



## President's Message

Happy New Year! I was not necessarily sad to turn the page of the calendar to 2026, as last year was definitely a difficult one for MANY reasons. I am, however, in disbelief that it went by so fast and find myself anxious about the year ahead. That anxiousness comes from a multitude of reasons:

- Uncertainty of FSA staffing and hiring for the coming year
- Known (and some unknown) workloads in each of our offices
- Learning new policies and informing our producers—and potential new producers—of these changes, along with the plethora of standing FSA programs available
- Upcoming nuptials for my son and his fiancée (not to mention that he has now aged out of my health insurance after turning 26 a few days ago)
- Building a new home
- Aging grandparents, one of whom we are currently working to move into a memory care unit
- Starting a new year without my beautiful friend Teresa, who passed away in May

Along with anxiety, there are also unexpected joys that come with work, personal life, and NASCOE business. Having a strong support system is the foundation of what I believe we each need to navigate challenges, celebrations, uneasiness, and joy. I know I am blessed to have a strong support system in all aspects of my life—people who let me vent, who catch me when I fall, and who know when I need a shoulder to cry on or simply need to be left alone.

You may not have the same people in your life, but I want you to know that NASCOE is here for you. Whether it's talking through work-related difficulties, helping you or your state with building or retaining membership, or pointing you toward resources available through NASCOE, the entire team wants you to know that all you need to do is reach out.

You likely don't need me to remind you that we all have access to EAP assistance (via the Acentra Connect app, by phone, or through their website), but you may be hesitant to use this benefit. Please don't be. I have used it for both personal and professional reasons and have found it extremely helpful. I especially enjoy the app and its "tip of the day."

Please also remember that we have benefits such as Annual Leave and Sick Leave, but they only help if we use them. Taking time off to recharge, reset, or simply spend time with friends, family, or yourself is IMPORTANT. Please be better than I was—the work will be there when you return, but you will likely be in a better place to be productive and share your smile with others.

The NASCOE team is headed to Nashville to review all the negotiation items you have submitted. It will be a busy weekend, but it will be spent with a group of dedicated volunteers working toward improving our future and, hopefully, reducing some of the anxieties we all face in our offices.

## On the Horizon

- Pre-Negotiations Meeting in Nashville
- Leadership Meeting with some SEA states
- PAC Promotion
- EC Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month
- Promotion and Growth 2026
- Reorganization Plan Impacts for FSA
- Work on questions for Quarterly call with DAFO & Administrator
- Work on plans for Leadership & Membership strategies

Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes... including you.

— Anne Lamott

## Get to Know NASCOE

**NASCOE Benefits & Emblems Chair:** Travis D. Eisele

**Location:** Illinois

**FSA County Location(s):** Tazwell County

**Family:** Wife Rebecca, sons Gideon & Abraham, & dogs Moss & Evey

**Something Others Don't Know About Me:** My superpower is waiting. I can sit and wait with the best of them.

**Why I Serve NASCOE:** I serve NASCOE because I believe in giving back and trying to make things better. It's so inspirational to get to work with all of the other members who have a similar outlook. With NASCOE, you truly do get everything back that you put into it.



# NASCOE SCOOP



## About Benefits & Emblems

The NASCOE Benefits & Emblems Committee is standing by to serve you.

We want you to know that your state, area and national chairs want to hear from you!

We continue to look for new benefits to provide to our members while working to protect those we already have. Whether it is membership or your government employment benefits, we are here to assist.



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National  
Committee Chair



Travis Eisele  
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