

Candidacy Announcement for NASCOE Treasurer Curt Houk

My name is Curt Houk. I grew up on a family farm in Southeast Iowa where I still farm with my dad and my grandfather and operate a 120 head cow/calf operation. My wife and I purchased our own farm in 2010 that is located a quarter mile from where I was raised. We have been married for 12 years and have three beautiful daughters and a handsome son. I am an alum of Iowa State University where I obtained a degree in Agricultural Education. I am currently a CED in Lucas County Iowa and have been employed with FSA for 8 and a half years and plan on retiring from this agency. Those plans for retirement, so far down the road, are a big part of what have lead me to this point.

I have been a NASCOE member since my first day of employment with FSA. I have always attended my state convention, multiple national conventions, and multiple National Legislative Conferences in Washington D.C. For the last two years I have served as the Midwest Area Executive on the NASCOE Executive Committee. These experiences have afforded me many great opportunities to serve on committees and task forces. I am currently on the "budget committee", which is a sub-committee analyzing the NASCOE annual budget line item by line item in order to maximize efficiency of members' dues money. I am currently serving as the Team Lead for NASCOE's ACRSI Task Force. It is very apparent that many people are working hard for my job security, benefits and future. I feel compelled to serve in whatever manner I can to help the association and its membership. With that thought in mind, I wish to announce my candidacy for NASCOE Treasurer.

Why you ask? First I am proud of the job we do. Proud to serve the people we serve. I have gained knowledge through my experiences and have worked closely with the budget as an Executive striving to help NASCOE use membership's dues in the most effective and efficient manner always being mindful to be frugal. Experiences with being fiscally responsible such as working hand in hand with my wife and the farm operation to maintain a feasible balance sheet and assure that we can always cash flow, have given me an appreciation for this line of work. I am also part of the Finance Committee for the 2016 NASCOE National Convention and oversee the budget for this great event. My experiences as an Executive have given me an advantage in knowing how the system works and being in touch with current wants/needs. I would like to continue to work with the Executive Committee in order to implement the ideas for cost savings that I have helped design as an Executive, as well as work on other issues important to me such as PT reclassification.

The NASCOE Executive Committee is a wonderful team of hard working individuals with whom it is an honor to serve. Communication has been the key to its successes, and will continue to be important as we meet the challenges in our future. We, as Executive Committee members, strive to listen to the voice of membership, and then formalize your thoughts and concerns as we represent you accordingly. The Committee's professionalism and strong sense of teamwork have strengthened our relationship with our membership and FSA management in Washington, DC. I would like to continue this work as a member of the NASCOE Executive Committee.

I remain committed to NASCOE's membership and goals. I would appreciate your consideration of me as a candidate to serve you as NASCOE Treasurer and am asking you for your support to allow me to utilize my experiences and help make a difference. Thank you for any consideration you may show me during this process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Curt M. Houk