

**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 18, 2006 at the USDA Service Center in Byron, Georgia.

Those present were: Roger D. Swain, President      Chad Scruggs, Vice-President  
Pam Wilkes, Treasurer      Denise L.Otto, Secretary  
Cliff Fussell – Past President  
District 1A – No one present  
District 1B – Chris Camp and Dianne Westmoreland  
District 2 – Lavern Pate and Callie Redmond  
District 3 – Barbara Jackson and Jo Cook  
District 4 – Martha Kent and Julia Sharpe  
District 5 – Steve Sanders, Alternate  
District 6 – Ty Godfrey  
District 7 – Deborah Gregory and Monica Arnold  
District 8 – Elaine Sherrod and Marcia Baker

The President, Roger D. Swain, called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Monica Arnold. President Swain 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. An amendment was made to the minutes of October 19, 2005 on the wording in the by laws that was voted on. It should have read “The immediate Past President will serve as an ex-officio member on the executive committee following the completion of his or her term as President until the next Past President takes office.” It was motioned and seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

The treasurer, Pam Wilkes, gave the financial report. Pam mentioned that she received a check for the dues taken out by payroll deduction and two people from Florida’s dues were included in the check. She said Washington was aware and asks her not to deposit the check until they got back with her. She is holding the check right now. She also discussed our travel authorization. She passed around an expense sheet for everyone who drove to claim travel which would be paid at \$.445 by GACOE. The President stated that annual leave had to be taken for those attending the meeting. Pam also discussed the Bank Card. She stated she could get two cards issued with two people on them being the President and the Treasurer. These cards would be for high cost trips such as Legislative Conferences, National Convention delegates travel, etc. . . A motion to approve the cards

was made by Denise Otto, seconded by Lavern Pate and approved by the committee. Pam stated that we needed to approve the \$30 fee for the registration fee in the State of Georgia for The Georgia Association of County Office Employees. It was put in a motion and approved by the Committee.

Roger Swain, President, discussed some notes from a District Director on Conference calls with State Office. Roger also stated that we are waiting on new ceilings, suppose to know on or after January 20, 2006. We had discussion on reassignments and overstaffed offices. We discussed COT Program opening. Roger stated that the SED's office structure plan for Georgia was due in March. Martha Kent asked the question "What will happen in the future?" She will be losing 2 PT's. Cliff Fussell, Past President, made the statement "You may get to hire one back to replace the others".

The President asked for any old business. Cliff Fussell brought up the NAFEC Incentive for Georgia. The hats and visors that were voted on by the committee were in and needed to be disbursed. Cliff stated the importance of NAFEC and getting an organization formed in Georgia. It was stated that the COC Member must join and pay his dues either by check or payroll deduction before he is given a hat or visor. This is the incentive. If he joined by payroll deduction, only \$3.00 would be taken out per COC meeting he attended. Committee members were told to go back to their Districts and explain the process to the CED's. The CED's are to present the COC with the packets encouraging them to join NAFEC, if they join they get a hat or visor. The men get hats and the ladies get visors. It was stated that we use the hats and visors until we give out. We will not order any more. If you have any left over they will be presented to any new COC members who come on until the inventory is gone. The hats and visors were distributed to each committee member to take back with them. Barbara Jackson had brought the two filing cabinets and files that she had in her home for GACOE. They were loaded on Roger Swain's truck and hauled back to the Webster-Stewart FSA Office for the time being. It was discussed that a follow up email and reminder on the scholarship deadline be sent out. Dianne Westmoreland encouraged the committee to encourage the scholarship recipients to send a thank you note to the families in which the scholarships were in honor. Families are thankful to know who received the scholarships.

The President asked for any new business. Pam Wilkes talked to Donna Mull about the GACOE dues deductions and stated that everyone need to watch their pay stubs to make sure the correct amount is being deducted. A question was asked "Do contracts go through the State Office for Field Contract Reporters and how long does it take to get them approved?" Roger will check on the original notice on this and talk with Kula.

The GACOE committees then reported as follows:

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

Chad gave the dates for another Full Legislative Conference in Washington as February 27 through March 2. He stated GACOE will be asking two producers to attend the conference with us this year. One being, Oni Hudson from Peach County and the other being Duke Lane from Peach County. Both have agreed to go. Chad stated that with

producers going we would be able to get our feet in the doors of congressmen better than we have been. Hope to see better follow-ups and responses with producers attending. Bob Redding will help us set up dinner appointments. Lavern Pate gave a short narrative about Mr. Oni Hudson. The Committee had the opportunity to meet Mr. Hudson over lunch. Cliff who is our Southeast Area Representative for the Legislative Conference stated that the conference will be different this time and more specific on what we want heard. There are 4 or 5 papers to be looked at with the main one being Baseline Staffing. The other, being on benefits, possibly changing the rule on sick leave for FERS employees to go toward their retirement years. Animal ID will be discussed also.

### **Membership – Wanda McCurdy, Chairperson – No Report**

### **Benefits – Dianne Westmoreland, Chairperson-**

Reminded us that an Open Season for Benefits will be when the State Convention is held. And 30 days thereafter.

### **Awards – Monica Arnold, Chairperson**

Monica reminded us about the deadline of February 2 on awards. She has 3 nominations at this time.

### **Emblems – Marcia Baker – No Report**

### **Elections-Deborah Gregory – No Report**

### **Publicity- Denise Otto – No Report**

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-**

A reminder email will be sent out with deadline.

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

### **Parliamentarian-Cliff Fussell-No Report**

### **Convention Committee**

Several proposals were passed around the room. A couple from Atlanta, a couple from Savannah, and one from Unicoi State Park in Helen. After much discussion on where to have the convention, it was voted on paper where to have the 2006 Convention. Atlanta got 9 votes, Savannah got 8 votes, and Unicoi got 2 votes. It was then motioned and seconded that the convention be held in Atlanta for 2006. There were two proposals in Atlanta so Denise will follow up on the best one. It was voted on and approved to have a DJ both nights because of the cost of a band is expensive and people will enjoy a DJ just

as much. A raffle was discussed with Roger stating that he will get with Mr. Harry Lee Kemp on a gun for the raffle. It was mentioned that Auction items and sponsorship be worked on. The speakers were discussed with Teresa Lassiter, Morris O'Quinn, Bob Redding, Steve Connelly, an officer from NAFEC and JM Marketing Representative being asked to come. We need to contact the retirees and GACs and invite them to attend. An Open Session with the State Committee was discussed and voted upon. Roger brought up that the Florida Association wanted to join us this year. It was voted that they be invited and can have a silent auction for there association if they wanted to.

Roger stated that we would have to meet again in the future on pinning down details on the convention. He made a few final remarks.

They're being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Otto  
GACOE Secretary