkes, Treasurer Denise L.Otto, Secretary
 Roger Swain – Past President
 District 1A- Carolyn Taylor
 District 1B – Thomas Verner and Dianne Westmoreland
 District 2 – Phil Howell and Callie Redmond
 District 3 – Kyle Brown and Delores Hartley
 District 4 – Pam Poole and Donna Dykes
 District 5 – Jo Lynn Futch and Wanda McCurdy
 District 6 – Keith Willis and Peggy Greer
 District 7 – Pam Dennis and Monica Arnold
 District 8 – Joe Hester and Marcia Baker

The meeting began with the Question and Answers session. Those present were Mrs. Teresa Lasseter, FSA Administrator and her husband Willard, Jim Meidinger, Asst. to the Administrator, Mrs. Susan Holmes, SED, Harry Lee Kemp, State Committee Chairperson, Ronnie Lee, STC, Mary Alice McGhee, STC, William Bagwell, STC, Kula Moore, STO ADM, Clark Weaver, STO Farm Programs Chief, Brett Martin, STO Farm Programs Chief, Mary Parker, STO Outreach Coordinator, Elaine McGarity, SED Secretary, David Laster, STO Farm Loan, Mike Gibbs, NACS, members of GACS, Robert Tyson, Leigh Wilson, Theresa Windham, and Sandra Hammond, District Directors, Acting Jay Arnold, David Nichols, Berry Laslie, Barry Alexander, Jeff Harden, John Rudowski, and Brian Stuckey and Virginia Lovering and Ronnie Morris COR's.

Dr. Harry Lee Kemp gave the invocation and The meeting started with Mrs. Teresa Lasseter, FSA Administrator talking on some issues that are going on now with FSA. She mentioned that the SURE and ACRE software will be released no sooner than early Spring 2009. Mrs. Lasseter commended Georgia for their bold step in consolidating offices when needed. She said that this made Georgia FSA stronger. She stated that Budget is a very important concern and FSA must hold their current level of spending. States who consolidated will not see a FY 09 budget decrease. However, everyone is being held to current staffing levels (Bodies on Board). She stated that if an office had

an unusual situation to be sure to ASK. The Administrator made a few comments on improper payments and said we should consider continuing using the 770's even though they are no longer required. They are a great way to make sure that you have everything done before making the payment. Mrs. Lasseter stated that she had enjoyed working with us and being our FSA Administrator and commended our State Committee, Mrs. Holmes, and everyone with FSA on doing a great job.

Next, to speak was Kula Moore, Admin Officer. Kula made the following comments:

- Waiting on DAFO approval for COT's to be interviewed.
- We are currently under a continuing resolution until March 6, 2009.
- Congress had approved a 3.9% pay increase.
- With the increased travel costs, pay increase, increase in rent/lease costs our states operating plan must absorb all of these costs with the FY 2009 budget. FSA basically is on a 20% diet because realistically, we will have 80% of last year's money.
- Training-STO is emphasizing conference calls and net training.
- Will only fill critical positions.
- Current temp's have been extended until 12/31/08. DD's felt that the temps were needed more early in the year.
- 2008 temporary ceiling is 10 plus 10 disaster temps. Unclear on whether we have slots for 10 or 20 temps. Kula interprets as 20 for 2009.
- Any overspending on temp money may be offset from other discretionary spending areas.
- Gov Trip- FATA Debbie Anderson, no others received training.
- Missouri STO Website has a helpful power point, also ref to FI Notices and STO Provided booklets.
- Non- Payment of gov travel credit card because of Gov Trip will not impact an individual's credit rating. If a problem, call Kula.
- Denise Otto, Webster County PT, offered to help with issues for those who want to call her. Denise and Katy Jenkins are our WEBTA trainers along with Felecia Fincher.
- Gov Trip authorization may be post approved.
- Background Process for Linc Passes – Felecia Fincher is processing BI packages by county. The initial deadline of 10/01/08 for laptop users is delayed to 11/08.
- Linc Pass locations – The SED requested Tift County Office for issuing ID's stay open.
- 184's to be discontinued 12/01/08 – issues with setting up direct deposit to pay Clerk of Court for Recording fees was raised and Clark says he is working on that.
- Clark is planning to come out with District Price Support Training.
- Every office will get a scanner, it has to be hooked up to one computer for use for whole office.
- In June there will be a National Convention for NACS in Atlanta, Ga.
- Will send out an email with the chain in command for Administrative Division. She said to let her know if we were not getting answers timely from Admin.
- Kula is checking on shredder service with Kathy Shepherd.

GAC's questions were asked next which are attached to these minutes as Exhibit One.

The answers GAC's received were:

- Possibility of 1-2 more office consolidations in GA.
- FSA Reorganization-no word presently
- STO is planning 12 producer meetings around the state to discuss the new farm bill; Farm program and Farm Loan personnel will be involved with this.
- Ga Administrative Staffing-duties of employees, Kula to email out staff responsibility
- May send AD-700 for CED Name Tag- Federal Money pays for this.

Dr. Harry Lee Kemp stated that all FSA employees had changed his image of a Government employee to a better image. The SED thanked everyone for the work they do for FSA and she said it was an honor to work for FSA in Georgia. She thanked GACOE and GACS for their leadership to the FSA employees. She then made a few closing remarks and the Question and Answer session ended at 10:40 p.m.

The Vice President, Chad Scruggs, called the GACOE meeting to order at 11:00 am and he welcomed any new GACOE committee persons. The minutes from the last meeting were approved by the committee. The Treasurer, Pam Wilkes, reviewed the financial report and a final Rally report which are attached to the minutes. Chad went over our authorization to the meeting. He stated that we are authorized travel and lodging from the STO but we must take annual leave for the GACOE meeting.

We then proceeded to the Election of Officers for the 2008-2009 year.

Election of Officers – Elections were held as follows:

The floor was open for any nominations for Treasurer. Carolyn Taylor nominated Pam Wilkes for Treasurer. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Pam Wilkes be elected Treasurer by acclamation. All motions passed. Pam Wilkes was elected Treasurer.

The floor was open for any nominations for Secretary. Wanda McCurdy nominated Denise Otto for the Secretary position. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Denise Otto be elected Secretary by acclamation. All motions passed. Denise Otto was elected Secretary.

The floor was then open for any nominations for Vice-President. Delores Hartley nominated Barbara Jackson for Vice-President. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Barbara Jackson be elected Vice-President by acclamation. All motions passed. Barbara Jackson was elected Vice President.

The floor was opened for any nominations for President. Roger Swain nominated Chad Scruggs for President. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Chad Scruggs be elected President by acclamation. All motions passed. Chad Scruggs was elected as President.

After the elections, Chad made a few comments about what needed to be done and for anyone to call him if they had any questions about anything.

We then went on to discuss old business. Pam Wilkes stated that she was now bonded.

New Business: The membership fees for a new employee were discussed and it was motioned that all new members (employees) dues are due January 1st. If they are hired within a membership year, they will start their dues on January 1st. The Executive Committee approved the GACOE dues to stay the same at .002 times salary on PP1. The associate member dues will remain at \$25.00.

The Scholarship Program was reviewed and it was motioned and approved to remain the same as last year at 4- \$1000.00 scholarships, 2 in memory of Vicki Cannady and 2 in memory of Rob Williams.

Committee Reports were as follows:

LEGISLATIVE – Chad stated that there was going to be a full legislative conference tentative for latter March 2009.

BENEFITS – Dianne Westmoreland reminded everyone about the Sam’s Club Discount and that you must have your membership card with you at time of purchasing membership with Sam’s Club.

MEMBERSHIP – New Employees get a membership card for the year hired.

EMBLEMS –NO REPORT

SCHOLARSHIPS – Voted to stay the same.

PUBLICITY – No Report

AWARDS – January and February are the times to submit Award nominations.

Roger Swain suggested that each President or officers get a plaque for their service as an officer of GACOE. It was voted on to let the new Awards Committee handle getting these plaques.

Chad then encouraged everyone to use CAPWIZ; it is a very useful tool. DO NOT use GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS for CAPWIZ.

They are being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Otto
GACOE Secretary

