

NASCOE Now

March 23, 2009

Current Legislation That Could Affect Your Benefits

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on Wednesday marked up H.R. 1265, a bill that would revise how sick leave is credited toward retirement, automatically enroll new federal employees in the Thrift Savings Plan and broaden the plan's fund offerings.

In addition, Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., the new chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Federal Workforce Subcommittee has announced that his first markup of legislation, scheduled for March 25, will be the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act. That bill would give all federal employees four weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, and allow them to use annual leave or sick time and take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave.

Additionally, Sens. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., plan to introduce the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act soon. That bill would give the domestic partners or spouses of gay and lesbian federal employees access to the same benefits available to the husbands and wives of heterosexual federal employees.



NASCOE Now; Awards, Scholarships and Emblems, March 27, 2009

** The Area Distinguished Award Winners have been determined, and have been sent on for National judging. I am hoping that by the next edition of NASCOE Now I will be able to formally announce who the winners in each Area are! Right now I have to rely on Glamorization protection if you ask me (I can neither confirm nor deny!).*

** The Area Scholarship Judges (bless their hearts!) are hard at work trying to determine each Area NASCOE Scholarship winner. I should be able to announce each Area Scholarship winner in the next edition of NASCOE Now. I wish each applicant the best of luck in this competition and with the competition they will soon face in the job market!*

** State Awards Chairpersons: Just another reminder to please ask your County Offices to get you the list of names of persons that have reached one of the Sick Leave milestones (1,000, 1,500, 2,000, 2,500 3,000, 3,500 or more hours) and get their names and hours of sick leave to your Area Awards Chairperson. I realize that most States will be holding their conventions this spring, so plan ahead, as it may take a week or so to get the certificates to you. Thank you!!!*

** Here is some great news from the NASCOE Store! You can get great discounts on the remaining USDA-FSA logo items, and shop for your new convention attire with the new logo!*

Be the first in your State to adorn the new FSA Logo! You'll look like a million bucks at a fraction of the cost! Also, please remember that each time you purchase items from the NASCOE Store, a generous commission is paid directly to the NASCOE Scholarship fund! Happy shopping!



New Category for you ladies. BUY ONE! GET ONE FREE! Check it out at www.nascoeemblemsonline.com . Limited Inventory on these items.

Take care everyone, and please let me or your Area Chairpersons know if you have any questions about the NASCOE Awards, Scholarships or Emblems programs!

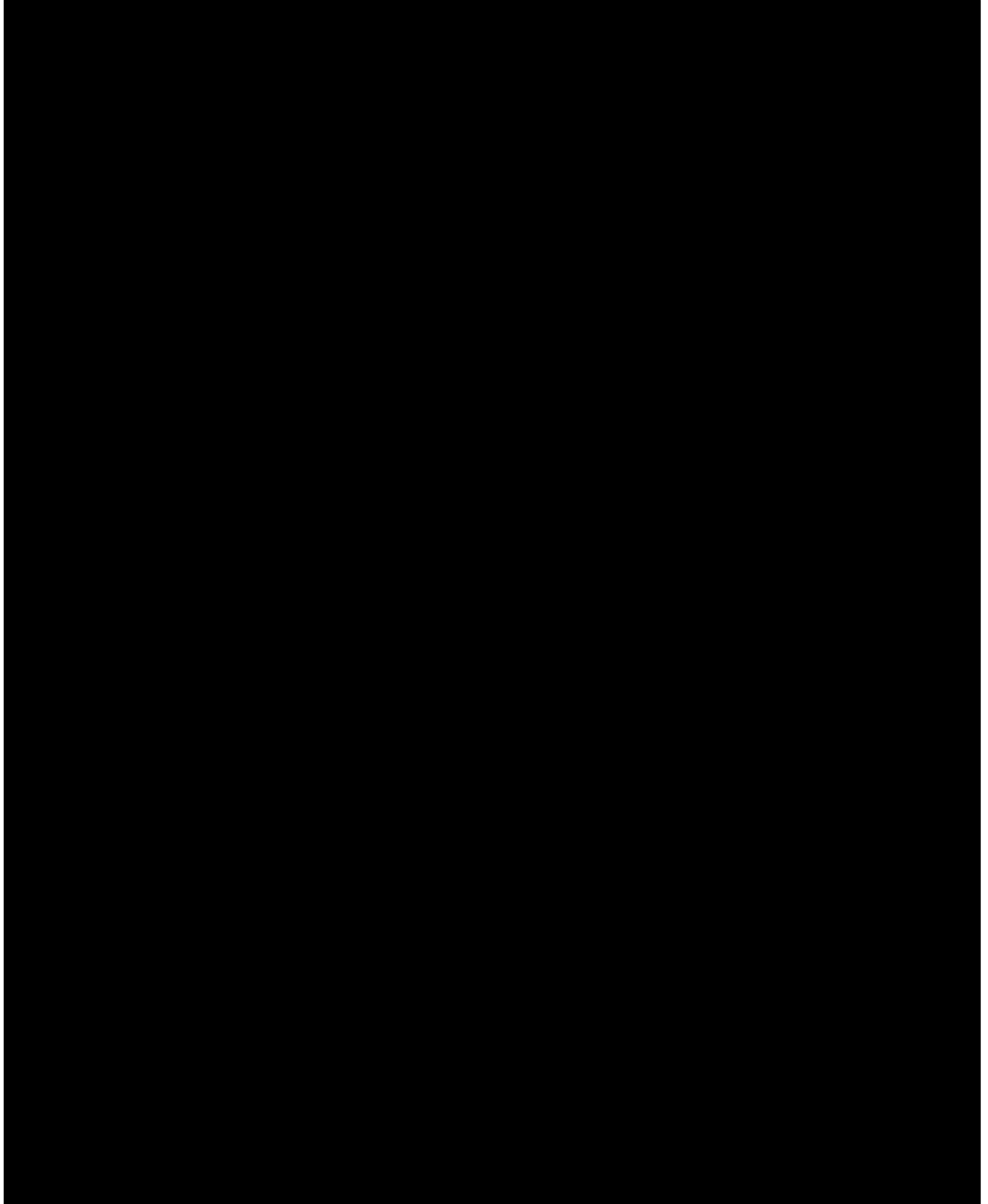
Tom Oasen, NASCOE Awards, Scholarship and Emblems Chairperson

NASCOE Membership

Jeanne Monday, Membership Chair

Hello NASCOE Friends,

Below is the latest NASCOE Membership Report which reflects 82% membership. We still have time to improve our national level. If you are reading this article and you have not joined your state association, I would like to invite you to do so. I would also like to request that if you know of someone who is not a member of NASCOE -maybe they are a new employee - please tell them about our employee association and ask them to join. Until next time, remember **Membership has its benefits.**





Iowa Group with Senator Harkin



Iowa Group with Harkin Staff



Iowa group with Congressman King's Ag Aide



Iowa with Congressman Latham



NEA Executive John Lohr with Congressman Tim Holden Pennsylvania



Minnesota Group with Congressman Peterson



Ohio at Legislative Reception



Preparing for visits!

DANGER!



Do Not Eat Hot Dogs or Sausages From Vending Machines

Please visit the NASCOE website at www.nascoe.org and go to the Legislative Page to view the 2009 legislative papers.