



# MACS Newsletter



August 2007

## 2007 MACS/MNASCOE Annual Meeting Held

The 2007 Annual Meeting was held on Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls. The turnout was good for both MACS & MNASCOE members.

Several members spent Thursday afternoon on the golf course. The bulk of the members attended the outdoor picnic and many partook in some fun activities organized by the event planners.

Much appreciation goes to Wendy Erickson and Mark Bertram for their work along with the MNASCOE representatives in arranging for, coordinating, and carrying out the meeting.

The Friday meeting will be summarized in this newsletter. More detailed information on the meeting results will be contained in the minutes when available from the Secretary.

On Friday a joint group session was held between the two Associations where Stuart Shelstad, FLP Chief,

spoke on behalf of SED, Perry Aasness. Stuart expressed Perry's regret for being unable to attend as Perry was at a mandatory SED/AO meeting in Boston.

Darrell Strand, retired MN FSA FLP employee spoke to the group about the National Association Of Retired Federal Employees. A presentation was 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 presentation was also made on behalf of the USDA military families and what individual people can do to help out. Check out their website at [www.usdamilitaryfamilies.org](http://www.usdamilitaryfamilies.org)

Wally Sparby, spoke on behalf of Congressman Collin Petersen regarding the latest on the Farm Bill and other issues.

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. 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.

Officer elections were held with the following results:

President – Lee Crawford  
Vice President – Randy Dufner  
Secretary – Becky Martinson  
Treasurer – Sue Westrom  
Mark Drewitz was recently elected as the NACS Zone B Representative and Mark will also serve as MACS

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Past President.

MNASCOE indicated they wish to continue with a similar format for next year's meeting at a more southern location. If there is any office, FLM, FLO or PT that wishes to assist with next year's annual meeting, please advise.

## Vice President's Report

(By Lee Crawford)

Greetings,

Looking at the events of this past year, which included attending the Zone B Meeting in Kansas City and the NACS Convention in Cincinnati, there are three major concerns as I look forward for the next year that I identified as Vice President. I mentioned these at our MACS Annual Meeting in Fergus Falls.

They are as follows:

1. The 1165 Classification for FLMS. No easy answers here.
2. Goals tied to our performance plans. In my opinion these goals should be tied to the mission of FLP. That mission is not to make X number of loans or to process loans as fast as the private sector lenders, where supervised credit is a luxury and not a requirement as it is in FSA. Instead the mission of FLP is to provide

temporary help to all types of farmers that are eligible and can cash flow their operations and then graduate those farmers to the private sector lenders. Graduation therefore, is the key part of our mission and this is what we should be measured on if we have to be measured on goals.

Please note, the proposed 2007 farm bill recently passed by the House contains language that ties Graduation to our individual performance plans. Why not get ahead of the curve on this and implement this type of goal now?

3. USDA Reorganization. This is something Collin Peterson, Chairman of the House Ag Committee, has publicly stated that he plans to look into upon completion of the Farm Bill. My guess is early 2008. This may or may not happen, but NACS needs to be in position to ensure our FLP voices are heard if this goes forward. This will involve assistance from all MACS members to help out NACS if called upon.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Vice President these past two years and thank you for giving me the honor to serve as your President this year. I am humbled by the responsibility you have entrusted in me to represent MACS. I will do my best. I will make mistakes. I will try to learn from those mistakes. I definitely will be asking for your help. If you are a nonmember looking to join, please do so and please volunteer for something, anything, and don't be afraid to contact anyone about helping out. Maybe you are a long time member who has hung up your spurs? Please dust them off, put on your boots, round up the posse' and lets all ride together!

## MACS Goals for 2007-08

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

### 2007-08 MACS Board

**President – Lee Crawford**  
**Vice President – Randy Dufner**  
**Secretary – Becky Martinson**  
**Treasurer – Sue Westrom**  
**NASE State Contact – Vacant**  
**Past President – Mark Drewitz**  
**District 1 Representative - Derrek Nelson**  
**District 2 Representative – Jim Velde**  
**District 3 Representative – Dave Petry**  
**District 4 Representative – Kevin Lehman**  
**District 5 Representative – Rick Ray**  
**District 6 Representative – Scott Nordby**  
**District 7 Representative – Mark Baumann**  
**District 8 & STO Representative – Tom DeCock**

appropriate. Our raising of issues and suggestions for solving those issues is best when all members participate in this discussion. Therefore, the main goal for 2007-8 will remain the same as last year; 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.

## NASE State Contact Needed

A PT member is needed to volunteer to serve as the NASE State Contact for the 2007-08 year. This position was previously held by Jean Post, Fillmore County PT. 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.

## District Representative Elections

Elections were completed in the four Districts that required an election. District Reps serve two year terms.

The results are as follows: District 1 – Derek Nelson, District 3 – Dave Petry, District 7 – Mark Baumann, District 8/STO – Tom DeCock.

**Thank You** to the District Representatives for 2006-07 for their input and activities for the year!

## 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.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Zone B Meeting** – Sioux Falls, South Dakota, February 1& 2, 2008.

NACS/NASE Annual Convention – Lincoln, Nebraska, June 2008.

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: [jalee33@earthlink.net](mailto:jalee33@earthlink.net)

## NACS/NASE Information

Newsletters are available at their respective web sites:

NACS – [www.nacsfsa.org](http://www.nacsfsa.org)

NASE – [www.nasefsa.org](http://www.nasefsa.org)

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