

# MACS NEWS

July 2009

*Minnesota Association of Credit Specialists - FSA*

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## **MACS/MNASCOE Annual Meeting - July 24th**

There is still time to attend the annual meeting in Alexandria, on Friday, July 24, 2009. Please see the MACS web site for registration and hotel information. A draft agenda for the MACS portion of the meeting is attached to this newsletter.

Activities will begin Thursday, July 23rd in the afternoon and evening. On Friday morning a joint session with MNASCOE will be conducted from 8:00 – 11:00 AM. Following this, the two Associations will hold their separate business sessions.

## **NACS/NASE Convention**

Greg Janachovski, Mark Drewitz, and Lee Crawford attended the NACS Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, June 21-24th. There were no NASE attendees from Minnesota.

A detailed report of the meeting will be provided by NACS so be sure to register for the new NACS website to access this report. The following information is a brief synopsis of the major events of the meeting:

### Doug Caruso, FSA Administrator

Highest FLP loan demand in over 20 years. Equitable treatment of customers and employees is one of the top priorities. \$120 million in stimulus funds obligated in 36 hours. Modernization of IT computer system another top priority. War funding supplemental should provide adequate FLP \$ to fund backlog of applications. Will hold SEDs and Deputy Administrators accountable.

Vision: FSA's purpose is to deliver programs to the public. Field office staff #1 priority and everyone else in the organization supports the field office staff. FLP needs to change to be creative to serve customers and mitigate risk. More specialization in FLP delivery? Rethink how we are structured in FLP.

### Carolyn Cooksie, Deputy Administrator, FLP

Type 60 contracting \$ is available from WDC thru STO for YEAs and farm visits. Additional travel \$ for GS FLP travel coming soon to STOs. Eliminate average customer interest rate for G loans and tie rate to specific indices. 90 day foreclosure moratorium ends in July. Review of all civil rights since 2000, plus review of all closed cases. Lawsuits – Pigford 1 – Winding down, 6 people working on it. FSA won another round of appeals in the Garcia and Love cases. Keepseagle – Discovery extended to September 2009 – Proceed to Court in 2010. Pigford 2 (Per Farm Bill) DOJ working with FSA to minimize discovery. FLPRA – 13 reviews of States by WDC this year. Loan analyst – 12 hired Nationwide so far.

### Phil Short, Deputy Administrator Management

Need a transformation in management's approach from the direction/vision coming from WCD with the field offices and customers responding to WCD to one in which the direction/vision is coming from customers and field offices with WCD responding to field offices and customers. Activity reporting system in the new Web T&A will be a tool to assist management in allocating resources, including personnel.

### Heidi Ware, Acting Deputy Administrator Budget

68% of budget for Payroll, 29% of budget for IT/Non IT Fixed expenses (rent, etc.)  
3% of budget for Discretionary. FY 2010: 2.9% Pay adjustment (increase), 0.5 to 1% within grade increase, travel expenses will increase for everyone, new leases will be more expensive, postal rate increases in 2009, detailed budget analysis completed by 10-1-09, each Agency is required to report on the cost of programs, Activity Reporting System is the backbone for this process

### Todd Burke, Chief Farm Credit Application Office

Presentation posted to FLP website. DLS = Direct Loan System, LM = Loan Making, LS = Loan Servicing. New PLAS Transaction Manager. LS will be in 3 phases.  
Phase 1: Implemented this year = Routine servicing, Security instruments, MAC Reports.  
MAC will go away and FLP will be off System 36 this year. Phase 2: Summer 2010 = Customer Profile changes, ADPS FLAGS. Phase 3: End of 2010 = Get off Ag Credit.

### Andy Quinn, NACS Legislative Consultant

Pigford 2 = \$100 million appropriated from Farm Bill. Additional \$1.25 billion proposed in FY 2010 budget. Legislative contacts in March assisted with increasing awareness of FLP funding backlog. NACS should consider hiring their own position classifier regarding 1165. Quinn has identified a former USDA classifier as a possibility to contract with. Could have work completed by end of August or September. Cost range est. between \$5 to \$7K. Quinn has a 45 minute conference call every Monday afternoon with Betsy Senter, FLM, South Dakota.

## **NACS Resolutions**

Resolutions for policy, program improvement, legislative issues, etc., from the members are reviewed by individual Committees who then revise and clarify the submissions and then make recommendations for adoption or non adoption. During the convention, members may attend the committee meetings to provide their input on resolutions under consideration. This year, MACS delegates attended Legislative, Management/Personnel, Farm Program and Farm Loan Program and IT committees. The July 2008 MACS resolutions (that passed) pertaining to the National Office were all submitted and acted on. Some were recommended for non adoption by the respective committee. The full committee reports will be posted to the NACS web site.

## NACS Board Elections

President: Randy Milloy, FLM, Texas  
 Vice President: Mark Drewitz, FLM, Minnesota  
 Secretary: Maureen Mausbach, FLM, Nebraska  
 Treasurer: Timothy Neuhardt, FLM, Michigan  
 Past President: Stu Skidmore, FLM, Washington State  
 Zone A Representative: Daniel Mattson, FLM, Idaho  
 Zone B Representative: Craig Argabright, FLM, North Dakota  
 Zone C Representative: Kim DePasquale, FLM, Virginia  
 Zone D Representative: Joe Austin, FLM, North Carolina

## NACS/NASE Upcoming Meetings

The 2010 convention will be held in Portland, Maine June 19-23. A bid was entered by Utah to host the 2011 convention in Salt Lake City.

### Upcoming Meetings:

Zone B Meeting – Fargo, ND, February 6-7, 2010.

NACS/NASE Annual Convention – Portland, Maine, June 19-23, 2010

## NACS/NASE Information

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

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

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”.

### 2008-09 MACS Board

President Lee Crawford  
 Vice President Lorraine Edwards  
 Secretary Kevin Lehman  
 Treasurer Scott Nordby  
 NASE State Contact Karen Welander  
 Past President Mark Drewitz

District 1 Representative John Jacobson  
 District 2 Representative Justin Phillips  
 District 3 Representative David Petry  
 District 4 Representative Rebecca Stueber  
 District 5 Representative Rick Ray  
 District 6 Representative Kevin Hagan  
 District 7 Representative Mark Baumann  
 District 8 & STO Representative Cory Christensen

To support USDA military families, go to [www.usdamilitaryfamilies.org](http://www.usdamilitaryfamilies.org)

ATTACHMENT "A" – Draft Agenda for MACS Annual Meeting

MACS Business Meeting Agenda  
July 24, 2009

Roll Call

Reading, correction, approval of minutes of last meeting

Report of officers

Treasurer  
Secretary  
Vice President  
NASE State Contact  
Past President  
President

Appoint Audit Committee

Guest Speaker: Stuart Shelstad, FLP Chief Minnesota FSA

Report of committees

Management/Personnel – Jim Velde, Chair  
IT – Bonnie Ward, Chair  
Farm Program – Derek Nelson, Chair  
Farm Loan Program – Kevin Hagan, Chair

Old Business

Report on 2009 NACS Convention Experience – Greg Janachovsky

New Business

2009 – 2010 NACS Goals, Priorities, etc. - NACS Vice President, Mark Drewitz

Election of Officers

Miscellaneous Business

Audit Committee Report

Installation of new officers and board members

Adjournment