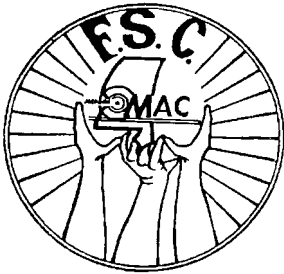


GREENSBORO ECHO*Voice of Rural America*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

A State Association of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund

convenes its 35th Annual Membership Meeting

Clarion Hotel & Suites
Jackson, Mississippi

MARCH 15-17, 2007

For More Information,
Call Ben Burkett or
Daisy Garrett
601-354-2750

Community Voices Extends Invitation-by press

Winston County's Community Voices extends an open invitation to participate in their "Communicating our Vision Session" February 27, 6:00pm at the extension office in Louisville, Ms. This session is designed to build capacity with local elected officials, the community at large, and community based organizations according to Carolyn Hampton class participant. The community voices program was introduced through the

Winston County Self Help Cooperative and sponsored by Alcorn State University's Extension Program. Community Voices consists of 15 training sessions geared towards enhancing leadership skills that will enable the participants to work together to solve their problems and make a positive impact in their own communities. Winston County's community voices is a diverse group of individuals from various communities/neighborhoods, ranging in

age from 25-65 years old. Carolyn Hampton stated "we have completed 6 sessions over an eight month period; therefore, we should finish the curriculum by year's end". Again, the general public is invited to participate in our "Communicating our Vision Session" and for additional information contact Dorothy Harper on 662-773-8264 or jeanh29@bellsouth.net.

WCSHC March Meeting-by Frank Taylor

Winston County Self Help Cooperative March meeting convened with 75 percent of its membership present, engaging in essential pragmatic decision making. Mr. Leon Goss prayed for several members and families afflicted with extraordinary circumstances of life. Carol Williams, co-op secretary read the previous minutes with ornate feelings of joy to help create an atmosphere of resolve. The co-op's agenda flowed swift and precise to an eventful end. The coop focused on several issues of priority: the outreach meeting with

State Conservationist Homer Wilkes on February 19, 4:55pm; policy development for 2007's farm bill, USDA's programs component overview, vaccination of animals, erecting feeder, and project reports. Carol Williams and Rev. Jack Miller gave reports on the North South Institute meeting in Davies, Florida. Williams stated that the meeting presented an opportunity to network with other farmers and landowners from different localities and learn strategies to help benefit Winston County Self

Help Cooperative. According to Rev. Miller, this conference revealed insight into USDA programs and provided the opportunity to dialogue with institutional leaders to help develop policy issues. Elizabeth Myles, NSI program coordinator, stated that NSI was thankful for the 12 participants from Winston County Self Help Cooperative attend their annual conference. NSI is working in conjunction with Winston County Self Help Cooperative to help save rural America. The meeting concluded with prayer by Elder George Miller.

"Saving Rural America"

The Alcorn State University Extension Program

in cooperation with

The Mississippi Association of Cooperatives and the

Center for Cooperative Development convenes its annual

Small Farmers Conference

Vicksburg Convention Center

Vicksburg, Mississippi

MARCH 26-28, 2007

Details and registration information at

www.smallfarmersconference.com

Phone: 601.354.2750

Derek Hopkins' POV on NSI's Conference

Twelve members of the Winston County Self-Help Cooperative, from ages 25-80 years, embarked on a journey to the Annual Regional Symposium in Davie, FL on January 16, 2007. The trip began with a prayer at the Jackson, MS, airport prior to boarding the flight bound for Fort Lauderdale, FL. The group arrived at the airport in Fort Lauderdale, FL late Tuesday evening after a somewhat pleasant flight. The group, traveled to the Crowne Plaza, the host hotel of the Symposium and was greeted with a familiar face, Mrs. Elizabeth Myles, Marketing Specialist at Alcorn State University. After checking

in and the agenda was received and we each retired to our designated room. The next morning started early with the bus set for departure at 7:00 am in route to Robbins Lodge just outside the city in Davie, FL. The ride to the lodge consisted of 15 minutes of beautiful Florida scenery. Upon arrival we were greeted once again with a heart felt welcome from the team of the North-South Institute. They directed us to the sunny picnic area where we helped ourselves to a continental breakfast while enjoying the Florida weather and the beautiful landscape of Robbins Lodge.

The symposium consisted of several consecutive sessions with special features such as, Farm Planning and Financial Management, ABC's of Efficient Agribusiness, Tax Planning and Farm Reinvestment, Farm Sanitation and Food Safety and many more. The sessions were very informative and enlightening. The sessions were closed each day with farmer to farmer communications which allowed participants of the symposium to share personal experiences and to ask questions about any concerns they might have. The symposium ended with field visits to view successful vegetable productions in both West Palm and Homestead, FL.

Future Leaders of Winston County Self Help Cooperative

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winston County Self Help Cooperative's Spring Field Day will occur on Tuesday April 3, 4:55pm at the cooperative farm in Louisville, Ms. For further details contact Frank Taylor 601-346-9850

Winston County Self Help Cooperative will hold it's monthly meeting on March 5, 2007 at the extension office in Louisville, MS at 3:55 p.m. For more information, please contact Charles Hampton at 662-803-0635

