

Southwest Area Executive**Convention Report****August 09, 2016**

Hats off to IASCOE for hosting a great 2016 NASCOE Convention in Cedar Rapids, IA. The Southwest Area held two breakout meetings on Friday, August 5th in conjunction with NASCOE committee breakout meetings with 25 SWA members present. Guests visiting our SWA meetings included NASCOE President, Wes Daniels, NASCOE Vice President, Dennis Ray, NASCOE Secretary, Deborah Esselman, MWA Executive, Curt Houk, NASCOE Legislative Chair, Jackson Jones, NASCOE Legislative Consultant, Hunter Moorhead, and Dillard Financial staff. A very brisk and informative discussion with Hunter Moorhead and Jackson Jones was held concerning the current political climate in WDC and issues of concern to the area. Hunter was asked about changing the current FERS retirement rules involving the cutoff date preventing buying back creditable temporary service time after January 1, 1989. Hunter stated that OPM possibly had the authority to move the cutoff date forward, however, it was very unlikely barring an act of Congress to allow creditable temporary federal service after January 1, 1989.

The following NASCOE committee items were discussed by the SWA delegations:

- Membership cards - SWA unanimously determined that issuance of membership cards should be decided and administered by state associations.
- NASCOE Credit Card - SWA would like the NASCOE Executive board to look into the possibility of a NASCOE credit card which the SWA feels could be very beneficial to younger NASCOE members to have access to credit.
- COF and Individual Membership Awards – SWA was unanimously in favor of expanding criteria downward below 40 years in five year increments for consecutive years of NASCOE membership.
- Area Chair Stipends - SWA unanimously supports the increase of travel stipends to promote attendance of area chairs to area rallies and the NASCOE Convention. SWA suggest stipends possibly be increased to \$500 for area rallies and \$750 to attend the NASCOE Convention.

SWA election of officers was conducted with Jay Goff elected SWA Alternate and Darvin Collins elected SWA Executive.

SWA account balance of \$2033.00 was reviewed with group. SWA membership dues of \$.50 per member will continue for 2016-2017.

Texas Association has agreed to host the 2017 All South Rally in San Antonio, TX. Tentative date is February 23-35th, however, a final date will be announced when hotel contract is signed. TASCOS is also exploring other hotels and dates but will settle on final arrangements in the coming weeks.

Gains of membership in Nevada and Oklahoma were recognized and applauded. Oklahoma increased membership by 7% in 2015-2016. Nevada went from not being recognized as a NASCOE affiliate to 80% NASCOE membership in 2015-2016. Big gains in membership in our NASCOE PAC were realized with 21 new PAC enrollees in Oklahoma.

Despite gains in membership, our biggest challenge remains increasing our NASCOE membership and NASCOE PAC in the SWA. We accept the charge of our NASCOE President to continue to work on increasing NASCOE membership in all SWA states. NASCOE membership chair, Samantha Garrison will be invited to attend the 2017 All South Rally to rally and fire up our NASCOE membership to get excited about inviting non-members to join up and be a part of the NASCOE family.

SWA also accepts the charge of NASCOE President, Wes Daniels to continue to work in improving communication with SWA membership. Carla Spencer, SWA Publicity Chair will continue to publish our SWA bulletin and I will personally do a better job in making personal contacts with SWA state presidents and area chairs to follow-up and make sure folks know what is expected and ensure NASCOE information is reaching our individual members in each SWA state.

Mr. President, I recommend this SWA convention report be filed by the NASCOE Secretary as written.

Sincerely Submitted,

Darvin L. Collins, SWA Executive