

May 20, 2009

## 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 May 20, 2009 in Perry at the Houston County FSA Building.

Those present were

Barbara Jackson,	President
Denise L. Otto,	Vice President
Delores V Hartley,	Secretary
District 1B	Thomas Verner
District 2	Callie Redmond
District 3	Kyle Brown
District 4	Pam Poole and Donna Dykes
District 5	Jo Lynn Futch and Wanda McCurdy
District 6	Keith Willis and Peggy Greer
District 8	Joe Hester and Marcia Baker

The meeting began with Kyle Brown giving the invocation.

The minutes from the meeting held on February 12, 2009 were approved by motion from Keith Willis and second from Wanda McCurdy. Motion carried by a majority to accept minutes.

Treasurer Report – Pam Wilkes submitted by mail the treasurer’s report. Motion made by Wanda McCurdy and second made by Kyle Brown. Motion carried by a majority to accept the treasurer’s report.

Thomas Verner stated that he and Carolyn Taylor are still trying to get with Pam concerning the audit of books.

Barbara Jackson, President stated committee was on annual leave today and to submit travel transmittal to Pam Wilkes by email.

**Old Business** – GACOE’s laptop was reviewed.

Barbara Jackson and Denise Otto are still working on the amendments to the GACOE by-laws.

**Awards** - Recipients of the awards have been publicized.

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**Scholarships** - Jo Lynn Futch stated scholarship recipients have been selected. Two of the winners were honored at their respected schools during Honor's Day.

The winner will need to notify Pam Wilkes of selected colleges for scholarships to be forwarded.

**Membership** - Wanda McCurdy gave out membership cards by districts of the known members. She has not received an updated membership list from the State Office.

District representatives were asked to submit list of county office employees that were members and if they paid dues by payroll deduction or check.

Wanda also stated we need to work on associate members.

**Benefits** - No Report, although it was stated by members that the proposed FERS sick leave bill is in the House of Representatives.

**Programs** - No report from chairperson. Thomas Verner stated he had received an email with a reply on concern he submitted in December concerning multi-county producer in one Service Center paying multi fees for NAP program. Reply stated, they would look into it later – it may be a legislative issue.

**Elections** - No report

**Emblems** - No report

**Legislative** - Thomas Verner thanked all who attended Legislative Conference. Joe Hester suggest setting up appointments with representative when they return home or at fund raiser. Coordinate with representative's aides and Bob Redding to set up meeting. This would have a larger impact than a few minutes with representative or their aide in Washington. Also stated the extra night was a waste of time, only someone from Kingston's office appeared for a few minutes.

Joe also stated we really need to fight for programs – animal ID, producer ID (security issue), GIS location are just some of the programs; since DCP is fading.

The secretary of Agriculture visit to Georgia – Bob Redding notified Cliff Fussell. Cliff contacted Travis Jacobs to attend as a concerned farmer. Others would have attended if knowledge of the visit was known beforehand.

**Discussion** – The Committee discussed the issue of the County Office Trainees and how this works into ceiling and budget. The 5 temporaries cover the program technician that went into the COT program and 3 others. One temporary is for Diane Westmorland's transfer to the State Office.

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District Directors should be in contact with County Executive Directors on holding Committee Meetings only when necessary due to budget.

The Committee also discussed the notice AO-1441

- A. All vacancy announcements being approved by Washington, D.C.
- B. All meetings must be approved by Washington.

**New Business - Morris O'Quinn Children's Scholarship Fund** - Keith Willis made the motion and Thomas Verner made the second to contribute \$500.00 to this fund. Motion carried by a majority to submit \$500.00 to the Morris O'Quinn Scholarship Fund.

**NASCOE National Convention Delegates** The delegates for the 2009 NASCOE Convention in Gatlinburg, Tennessee –

- Delegates - Barbara Jackson and Denise Otto
- Alternates - Pam Wilkes and Delores Hartley

Thomas Verner made the motion to accept, Donna Dykes made the second. Motion carried by a majority to accept the 2009 Convention delegates.

**NASCOE Convention** The Committee discuss submitting donation to the Southeast Area hospitality room in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Joe Hester made the motion; Jo Lynn Futch made the second to send \$250.00 for the Southeast Area hospitality room. All members were in favor.

### **GACOE Convention**

Convention Committees - Barbara Jackson stated committees have been appointed with not problems and all have accepted.

Forty rooms have been booked at the King and Prince for Thursday through Saturday night. Twelve rooms booked for Wednesday night.

Barbara Jackson will check with Kula Moore, State Office concerning the State Committee meeting with GACOE. Stated, if Georgia's SED and Committee has been appointed.

Registration Fees – Motion made by Wanda McCurdy and second made by Callie Redmond that registration fee be \$20.00 by August 10<sup>th</sup>. After August 10, 2009 registration fee will be \$25.00. Joe Hester amended the motion to state per adult. Motion carried by a majority.

Events- Thursday night, you will be on your own. Hospitality room will be available. Committee is encouraged to bring snacks for hospitality room. Charge for this room is \$155.00 per night.

Friday - Convention convenes at 8:30 a.m. – General Session

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Friday night we will have the silent and live auction. Silent auction will be 5:00-7:00 p.m. Live auction 7:00-9:00 p.m. with Ronnie Morris as auctioneer. Dance with the DJ begins at 9:00 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Saturday Morning – General Session with speakers and awards will be presented.

Saturday night – Social hour 8:00-9:00 p.m. with light hors d'oeuvres served. Dance with the DJ begins at 9:00 p.m.

Denise Otto stated she would check with Chad Scruggs on the DJ that played at the Southeast Area Convention last year.

Speakers – Waiting for a little while on inviting until Washington appointments are announced.

The idea was discussed about inviting Retirement Planning Group to participate. Maybe the Committee can promote this as a drawing card for the convention.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Delores V. Hartley  
GACOE Secretary