

NASCOE SCOOP



President's Message - Turning the Page Into a New Season of NASCOE Leadership

As the leaves begin to change and we settle into the rhythm of fall, I'm reflecting on the momentum we built together in Charleston. Our Organizational Meeting felt like the start of a new season — one filled with fresh ideas, renewed purpose, and a strong commitment to the work ahead.

This year also brings a leadership update I am truly excited about. Please join me in welcoming Richard Csutoras as our NASCOE Vice President. Richard brings a deep respect for NASCOE's traditions and history, paired with a forward-looking mindset that will help us continue building the strong, sustainable association our members deserve. I look forward to working closely with him as we honor where we've come from and lead confidently into the future.

One message from Charleston stood out clearly: NASCOE thrives when leadership is shared and connected. Our Officers, Area Executives, Alternate Area Executives, and National Committee Chairs are working collectively to ensure that our Area Chairs, State Leadership, and State Chairs have the support, communication, and engagement they need to serve their members effectively. This year, we're focusing on leadership development, strengthening communication, and ensuring our structure works the way it was designed — with responsibility shared across a capable, informed, and engaged team.

We also received some warm and welcoming fall news: Congress passed a Continuing Resolution, meaning we will not face a shutdown at the end of the month. While this doesn't eliminate the challenges ahead, it gives our offices a bit of stability as we continue navigating heavy workloads and staffing shortages.

Later this month, our Legislative Team will head to Washington, D.C. for the Legislative Fly-In. Just like fall brings a sense of renewal, this trip brings an opportunity to grow, advocate, and strengthen NASCOE's presence on Capitol Hill. We look forward to sharing highlights from the trip in next month's Scoop.

Navigating Change Across the Country

Across the nation, states continue to face difficult decisions related to hiring priorities, office statuses, shared management, reduced service offices, and temporary combinations. These changes can feel unsettling, and they often come with more questions than answers.

Please know that NASCOE is watching closely. I've been in contact with DAFO leadership on various items that have raised concern, and I am actively seeking clarification. A few situations emerging in states appear — at first sight — to conflict with information previously shared by FSA leadership. Before drawing conclusions, I'm working to verify the details and ensure we fully understand what is happening.

Your Voice Matters — Keep the Conversation Going

As we move through this season of change, I encourage every member to:

- Ask questions locally — your State Association is your first line of support.
- Elevate concerns when needed — if something doesn't align or feels unclear, reach out through your Area Executive.
- Stay connected — communication is our strongest tool during times of transition.

Looking Ahead With Purpose

Fall reminds us that change, while sometimes difficult, can also bring growth. We can't control appropriations or staffing ceilings, but we can control how we respond — with unity, leadership, advocacy, and resilience.

I'm grateful for each of you, and I'm proud of the work we are doing together as we step into this new NASCOE season.

Here's to a productive and purposeful fall.

On the Horizon

- **Legislative Training Fly-In to DC**
September 27th through 30th
 - Training
 - Hill Visits
 - Meet & Greet with Bill Beam
 - US Capitol Visit
- EC Meeting 1st Tuesday of the Month
- Monitor Farm Bill Legislation, Economic Assistance and Appropriations bills
- PAC Promotion
- Stay abreast of Reorganization Plan
- Quarterly call with DAFO
- Leadership Development Summit
- Programs and Negotiation Submission
- Rollout of Distinguished Service Awards and Scholarship Opportunities

Autumn is a time when we're reminded that change can be beautiful... and that raking is terrible.