

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

SDASCOE FALL BOARD MEETING

Huron, SD October 13-14, 2013

With the passage of the farm bill and Congress in recess for the election there are still things we need to be aware of.

We have a new NWA Legislative Chair; she is Linda Fegler from Nebraska. She would like to have bi-weekly conference calls with the state legislative chairs to keep us informed.

The current focus of the NASCOE legislative Committee is to get back to the grass roots effort. That means that we need folks to work on establishing a relationship with their Congressional members when they are back at home in their respective districts. It is felt that this effort will go a long way towards helping us achieve our goals, and make visits on "The Hill" more effective. If anyone has a personal relationship with any of our congressional members or their staffs, please let us know.

The committee's goals are:

- Returning leasing authority back to the COC.
- COC supervision
- CO/GS supervision
- Growing the PAC/ensuring we are more efficient with PAC funds
- Growing our Grass Roots contact lists
- Employee benefits

Nationwide FSA has or will be hiring about 400 permanent staff members. We know that is not enough, but we are doing what we can with the dollars we have available.

The CBS concept has only about a 20% chance that it will materialize. CED's are going to have to do more PT work. There is not enough money for all the employees that we need, and we are going to have to do more with less. Hunter Moorhead, NASCOE Legislative Consultant thinks that when the new Administrator is announced that CBS will be put on hold. When asked about software issues and MIDAS, he stated that he feels that MIDAS will undergo a name change or new software all together. The ideal way to start a program is to have the software in place first – unfortunately we do not get that.

Another great organization that deserves our support is the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC). This grass roots association is one of the biggest allies of all Farm Service Agency employees. These volunteers work hard on our behalf and can carry a lot of clout in Washington. Please consider joining as an Associate Member and also encourage your COC members to join. Membership includes a free \$1,000 accidental death or dismemberment policy which alone is worth the price of dues. Check out the NASCOE website or contact your Legislative Chairs for more information

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Chase and EJ Goetz, Legislative Co-Chairs