

Vol. 1, Issue 8

March 2026

NASCOE SCOOP



President's Message

Each month when I write my NASCOE Scoop message, I typically try to connect the message to the committee we are spotlighting. That was my intention again this month, but the reality of what many of our offices are experiencing right now led me in a different direction. This month's message is not the one I originally planned to write. Instead, I want to speak honestly about where many of us are right now. It is difficult in our offices.

Across the country, county offices are managing an incredible workload with less support physically as we continue to lose members of our teams. Between FBA, SDRP, CRP, COC organizational meetings, ARC/PLC history work, DMC, offices triggering for LFP, fires and other disasters occurring, late-filed acreage reports for specialty crops, and ongoing farm records cleanup, the demands continue to build. Every office is feeling the pressure in some form or another.

In moments like this, it is important to remember that you are not navigating these challenges alone. NASCOE exists to provide a voice and representation for county office employees. Your NASCOE leaders—Area Executives, National Chairs, and the Officers are continually working behind the scenes on behalf of both members and non-members to raise concerns and identify solutions. Communication remains the most important piece—members be sure to be communicating things to your state leaders; state leaders need to be able to discuss concerns with your SED and/or DSED and when resolutions are not found then state leaders be sure to be communicating with your Area Executives. These items are then shared with the Executive Committee and discussed as a group. Some items go directly to FSA leadership and others are reviewed and handled within our team. However, most important is that we need to have these conversations to help ensure the realities in our county offices are heard.

This past month has also brought a significant change for our leadership team. I have officially accepted Vice President Christa Kraatz's resignation as she has accepted a new opportunity as a District Director. NASCOE will share her official resignation letter in an all-member email so you can each hear directly from her. I have been beyond blessed to work side-by-side with this amazing, intelligent, kind, thoughtful, and patient woman over the past eight and a half months. While we will miss her leadership on the Executive Committee, we know her dedication to FSA and NASCOE will never change.

The Executive Committee has reviewed our Bylaws and will continue operating as we are until the next natural election during our Board of Directors Meeting at the Annual Convention. We have a strong team of leaders who remain committed to serving each of you and continuing the work NASCOE was created to do.

Please continue reaching out to your NASCOE leaders whenever questions, concerns, or needs arise. The work being done in county offices matters, and NASCOE will continue standing alongside you as we move forward together.

On the Horizon

- EC Meeting 1st Tuesday of the Month
- Submission of Negotiation Items to Management
- Rally – Cincinnati, OH
- Rally – Reno, NV
- Monitor Farm Bill Legislation and Appropriations Legislation
- Quarterly call with DAFO
- 2026 Reorganization Plan
- Leadership Development
- PAC Promotion
- Membership Promotion and Growth

“We can't control the wind, but we can adjust the sails.”

~ Jimmy Dean

Get to Know NASCOE

NASCOE Programs & Negotiations Co-Chair: Sarah Houin

Location: Alabama

FSA County Location(s): Madison County

Family: Husband Aaron, 9-month-old son Leo, 16-year-old doggo Harley!

How Has NASCOE Changed Your Life? NASCOE has completely changed my life, professionally and personally. I started with FSA November 2020 and there was no way I was going to have many opportunities to meet other employees as I wasn't even getting to see my office coworkers every day! I had immediately joined NASCOE because of the benefits, but I didn't participate, really, until I was invited to be the Southeast Area Programs and Negotiations area chair. I immediately got to meet the other area chairs and national chair, along with other chairs for the Southeast area and that was when my time with FSA went from feeling like a short-term job to the rest of my career. In my time of being an area chair, and then national chair, I have seen such amazing breakthroughs with our conversations with FSA leadership, and I know so much of it came from the hard work of the employees before me. I've also gotten to attend National Conventions and through all the meetings and work events, I have made some lifetime best friends across the nation because of NASCOE. I hope this March scoop edition inspires people to send in Program Submissions and get involved with their state or area NASCOE association to make connections, friends, and a difference in our careers!



NASCOE SCOOP



Get to Know NASCOE

NASCOE Programs & Negotiations Co-Chair: Tina Williams

Location: New York

FSA County Location(s): Washington, Warren, & Saratoga Counties

Family: Husband Mike, Daughter Haley - 10, 2 dogs - Maya & Stella

Why I Serve NASCOE: I came to FSA 15 years ago as a COT (now CEDT) from the private sector. About 6 months into my COT training, I was heading to an office to be trained in Conservation Programs by Program Technician Lorri Dandignac. Lorri not only taught me everything I needed to know about conservation but she also opened my eyes to NYASCOE & NASCOE. It didn't take long for Lorri to coax me into the Membership Committee Role in NYASCOE, then a few years later when she took a State Office position, and could no longer be the NEA Membership Chair she recommended me as her replacement to the NEA Executive at that time. Lorri and I continued to be close even when I transferred to Vermont FSA where I served as President for numerous years. In 2014, we traveled together to my first NEA Rally in West Virginia then on to my first National Convention in Oklahoma and it was safe to say I was hooked! Lorri was my first phone call when I was nominated as NEA Alternate Executive and she has been one of my biggest supporters in my service to NASCOE. The impact Lorri had by pushing me outside of my comfort zone to step up in NASCOE has gone far beyond NASCOE. Not only have I made friends nationwide, I have expanded my professional network, improved my public speaking and even served on a National Task Force. My goal is to have the same effect on at least one of my fellow NYASCOE/NASCOE members that Lorri had on me.



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<https://nascoe.org/committee/programs-negotiations>

