

# NASCOE SCOOP



## Vice President's Message

It warms my heart to know this is the time of year when we celebrate Christmas with family and friends. The glow of lights brightening homes, trees, and even people's eyes can remind us of the joy this season brings. It seems to lift our spirits and encourage us to share kindness and cheer wherever we go.

Just as we spread Christmas joy—sometimes singing it, sometimes shouting it like elves—we also share the message of NASCOE. We find creative ways to bring people together around a common cause that fills us with pride and purpose.

While we visited Washington, DC, we were able to carry that same spirit of connection and celebration. This season reminds us that when we work together, we can light up more than just trees—we can brighten futures.

Please know how honored I am to serve as your NASCOE Vice President and to have the opportunity to visit our nation's capital during this festive season. Returning to Washington, D.C. brings back fond memories of my younger years living and working here—a place where history is made, decisions shape our future, and conversations over coffee often carry the weight of progress. Being back in this vibrant city during December reminds me of the importance of what we do together and the pride we share in our mission.

One theme Kayla and I quickly noticed during our time in D.C. was the attentiveness and genuine listening we received during our Hill visits. Many congressional offices were beautifully decorated for Christmas—doors adorned with cards, festive inflatables, and even fully decorated trees indoors. Outside, large Christmas trees were being set up, and tree-lighting ceremonies filled the week with holiday cheer. The crisp mornings and chilly evenings reminded this Texas girl to grab a hot coffee or warm cocoa each day, adding a little extra comfort to an already memorable experience. Another common theme during our visits was clear recognition of who we are, what we do, and who we serve. The appreciation we felt—every note taken, every thank-you expressed—reminded Kayla and myself why we do what we do: to raise awareness of our mission, advocate for employee representation & staffing, support our agricultural communities, and county committee system.

When we returned home, we carried a deep sense of pride and purpose in representing NASCOE and all FSA county office employees. This experience also reminded us of the importance of balance—making time for ourselves and for those we love. As we recharge this holiday season, let's remember that our mission thrives on our strength and dedication, but it also depends on us getting rest and care of ourselves.

Merry Christmas to you and yours! We hope each of you all have the merriest holiday season! Here's to warm hugs, memorable holiday movies, hot sips of cocoa, and taking the time to put your feet up and rest!

### On the Horizon

- Holiday merriment with friends and family
- EC Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month
- Negotiations Submissions Deadline – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>
- Membership Promotion and Growth 2026
- Reorganization Plan Impacts for FSA
- Work on questions for Quarterly call with DAFO & Administrator
- Pre-Negotiations meetings in Nashville in Mid-January
- Work on plans for Leadership & Membership strategies

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear! ~ Buddy the Elf

## Get to Know NASCOE

**NASCOE Legislative Co-Chair:** Katie Frandrup

**Location:** Minnesota

**FSA County Location(s):** Dakota/Scott/Washington County Office located in Farmington, MN

**Family:** Husband Dale, Puppy named Buddy

**Something Others May Not Know:** I compete in the Minnesota State Fair seed art competition — turning crop seeds into detailed artwork is my favorite way to combine creativity with agriculture!

**Why I Serve NASCOE:** I serve NASCOE because I want to make a difference in the policies that affect us. I sit at the same desk as many of you and know firsthand how frustrating policy can be at times. NASCOE gives us a voice — a seat at the table with the people who can help make those changes. It's empowering to know that through this organization, we have an opportunity to advocate for ourselves, our coworkers, and the producers we serve every day.



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## Get to Know NASCOE



**NASCOE Legislative Co-Chair:** Amanda Ahrens

**Location:** Kansas

**FSA County Location(s):** Saline & Ottawa County

**Pets:** Sadie and Duke

**Why I Serve NASCOE:** I serve NASCOE because our work is more than a job, it is a meaningful part of our lives. We all move through different seasons in life, and when the time is right, giving back through service is one of the most impactful ways we can contribute. What better way to serve than by supporting an organization that influences our work, our voices, and our livelihoods almost every day. NASCOE membership unites us, strengthens our collective voice, and empowers us to advocate for positive change that benefits not only ourselves, but the farmers, ranchers, and communities we serve.



## NASCOE PAC COMPETITION



**NASCOE PAC Donor Form**



**Focus is on New  
Contributors**

Current Contributors can still up their PAC

**Timeframe**

Started at 2025 National Convention  
Ends at 2026 National Convention

### ★ INCENTIVES ★

- Previous PAC promotional incentives will still be given out, while supplies last
- First 3% new contributors, by State get a \$10 gift card. For every additional sign-up a \$5 gift card up to 20 people nationwide
- Drawing for three \$15 gift cards to emblems when an AREA hits 3% new sign-ups
- Referral Reward Gift Cards for a \$15 gift card or emblems gift card up to 10 people
- Surprise a random donor monthly with a thank you and a \$10 card

Check out <https://nascoe.org/nascoe-pac>

\$3 a Pay Period is like buying a bottle of soda or coffee

The NASCOE PAC is pleased to announce several new incentives aimed at encouraging member participation. We have received positive feedback on NASCOE's communications during the recent government shutdown, underscoring the importance of timely and consistent updates. If you found these updates valuable, they represent just one of the many ways PAC contributions help support effective advocacy and communication on behalf of our members.

Each Monday, the NASCOE President, Vice President, and Legislative Team meet with Hunter Moorhead, NASCOE's Legislative Consultant, to discuss ongoing legislative developments and priorities.

The NASCOE PAC collects voluntary contributions that are used to support candidates and initiatives aligned with the interests and priorities of NASCOE members. For organizations like NASCOE, a PAC is an essential tool that enables engagement in the political process in a transparent and lawful manner, helping advance policies that support employees and ensure the continued delivery of service to our agricultural producers.

If you have never contributed to the PAC, participation can begin for as little as \$3.00 per pay period—less than the cost of most snacks or drinks at a convenience store today.