April 27, 2013

Marriott Louisville Downtown

Louisville, KY

MINUTES

KASCOE DIRECTORS’ MEETING

The KASCOE Board of Directors met on April 27, 2013 at 6:00 PM EST at the Marriott Louisville Downtown in Louisville, KY.

Present: Coy Higdon, Micki Crider, Patti J. Karn, Dana McKinney, Brenda Dicken, Karen Evans, Melissa Myers, Laura Howell, John Goff, Runita Rice, Janice Lake, Meghan Edwards, Kevin Whitaker, Debbie Wakefield, Marcinda Kester and Wes Daniels-SEA Executive.

The meeting was called to order by President Coy Higdon. President Higdon welcomed all Directors and visitors. President Higdon stated that David Duke, CED Director in district 5 has requested to step down as KASCOE Director due to his dad’s illness. President Higdon stated that Kevin Whitaker had agreed to step up to fill that Directors role. John Goff made the motion to seat Kevin Whitaker as the new KASCOE CED director in district 5 to replace David Duke. Runita Rice seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried.

President Higdon discussed sending KASCOE emails thru the government computer or thru personal computers. The discussion was that if sent thru government computers the messages needed to be review first by Debbie Wakefield, STO AO. He stated that most emails needed to go to personal computer and Coy has the majority of personal emails for Directors. He is going to do a better job at sending emails to Committee Persons to forward out the all members and employees.

Patti Karn, Treasurer, gave the financial report for the period of October 1, 2012 thru April 27, 2013. After review of the report, Micki Crider made a motion to accept the report as presented. Karen Evans seconded the motion. All Agreed and the motion carried.

Patti Karn then gave the membership report along with a complete listing of all employees in the agency which was noted if they are members or not members. Dana McKinney made a motion to accept the report as presented. Janice Lake seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried.

Coy Higdon discussed briefly about the Mini-Legislative Conference that he and Travis Chick had attended earlier in the year. The Mini-Legislative Fly In was in Washington DC on February 26-27, 2013.

Coy and Travis met with Mitch McConnell’s aid and discussed promotion of FSA to keep the crop reporting and the status of the Farm Bill.

Dana McKinney discussed that Sharlisa Smotherman, Membership Chairperson, and herself have put together a ‘New Member Packet’ to explain what KASCOE/NASCOE is. The packet will be sent to all new employees that explains the benefits of membership and the history of NASCOE and dues amounts. Mitch Dunn, STO, is working with Dana on informing who new employees are and currently have been sent to 8 new employees.

Kevin Whitaker stated that he felt the recent ‘Jump Team Drive’ was a great success. He was a part of the ‘Jump Team’ and they visited several county offices throughout the state to meet with employees about KASCOE and its benefits. Kevin stated that it should be done every other year because it will show results. The discussion was then as to whether it should be only state (KY) persons and/or National level. The personal visit makes employees realize how important KASCOE is to FSA. Kevin Whitaker made a motion to do an annual Jump Team. Micki Crider seconded the motion. All Agreed and the motion carried. Dana McKinney and Kevin Whitaker agreed to be Co-Chairperson of this annual ‘Jump Team’ along with Sharlisa Smotherman, Membership Chairperson. The group showed their appreciation to Dana and Sharlisa for their work on the New Member Packets thus far.

President Higdon discussed that the National NASCOE Convention will be August 13-17, 2013 in Asheville, NC. He stated that hopefully a large number from Kentucky would attend due to the close proximity to Kentucky. Kentucky needs 2 Convention Delegates to be present at all meetings, be prepared to vote on behalf of Kentucky and will be reimbursed for their travel expenses.

John Goff volunteer to be a delegate for KY and Micki Crider stated she was attend also and would volunteer to be a delegate also. Laura Howell made the motion to accept the volunteers to be delegates and Kevin Whitaker seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried. Discussion was then to have 2 alternate delegates selected. Dana McKinney made the motion for Kevin Whitaker and Coy Higdon to be alternate delegates to the National Convention. Karen Evans seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried.

Kevin Whitaker stated that there were 4 applicants to apply for the KASCOE Scholarship. All applicants were ranked by a Committee and the winner is Katherine Taylor, daughter of Tim Taylor-CED in Simpson County. Katherine will receive $500.00 from KASCOE to further her education at a college of her choice. Kevin stated that all the applicants ranked high and close together. Kevin made a motion to give all 4 applicants $500.00 from the Scholarship fund-if funds were available. Meghan Edwards seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried. Kevin will notify all applicants of their requirements to receive their $500.00.

John Goff asked if there is a separate scholarship fund or was it all in the General Funds. It was noted that on the financial report all donations for scholarship funds and all Silent Auction receipts go in the General fund and designated for Scholarship. There was a discussion as to whether there should be a separate account or just a separate accounting ledger for Scholarship funds. Kevin Whitaker made the motion to keep all scholarship funds in the General Fund but to have a separate accounting ledger so a running balance is present at all times. Karen Evans seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried. Patti Karn stated that she will establish a separate ledger.

President Higdon handed out an ‘Information Worksheet’ for all Directors to review to get basic information from members concerning home email addresses, phone numbers, etc. This was proposed that all employees should complete this so the current information can be available.

President Higdon asked if KASCOE still had a website or the status of a free website. Marcinda Kester stated that she had a website established for the 2012 Southeast Area Rally that was in Lexington, KY. That website has now lapsed. Jeannie Williams is the Publicity Chairperson and she should look into renewing website. It was suggested that a new KASCOE website be established and/or Facebook page. Coy will talk with Jeannie concerning getting this established.

Debbie Wakefield (AO) addressed the Directors concerning Key PT Position in the state. Currently, there are no plans for a Key PT Position in the state. Mary Lou Bohannon was the Key PT but now has is a State Office Employee. There is no money in the budget this fiscal year (FY 2013) for another Key PT Position. Debbie stated that they (STO) were still waiting for the final budget and final numbers; hopefully they would get that information next week. She did state that there would be no furloughs for this fiscal year and that is in a large part of the upcoming General CRP signup that will begin soon.

Kevin Whitaker stated that all Committees should have both a Chairperson and members on Committees. All KASOCE members and employees should be allowed to come to Directors Meetings and that it should be published so all know when Directors meet. Wes Daniels suggested that all members need to attend and allow members to have open discussion with Directors and then Directors go into Executive Session to conduct other business. Directors need to get more members involved and communications is a big problem. We need to improve communications so all members are aware exactly what the Directors do and vote on. John Goff stated that we, as Directors, need to encourage all to participate and be more involved. Kevin Whitaker stated that Directors need to encourage all members to attend and that an announcement to all employees of upcoming meetings should be sent out-not notice of meeting only to Directors. Dana McKinney stated that she has email address of all employees that would give them to her. These are home emails that can be used to distribute KASCOE information on instead of government computer emails.

Wes Daniels will talk with John Lohr concerning what we can send to government computers and what cannot be distributed thru government computers. Wes will follow up with Debbie Wakefield and Coy Higdon on this subject. Wes did state that no legislative or membership information can be distributed on government computers. Most employees don’t understand what KASCOE/NASCOE really does or what we are about. That is why communications is imperative.

President Higdon informed all Directors of the following Committees and their Chairpersons:

Publicity – Jeannie Williams Benefits – Coy Higdon (temporary)

Legislative – Travis Chick Emblems – Brenda Whitton

Scholarship – Kevin Whitaker Awards – Christy Berry

Membership – Sharlisa Smotherman Programs – none at this time

NAFC – Tim Taylor

These are the Committee Chairpersons and the concern was that there is no actual Committee and does each Chairperson know what their responsibilities are for their Committee. Dana McKinney stated that the responsibilities are on the NASCOE website for each Committee.

President Higdon stated that NAFC is a new Committee and it is for the County Committees to get organized. Wes Daniels stated that he has not seen a County Committee member that would not join NAFC if we have the forms ready for them to sign. NASCOE members should also be a NAFC member to show support to FSA, Employees and our Producers-it is for our own protection. Wes Daniels also talked about joining ‘PACT’ as a member and that Donnie Green is the contact person for the SEA area and it too is great protection for our job.

President Higdon gave copies of revisions to by-laws; the proposed changes are in red. These are proposed changed that to allow current associate members (STO, DD, COR) to become full members. This would allow full members to get benefits and pay full dues and not associate dues. The questions that were proposed will GS employees pay full dues? Do they want to remain as Associate member or Full membership? If approved, will they want a Director on the Board to represent their GS status? The purpose is for all employees to be members not just county office employees. Wes Daniels stated that it is not a choice of full or associate members because associate get the same benefits as full membership with less dues paid. The discussion was the pros/cons of the proposed changes. Wes Daniels stated that some states allow this and other states do not allow it. Kevin Whitaker questioned as to if allowed and not a Board member that could lessen their membership. John Goff stated that if the State Office is full members then they would want a Director on the board. It was discussed to talk to membership first before voting. The question was brought up as to ‘Why be opposed to a Director on the Board?’ Coy suggested that we email these proposed changes to for members to review first. Coy suggested that we table this issue until it could be discussed with membership. Micki Crider stated that we have tabled this issued before and we should just vote. Dana McKinney made the motion to leave current by-laws alone and not allow GS employees to be full member (only associate members). Kevin Whitaker seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried.

Separation of Secretary/Treasurer Duties was brought up by President Higdon. Patti Karn is currently both Secretary and Treasurer for KASCOE. At the present time, Patti Karn is also involved in a Shared Management situation with the Henderson and Union Counties FSA Offices. John Goff asked Patti how she felt about separating the duties into 2 positions. Patti stated that she had suggested to Coy Higdon and Dana McKinney at the SEA Rally in Lexington in 2012 about separating the duties. Patti stated that she has a ‘full plate’ with her CED responsibilities in both offices. Coy Higdon stated that currently the Constitution and Bylaws show it as one position. There would have to be an Amendment to the Bylaws to separate the 2 positions. John Goff and Patti Karn agreed that it would allow more people to be allowed to serve if it was 2 positions. With the upcoming 2014 election that would be a good time to start with the 2 positions. John Goff suggested that Patti Karn define the duties of each position for the Directors to review. Dana McKinney made the motion to separate the duties of Secretary and Treasurer for KASCOE. Micki Crider seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried. John Goff made the motion for Patti Karn to define the duties of Secretary and Treasurer. Runita Rice seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried. Patti Karn will define the duties of each position and forward it to the Directors at the next meeting. Then interested parties would know in advance of the 2014 Election of Directors and Officers. The KASCOE Bylaws and Constitutions would need to be rewritten for this change to take place.

KASCOE Districts was discussed as to if a new review of the current areas needed to be done and more in line with District Directors lines. Micki Crider made the motion to leave the KASCOE district lines as they are with no changes. Kevin Whitaker seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried for no changes in KASCOE district lines.

It was discussed that Directors needed to meet more often so the meetings would not be so lengthy. Dana McKinney made the motion for KASCOE Directors and Officers to meet quarterly to conduct business. John Goff seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried.

Meghan Edwards made to motion to establish the next meeting date now so all Directors would know. Karen Evans seconded the motion. All Agreed and the motion carried.

The next Directors/Officers meeting will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 6 PM Eastern Time at the Elizabethtown Service Center in Elizabethtown, KY.

John Goff made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Whitaker. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Patti J. Karn, Secretary