

**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 January 27, 2004 at the USDA Service Center in Perry, Georgia.

Those present were: Cliff Fussell, President                      Roger D. Swain, Vice-President  
Pam Wilkes, Treasurer                      Denise L .Otto, Secretary  
District 1B – Rita Rogers  
District 2 – Neal Leonard (Alternate) and Lori Faulkner  
District 3 – Kyle Brown  
District 4 – Wayne White and Emily Flanders  
District 5 – Chuck Riley and Barbara Webb  
District 6 – Jerry Timmons and Cindy Brown  
District 7 – Chad Scruggs and Monica Arnold  
District 8 – Elaine Sherrod and Marcia Baker

The President, Cliff Fussell, called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Neal Leonard. President Fussell welcomed the Executive Committee members and reviewed the itinerary for the meeting.

The President asked if any changes needed to be done to the last meetings minutes. It was motioned and seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

The treasurer, Pam Wilkes, gave the financial report. Pam passed out a list of 2004 Associate Members as of January 27, 2004 and also a list of payroll deduction members and stated that the list might not be 100% correct. She stated that the list was given only to encourage non-members to join not to publicize to all FSA. She also discussed our travel authorization. She passed around an expense sheet for everyone who drove to claim travel which would be paid at \$.375 by GACOE. The President stated that annual leave had to be taken for those attending the meeting.

Cliff Fussell, President, discussed how he would like for us to meet with the State Committee quarterly instead of once a year. The reason for not meeting with the State Committee was he did not get a response from Mr. Newton. He stated Kula was real responsive to the idea but the State Committee's meeting was called off in January. Cliff stated that he would get in touch with Duke Lane, Chairperson of the State Committee, himself and ask to meet with them. Cliff also stated that the reason for this meeting today was for going over convention proposals and trying to get an idea of a Convention Site and time. He also stated that he and a couple others were having a teleconference with Mike Gibbs, Kula Moore and David Laster, Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, on these decisions in trying to get a definite time, date and place for the 2004 GACOE State Convention. He stated that we are trying to have Farm Loan Training on Wednesday and part of Thursday having GACOE activities start after the training was over on Thursday and all day Friday and going home Saturday morning. It was motioned that Cliff Fussell, Chuck Riley, and

Roger Swain be on the teleconference call on Thursday. The motioned was seconded. The motion passed.

The GACOE committees then reported as follows:

### **Legislative – Chad Scruggs, Chairperson**

Chad gave the dates for the Mini Conference in Washington as the first week of March. He stated that Bob Redding was working on a different way to set up appointments this year and that negotiation items were not available at this time. They would be posted on the NASCOE website when available.

### **Membership – Rita Rogers, Chairperson**

Rita stated that she was working on a membership letter, but she couldn't complete the letter until we had all details on Convention, because it was mentioned to do a drawing on a person getting their dues back at the Convention. She stated that her letter will go out when those details are final.

### **Benefits – Renee Peace, Chairperson- No Report**

### **Awards – Barbara Webb, Chairperson**

Barbara reminded us about the deadline of January 30 on awards and stated that she needed a nomination for Service to Community Award. It was discussed to re-enter Dianne Westmoreland in at the National Level again. She received the 2003 award for Service to Community but did not win at the National Level. It was motioned and seconded that if no nominations were received in 2004 for Service to Community Award that Dianne Westmoreland be re-submitted for the award again. The motion passed.

### **Emblems – Marcia Baker**

Marcia stated that we had a few long sleeve denim shirts left and a few polo shirts left. We discussed that some of these be given as prizes at the convention and that some of the golf towels be given as prizes for Golf Tournament at the convention. Marcia stated that she would get together an order for the convention and that we need to try to sell these shirts throughout the meeting at break time and lunch. This would allow everyone attending the meeting the opportunity to buy and see the items for sell.

### **Elections-Monica Arnold – No Report**

### **Publicity- Denise Otto**

Denise stated that she needs items for the March Issue of the Gazette by the end of February. She also mentioned that we need to get details on the convention together before then so that she can publicize the events in the March issue of the Gazette.

### **Scholarships-Glynn Forrester**

Glenn did not attend meeting. Cliff Fussell gave a handout out to everyone on the timetable for scholarships.

### **Archives- Ruby Postell –No Report**

## **Parliamentarian-Jay Arnold-No Report**

Cliff Fussell gave NASCOE news. The NASCOE Convention will be held in Baltimore, Maryland for 2004. The dates for this convention are July 28-31, 2004. The SEA Convention will be an ALL South Rally in New Orleans on March 11, 12, and 13th. At this time Cliff ask for any nominations for delegates for the all South Rally. Chuck Riley nominated Cliff Fussell, President and Roger Swain, Vice President as delegates. Jerry Timmons seconded. Next Cliff Fussell asks for any nominations for delegates for the National NASCOE Convention in Baltimore. Chuck Riley nominated that the President and Vice President, Cliff and Roger, be nominated to go as delegates. Chad Scruggs seconded.

Rita Rogers updated us on the Website information. Rita stated that everything seemed to be running smoothly and that she was having trouble with getting pictures on the website but was working to get the problem fixed. Denise Otto stated that she could not get the minutes to come up on the website and Rita said she would check in to the problem and fix it. Cliff also stated that our website could be entered into the publicity contest if we wanted to pursue this.

At this time the convention for 2004 was discussed. Cliff stated that we were here to get a proposal together for the teleconference with the State Office. Cliff passed around proposals from different areas he had contacted on Convention sites. A proposal from Athens, Jekyll Island, Callaway Gardens, and Atlanta were reviewed. Savannah did not have anything available until August or September. Cliff stressed that Jekyll Island Clarion Resort had the best proposal but it was a Committee decision on voting on it. The proposal consist of a \$63.00 a night room rate, \$150.00 meeting room rate with second day free, free use of deck for events, April 1, 2, and 3 dates. Cliff also stated that some rooms from the Days Inn would have to be used but that the rooms were newly remodeled and within walking distance of the Clarion. The rooms at the Days Inn would be the same rate at \$63.00 a night. Kyle Brown motioned that the Clarion Resort in Jekyll Island be the place for the Convention and Wayne White seconded. The motion was passed.

Next convention activities were discussed. It was discussed that we do an auction from maybe 5:00 p.m. until around 7:00 p.m. on Thursday Night asking GACS if they would be interested in participating in the silent auction and keeping their proceeds for their organization and GACOE do the same. GACOE will also have a live auction. Denise Otto had an idea of getting maybe a DJ or a 2 man band come and sing after the auction for those interested in hanging out on the deck for the night. She and Roger have 2 men in mind for the job. They said they would ask them to give us a price and we would discuss it further when final decisions are being made. Chuck Riley said he would be contacting the place in McRae about the lawn tractor for raffle. Cliff went over a few people he had in mind for speakers for the convention. He mentioned Bob Redding, David Vidrine, Craig McCain, and a representative from Georgia come and speak. Cliff also mentioned he had an idea of having an open panel discussion with the State Committee to give members the opportunity to ask questions. Chad Scruggs said if we do that we need to have a box for members to put questions in so that we won't be surprising the State Committee with an inappropriate question. A Golf Tournament was discussed, a volleyball tournament was discussed, and a banquet with band afterwards was discussed with ticket sales for the banquet to get an idea of how many would be attending. We discussed having the awards at the banquet with David Vidrine, NASCOE Vice President and maybe someone from Washington (Eloise Taylor was mentioned) speaking. Cliff stated that we need to get Donations to cover cost of

Thursday Night on the deck. He also mentioned that at least 2 prizes be given from each county for the auction. Wayne White mentioned that he would like to see if we could have a financial advisor come to the convention and have maybe two sessions on our retirement and benefits. Everyone agreed that this was an excellent idea and we should pursue this. All these items were left opened until we can get final details together on place and time of Convention.

Cliff Fussell and Barbara Webb discussed the idea of getting a bus for traveling to the All South Rally in New Orleans. It was decided that in order to rent a bus we would have to have a definite number or at least 20 to 25 to commit on riding the bus. Denise Otto said she would send out an email to all members to give details and a deadline on signing up to ride the bus. It was voted that the deadline be February 6<sup>th</sup> so that we could get an accurate count. Cliff stressed that we really needed to attend the South Rally, in which you learn a lot from other states on how things are done in their states. And you meet a lot of interesting people. Raffle Tickets were handed out for South Rally and they needed to be turned back in on February 1st. It was motioned by Chuck Riley that up to \$500.00 be given to NASCOE for South Rally. That we would sell as many as we could by the 1<sup>st</sup> and then GACOE buy up to \$500.00. Jerry Timmons seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

The President stressed to the Executive Committee on being an associate member of NAFEC and to go home and talk to your County Committee about being members of NAFEC.

The President stated that the reorganization plan has been stopped by NRCS and Soil and Water Committees.

It was discussed that questions with State Committee be submitted ahead of time from GACOE and GACS. These questions need to be gone over and discussed ahead of time before meeting with the State Committee so duplicate questions will not be asked.

Pam Wilkes, Treasurer, wanted to make an email message about payroll deduction a little clearer. She stated that if you were payroll deduction you did not need to do anything. If you were signing up for payroll deduction for the first time, fill out a form 444 and send the original to the State Office so it can be loaded and a copy to Pam. She also stated that membership cards will be sent out as soon as possible and that Rita Rogers would be assisting her on getting these out. Cliff stated that we really need to work on membership and associate membership.

Cliff Fussell made final remarks.

They're being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Otto  
GACOE Secretary