

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 November 14, 2006 in Perry Georgia at the Houston County FSA Building.

Those present were: Roger D. Swain, President Chad Scruggs, Vice-President
Pam Wilkes, Treasurer Denise L.Otto, Secretary
Cliff Fussell – Past President
District 1A – Carolyn Taylor
District 1B – Chris Camp and Dianne Westmoreland
District 2 – Phil Howell and Callie Redmond
District 3 – Barbara Jackson
District 4 – Math Johnson
District 5 – Wanda McCurdy
District 6 – Keith Willis
District 7 – Monica Arnold
District 8 – Joe Hester and Marcia Baker

The President, Roger Swain, called the meeting to order. Monica Arnold gave the invocation. The minutes from the last meeting were approved by the committee. The Treasurer, Pam Wilkes, reviewed the financial report. We discussed the dues being paid yearly instead of quarterly. Roger stated that we needed to look at the NASCOE by laws and see which way would be best for Georgia. Barbara Jackson put in a motion that a copy of the financial report be put in the minutes from now on out. Motion approved by the committee. Roger then went over the convention financial report. He also went over our authorization to the meeting. He stated that we must take annual leave for the meeting and GACOE will pay us travel to and from the meeting at the government travel rate of .445.

We then proceeded to the Election of Officers for the 2006-2007 year.

Election of Officers – Elections were held as follows:

Roger Swain opened the floor for any nominations for President. Denise Otto nominated Roger Swain for President. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Roger Swain be elected President by acclamation. All motions passed. Roger Swain was elected as President.

The floor was then open for any nominations for Vice-President. Cliff Fussell nominated Chad Scruggs for Vice-President. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Chad Scruggs be elected Vice-President by acclamation. All motions passed. Chad Scruggs was elected Vice President.

The floor was open for any nominations for Secretary. Monica Arnold nominated Denise Otto for the Secretary position. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Denise Otto be elected Secretary by acclamation. All motions passed. Denise Otto was elected Secretary.

The floor was open for any nominations for Treasurer. Carolyn Taylor nominated Pam Wilkes for Treasurer. It was motioned and seconded that all nominations be closed on the said one name. It was motioned and seconded that Pam Wilkes be elected Treasurer by acclamation. All motions passed. Pam Wilkes was elected Treasurer.

After the elections, there were brief remarks made by the new officers.

We then went on to discuss old business with Roger mentioning that we had NAFEC hats and visors left for any office needing to sell them or sign up their new County Committee persons when elected.

Roger Swain continued on with the agenda discussing the dues next. It was motioned that the associate member's dues continue to be \$25.00 and the dues for regular members stay the same at .002 times salary starting with PP1. It was seconded and approved.

The Scholarship Program was discussed. Denise Otto brought up that she had some members say that we should blank out the name of the individuals applying for the scholarship because they did not think it was fair for the committee to know whose child they were ranking. It was put in a motion that the same application be filled out because the application is a NASCOE application and we need to use the same guidelines since the scholarship applications are judged nationwide also. It was left up to the Scholarship Chairperson to whether or not the name will be blanked out on any future scholarships for judging. It was motioned that we give a total of four scholarships of \$1000.00 each and approved. Two scholarships will be given in honor of Robert F. Williams Jr., and two will be given in honor of Vicki Cannady. The committee approved.

Roger then proceeded to ask if anyone knew any information on the Georgia Plan. He had not heard anything lately about it. It was then brought to our attention that the Georgia Plan was to be approved in two or three weeks. This is a rumor. Also it was brought to our attention that changes could be made to the plan. This was rumor also.

Roger stated that we needed to vote on and approved to continue the dues with the GA Agribusiness Council of \$125.00. Roger then stated that he wanted to put into a motion that we present the Peanut Commission and Cotton Commission for their support to our convention every year. The committee approved the motion.

Next Roger stated that we had some damaged shirts that we needed to sell at a reduced rate. Denise Otto will send out a slide show with the inventory and price for the damaged shirts. The damage was caused by a spillage on the UPS truck. Denise Otto stated that the only thing wrong with the shirts is a bug spray smell which is gone with one wash of the shirt. It was motioned and approved that the shirts be sold for \$10.00 each. Era Jarrod donated these shirts back to GACOE for sell for what we could get out of them.

Monica Arnold gave out information on CAPWIZ at this time. She stated that we needed to get anyone who is a friend of FSA to join.

Roger proceeded on with the new 2006-2007 GACOE Committees. Attached to these minutes is a copy of the new committees. If anyone has a problem and does not want to be on the committee specified please let Roger know as soon as possible.

Each 2006 committee reported as follows:

Legislative – Chad Scruggs, Chairperson

Roger mentioned that we will have another full legislative conference on March 4-7. This year's letter will most likely be on the new Farm Bill. Chad stated that the room rates would be more and that NASCOE will comp us one plane ticket and one night's room. He said we are looking at taking 6 instead of 8 and he was looking for volunteers. Barbara Jackson put in to a motion that the Legislative GACOE Committee has the opportunity to go first. The motion was approved. Barbara also stated that she would not be able to go this time on these dates. Volunteers were Monica Arnold, Callie Redmond, Chad Scruggs, Joe Hester, Keith Willis, Carolyn Taylor and Dianne Westmoreland. It was also mentioned that if we could get a County Committee person to go it would be a great idea. Chad stated that this really worked out good last year when they took Mr. Oni Hudson, County Committee person. Chad said that he would be making reservations around February 1st and that he would be getting in contact with the volunteers to come up with a group.

Membership – Wanda McCurdy

Pam Wilkes stated that we are at 93% membership. The membership cards will be now done by the membership chairperson. Wanda McCurdy will get membership cards out by January 31st.

Benefits – No Report

Awards – Monica Arnold, Chairperson

Monica Arnold mentioned that it is time now for award nominations to be filled out.

Emblems – Callie Redmond, Chairperson

We have shirts for sell at our office. A slide show of the inventory was sent out to everyone with the prices of the items. Please let the Webster County Office know if anyone would like to purchase an item and we will mail it to you.

Elections-No Report

Publicity- Denise Otto, Chairperson

Denise reminded everyone that the deadline for the December Gazette News would be December 1st.

Archives

It was put into a motion and voted on for Callie Redmond to be the new archives person.

Scholarships- Mentioned earlier in minutes

Parliamentarian- Cliff Fussell-No report

Roger Swain gave NASCOE news. The National and SEA Rally will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in August of 2007. He stated that he would contact Barbara Webb and see about information on a bus if anyone is interested in going this way. He will send out an email on this to see how many would possibly want to commit.

Plans for the 2007 GACOE Convention were discussed. It was discussed that the 2007 convention be delayed until 2008 in which we are working on doing an All South or SEA Rally in Savannah. We are encouraging all members to attend the National in Myrtle Beach, SC this year because it is going to be close to Georgia and an experience everyone needs to experience. Details on this decision will be given when we find out if Georgia can bid on the SEA Rally. An email will be sent out to all members asking for any ideas or recommendations for this event.

The selection of delegates was decided upon at this time. They are Roger Swain and Chad Scruggs for the National Convention in Myrtle Beach with the Treasurer Pam Wilkes and Secretary Denise Otto as backups.

They're being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Otto
GACOE Secretary