



MACS Newsletter



August 2006

2006 MACS/MNASCOE Annual Meeting Held

The 2006 Annual Meeting was held on Friday, July 21st at the Holiday Inn in Owatonna. A very good turnout occurred of both MACS & MNASCOE members for both the Thursday evening activities and the meetings on Friday. A summary of the meeting follows. The more detailed information on the meeting results will be contained in the minutes when available from the Secretary.

On Thursday evening a presentation on retirement issues was presented by Mary Aukes, State Office, as well as investing for retirement from an outside guest speaker. Also in the evening Lee Crawford, Mark Drewitz, Kevin Beekman, Dan Root, and Evie Moore had dinner with FSA Administrator Teresa Lasseter and discussed current issues of concern to the Associations.

On Friday a joint group session was held between the two Associations where John Monson, SED, Dan Hockert, EO, Teresa Lasseter, FSA Administrator, and Meg Johnson, STC Chair spoke to the group. A presentation was also made for an insurance program available to MNASCOE members and affiliate members. MACS members may join MNASCOE as affiliate members to obtain access to these programs.

A question/answer session was held with the speakers fielding a number of questions from the floor.

Following this the meeting separated into the individual Association meetings. Stuart Shelstad addressed the MACS group. The MACS business meeting was then held with consideration of two Constitution/Bylaw changes. The Constitution change to allow for membership of FLOT's at a reduced level to assist with membership fee levels was passed. The Bylaw change for retention of MACS records was also passed. A number of resolutions were also discussed and acted upon by the group. Full text of these will be contained in the minutes when these are available. The adopted resolutions will be forwarded to the State Office for their review and discussion. Resolutions adopted of a National nature will be submitted for National consideration.

Sue Westrom provided a report on the lender survey results. The number of survey's completed was lower than desired.

Officer elections were held with the following results:

President – Mark Drewitz
Vice President – Lee Crawford
Secretary – Becky Martinson
Treasurer – Sue Westrom

Sheree Krogstad, outgoing MACS Treasurer, was presented with a certificate and an award for her many years of dedicated service to the state association.

MNASCOE expressed an interest in following a similar format for next year's meeting, perhaps at a more northern location. If there is any office, FLM, FLO or PT that wishes to assist with next year's annual meeting, please advise.

Much appreciation goes to Cindy Vukasin and Lee Crawford for their work along with the MNASCOE representatives in arranging for, coordinating, and carrying off the meeting.

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MACS Goals for 2006-07

MACS continues to represent all members and non members as we work for the good of FSA and employees. We accomplish this task by bringing forth issues of concern and suggestions for resolution of issues to the State Office or our respective National Associations at the Zone or National level as appropriate. Our raising of issues and suggestions for solving those issues is best when all members participate in this discussion. Therefore, there is just one main goal for 2006-7 and that is to increase member participation. Member participation is gauged by:

- Amount of input to MACS Board
- Attendance at Zone, National or State Meetings
- Level of participation in MACS Program Committee's and resolutions
- Number of paid members

We need everyone to participate in some or all of these areas to continue to represent your interests well. Call or email any MACS Officer or Board member at any time with any issue or concern.

2006-07 MACS Board

President – *Mark Drewitz*
Vice President – *Lee Crawford*
Secretary – *Becky Martinson*
Treasurer – *Sue Westrom*
NASE State Contact – *Vacant*
Past President – *Russell Miller*
District 1 Representative - *Kirk Phelps*
District 2 Representative – *Vacant*
District 3 Representative – *Michael Smith*
District 4 Representative – *Vacant*
District 5 Representative – *Rick Ray*
District 6 Representative – *Scott Nordby*
District 7 Representative – *Cindy Vukasin*
District 8 & STO Representative – *Kevin Elton*

Member Participation Opportunities

Now is the time for members to volunteer to serve in a number of capacities for the 2006-07 year. The following positions need to be filled:

Committee's – Membership on program committees of Farm Loan Program, Farm Program, Management/Personnel, Information Technology and Legislative are needed. Members participating on these committee's will review and/or develop resolutions on issues of concern in their particular area and make recommendations on their adoption. Members of committee's from last year may volunteer to serve another year.

Committee members may also be called upon to provide input if an issue comes up that is within their area that the MACS Officers may need studied.

Convention Coordinator – 2007 – A person or persons willing to coordinate with and work with MNASCOE representatives on the site, meeting rooms, registration, etc., for the 2007 annual meeting is also needed.

NASE State Contact Needed

A PT member is needed to volunteer to serve as the NASE State Contact for the 2006-07 year. This position was previously held by Becky Martinson who has now been elected Secretary. **Not one person responded to the request for a volunteer which was sent out by earlier email.** This is an important position that remains unfilled. This person serves as the contact point for NASE at the National level and obtains the information and other material from NASE for NASE members in the state. This person is also a member of the MACS Executive Committee as any other elected officer and attends the consultative meeting with the State Office and any other functions as a representative of the FLP PT's.

Please volunteer for this position now!

District Representative Elections

Elections have yet to be held/finalized in District 2 and District 4. Wendy Erickson and Kevin Lehmann's terms both expired at the conclusion of the annual meeting. Members in those Districts who have not yet been contacted regarding an election should contact the outgoing representatives who are to conduct the election.

Districts 6 and 8/STO elections have been completed. Scott Nordby has been re-elected in District 6. Kevin Elton has been elected in District 8/STO. Tom DeCock retires after several quality terms as the District 8/STO representative.

A big **Thank You** to the District Representatives for 2005-06 for their input and activities for the year!

MN Restructure Plan

As the SED has advised, the Restructure plan is on hold for the time being. Any relocations of GS employees is being done at this point through a voluntary process. We are continuing a process of communication with the State Office via phone, email and in person on these issues. The final resolution of this is not yet certain.

NACS/NASE Information

NACS and NASE association information is available at their web sites. Information, newsletters, and other materials is available at their respective web sites:

NACS – www.nacsfsa.org

NASE - www.geocities.com/judy_potter_2000/

Links to these sites as well as FMA are maintained on the MACS web site under "Links".

FMA Information

The FMA Washington Report newsletter is located at: <http://www.fedmanagers.org/public/washingtonreport.cfm>. Members are encouraged to monitor the FMA site to keep abreast of the latest events with FMA and legislative actions in Washington.

NACS/NASE Upcoming Meetings

Zone B Meeting – Feb., 2007 – Kansas City, MO
National Meeting – June 2007 – Cincinnati, Ohio.

If interested in attending these meetings and you are looking for someone to share a room with, share travel with, etc., please contact me at: mark.drewitz@charter.net.