

SACS Newsletter

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January 27, 2004

SACS

By Keith Scott

The User Committee meeting was held on January 20th. During the meeting, the members planned the class schedule for the conference in May. The dates for the SACS 2004 Annual User Conference will be Tuesday, May 11th and Wednesday, May 12th at the Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham. You can start making reservations now by calling 1-800-325-3535 or 205-324-5000. Registration forms and class schedules have been mailed. I want to thank all of the Committee Members for their assistance.

If you have suggestions or questions for the 2004 Conference, you can contact me at keith@sacsinc.com or call me at 256-329-1205. You can also contact any of the User Committee Members with suggestions. To see a list of the current Committee Members, go to this web address <http://www.sacsinc.com/NewNews.htm>. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

I am pleased to announce that SACS now has a full time salesperson. Her name is Vicki Shamblin. You will be hearing from her in the months to come.



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Developer's Corner

By Danny Lloyd

The New Year is now underway. Your developers are working hard to bring you new software features and enhancements through new technologies. Recently, Chris Knox joined our development staff. Chris is working with our new Microsoft development tools. These new tools will allow us to bring you the next generation of SACS Housing Software.

We are now testing our new Excess Utility bar code reading software for the PDA. A small add-on device turns a PDA into a bar code reader. The Excess Utility bar code reading software has been enhanced. The new software will allow users to replace worn or defective bar codes in the field. It also warns the user when they enter a reading that is outside of a predetermined percentage based on the last two readings recorded. This addition should help reduce the number of trips needed to reread meters. This software can use the wireless features of the PDA to allow the user to upload and download readings without having to physically connect the PDA to a computer.

We will be converting the current Inventory bar code software to the PDA during the first quarter of this year. The PDA is a versatile device and can be used for a number of applications. We are looking into other ways to use the PDA to help make these tasks easier.

Some of you have used our ODBC driver to extract information from your housing files for use in other programs. Many of you have asked about the ability to pull information from a report into other programs. This capability exists without the use of the ODBC driver. Windows and Unix users can save reports to a disk image and import them into other programs like Microsoft Excel. If you are interested in receiving information regarding this capability, please send an email to Grant at grant@sacsinc.com.

Please make sure you are a member of our email list. During the month of December we sent out 5 emails to you. If you did not receive these emails, you are no longer on our email list. The email list automatically removes emails that are no longer valid or when an email message is rejected.

Work continues on your change requests and routine system enhancements. Please let us know what enhancements you would like to see in our software.

Administration/Marketing Corner

By Sherri Blasingame

WELCOME

**ALAMO, GA HOUSING AUTHORITY
BROOKSVILLE, FL HOUSING AUTHORITY
LEWISBURG, TN HOUSING AUTHORITY
VALDESE, NC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

SACS is pleased to announce that during the last quarter of 2003, software was installed in an Authority for all of our neighboring states!!!!



UPCOMING CLASSES AT SACS

SACS PDA Inspection Software / Inventory & W/O's

Tuesday, February 17th \$100 per person
OR
Thursday, February 19th \$100 per person

Section 8

Tuesday, February 24th \$100 per person

General Ledger-Beginners

Tuesday, March 16th \$100 per person

General Ledger-Advanced

Wednesday, March 17th \$100 per person

Please contact Sherri Blasingame to Register!!!

Also, if there are other classes you would like to see offered, please notify me. Custom Training is always available.

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

By Wanda Scott

Not only does SACS offer *Fee Accounting Services*, we are also pleased to offer you the following:

- **Payroll Preparation**
Direct Deposits, Check Printing
- **Payroll Tax Preparation/Assistance**
W2, W3, 1099, 1096, 941
State Quarterly, State Unemployment

Contact Wanda Scott at extension #106 for pricing.

Technical Support

By Brandon Ingram

It is important that you keep your computer updated with the latest SACS Software Updates. The latest SACS program updates are dated 1-22-2004. You can download them from the SACS website. An email is sent to those agencies on our email list, when new program updates are available.

We also consider it equally important to keep your system updated with the latest Microsoft Windows updates. If you are running Windows 2000, XP, or Server 2003 you need to check the Windows update website for any security changes. In addition to security bulletins, Microsoft releases service packs to correct program problems identified in their products. Here are the latest service packs available for these operating systems: Windows 2000 release Service Pack 4, Windows XP release Service Pack 1 and Windows Server 2003 security updates. Windows 98 has reached the end of its product life and is no longer supported by Microsoft. If you still have Windows 98 computers, you need to start planning for upgrades to those systems.

Backups are a vital part of your daily routine. We cannot emphasize the importance of good backups. Because of this SACS will be announcing a new backup service in February. This service will give you the option to have automated backups performed by SACS at night. You will be receiving information regarding this new offering.

Viruses continue to invade Windows systems. We recommend that all of your computers be equipped with the latest anti-virus software. It is no longer adequate to have just the computer connected to the Internet protected by anti-virus software. There are several anti-virus software providers. We continue to sell Symantec Norton Anti-Virus. This software gives you 1 year of free updates. New virus definitions are released each week, so it is important to allow the anti-virus software to update itself weekly.

After installing SACS Version 5.3, Windows users found new graphical screens. Please let us know what you like or dislike about these new screens. Your input will direct our development staff.

Purchasing

By Kevin Scott

With this being the New Year, it is important to check to see if you are up to date with your anti-virus software. If your subscription is out of date, call us to order the latest version of Symantec Norton Anti-Virus.



**Call Kevin @ ext 110 to
place your order today.**