

# NASCOE Now

**Your News Bulletin**

**February 21, 2007**

## **BENEFITS**

**Becky Zirpel**

The Benefits Team has been busy working for you this year. We have been successful in tracking down discounts for most all Cell Phone Companies. The information for Alltel and Cingular may be acquired through contacting your State NASCOE Benefit Chairperson. The information on all other discounts are on the NASCOE web page. Cingular and Alltel representatives, in which I have been working with, have stated that the response to this discount has way exceeded their expectation. Some of the known discounts are:

- Alltel - \$72 - \$360 a year
- Cingular \$28 - \$130 a year.
- Others have been similar to the rest

Just a reminder for persons still contacting their Cell phone companies for discounts – for Alltel you must do this from your work computer and make sure you do not have a V-Card or background of any kind attached to your email. I would not attach anything. Type your information in the message itself. That has been the biggest problem for people. When I have investigated someone's email that was sent I have found backgrounds on those. These will be dumped into a spam file and deleted.

Next item is if you are updating or taking a new plan you must go through NASCOE's contact with Alltel. If you do not you will not receive the discount or free benefits through Alltel, which were promised. I contracted this discount through one person only. Your customer service number will not be of help to you.

I will be meeting with Pat Farmer Director of HRD in WDC and her Benefits Officer next week. I am in hopes that there will also be a representative from OPM at this meeting. Pat Farmer is working on that for me. I will be discussing several of your requests for benefits and hope to be able to discuss FEDVIP problems. FEDVIP is not a benefit through NASCOE, but I hope to express some of the concerns to make this a better benefit for all that wish to take part in it. Your concerns have not gone unheard.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Frank Bender**

Next week – a cat story. The little creature has a chest cold and he is sleeping with his head in my ear. Wheezing and cat hairs – a great Valentine moment.

### **MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

1. Good News: The following states all have membership 90% or greater:
  - \* CT/RI 100%
  - \* DE/MD 90%
  - \* AL 94%
  - \* AR 93%
  - \* GA 92%
  - \* LA 92%
  - \* TN 93%
  - \* IL 91%
  - \* IA 90%

* MN	95%
* MO	91%
* OH	96%
* ND	94%
* SD	96%
* KS	91%
* OK	91%

A big thank-you to the area and state membership chairs for doing a great job. I was told that some states are even using a Checklist (FSA-770, Membership) to make sure they reach out to every employee.

**FRANK BENDER MEMBERSHIP AWARD.**

Since I am the committee chair I can make up whatever awards I want.

The **Frank Bender Membership Award** is presented to any state with 100% membership - A bottle of NYS Champagne, presented at the 2007 National Convention.

**FRANK BENDER COMEBACK AWARD:**

This is presented to the state that shows the greatest membership increase from last year. Right now the Garden State – New Jersey with an increase in membership of 15% is in the lead.

I will be attending the national legislative conference, if you have any comments or suggestions on membership. Let me know.

**Legislative**

**Cliff Fussell,SEA**

March 4-7, 2007 NASCOE will hold a full legislative conference in Washington, DC.

There will be well over 200 in attendance from throughout the country, delivering the position papers and making the contacts for FSA to be the delivery system for the 2007 Farm Bill. The position papers will be posted on the NASCOE website at [www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org). Membership's voice is the key to success as we pursue to be the delivery system in the 2007 Farm Bill debates. CAPWIZ is a tremendous tool that can help us be successful. If you are not already signed up for CAPWIZ please take the time to sign up and become active, if you have questions about CAPWIZ and how it works contact any of your Area Execs or Legislative chairs, ask other in your state how it works, it really is user friendly and effective.

Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, has just recently come out with the 2007 Farm Bill proposals that can be found at this link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1UH?contentidonly=true&contentid=media kit.xml>

This may very well be the beginning framework of the programs that we as FSA employees will be call upon to administer. The proposals have been well received both in the Senate and the House, both Democrats and Republicans have made comments favorable to some of these proposals.

As you know the livelihood of the farmers we serve will be impacted with every step of the farm bill debates. You are encourage to work with and listen to Coalition Partners in your states and if you have not developed a list of these key partners please do so, they can be very helpful in our pursuit of being the delivery system for this farm bill.

If you are one of those that will be attending the 2007 Legislative Conference you will be receiving a reminder to bring your EAUTH or EPP sign in and passwords, NASCOE will have a computer set up to use for PAC enrollments at the conference.

Remember, every member's voice is important and you can make a difference.

## **Computer Tip**

## ***Information Bulletin 4014***

### **TOPIC: Navigating FSA Applications to Eliminate Multiple e-Auth Login Entry**

State and County Office employees have inquired about accessing multiple web-based applications without requiring them to re-login to e-Auth as each application is accessed. FSA/ITSD has identified interim options until a long-term log-off solution can be implemented within the application.

Select one of the following interim options to use for quick navigation between web-based applications:

#### Option 1: Set the Internet Explorer Home Page to a convenient link.

Open Internet Explorer  
Copy the URL for the FSA Applications Web Page:

[http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/fsa/FSAIntranet\\_applications.html](http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/fsa/FSAIntranet_applications.html)

Select Tools from the menu bar  
Click on Internet Options in the drop down list  
Paste the new URL in the Home Page Address box  
Click "Apply"  
Click "OK"

#### Option 2: Bookmark the URL for the FSA Applications web page by adding it to your favorites:

Open Internet Explorer  
On the FSA Intranet Home Page, under the "Links" column, select FSA Applications  
Select Favorites from the menu bar  
Select Add To Favorites

NOTE: When application processing is complete within the current application, do not select "Logoff". Depending on which of the above options the user has chosen, either click on the Home icon or select the bookmarked application page. If all processing is complete, click the application "Logoff" to logout of e-Auth.