



## President's Message

There is no shortage of work to be done in our offices, is there? When we are busy in our daily work we tend to let that start to impact our lives in unhealthy ways. Stress, tension, short-temper, loss of sleep, many other things start taking over. The uncertainties of reorganization, hiring freeze and doing more with less weighs heavily on us. I encourage you to make a focused effort on reminding yourself that you will be okay, we will be okay. In these more trying times at work and home **GIVE YOURSELF GRACE**. Extend that GRACE to your coworkers, producers, leaders and especially to your friends and family. Lift each other up. Build a positive culture. Look for small ways to brighten someone's day. There's so much outside our control. But there is also so much to celebrate.

Remember that your NASCOE team is here for you. If there are things that you are concerned about that we might be able to raise as concerns to higher authorities we can do that, as necessary, but we need to hear from you. Share those concerns and possible solutions. Share your ideas for things that NASCOE could do for you with us. We cannot work to make changes without the input of our members.

I was recently in Louisville, KY for the NACS, NASE and NADD National Convention. I spoke with members of those associations and our concerns align when it comes to reorganization plans, how do we continue to best serve our customers, and how we can help to promote and find a work-life balance. We need to be talking with coworkers, attending/hosting events in your states (even during busy times in the office), and finding things that help you focus on what is important – **YOU**. **You matter, you are needed, you are doing a great job and we need you.**

There continues to be a spotlight on the great work we do in the local FSA County Offices. We hear this from Congress, the Secretary, Undersecretary and our FSA leadership. The Reorganization Plan is out and we have seen the memo- it does not call for Reduction in Force and the main impact will be to the National Capital Region staff within USDA. Let's stay focused on that and not what we fear or think could happen.

We all look forward to working with and for you and navigating our windy path together.

## On the Horizon

- Monthly Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month
- NASCOE Leadership Organizational Meeting August 15-19<sup>th</sup>
- Monitoring Agriculture Appropriations in House and Senate
- Monitoring Farm Bill 2.0 discussions in House and Senate
- Reorganization Plan Impacts for FSA

Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start.  
—Nido Qubein

## Get to Know NASCOE



**NASCOE President Kayla Mattson**

**Location:** Minnesota

**FSA County Location(s):** Wadena, Hubbard, Crow Wing/Cass and Aitkin/Itasca

**Family:** Kyle (husband), Bryce (son), Bree (daughter), Oliver (2-year-old grandson), Maggie and Ruby (miniature dachshunds)

**Something Others May Not Know:** In middle school, there was an article written about my close group of friends regarding concerns about the cliques in the school. That supposed clique has remained but in a very positive way. The group of 10 girlfriends are still very close and stay in contact daily. We have done a ton of good in that group as well through our Relay for Life team that just celebrated our 16<sup>th</sup> relay where we unfortunately have a growing list of family and friends that have been affected by cancer. I am beyond blessed to still have these friends in my life and that we have stayed together to navigate the trials, tribulations and momentous occasions in our lives.