

AACDE Newsletter

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS SIGNING CEREMONY

On March 2, 2007 Governor Mike Beebe signed a resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary of Conservation Districts.

The Senate concurring therein: That the General Assembly recognizes the seventieth anniversary of 36 conservation districts, urges renewed vigilance in the protection of private property rights, urges federal agencies, state agencies, and nongovernmental organizations to respect the value and authority of conservation districts, and recognizes that the conservation districts should take the leadership role in authorizing and coordinating watershed management plans.



From Left to Right: Rocky Harrell/ AACD Central Area President, Kalven Trice/ NRCS , Representative James Norton, Debbie Moreland/AACD Program Administrator, Representative Roy Ragland, Adrian Baber/ANRC Assistant Director for Conservation, Randy Young./ANRC Executive Director, Ruth Cunningham./AACDE President and Governor Mike Beebe.

You can read this resolution by going to www.arkleg.state.ar.us and put in HCR1012 .

OFFICERS

Ruth Cunningham—President Dana Cherry—Vice President

Minnie Goldman—Treasurer Ann Brooks—Secretary

REPRESENTATIVES

Northeast.....Debbie Greer

Southeast.....Sheila Stephens

Central.....Alicia Bishop

West Central.....Joyce Carson

East Central.....Carolyn Holcomb

Northwest.....Martha Blackwell

Southwest.....Sandy White

*In Deepest Sympathy...
Our love and prayers go
out to Michelle Smith,
District Secretary in
Clark County, on the
passing of her Father,
Ed Carter.*

NCDEA Report

From Sharon Underwood

For those of you who may not know, I am now holding the office of South Central Regional Representative for the National Conservation District Employee Association (NCDEA). I hope to be able to keep the membership of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas up to date on the activities of NCDEA.

Recently I attended the national NCDEA meeting in Los Angeles, CA. Elections were held this year and we have a new slate of officers:

Cindy Moon – Illinois – President

Connie Richmeier – Kansas – Vice President

Glenda Lewis – South Carolina – Treasurer

Tim Riley – Delaware – Secretary

Robert Dobbs – New Jersey – Past President

Other Regional Representatives are:

Northeast Region – Rick Mickowski – Delaware

North Central Region – Irene Moore – Ohio

Northern Plains Region – Jeri Trebelcock – Wyoming

Pacific Region – Carolyn Kelly – Washington

Southeast Region – Ann Spake – South Carolina

South Central Region – **Sharon Underwood** – Arkansas

Southwest Region – Peter Vigil – New Mexico



First Row: Glenda Lewis, Treasurer; Tim Riley, Secretary and Northeast Regional Board Member; and Jeri Trebelcock, WY, Northern Plains Regional Board Member.

Second Row: Tommy Brooks, outgoing SE Board Member; Connie Richmeier, KA, Vice President; Cindy Moon, IL, President; Robert Dobbs, NJ, Past President; Sharon Underwood, AR, South Central Regional Board Member; Peter Vigil, NM, Southwest Regional Board Member; Irene Moore, OH, North Central Regional Board Member; Ann Spake, SC, Southeast Regional Board Member.

I have been selected to serve on the Don Aron Scholarship Committee. We are accepting applications until May 1, 2007 from any district employee or their child or grandchild. The application can be found on the NCDEA website.

The South Central Region has again achieved their goal of 100% dues paying region. Congratulations to everyone.

If any of you have something you want presented to the NCDEA Board, please feel free to give me a call or email and I will bring it up at the next Board Meeting.

From Secretary to Director

Most of you probably remember Judy Castleberry, the District Secretary that retired after 29 years at the Garland County Conservation District. Well we are welcoming Judy back to GCCD as our newest Director on our Board. So don't be surprised if you see her at the Area or State Meetings.

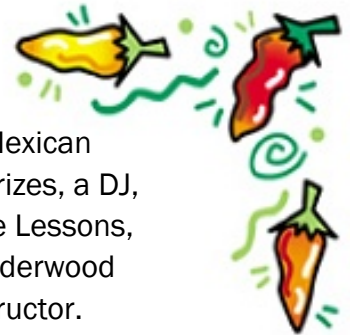


Judy Castleberry

Did you Tango at the Fiesta?



The night included Mexican food, BINGO, Door Prizes, a DJ, and even Line Dance Lessons, thanks to Sharon Underwood for her personal instructor.



A Big Thank You to everyone that helped make the AACDE Fiesta at the State meeting a huge success.



Report by Dana Cherry

Dedication ceremonies for the Point Remove Irrigation Project were held on April 2, 2007, at the Rock near Blackwell, AR. Senator Blanch Lincoln was the key note speaker. Point Remove Irrigation District Chairman, Eddie Tackett made the opening remarks. He identified many individual and organizations that contributed to the project through its approximately 15 years of planning and construction. Project cost was in the \$10 million range. Some 12,000 acres of crop land will have irrigation water available; also the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will flood approximately 8,000 acres for recreational purposes.

Senator Lincoln was the driving force who handled the USDA/NRCS funding for the project. She welcomed constituents and thanked everyone for the opportunity to represent them in the U.S. Senate. She also covered the many twist and turns that had to be made over the life of the project, giving credit to the individuals and agencies that cooperated and remained focused on completion of the project. After her very informative remarks which touched on the upcoming Farm Bill, she opened the floor for questions and there were many.

Following Senator Lincoln's remarks and discussion period, a very delightful meal was served. Robert (Crash) Caruthers supervised the meal preparation. He was recognized for the outstanding meal and also his personal contribution to the project.