



# National Association of FSA County Office Employees Programs Committee

National Co-Chair: Richard Csutoras, Pennsylvania

National Co-Chair: Dana McKinney, Kentucky

Midwest Area: Liz Ludwig, Minnesota

Northeast Area: Dan Smeal, Pennsylvania

Northwest Area: Jennifer Dutton, Wyoming

Southeast Area: Marcinda Kester, Florida

Southwest Area: LaCresha Dale, Texas

August 9, 2016

## Post-Convention Report

### Recent Activities

The Programs Committee has received 94 official submissions so far this year. That doesn't take into account informal inquiries that we have opportunity to handle without involving WDC. We have resolved and/or received responses from WDC on 63 of the 94 submissions, which totals out at roughly 67% being closed to date. The remainder are at various stages in the submission cycle, which may include: submitted to WDC and waiting for a response; submitted to Area Chair for comment and any further suggestion; or in preparation to be forwarded.

Without membership taking the time to highlight improvements that could benefit the agency, we would not have any submissions. Please continue to encourage everyone to bring any suggestion they have to us. If one person is experiencing a particular issue, it is likely that others are as well. Members do not necessarily need to use the form, but submissions that are well thought out and identify the issue, cause, and solution, as precise as possible, will be easier to get to WDC and likely will get a response faster. Here is the breakdown by Area of submissions received:

- SEA: 6
- SWA: 13
- NEA: 19
- MWA: 42
- NWA: 14

In addition to responses received from submissions, with the issuance of Notice CM-779 we saw many of the reports on our "top ten list" submitted by membership becoming a reality. This was a big win for the Programs Committee and membership, in my opinion.

### Convention Activities-



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Programs Break Out Session. The Programs Break Out Session held Friday morning hosted approximately 35 attendees, which included 4 of our 5 Area Chairs. Area Chairs were asked to introduce themselves and the Area in which they serve. After this a summary of the Pre-Convention Report was shared and attendees were encouraged to continue to submit their suggestions and concerns.

We then opened the floor for questions to be directed to our 5-member National Office panel which included: Brad Pfaff (DAFP), Mark Rucker (DAM), Darren Ash (CIO), Glenn Shafer (BTO), and Brent Orr (Program Specialist).

The panel entertained approximately 12 questions. There was very good participation from the audience and lots of discussion. A summary of these questions will be prepared and shared with the committee soon.

Joint-Meeting of all NASCOE Committees. During this session held Friday afternoon, a summary of the Pre-Convention Report was shared and attendees were encouraged to submit and promote the submission of suggestions and ideas. Break out session attendance numbers, panel members in attendance and brief summary of activity during the morning's break out was shared.

### **Goals for the Upcoming Year**

Continue to improve the submission process. Become better organized, myself, being able to handle the various methods members use to suggest improvements and vent concerns. Notify submitters immediately once a response is received from WDC, and report this response to the webmaster to be posted to the website for all members to view.

Continue to establish and build relationships with the National Office Specialists. It is challenging to keep track of who handles which programs in WDC/KC. I am working to learn responsibilities and the appropriate person to reach out to for submissions. The Negotiations visit in March was very beneficial to this and I would like to continue to attend and visit with WDC specialists face to face. It was such a learning and enjoyable experience!

Most importantly, continue to work submissions to get valid, timely, and useful answers for membership. This committee is a real opportunity to provide a timely and often practical service for our members, and in turn our producers, and we'll continue to work to not only maintain that service but improve it over the coming year. I also plan to work with Execs in reaching out to State Association Presidents in Areas that have had lower numbers of submissions to encourage participation and confirm with them this opportunity exists.