

**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 April 21, 2005 at the USDA Service Center in Perry, Georgia.

Those present were: Cliff Fussell, President Roger D. Swain, Vice-President
Pam Wilkes, Treasurer Denise Otto, Secretary
District 1A - Glenn Forrester
District 1B – Chris Camp and Rita Rogers
District 2 – NONE
District 3 – Barbara Jackson
District 4 – NONE
District 5 – Chuck Riley and Barbara Webb
District 6 – Peggy Greer(Alternate)
District 7 – Chad Scruggs and Monica Arnold
District 8 – NONE

The President, Cliff Fussell, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:50 am.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved by the committee.

Cliff Fussell, President, discussed our travel and meeting authorization. He stated that everyone there was authorized mileage to the meeting and back home.

Each 2005 committee reported as follows:

Legislative – Chad Scruggs, Chairperson

Chad Scruggs made comments on the Full Legislative Conference held in Washington in March. Everything went real well with good comments and goals mentioned. At the Legislative Conference they stressed how big changes were coming and the 2006 budget. Chad and Chuck commented on how well the dinner appointments went we had in Washington. These appointments are so much more informative and personal than others. Chad also reminded us to follow through with our contacts. Chad and Cliff commented on how important NAFEC is to us and that we needed to encourage our County Committee to join NAFEC. NAFEC has a lot of pull for us in Washington on issues that GACOE cannot touch. Political contacts are the key to getting things done. He also mentioned the CAPWIZ program and how easy it was to sign-up and have reminders sent to you on issuing letters to the key contacts.

At this time Pam Wilkes, Treasurer, came in and gave us our financial status and passed out a mid-year report.

Membership – Rita Rogers, Chairperson

Rita Rogers stated that we are at 88% membership. We have 283 regular members and 28 associate members at this time. She also reminded reps to get in touch with non members and

just give them a call and give them a rundown on how important GACOE is to us as County Office employees.

Benefits – Renee Hamrick, Chairperson-

Barbara Jackson mentioned the email with all discounts to all GACOE members.

Awards – Barbara Webb, Chairperson

Barbara stated that we had an award in every category. The FSA Agriculture award goes to Betty Clark, 40 years as a Program Technician. Betty also won the Southeast Area Award. Community Service Award went to Monica Arnold. The NASCOE/GACOE award goes to Chad Scruggs. Rita Rogers again won Best Website in the Southeast Area. Also Barbara mentioned that Rebecca Allen won Southeast Area Scholarship in addition to GACOE Scholarship. She is the daughter of Roger Allen, CED in Coffee County.

Emblems – Marcia Baker, Chairperson – No Report

Elections-Monica Arnold, Chairperson – No Report

Publicity- Denise Otto, Chairperson

Denise Otto reminded everyone of the deadline to get the news in for the next Gazette. It is May 27, 2005.

Archives- Ruby Postell, Chairperson –No Report

Scholarships-Glenn Forrester, Chairperson

Glenn Forrester announced the scholarship winners as follows – Mandy Slaton daughter of Dianne Westmoreland, PT in Hall County, Rebecca Allen daughter of Roger Allen, CED in Coffee County, Kaydee Ree Sharpe daughter of Julia W. Sharpe, PT in Bulloch County, and Channing Nicole Paulk daughter of Regina Paulk, PT in Ben Hill County. Chuck Riley motioned that someone in the office of the winners area present the award at the awards day at the child's school and the check for the scholarship be awarded at the convention upon a letter stating that they have been accepted at the college or technical school. Glenn seconded the motion.

Parliamentarian- Jay Arnold-No Report

Cliff asked if there was any Old Business at this time. There not being any old business we then moved on to new business.

Cliff Fussell gave NASCOE news. The NASCOE Convention will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota for 2005. The dates are July 27-30, 2005. The SEA Convention will be in Asheville, North Carolina for 2005. The dates are April 28-30. Chuck motioned that we give \$500.00 to the North Carolina Association for hosting the Rally in 2005. Monica Arnold seconded the motion. A van will be leaving from Tifton at 8:00 am for anyone interested in riding. It will make three stops along the way. Cliff mentioned that the talk was that in 2006 we will have an

All South Rally in San Antonio, Texas. Denise Otto mentioned the possibilities of hosting the Southeast Area Rally in 2007. Cliff stated that it would be a great idea that Georgia hosts the Rally because Georgia has a lot of political contact now with Saxby Chambliss being on the Ag Committee. Denise motioned that Cliff and Roger mention that Georgia was interested in hosting the 2007 Southeast Area Rally in Atlanta at the Rally in Asheville, North Carolina.

Next, Cliff discussed the options of GACOE having a debit card for accounting purposes to consolidate billing. He stated that when we go to the Legislative Conferences and pay for meeting rooms and GACOE expenses at the conventions that it would be so much easier to use a debit card. This would also be good to use on making flight reservations for GACOE and hotel reservations. Cliff and Pam were nominated to look into getting the debit cards and only the two people on the checking account signature card would be aloud to have them for use for GACOE. It was put in the form of a motion and seconded.

Next a Laptop Computer was mentioned for GACOE. After a little discussion, Cliff said that we all needed to get up some figures and really look into the uses we would get out of it before jumping into spending that kind of money. This item was put on hold.

Plans for the 2005 Convention were discussed. Cliff went over the bids he had gotten up for the 2005 Convention which were Sea Palms in St. Simons Island, Jekyll Island Buccaneer, Holiday Inn in Jekyll Island, Unicoi State Park, and Savannah. Cliff stated that he had contacted Unicoi a couple of times and they never responded with a proposal for the convention, Savannah's rates were over \$100.00 a night, Sea Palms in St. Simons offered \$89.00 a night, waiving the fee for function space only and comp ting a room for every 50 rooms booked. The dates mentioned for Sea Palms were August 25-27, 2005. The Holiday Inn in Jekyll offered a room rate of \$69.00 a night but no meeting rooms would be compted. The Buccaneer offered a \$68.00 a night room rate, free room for every 50 rooms booked, compted speakers rooms, compted all meeting rooms, hospitality suite, all rooms beachside, dates August 18-20, 2005. They offered the same room rate through Sunday for those who would like to stay through the weekend. Chuck motioned to proceed with the negotiations offered by the Buccaneer and Chad seconded. Chuck Riley mentioned that the committees may be the same as last year, but we needed more help on registration side at the convention. We voted to extend an invitation to GACS and leave it at that. We mentioned a few names to be possible speakers. Chuck stated that we would get a meeting together real soon to go over convention plans in more details.

Cliff made some final comments.

They're being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Otto
GACOE Secretary