

56th Annual South Dakota State SDASCOE Convention – 2016

April 29 – 30, 2016 Huron, SD

The 2016 SDASCOE convention opened with President Stan Lamb welcoming us to Huron. He introduced SED Craig Schaunaman who addressed the group. South Dakota currently ranks 4th in NAP, 5th in ARC/PLC, 2nd in FSFL, and we were 1st or 2nd in grassland CRP offers. The budget for 2016 is sitting well and Joan will be sending allotments out soon. The results of the CRP General and Grassland sign ups should be announced within two weeks. Currently, there are 23.8 million acres enrolled in CRP nationally. The ELAP program has overspent its budget, but South Dakota will not be adversely affected. SED Schaunaman thanked us for all of the work we do.

Next we were addressed by the congressional representatives: Lynn Tjeerdsma for Senator Thune, Josh Hader for Senator Rounds, and Rick Vallery for Representative Kristi Noem. Mr. Hader and Mr. Vallery thanked us on behalf of Senator Rounds and Representative Noem for all of the work we do. Mr. Tjeersma discussed what impacts the 2016 election could have on our agency and the next Farm Bill.

Keith Wheeler representing IASCOE invited everyone to attend the 2016 National Convention in Cedar Rapids, IA August 3-6, 2016. Tours will include John Deere plant, John Deere Museum, Field of Dreams, Earle Toys, Amana Farms, and many events for children.

Emily Davis from the Social Security Administration met with us to review how the Social Security program works and upcoming changes. She encouraged everyone to set up a My Social Security Account at www.ssa.gov. There is lots of good information and it protects from someone else setting up your account.

Traci Ross from the STO discussed federal retirement and the informational PowerPoint will be emailed to everyone.

Teresa Dillard from Dillards Financial provided us with a retirement seminar. She informed us that we need to take time and do research prior to retirement. Dillard's offers good retirement information and she had some excellent handouts.

The Committee Meetings were held jointly with each committee chair presenting their report. The individual reports are posted on the SDASCOE website. Jennifer Chavez made a motion to accept the committee reports as filed. Motion was seconded by Larry Olsen, motion carried.

A national legislative conference will be held September 19th -22nd in Washington DC. Mary Jane West made a motion to have up to 8 people participate in the conference with expenses being reimbursed in accordance with the SDASCOE travel policy. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Chaves, motion carried.

We adjourned for the day. The evening award banquet was held at the Crossroads Event Center. Length of Service and Sick Leave awards were presented. Three distinguished service awards were presented. The Service to Community award was presented to Suzanne Keck of Hand County. The Service to Agriculture award was presented to Shelley Moncur of Hand County. Larry Olsen of Minnehaha County was presented with Service to NASCOE. All three recipients were also the winners of the Northwest Area awards in their respected division.

SDASCOE President, Stan Lamb, Presented a plaque to SED Craig Schaunaman in appreciation for his time, effort, and cooperation in support of SDASCOE.

The general session was called to order by Stan Lamb. The National Anthem was sung and we recited the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Paul Aylward welcomed us to Huron. Brenda Wicks welcomed us to the convention. She thanked the Beadle County staff for all of their work putting on the convention. She encouraged counties to host in the future.

Stan Lamb introduced our special guests: Larry Olsen, NASCOE Parliamentarian; Lori Jones, NWA Membership Chairperson; Billy Denison, Montana, NASCOE NAFEC Committee Chairperson; Wes Daniels, South Carolina, NASCOE President; and Jenae Prescott, Idaho, NWA Executive. We also had representatives from JM Marketing and Dillard Financial. Roll call was taken and there were 93 attendees. A PowerPoint presentation honored our departed members. The minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting are posted on the SDASCOE website. Mary Johnson reviewed the treasure's report.

Lanny Nelson, RASCOE President addressed the group. RASCOE had 29 members in attendance at the annual meeting. The first year of RASCOE membership is free and it's a good way to keep in touch. He announced the raffle winners. RASCOE will support SDASCOE in their bid for the National Convention.

Dean Bahr, SDACS President thanked SDASCOE for inviting him to attend. There were 5 SDACS members present at their meeting. They are bidding to have their Zone B meeting in Sioux Falls. Their National Convention will be in WDC in the summer. SDACS is working on increasing FLP lending limits.

Billy Dennison, NASCOE NAFEC Committee Chair spoke to us about NAFEC. NAFEC is able to accomplish things that we as federal employees cannot do. He encouraged us to become associate members of NAFEC and asked that we encourage our county committee members to join NAFEC.

NASCOE President, Wes Daniels, thanked Brenda Wicks and the Beadle County staff for hosting the SDASCOE convention. Wes stated that the two complaints he hears most often from the county office employees is the need for more staffing and the persistent IT issues. Hunter Morehead is working on appropriations to keep our current temp. NASCOE attended an IT steering committee and IT explained all of FSA's systems and how all of the different pieces connect. IT is aware of the issues and are working towards a solution. Things may be fixed in the future and more quickly than we might think. NASCOE is currently working on changing how new shared management arrangements are decided. NASCOE is proposing that FSA state offices must go through DAFO with requests for shared management. These requests must have the support of SDASCOE and all COC's involved with documentation. Bridges to Opportunity and Receipt for Service are mandated by congress and will not be going away. Workload will be determined from the BTO and RFS data.

NWA Executive, Jenae Prescott, discussed the work the NASCOE taskforce has been doing on ACRSI. During the pilot phase they worked hard to hold integrity and policy in place from the start. NASCOE supports the data sharing efforts if it will save time for the producers. If anyone has any suggestions for improvements, please contact leadership. FSA Farm Plus is now available for producers. She asked the county offices to encourage producers to use it and report back to us their thoughts. If they have any issues, the helpdesk is up and running. It is possible that in the future FSA Farm Plus may be integrated with CARS and producers will be able to load their own data. Eventually, the 3rd party function will come back once every company has the capability to use it. Jenae concluded by encouraging everyone to attend the All West Rally.

There was no old business.

Joel Foster reviewed the resolution to change the SDASCOE districts. He stated that the goal is not to reduce representation, but to ensure representation with more equitable geographic boundaries. New elections would be held by June 1st. Joel made a motion to approve the resolution to change to 6 districts. Mary Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried. Joel Foster made a motion to approve the amendment. Larry Olsen seconded the motion, motion carried.

Becky Zirpel announced that South Dakota will be bidding for the 2018 NASCOE convention. She encouraged everyone to come to the convention in Iowa to participate in placing the bid. Informational packets were handed out and reviewed. Jennifer Chavez made a motion to allot \$5,000 to NASCOE convention startup funds. Doug Hofer seconded the motion, motion carried.

The Ways and Means raffle drawing was held: Susi Odden won the .22, Keri Niederman won \$200, and Susan Sigman won \$100.

Election of officers was held: Brookings County attendees nominated Joel Foster for president. Larry Olsen moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Joel, Jennifer Chavez seconded. Bill Chase nominated Doug Hofer for vice president. Mary Johnson moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Doug, Lynn Chilson seconded. Joel Foster nominated Michaela Iverson for secretary. Barbara Poss moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Michaela, Roxie Stambach seconded. Jennifer Chavez nominated Mary Johnson for treasure. Larry Olsen moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Mary, Bill Chase seconded.

Codington County placed a bid to host the 2017 SDASCOE convention April 28 & 29 in Watertown. Jeannie Emmett made a motion to accept the bid. Larry Somsen seconded, motion carried.

Joel Foster moved to adjourn the meeting and Becky Zirpel seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michaela Iverson
Secretary