



MACS Newsletter



November 2007

MACS Dues are now Due to Sue!

Dues for 2007-08 are as follows:

- FLM, FLS, DD, FLO - \$156.00
- CED with loan approval authority - \$156.00
- CED's without loan approval authority - \$20.00
- Farm Loan Officer Trainees - \$58.00
- Farm Loan Program Technicians - \$58.00
- All other Program Technicians - \$20.00

Please remit your dues to Sue Westrom, FLM at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN 56716 by December 1st. Please do so promptly to assist our organization in representing your concerns.

Accurate Contact Information

It is important for MACS to have accurate contact information on each and every member to ensure all members are getting information timely. All the office

addresses and email are available but there are occasions where a home address and email is necessary. In addition, it is very important for MACS to provide FMA with accurate contact information as well for those members with FMA affiliation. For example, FMA is sending magazines and correspondence to home addresses only so it is possible some of you may not be receiving your information. If incorrect, it is being returned and this is costly. Finally, there are topics or activities that are not supposed to use office or government email addresses. Past President, Mark Drewitz has volunteered to maintain this data base. If you are a brand new member this year, welcome aboard! Please contact Mark with your contact information at the Olmstead County FSA office in Rochester, MN or via email: mark.drewitz@msn.com The same goes for existing members who have changed their home postal address or email address. Thank you.

NASE State Contact Message

I am Lorraine Edwards, recently elected NASE contact for Minnesota. I have been an FLP PT for almost nine years. I am also responsible for the Admin program in Nobles County. Prior to joining FSA, I was employed by a financial institution in Worthington for 11 years. I have one son. If you have any concerns and/or recommendations for NASE, large or small, please contact me at lorraine.edwards@mn.usda.gov. I encourage all employees to support NASE/MACS.

New Jobs For Executive Committee

Congratulations to three members of the MACS Executive Committee on their new positions with FSA. Vice President Randy Dufner and Treasurer Sue

In this Issue.....

- 1 Dues
Accurate Contact Information
NASE State Contact Message
New Jobs for Executive Committee
- 2 NACS Resolutions 2007
2008 MACS/MNASCOE Meeting
Why MACS... Why Not
- 3 FMA Information
Upcoming Meetings
NACS/NASE Information

Westrom on their District Director promotions and Secretary Becky Martinson on her move to CO PT for the Freeborn County office. Best of luck to all of them in their new responsibilities with FSA!

It is the expectation of the MACS President that these three members will remain in their current capacities on the MACS Executive Committee until the next MACS election in 2008, unless the membership is of an opposing view.

MACS Resolutions 2007

Vice President Randy Dufner volunteered to organize the 2007 MACS Resolutions and prepare them for submission to the State Office. With Randy assuming his new District Director responsibilities, the completion of this task has been delayed. Once completed and submitted, the membership will be informed of the State Office responses via MACS newsletter.

In preparation for our upcoming annual consultative meeting in 2008 with the SED, please contact your District Representative or any Board Member with any additional concerns you may have.

2007-08 MACS Board

President – Lee Crawford
Vice President – Randy Dufner
Secretary – Becky Martinson
Treasurer – Sue Westrom
NASE State Contact – Lorraine Edwards
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

2008 MACS/MNASCOE Meeting

Keep the July 25, 2008, date open for the MACS & MNASCOE meeting. Though not yet formally decided, work is centering on New Ulm. If you wish to help and be a part of putting this meeting on please contact Mark Baumann or Tom Anderson.

More information will be provided as details develop.

Why MACS?...Why Not...

MACS is a consultative organization which represent the interests and concerns of employees in the delivery of FSA programs, both Farm Programs and Farm Loan Programs, although with emphasis on Farm Loan Programs. MACS has a consultative agreement with the MN FSA State Office outlining the process and relationship between MACS and MN FSA. This consultative agreement may be viewed at the MACS web site under the About MACS option.

MACS is affiliated with and represented at the national level by the National Association of Credit Specialists (NACS), National Association of Support Employees (NASE), and the Federal Manager's Association (FMA). A portion of your MACS dues is paid to these organizations, depending on your employment position, and membership in MACS gains membership in one or more of the national organizations.

MACS activities in support of employees and programs can be summarized in three different areas – Procedure, Policy and Personnel.

Procedure

When procedure is unclear, difficult to use, does not exist, or requires some other change MACS carries those issues forward from members to the State Office for state level issues or presents these to the respective national organizations for their consideration and presentation to the National Office. Along with the procedure are the associated forms and computer software programs. In the last year and currently, MACS has outlined state procedures that

have been in need of updating - some of which have now been issued. At the National level both NACS and NASE have been reviewing the streamlining regulations and forms and providing their input. As an example of state concerns at the national level, recommendations from our state have been adopted by our National Association for further discussion with the National Office for implementation of changes and enhancements to the Farm Business Plan.

Policy

MACS provides input on policies as they affect program delivery and personnel. Policies to be addressed come both from the membership and at times, by request of management. Our action may be to make sure the policy is stated clearly or in attempting to modify the policy. Issues concerning outreach, loan quality, use of subordinations and the employee relocation process were addressed in the past year. Sharing of and communication of policy decisions has been and continues to be a concern.

Personnel

As a representative of the employees MACS is called on to participate on task forces, etc., that deal with personnel matters such as the FSA Tomorrow process and the later Restructure team. Input and the opinions of members are used to serve on these teams.

Issues concerning employee relocation, reassignment and training have also been discussed with the State Office during the past year. These tend to be on-going concerns each year.

MACS also advocates with the SED and State Office, when necessary, concerning individual office or individual employee situations. Issues that have been dealt with include staffing, use of overtime, additional work assistance, and other such personnel issues. Our involvement is usually where normal processes are not providing adequate or satisfactory results. As a rule, these actions are not publicized because of the private or confidential nature of the help being sought or given.

Summary

Any concern affecting the efficient effective delivery of FSA programs or the employees delivering these programs is a valid issue for your organization. Working together as an Association we can be more effective than simply as individuals. Do not hesitate to contact MACS through your District Representatives or any MACS officer directly to voice your issue.

If you like what MACS is doing come join us and get involved. If you do not like what MACS is doing, join the organization and you can make the difference.

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 – Holiday Inn Downtown, 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 additional information, contact our Zone B Representative, Mark Drewitz at: mark.drewitz@msn.com or MACS President Lee Crawford at jalee33@earthlink.net.

To support USDA military families, go to www.usdamilitaryfamilies.org.

NACS/NASE Information

Newsletters are available at their respective web sites:

NACS – www.nacsfsa.org

NASE – www.nasefsa.org

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