

NASCOE's NAFEC Committee  
POST CONVENTION REPORT  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA  
August 2-6, 2016

Chairperson – Billy Wayne Denison, Montana  
Southeast Area – Pamela Rhoades, Mississippi                      Midwest Area – Mary Roberts, Iowa  
Northwest Area – Greg Chewakin, Nebraska                      Southwest Area – Jay Goff, Oklahoma  
Northeast Area – Dan Shockey, West Virginia recently replacing Ross Eddy, Connecticut (now a DD)

To begin, I would like to thank NASCOE's NAFEC committee for allowing me the opportunity to stand in for the National NAFEC Chair Billy Wayne Denison. It was an honor and a privilege to get to participate at this level. The organization and hospitality that was brought forward by IASCOE was very impressive and it is with great respect I thank them.

NAFEC and NASCOE's NAFEC committee had the opportunity to participate and host approximately 100 COC members from Iowa and Illinois. I truly feel this was a pivotal move forward for NAFEC and the COC. Between the days of August 2 through August 6, 2016 NAFEC accomplished and participated in the following:

Tuesday August 2, 2016

Arrived in Cedar Rapids, registered for convention, and left copies of NAFEC agendas with convention staff for any interested persons.

Wednesday, August 3, 2016.

Met with NAFEC President, Craig Turner, MWA NAFEC Chair-Mary Roberts and NAFEC Secretary Bob Braden in preparation to attend Amana Farms/Kinze Manufacturing tour with COC representatives from Iowa. There were also other NAFEC members who participated in the John Deere Tour. Tours Departed approximately 8:30am from the lobby of the hotel. NAFEC President Craig Turner spoke with Amana Farms General Manager, John McGrath and thanked him for the opportunity to tour farming operation and spoke of issues that are important for FSA, COC members. Tour departed Amana Colonies Farms for lunch at Ox To Inn at Amana Colonies. NAFEC representatives; Craig Turner, Pam Rhoades, Bob Braden and Mary Roberts took the opportunity to visit with many COC members from Iowa during the lunch. Tour departed Amana Colonies for Kinze manufacturing. Tour consisted of learning about Kinze manufacturing of grain carts and planters. Departed Kinze farms for return trip to hotel. On way back to hotel, Mary Roberts MWA NAFEC Chair spoke to the group and thanked the COC members in attendance for their service to FSA and the employees. Mary also spoke of the importance of NAFEC and the values service they provided on behalf of COC members. Mary discussed the importance of becoming a member in NAFEC. Later that afternoon, Pam Rhoades had an opportunity to speak with Val Dolcini, Administrator and Greg Diephouse, DAFO in the lobby of the hotel. Pam thanked each of them for their attendance and their continued support of NAFEC. Pam asked if there was anything she could assist with on behalf of NAFEC to please let her know. Departed for evening social.

Thursday, August 4, 2016

NAFEC meeting session began at 7:35. Routine business took place as follows:

Call to Order, President Craig Turner  
Invocation, Dennis Kuhlengel, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Pledge. Tom Montgomery, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

President Craig Turner requested that we do an introduction. Pam Rhoades informed group that National Chair Billy Denison was not available for this meeting due to his daughter getting married. Pam informed group that if there was any concerns or questions that Billy has made himself available for telephone calls as necessary. Bob Braden read through the last year's minutes. After initial set of business was completed Craig Turner dismissed group for General Session to hear from Iowa State Leaders and applicable USDA administrators.

Pam Rhoades visited with Ty Christianson and Trevor Gardner with J.M. Marketing to ensure there were enough NAFEC applications available as needed and to assist in taking membership applications. Pam mentioned to NASCOE secretary that some of the COC members were unaware that lunch was being provided for them by NAFEC and requested that they announce this to the COC during the NASCOE reconvene about the location and time of lunch.

In preparation of the COC lunch, Pam Rhoades along with Mary Roberts placed NAFEC membership applications on all tables.

Pam Rhoades visited with Iowa SED, John Whitaker and thanked him for his support of the COC. Rhoades also thanked the SED for allowing Iowa COC members to attend this meeting and understanding the importance of COC and STC being a part of this. SED, Whitaker appeared to be very pleased with the turnout of approximately 100 COC members from Iowa and some from Illinois.

During the COC lunch, the group was able to hear from the following:

- Iowa SED, John Whitaker
- Craig Turner, NAFEC President
- Bob Braden, NAFEC Secretary
- Cole Sims, NAFEC Membership Chair
- Val Dolcini, Administrator
- Greg Diephouse, Deputy DAFO and
- USDA-FSA, Iowa State Administrative Specialist

During the COC lunch, many COC members asked pertinent question to the Administrator and Deputy concerning issues that face their offices. Some of the issues were; shared management structure, hiring practices and COC authorities. COC members expressed a great deal of appreciation for the allowance of having the meeting and being invited.

General session reconvened after lunch. During the afternoon session NAFEC heard from National Leadership Chris Beyerhelm, Brad Pfaff, Greg Diephouse and Mark Rucker concerning pertinent issues facing COC.

Friday August 5, 2016

NAFEC session convened in room 310. President Craig Turner dispensed with Scholarship winner announcement as that was done on Thursday August 4, 2016. During the days sessions NASCOE's NAFEC committee heard from NADD President, Michael Kresin, Nebraska along with NASCOE leadership Wes Daniels. NADD President, Michael Kresin indicated his support of NAFEC and the role that NAFEC serves maintaining the importance of the COC system. Wes Daniels, NASCOE President discussed the importance of NAFEC continuing to meet with legislator's on behalf of the COC. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts NAFEC is making in resolving COC authority issues.

One topic of conversation that was held was NAFEC's presence within next year National Convention in Saint Louis with COC attendance. NAFEC with work with leadership will stay in contact with Missouri State leadership to work on a similar attendance by COC and STC and a training agenda.

At 9:00 am, NASCOE's NAFEC Committee held its committee breakout session. There were only a few NASCOE members in attendance and no suggestions for any changes or ideas were brought forward. There were comments on how helpful the Power point, "History of the COC and NAFEC" and the Administrator's video have helped in efforts to introduce COC members to NAFEC.

During the 1:00 pm joint meeting of all NASCOE Committees I provided the NAFEC report on behalf of Billy Denison, NAFEC Chair. There were approximately 150 members in attendance.

Saturday, August 6, 2016

Craig Turner, President spoke on behalf of NAFEC and the importance of the COC system of governing. Craig expressed the importance of all in attendance to be a member of NAFEC.

Craig Turner and myself, presented Deb Esselman a certificate of appreciation for all the assistance she has provided NAFEC in creating a more current version of a NAFEC membership database.

## Goals for 2016-2017

- Continuing to do everything we can to grow NAFEC's membership
- Working with the FSA Administration and Missouri FSA leadership to continue to have COC training at the NASCOE National Convention & NAFEC Annual Meeting
- Assist NAFEC in voicing and advocating that COC authority must be strengthened and maintained.
- Continue to pursue program issues as applicable

## Summary:

In summary, the NAFEC Annual Meeting showcased a steady move forward in COC participation within National Conventions. NASCOE's NAFEC committee continues to make strides forward in assisting NAFEC with membership growth and communication. NAFEC continues to address pertinent issues as applicable when they arise.

NAFEC wishes to thank the COC, members, administration and NASCOE for understanding the true importance of the County Committees, County FSA Offices, and the farmers and ranchers across this great nation.

<http://fsacountycommittees.org>

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Pamela R. Rhoades*

NAFEC, Acting Chair for Billy Wayne Denison