

Southeast Area Executive
2023 Candidacy Announcement

Neil Burnette

My name is Neil Burnette and I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of SEA Executive. I am running for this position because I believe that my previous experience with NoCASCOE and NASCOE position me well as someone that can continue to lead the SEA as an Area of Excellence. I will strive to provide our members with the best representation possible, as we work to guide NASCOE in navigating current and future challenges. **I will base my decisions on two questions: will the outcome strengthen NASCOE and/or the county committee system and, does it provide the best result possible for membership.**

I understand that our future as FSA County Office employees can be greatly affected in ways that many employees never thought possible. I have seen firsthand, attacks on our benefits. I have worked alongside other NASCOE leaders to maintain our benefits and fought to be included in new ones. These battles cannot be won without our association fighting on our behalf. We all must strive to keep NASCOE strong, and I intend to help the SEA lead the way.

As an FSA employee with over 32 years with the agency, I know how vital the County Committee system is, not only to the farmers in our communities who feed the world, but also to us as employees. The local committee system of government is the greatest form of Federal Program Administration in America and is something that should be emulated and celebrated. Our local farmer elected committees provide us flexibility and protection as employees that cannot exist as General Schedule employees. I intend to fight for this system of government and do my best to educate others on the importance of the County Committee.

Background:

- NASCOE member for 32 years
- Served as SEA Alternate Executive for 2 years
- Served as NASCOE National Legislative Co-Chair 4 years
- Served as:
 - NoCASCOE Director, Benefits Chair, Legislative Chair, Vice-President, President
 - SEA Legislative Chair
 - NASCOE Legislative PAC Coordinator
- Graduated East Carolina University 1986 – Bachelor of Arts in Economics
- Served as CED in Montgomery County, NC - 1992-1995
- CED in Rockingham County, NC since 1995

- Member of Reidsville Christian Church - serving as sound technician since 1998, and security team leader since 2019
- Married to my wonderful wife, Dana. I have two terrific sons, Alex, and Nicholas, and four precious grandchildren, Judah, Ezra, Selah and Luke

I believe in NASCOE and the County Committee System and understand the important role both play for us as County Office employees. I have a desire to share what I have learned and experienced with others to help preserve FSA as a great place to work. I want to help develop future leaders within our association and there is no better place to do that than the SEA. We must invest in the next generation and train them to carry forward the benefits and values of NASCOE, that so many have worked diligently to obtain.

I respectfully request your prayers and support in my effort to further the mission of NASCOE and make positive impact. I would consider it an honor and a privilege to serve each of you as your SEA Executive.

Respectfully,

Neil Burnette