

November 15, 2017

Dear State Officers:

With the 2018 COC elections and organizational meetings coming soon we all have the opportunity to assist NAFEC with their membership drive. It is going to take all of our NASCOE state associations working to make this membership drive a success. While NAFEC is growing, we still have much more room for growth, but it starts with each of us bringing the message of NAFEC to our COC members at these upcoming meetings.

I know that probably some of you have asked at some point in the past, why should we keep the county committee system, or maybe you’ve thought why shouldn’t we COF employees just become full-fledged Federal employees? While I won’t go into all the intricate details of this issue, there is one major reason I want to mention for keeping the County Committee system. Our system is one of the only systems of Federal government with grass roots control. When our forerun AAA was formed back in the 1930’s, County Committees were first called County Control Associations. Henry A. Wallace then Secretary of Agriculture provided President Roosevelt the following comments regarding this new agency with a democratically formed system of government within it: “Farmers themselves largely administer the adjustment programs through county control associations. These bodies help to make, as well as to administer, adjustment policy. Thoroughly democratic in form and spirit, the associations are effective instruments in economic self-government.” 1. I think most of you would also agree with the ideology of local control, accountability and grass roots input. Our county committee system has all of these traits and in that regard, perfectly models the private sector.

Please help us increase NAFEC membership by taking the lead within your state, and your own county. Committee members and advisors can easily join NAFEC for only $4 per meeting using payroll withholdings. Each of you can join as associate members for only $1 per pay period.

I have included with this letter much of the material that will be posted on both the NASCOE and NAFEC websites for counties to download and present to your COC’s at the upcoming organizational meetings. It includes the following:

1. Joint Letter to COC’s & COF employees from NAFEC President Craig Turner and NASCOE President Dennis Ray

2. Letter to CED’s from the NAFEC Committee

3. NAFEC Membership Application

4. FSA-444 (Dues Withholding) - instructions for State Office Loading

Finally, there are still several states for which NAFEC needs a recommendation for at least one and preferably two state NAFEC directors. These individuals should be willing to serve if selected and should have the desire to get involved in NAFEC and agriculture issues. Please include with these recommendations every form of contact information available (address, telephone number, e-mail address, cell number) for the recommended director to your Area NAFEC Committee Member (listed below). The NAFEC executive committee will make the final decision on these director appointments.

Feel free to contact me at: billydenison@yahoo.com or by cell at 701-361-1033 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Billy Denison, NASCOE’s NAFEC Committee Chairman (Montana)

Daniel Shockey – NEA Chair (West Virginia)

Pamela Rhoades – SEA Chair (Mississippi)

Mary Roberts – MWA Chair (Iowa)

Levi Garlick – SWA Chair (Texas)

Teresa Vonn, NWA Chair (Oregon)

Footnote 1. 1935 - Yearbook of Agriculture