

Midwest Area Report

August 9, 2016
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Midwest Area (MWA) Delegates, two from each of their respective states, and numerous other members met in a break-out session at the 2016 NASCOE Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There were 79 MWA members and representatives present. The meeting was presided over by Curt Houk, MWA Executive and Chris Hare, MWA Alternate Executive. Special guests included Wes Daniels, Dennis Ray, Hunter Moorehead, Jackson Jones, Teresa Dillard, Brad Pfaff, Bob Wegand, Iowa AO, and John Whitaker, Iowa SED. Business items discussed are listed below.

Scholarship Submissions

The MWA representatives decided that they did not want to make any changes in how they submit their scholarships from the state to the area level. Currently the MWA submits all application received for area judging not just the state winners. They believe this gives more applicants an opportunity to receive a scholarship other than just the state winners. Past history has shown that people that did not win their state won the area scholarship. When submitting to national they just submit the area winners. Two of the five areas submit every application from each state for the area judging in which the MWA is one of them. Micki had suggested that there be a uniform way across all areas. The group decided the MWA Executive should recommend to the NASCOE Executive Committee that they feel strongly about continuing with the current method of submitting and judging for the MWA.

Area Rally

The MWA Rally will be held in Dayton, Ohio, March 31-April 1, 2017. It will be hosted by the Ohio association.

Reports

Committee Reports were given by the following: Area Executive, Alternate Executive, Awards, Scholarships & Emblems, Benefits, Legislative, Membership, Programs, Publicity, and NAFEC Committees. Reports will be made available to the membership in an upcoming area bulletin.

Membership Cards

The MWA agreed that the membership cards are a good idea if Dillard's are printing them at no cost. They feel that Dillard should not be allowed to mail out all the cards as they want to protect the database that we have, the membership gave us that information in confidence and expect us to treat it like our own. They are in favor of Dillard printing the cards and sending to State Presidents and allowing the State Presidents to disburse.

Legislative

The group was briefed on legislative activities performed by the NASCOE political consultant. The MWA supports the activities of the current political consultant and would reject any change to the current approach. The upcoming Leadership Training and Legislative Conference were discussed in detail. Those attending the Training/Conference in September were reminded that this is a working meeting not a site seeing trip.

Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative

The group was brought up to speed on the ACRSI project which allows producers to choose where their acreage reports are filed (home, FSA or RMA). There will only be one acreage report. NASCOE must ensure that FSA has the software and staffing needed to continue to take acreage reports for producers. County Office employees must also support FSA efforts and be proactive about educating producers on

the importance of the FSA comprehensive acreage report and for farm records updates. At present, NASCOE has representation on two acreage reporting task forces.

Area Chair Stipends

The MWA Area Chairs were questioned about the adequacy of the stipends to the Area Chairs for Rally and National Convention attendance. Some of the National chairs have started building extra money into their budget requests for their committees so they can help out their people above the level that NASCOE supplements. For the 2017 budget slippage in the committee area's budgets was denied and the Executive Committee requested further review of the current stipend structure as the amounts have recently been raised. The consensus of the MWA chairs is that the current level of stipend is sufficient and they did not need to be adjusted at this time.

Appreciation Awards

The MWA Executive presented 21 NASCOE appreciation awards to the area Committee Chairs, Awards and scholarship judges, and two NAFEC Officers that are from the MWA.

Nominations & Elections

Chris Hare was nominated and elected to serve as the MWA Executive. Jackson Jones was nominated and elected to serve as the MWA Alternate Executive.

The MWA wants to express their sincere appreciation toward the IASCOE membership for hosting an informative, enjoyable, and successful convention. The many hours of hard work and devotion did not go unnoticed.

The MWA requests that this report be accepted by the NASCOE Executive Board as filed.

Respectively Submitted,

Curt M. Houk
Midwest Area Executive