

**NACS – FSA**  
**39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**JUNE 20 – 22, 2011**  
**SALT LAKE CITY, UT**

**Convention Summary**

**Monday**

This was my first time attending NACS annual convention. I arrived to Salt Lake City on Monday morning. I started off the convention like a true rookie and attended the wrong meeting for about 15 minutes. I was in the Rural Development (RD) session.

After finding the FSA session, I found a seat in the back row. Monday morning agenda included National Office speakers via Skype. Bruce Nelson, Acting Administrator and Michael Wooden, Deputy Administrator Field Operations were the speakers. I did not take any notes during this session as it was difficult to hear the speakers through Skype. More detailed information will be available through NACS notes.

The afternoon session included convening the 39<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. This included credential reports, appointing a parliamentarian, review of Roberts Rules of Order, etc. This made me realize that I am not prepared to lead the upcoming MACS state meeting on July 29, 2011. I am not schooled in this area. Thus, at this point of the convention, my anxiety level was elevated (wrong meeting and I have no clue on Roberts Rules of Order).

The second part of the afternoon session included NACS Committee Meetings: Farm Loan Programs, Farm Programs, Information Technology, Management/Personnel, Membership and Legislative Issues. This process entailed formally gathering all the resolutions submitted to the various committees.

The evening was open and I found the Red Rock Brewing Company a few blocks away from the hotel.

**Tuesday**

Right away at 7:00 a.m., I attended the State Presidents Meeting. The general consensus from this meeting was that membership involvement is low. Most employees are willing to pay dues but not willing to be involved. Topics in this session included: state websites, dues, benefits of getting involved. The majority of my notes from this session pertained to dues. Dues are due to

NACS on the first day of each quarter (June, Sept, Dec, Mar). States must pay \$30 per member and submit with members names.

FSA and NASE held a joint session for the majority of Tuesday. National Office speakers that presented (in person) were Ricky Valentine, Chris Beyerhelm and Todd Burke. My notes on the speakers were as follows:

*Ricky Valentine, Chief Financial Officer*

- FY '11 - \$100 million cut from FY '10 budget
- FY '12 House budget proposal - \$88 million reduction from FY '11
- 70% of budget is salaries & benefits; 10% is rent & utilities
- FY '11 early out through July 8; FY '12 early out open in Oct. (196 applicants thru 6/20 – 68 are GS) – Early outs are not targeted to positions
- FY '12 Buyouts are only a proposal
- FY '12 GS reduction of 504
- ARS replaced 5 different systems & is not going away. In July will receive report data from ARS. NO will be coming out with communication on what ARS data does for FSA.
- Learn to share resources across USDA.

*Chris Beyerhelm, Deputy Administrator, Farm Loan Programs*

- D-OL \$40 million backlog
- D-FO \$130 million backlog
- FY '12 – House proposed levels same as FY '11; no IA or CL
- He discussed Claims – Keepseagle; Pigford; Women & Hispanic; Individual Claims – employees have the right to know what the allegation is in individual claims.
- All FLP will be required to take Ag Learn training on adverse decisions
- FLOT Training – National Orientation scrapped; CFAT – potentially 3 options in the future (1. Opportunity to test out. 2. Distant learning course. 3. 2 national sessions in the next year)
- Mike Hinton – Director of Loan Servicing; going to push some N.O. exception requests to SED's; service for successes not for failures
- President & House budget – ½% increase of G-Fee
- Certified Mail – Loan Making letters will not have to be sent certified; Loan Servicing has to be sent certified.

The remainder of Tuesday afternoon and first session Wednesday were Zone break-out sessions reviewing the proposed resolutions.

**Wednesday**

After the Zone break-out sessions, the NACS Annual Meeting reconvened. Minnesota was represented by 2 delegates (Mark Drewitz and myself). There were a total of 58 delegates and 10 alternates in attendance. There are a total of 933 NACS members.