

Northeast Area Report

National Convention

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

August 3-6, 2016

The 57th NASCOE Convention was an enjoyable and productive time for myself and the other attendees from the Northeast Area. In addition to the general session meetings, including the presentations from NASCOE Officers, National Committee Chairs, and WDC management, we had some very informative conversations during our area breakouts.

We had 15 members in attendance during our breakouts on Friday, August 5th. Area Committee chairs or their temporary appointees reviewed reports and topic from the committee breakouts. Among the topics of discussion were:

- **Scholarship Options.** The attendees discussed how NASCOE should direct scholarship submissions from each state to the area level. The consensus was that while some flexibility was probably needed in those areas with a lot of submissions, that since the end result at the national level was still one submission from each area, the individual areas should have flexibility to determine their own process.
- **Membership Cards.** Favorability of membership cards was mixed, however nobody had any real concerns with the cards. There were concerns of privacy and mailings directly to membership without state involvement. The consensus was that a membership card printed by Dillard would be a nice option for some states, but that states should have them mailed to them for distribution at the local level.
- **NASCOE Credit Card.** A rewards card benefiting members and the association has been proposed. As participation in this would be at individual's discretion, there was no objection from the attendees.
- **Area Stipends.** There was discussion regarding whether stipends paid to area committee chairs should be increased from \$250 for Rally and \$500 for Convention to \$500 for Rally and \$750 for Convention. The consensus was this would be incredibly helpful in smaller states who often are sending area chairs as delegates. This would reduce the financial burden on the state association and perhaps allow for additional attendees in the future.
- **2017 & 2018 Convention.** The attendees discussed the location of the 2017 NASCOE Convention in St. Charles, MO and the 2018 NASCOE Convention bid from Sioux City, SD. Attendees felt both locations would be excellent.
- **Bi-Law & Constitution Amendment.** The attendees discussed the proposed amendment to the bi-laws and constitution designed to define who is a County Office Employee. The consensus was in favor of the amendment as it still allowed states to determine whether GS could be full members or not.
- **FSA Leadership Changes.** The attendees discussed the likely possibility of FSA leadership changes following the upcoming election, particularly in the State Offices. It was regarded that extra outreach should be made to educate new leadership on the mission and value of NASCOE and its state associations.

- Bulletin Schedule. The attendees discussed and agreed that electronic bulletins would be beneficial to membership on a regular basis, even if the content was a little shorter.
- Legislation Conference/PAC. Details of the upcoming Leadership/Legislative conference in WDC were discussed. It was also noted that the NEA had one of the greatest increases in PAC members contributing, going from dead last in percentage to the highest.

In addition to these discussions, the Northeast Area delegates conducted an election for Area Executive and Alternate Executive. The following were elected:

- Northeast Area Executive – Richard Csutoras
- Alternate Executive – Larry Parker

Massachusetts offered and the attendees accepted West Wareham, MA as the site of the 2017 NEA Rally. Tentative dates of May 4 through May 6 were set, pending NASCOE officer approval.

Other business of note was the separation of Rhode Island from the Connecticut association. Further outreach and research will be conducted by the NEA Exec to ensure that RI members have the opportunity to become affiliated and alternative options if necessary. NY bi-laws allow full-members from non-affiliated neighbor states. Consultation with the NASCOE Treasurer and Membership chair were recommended.

Finally, Massachusetts was further recognized and praised for their winning of the inaugural 2016 Dillard's Membership Award for their increase in membership by 30%.

While the NEA did not bring the most number of attendees to the convention from its area, the attentiveness, diligence, and overall effort of the attendees should make each state association who sent a delegate proud.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Csutoras
NE Area Executive