

## North Central Association of District Employees (NCADE) Meeting Summary June 28-29, 2010 -- Springfield IL

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- ▶ The North Central region consists of the following states: [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), Iowa (no employees association), [Michigan](#), Minnesota, [Missouri](#), [Ohio](#), & [Wisconsin](#).
- ▶ Irene Moore from Ohio called the meeting together, and is currently the NCADE president. She is also the Vice-President of the National Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE). The purpose of the meeting was to pull the north central District's together, and try to get back on track.
- ▶ Cindy Moon (Illinois) is the past-President of the NACDE, and was also in attendance at the north central meeting.
  - She reported the [NACDE website](#) is out of date, and they're looking to hire a website administrator for \$10/hour.
  - She also made it known that the Employees Association does have a voice. Representatives from NACDE sit at the table in Washington DC with the National Association of Conservation District's (NACD), as well as NRCS.
- ▶ The first day of the meeting consisted of a "sharing" session. Each state brought information about their Employee Associations. My report can be viewed on the MACDE website.
- ▶ The District's in the north central region are either organized under their state DNR, or their Department of Agriculture. I believe MN is the only state to have 5 elected Supervisors that are actually on the general election ballot. Some District's have elections, but it's done similar to an 'annual meeting' where residents come to the meeting and vote.
- ▶ Something I found interesting is that the majority of the north central states offer scholarships to their employees, or relatives of the employees (children, grandchildren, etc). For example, Missouri gives out 8-\$500 scholarships for students attending college each year. They do NOT require that they are going into the environmental/natural resource field. Other states only provide the scholarship if students are going in to the environmental/natural resource field. Personally, I'd like to see Minnesota also offer some type of scholarship also!

### June 29...

- ▶ The second day of the meeting was our "Business Meeting" and focused more on our local district programs, what their successes were. Here's a few examples:
  - A 'legislative breakfast' is held after a holiday break, and is only 1 block away from their capitol. They've had a tremendous turnout.
  - Once every 3-4 years, a tour is held for local legislators, commissioners, decision makers. The tour is a 7-8 hour event (full day) and again has a very good turnout.
  - One state is VERY strict on how time is spent – annual leave needed to be used for her to attend the meeting we had in Illinois.
  - Ohio has a specialized "[Technician Development Program for Conservation Employees.](#)" This program has recently been adopted by New York as well. They also offer an Administrative Assistant Development Program (can be

found on the same link as above). I've requested more information on the program.

- Budgets are tight everywhere, doing more with less was the common theme.
- ▶ The current By-Laws for the North Central region need to be revised – there is no direction in them as it relates to the officer terms, states in the region, etc. **If anyone would like to be on the By-Laws committee, please let me know!**
- ▶ Elections were held, and the new President for the North Central region is **JOE PERRY** from [Sandusky SWCD](#), Ohio. The Secretary/Treasurer is **MEGAN ANDREWS** from [Kendall SWCD](#), Illinois.
- ▶ There is about \$1,300 in the North Central account currently, the \$50 per state dues have not been collected in a few years.
- ▶ States were encouraged to stay in contact with each other, share ideas, success stories, etc.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~Margaret Meade*

*Jumping at several small opportunities may get us there more quickly than waiting for one big one to come along. ~Hugh Allen*