

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 22, 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 – Rita Rogers
District 2 – Neal Leonard and Lori Faulkner
District 3 – Barbara Jackson
District 4 – Martha Kent
District 5 – Chuck Riley and Wanda McCurdy (Alternate)
District 6 – Cindy Brown
District 7 – Chad Scruggs and Monica Arnold
District 8 – Elaine Sherrod and Marcia Baker
Others Present: Kaye Walker

The President, Cliff Fussell, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:45 am and Neal Leonard gave the invocation.

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

Cliff Fussell, President, discussed our travel and meeting authorization. He stated that everyone should be on annual leave and we were authorized mileage to the meeting and back home.

At this time Pam Wilkes, Treasurer, came in and gave us our financial status and passed out a Convention Expense Report from the 2004 GACOE Convention. We discussed the options of getting a debit card for GACOE to use for Legislative conferences airlines tickets, hotel reservations, and dinner appointments. Cliff deferred this topic for discussion at a later date.

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 new business at this time. He passed out an email from NASCOE President David Vidrine about the number of employees that would have to be reduced in Farm Service Agency. Cliff stated that there was a conference call at 2:00 pm with Steve Newton, SED and Kula at the STO today and anyone wishing to stay over and attend was welcome. He also stated that he talked to Kula that morning and the numbers for Georgia were 30 over for CO side and 0 for GS. This is caused from 23 from right-sizing, 4 from the Tobacco Buyout and 3 from EQIP being taken from us. Cliff said that the ~~STO has Steve Newton and Kula have~~ 30 days to develop

and submit a plan for Georgia. We do not know the number of buyouts at this time. The criteria for the buyouts and early outs was not known at the time of the meeting but Cliff would get Kula to get something out on this. Cliff states at times like this our retirement calculations needed to be accurate and available to all employees interested. He would discuss this with Kula also.

The new State Committee members have been named. They are Charles Lee from Bullock County, Mary Alice McGhee from Berrien County and Ronnie Lee from Terrell County.

Each 2005 committee reported as follows:

Legislative – Chad Scruggs, Chairperson – No Report

Membership – Rita Rogers, Chairperson

Rita Rogers stated that we have 31 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- No Report

Renee has left Farm Service Agency and Cliff has asked Barbara ~~Jackson~~Webb to take over the Benefits Committee Chairperson position.

Awards – Barbara Webb, Chairperson – No Report

Emblems – Marcia Baker, Chairperson

It was mentioned that all election results be put in the minutes after each election so that when a committee member retires off the committee we can go back and find who the alternate is for that District.

Elections-Monica Arnold, Chairperson

Publicity- Denise Otto, Chairperson

Denise Otto stated that the Gazette was mailed to Curtis on the 6th of June for printing. Should be receiving it very soon.

Archives- Ruby Postell, Chairperson –No Report

Scholarships-Glenn Forrester, Chairperson

Glenn Forrester mentioned that the parents of the scholarship winners were asking how the checks were going to be issued and when. Roger made a motion to go ahead and pay off the scholarships when we get proof of enrollment since children need the money.

Parliamentarian- Jay Arnold-No Report

Cliff stated that we needed to pay our Georgia Agribusiness Council dues of \$125.00. It was put in the form of a motion and passed.

Plans for the 2005 Convention were discussed at this time.

Fundraisers – Monica Arnold stated that she would email a sponsorship letter to all of the committee to revise how ever they see fit for mailing to buying points, etc... asking for donations. Chuck Riley mentioned that we needed to get up an item for a raffle.

Entertainment – We discussed a DJ for Thursday Night after the Live Auction and a band for Friday Night after the banquet. Chad Scruggs and Martha Kent are looking into these items.

Speakers – Cliff stated that he has heard from Jim Mace with J M Marketing and that David Vidrine was planning on attending as far as his plans are right now. If he cannot make it he will send another NASCOE official. We have not heard from Southeast Area Representative. Bob Redding will have to get back with us at a closer date and we have not heard from Cole Sims.

Food – Cliff passed out a list of services that the hotel has for catering. The committee reviewed the list and made some decisions on what food would be presented on Thursday night at the auction. The following items were picked: assorted finger sandwiches, cheese and cracker tray, fruit tray, Buffalo wings, chicken fingers, pigs in the blanket, Italian and Swedish meatballs, chips and dip, and tortilla chips and salsa. Friday night at the banquet a Plantation Dinner will be served. There will be a cash bar on Thursday and Friday nights. The cost of the banquet will be \$25.00 for each person. GACOE will offset the cost of the banquet with GACOE contributions received.

Chuck motioned that GACOE will pay for the cost of one night of the convention and at this time we did not know about the State Office reimbursing any cost for travel. We will find out at a later date.

Cliff touched on the importance of NAFEC in Georgia.

Cliff made some final comments.

They're being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Otto, GACOE Secretary