

**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 June 8, 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 1A - Glenn Forrester
District 1B – Chris Camp and Rita Rogers
District 2 – Carol Streetman and Neal Leonard (Alternate)
District 3 – Renee Peace
District 4 – Walon Smith and Donna Dykes (Alternate)
District 5 – Chuck Riley and Barbara Webb
District 6 – Ray Pate (Alternate) 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 corrections or changes needed to be done to the last meetings minutes, no comments were received. It was motioned and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion passed.

New business was discussed. Cliff brought up the idea of GACOE mailing a letter to the recipients of the Scholarships as well as non-recipients. Chuck Riley motioned on two new items for us to think about. One being the idea that we have a GACOE Representative award the Scholarship money and a certificate to the student at their awards banquet. Also he mentioned that maybe we needed to adopt a Family Host Program for FSA employees who are evacuated from their homes in a hurricane. He stated that this program would help the employee find lodging during the evacuation. These items were seconded and approved by the Executive Committee.

The GACOE committees then reported as follows:

Legislative – Chad Scruggs, Chairperson – No Report

Membership – Rita Rogers, Chairperson – No Report

Benefits – Renee Peace, Chairperson- No Report

Awards – Barbara Webb, Chairperson – No Report

Emblems – Marcia Baker – No Report

Elections-Monica Arnold – No Report

Publicity- Denise Otto

Denise stated that the Gazette will be mailed to Curtis on June 9, 2004. She stated the reason it had not been sent was because she wanted to get the registration form in the Gazette for the convention.

Scholarships-Glynn Forrester- No Report

Archives- Ruby Postell –Not Present

Parliamentarian-Jay Arnold-Not Present

Cliff discussed paying the dues to the Georgia Agribusiness Council. These dues are \$125.00 and GACOE has been an acting member of this council for years. It was motioned and seconded that the dues be paid so that GACOE remain a member of the Georgia Agribusiness Council.

The treasurer, Pam Wilkes, gave the financial report. She stated that we were at 92% membership. Pam passed out a list of 2004 Associate Members for 2004 and also a list of members and stated that the list might not be 100% correct. She stated that she had received dues from two people. She stated that the list was given only to encourage non-members to join not to publicize to all FSA. Pam said that NASCOE had sent money for National Convention delegates expenses. 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 per mile by GACOE. The President stated that annual leave time had to be taken for those attending the meeting.

At this time the convention for 2004 was discussed. Cliff stated that he had received an email from Kula stating that the State Committee would not be able to meet with us due to their tight time schedules and that their meetings were all set up for the second Tuesday of the month. With this email message in mind, Cliff contacted Duke Lane and Pete Waller to tell them that the Executive Committee was disappointed in hearing that they could not meet with us in Jekyll. The two State Committeemen did not have any knowledge of not meeting with us. Cliff stated that he hoped to have us an answer soon on whether or not they will meet with us at the convention in August. Cliff then went on to discuss the speakers he had contacted for the convention. He stated that he had gotten a positive response from Craig McCain, Southeast Area Chairperson to speak at the convention. He has not got a response from David Vidrine, NASCOE Vice-President.

He thought that there may be a conflict in another convention for him. He has sent Doug Frago a letter inviting him to come speak but no response, also Eloise Taylor was sent a letter and she replied that Washington has cut all travel money for them so it would be very doubtful for her to come. Cliff stated that he would continue to pursue the speaker issue and let us know when he gets it finalized.

Chuck Riley then proceeded on Convention details. First he stated that the motel has been very generous on meeting our needs for meeting rooms, registration space, etc. . . . Next he discussed donations. It was decided that businesses and people who donated money and any item with a value of \$100.00 or more have their name placed on the convention program. Monica Arnold stated that she was going to send a thank you card to each one also. She also stated that she had already mailed letters out to certain businesses and that she would email a list to all committee to see so that we would not duplicate letters to these businesses. A total of \$2000.00 has already been donated at this time and we are expecting more. She and Chuck encouraged all committee persons to go back and encourage their district counties to send letters to their buying points and agribusinesses. A raffle was discussed and it was asked if we had any items for a raffle. Barbara Webb told us that we had a 2 man half day hunt donated to us by Little River Plantation in Turner County for a raffle item, valued at \$500.00. Glenn Forrester said he had sent a letter asking The Big Green Egg Company to donate one of their grills and a starter kit for a raffle item for GACOE. He had not heard back from them at this time but would let us know just as soon as he does. This item is valued at over \$600.00. It was decided that each ticket be sold for \$5.00 each and need to send 10 tickets of each item to each office to try to sell before the convention. It was decided that Roger and Denise be responsible for getting the raffle tickets printed and mailed out to each county office timely.

Next convention activities were discussed. Chuck asked Walon Smith to give us the entertainment he had found. Walon stated that he had found two bands for the banquet, one was Back Roads and one was Double Shot. Back Roads was a local band that played a great variety of music, their price was \$1000.00 and they would play as long as we wanted them to. Double Shot was also a local band that played beach music and their charge was \$500.00 from 9:00 to 12:00. He had found two DJ's for Thursday evening after auction, one named Frazier who charged \$300.00 for 3 hours and \$75.00 an hour for additional hours and one named Dance Jammers who were from Brunswick and they have a lot of crowd participation, open mic, and karaoke. Their charge was \$425.00 with and additional \$85.00 for each half hour over 3 hours. These were local DJ's and we would not have to pay any expenses for them to come other than the amount they charge to play. With these in mind the Executive Committee then proceeded to vote on which band and DJ would be used for the convention. Denise Otto motioned that we have Back Roads play at the dance after banquet. And Chuck Riley motioned that we have Frazier for our DJ after auction. Both entertainments were seconded and voted in for the convention. Next we discussed having a registration fee. With much discussion it was motioned by Roger Swain that we have a \$10.00 registration fee for FSA employees only and seconded by Chuck Riley. On the agenda next was the banquet price and food for the convention events. After discussing the prices of the food for the banquet and how much

donations already received, Roger Swain motioned that the banquet price be \$20.00 a person with GACOE picking up the remaining balance on the banquet price. The buffet that was chosen by the Executive Committee was the Plantation Supper Buffet. The hors d'oeuvres that were chosen by the Executive Committee for the auction were Assorted Finger Sandwiches, Fresh Sliced Fruit Tray, Buffalo Wings, Chicken Tenderloins Strips, Cocktail Franks in Puff Pastry, Swedish Meatballs. Chips and Dip Trays, and Tortilla Chips with salsa. We decided that we needed to have enough for 150 people. All foods and prices were seconded and voted in for the convention. Next Chad Scruggs went over what he had found out about the price for the Golf Tournament. The price is \$47.00 for 18 holes at Indian Mound Golf Course and the time would be 12:30 p.m. This information will be included on the registration form with a note to contact Chad Scruggs or Glenn Forrester by July 20, 2004 if anyone plans to play so they can have a good head count. It was also decided that we would have a \$100.00 drawing for all members that had paid dues by convention time. The winner of this drawing would be announced at the General Session on Friday morning.

Continuing on with a few comments Cliff stated that we needed to decide what GACOE was going to pay for at the convention for the Executive Committee. It was motioned and seconded that travel and one night's stay be reimbursed to the Executive Committee for those attending the convention. Cliff also mentioned that we needed to prorate a figure out for GACS to reimburse us for GACS members attending the convention to help out with costs. This idea was approved by the Executive Committee.

Cliff Fussell, president, made final remarks.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Otto
GACOE Secretary