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KASCOE E-NEWS

July 27, 2010

www.kascoe.org

NASCOE Testifies Before Congress

On July 1, 2010 NASCOE was invited to testify before the Congressional Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research for the second time this year. NASCOE has been invited because members of congress are interested in what NASCOE has to say about Farm Bill Program administration. NASCOE's testimony is very credible because of NASCOE's high rate of voluntary membership. It is important that NASCOE tells the story of how hard we work since our jobs are only good for the life of the Farm Bill. Kansas Congressman Jerry Moran, who sits on the committee was interested in NASCOE's testimony and asked further questions about NASCOE's streamlining proposal. Mr. Moran is interested in efficient USDA processes and making better working conditions for FSA employees. Full details including NASCOE's written testimony and a USDA audio file featuring the NASCOE Vice President are found at <http://nascoe.org/default.aspx> by clicking on *Legislative*. Please take a moment out of your day to see how NASCOE works for you.

Second Quarter KASCOE Meeting With SED

On June 8, 2010 the KASCOE Officers met with the Kansas FSA State Executive Director, Adrian Polansky and his State Office Staff. Other meeting attendees included employee organization representatives from KACS, KASE and AFGE. This quarterly meeting is your employee organization's opportunity to discuss with state administration officials how things are going in the County Office. These meetings also allow for the SED to let employees know of policy changes or other decisions that will have an effect on employee working conditions. Some of the topics brought up by KASCOE at this quarter's meeting include: training for new PTs, discussion of the 4/10 work schedule, SURE software and excessive use of e-mail/EC Messages. Complete Questions and Answers from the meeting can be found at <http://kascoe.org/default.aspx> by clicking on *Meeting Minutes* and then *Second Quarter Meeting with Management Minutes*.

KASCOE on Facebook

KASCOE now has a page on Facebook! KASCOE Facebook fans have the opportunity to receive notification of important KASCOE news items any time and any where they have access to Facebook. Important updates are sent straight to your Facebook news page. Pages are different from "friends" because they are for official ways for businesses and organizations to connect with fans or patrons. As a fan you can suggest to your friends to "like" the KASCOE page. To find and become a fan of the KASCOE Facebook Page just search for "KASCOE" on Facebook and click "Like." Facebook and other social media cannot be used on government computers at work.

Spring KASCOE Newsletter Posted to Website

The spring edition of the KASCOE Chronicle is now posted to the KASCOE website. The Chronicle was saved in PDF format and is easy to print off if you would like to have additional copies. You can find the Chronicle at: <http://kascoe.org/default.aspx> by clicking on *KASCOE Chronicle*.

New County Office Trainees & Program Technicians

Recently there has been an exciting addition new COTs and PTs to the Kansas County Office Family. Many of these new family members may not know about KASCOE and what we do for all County Office Employees. If you have a new employee in your office be sure to mention the importance of our agency sponsored employee organization and encourage them to join. New members will have the option of submitting a request for direct dues withholding (FSA-444) or making an annual dues payment. KASCOE Officers will also be reaching out to these new employees in the near future. Full details on the membership process including fill-able forms are found at <http://kascoe.org/default.aspx> by clicking on *Membership*.

Final 2010 Convention Reminder

This is your final opportunity to register and sign-up for the 2010 NASCOE Convention in Hot Springs Arkansas. Voting Delegates attending from Kansas are Brandon Wilson, KASCOE President and Marsha Gerstner, KASCOE Secretary Treasurer. Full details on convention registration can be found at <http://www.aascoe.org/> by clicking on *Convention Information*.

2010 President's SAVE Award

It was recently brought to NASCOE's attention that the 2010 President's SAVE Award has some posted comments on USDA. Comments range from tossing Ag Learn up the river to merging FSA and NRCS to save money. You can go to the website and check out the comments if you are interested. The site allows you to vote for each idea by "agreeing" or "disagreeing". If you are only interested in comments that pertain to USDA you can click on "Department of Agriculture" under categories. None of the comments were posted or endorsed by NASCOE. NASCOE is however continually working with the administration and congress on behalf of its membership to streamline USDA and improve working conditions. The website for the President's SAVE Award can be found by clicking here: <http://saveaward2010.ideascale.com/a/searchPanel.do>. The site allows you to post new ideas. Ideas should be bona fide and in good taste.