

KASCOE CONFERENCE CALL

The KASCOE Officers held a conference call on March 15, 2011, at 3:30 PM.

Those in attendance on the call were:

President – Brandon Wilson
1st Vice President - Ernie Battin
2nd Vice President – David Sweany
Secretary/Treasurer – Marsha Gerstner

The first item for discussion was the committee for the 2011 KASCOE convention. So far the members of the committee are Jamaca Battin, Jessica Wesley, Marge Shore, Dusty Zerr and Marsha Gerstner. Since KACS and KASE have expressed an interest in having a joint convention with KASCOE, Brandon will check with them to find out who will be serving on the committee from their organizations. It was decided that the first item to be addressed by the committee will need to be the venue, so Marsha will contact Jamaca and Marge and ask them to begin checking on venues so that the committee will have some possibilities to review when the first conference call is held.

The second item to be discussed was the restructuring and program re-assignment at the STO. At the Labor Management Forum meeting in February, 2011, Mr. Polansky had announced that with the retirement at the end of April of John Drach, Price Support Chief, he would consider some restructuring in the STO and asked for input from the employee organizations. First to be decided was whether the administration of Farm Storage Facility Loans should remain with Farm Programs or be transferred to Farm Loans. It was decided by the KASCOE Officers to recommend to the SED that the FSFL program should remain with Farm Programs, both at the field level and at the state level. Some reasons for it remaining with FP at the field level would be local convenience for producers, the rapport that the FP staff has with producers due to more frequent contact and for overall efficiency due to proximity.

As far as re-structuring in the STO, it was decided by the KASCOE Officers to recommend supporting the SED if he wanted to consolidate divisions. The recommendation is as follows: combine the Price Support, Farm Program and Conservation Divisions into one division, with a grade 13 Farm Program Chief, grade 12 Division heads and grade 7-9 program specialists. The Administrative Division and the Farm Loan Division would each have a program chief. This would be a set-up similar to the structure at the field level of DD's with oversight of CED's and CED's with the oversight of the PT's and would help with accountability, performance and communication. If the SED chooses this route he must inform the field of how this structure will be more efficient and improve customer service to counties. Brandon will prepare the proposal from KASCOE to be presented to Mr. Polansky.

With there being no further business, the call was concluded at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marsha L. Gerstner, Secretary