



# NORTHEAST AREA BULLETIN

MARCH 2017



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## NEA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Awards/Emblems/ Scholarships

Kelly Sundy, PA

### Benefits

Nancy Miller, MA

### Legislative

Larry Parker, VT

### Membership

Tina Williams, VT

### NAFAC

Dan Shockey, WV

### Negotiations

Jamie McLane, MD

### Programs

Dan Smeal, PA

### Publicity

Tina Penley, ME

## NEA EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Richard Csutoras, NEA Executive*

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” – Helen Keller

Give yourself a pat on the back, go ahead. Because by reading this article, this bulletin, you have shown that you want to be involved. You're probably a NASCOE member, or at the very least you have taken an extra interest in the happenings of your agency and your fellow employees in other county offices. You want to hear more about what NASCOE has been doing legislatively in Washington DC, more about benefits that might be available to you, more about NAFEC, about the rally, and so on.

Every article you read today was written by someone like you. Someone who started their NASCOE journey by following what other members were doing on behalf of you. Every bit of information, benefit, negotiation session and so forth is conducted by employees like you who volunteer to help make our agency a better place for our fellow employees and our producers. The fact is, NASCOE isn't a big faceless association. Rather, it's a bunch of regular folks who have come together to get the job done and make a difference.

A little later in this bulletin you will read about the upcoming NEA Rally in West Wareham, MA. It takes a lot of hard work to pull off a meeting like this. Figuring out location, negotiating with a hotel, working up tours, writing an agenda for WDC review, and the list goes on. Each of the officers in your state associations has a similar job setting up various state meetings. The NASCOE leadership has a similar job setting up the convention and negotiation meetings. Every state treasurer works hard to account for member's dues. Every publicity chair works to ensure that you receive timely and beneficial correspondence. My point is that there are a lot of people working behind the scenes to make NASCOE as successful as it is. And, I bet if you asked any of them if it was worth it, they would all readily say yes! The satisfaction of pulling off a great meeting, or of winning a key concession from management, or generally making the lives of our co-workers and producers better is priceless. The friendships we make will last a lifetime. We may all volunteer our time, but we are all richly rewarded.

If all you do today is read this bulletin and find some bit of information that is useful to you, then that's great! I sincerely thank you for being a member and allowing us to work on your behalf. However, if you can find the time, I would encourage each one of you to consider getting a little more involved. I promise you won't regret it. Start small and let your state president know you might be interested in serving on a task force from time to time. Or perhaps you have the time to be a committee chair or a state officer. Maybe even an area chair, NASCOE Exec, or NASCOE President. We're just like you. And we can all do so much together.

## NAFEC

*Daniel Shockey, WV*

Your NAFEC leadership has started out this year working diligently with Management to ensure that issues affecting the structure, strength and integrity of the COC system of governing remains strong, intact and continues to grow. NAFEC leadership had the opportunity to attend the NASCOE Pre-Negotiation meeting held in Alexandria, VA, January 14-15 of this year. NASCOE's NAFEC committee chair, Billy Denison was in attendance to bring current issues forward to Management and to make sure that the concerns of the COC and NAFEC membership are included in the negotiations. Since returning from the January Pre-Negotiation meeting the NASCOE NAFEC Committee has been actively at work assisting NAFEC in the following areas;

- Working with Trevor Gartner and Ty Christenson at JM Marketing to update NAFEC's web-site with all of the updated documents, posting letters, and keeping the website current with accurate resources and information.
- Assisting NAFEC with articles and information for their upcoming newsletter.
- NAFEC Membership Drive - NASCOE's NAFEC Committee were able to update and distribute various NAFEC documents and get these out to leadership of state affiliates in their respective areas to disseminate materials and urge everyone to place NAFEC information and membership in their December & January COC meetings.
- In addition, within the NEA we continue to bring items forward to Management through the NAFEC and NASCOE leadership in regards to COC approval authorities, improving COC training and ensuring that FSA-444's are able to get processed timely by State offices.

As Billy Denison, National NAFEC Chair stated in his pre-negotiation meeting response "Our County Committees bring a vitally important perspective to the many conversations we have with management. They have been elected by their neighboring farmers and ranchers to represent them in FSA policies and matters, to select and supervise the CED, and many times, NAFEC is able to assist those COC members with positive and/or quicker changes.

As we begin seeing new appointments of SED's, State Committee's, and at FSA's headquarters over the next several months, it will be very important for COC members to "be at the table", to start establishing those necessary relationships. NAFEC is in a great position to help COC's do that, but our COC's will only hear about NAFEC, and what they can do with and for them, if WE each do our part in getting them information about NAFEC."

## BENEFITS

*Nancy Miller, Benefits Chair*

# Meet the Dillards

Since 2013, Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. has been the official benefits provider for NASCOE. They offer numerous resources to educate NASCOE members on retirement planning, TSP strategies, and life insurance options. If you have never met Steve and Teresa Dillard, you should make a point to do so. The Dillards are genuinely nice people (often an oxymoron when it comes to financial advisors!) who hail from Sumter, South Carolina. They will charm you with their Southern accents, but more so with their dedication to providing Federal employees the best information available to plan for retirement. You may have met the Dillards at a NASCOE rally or convention. They are strong supporters of NASCOE and always provide NASCOE with financial support for the regional rallies and the national convention.

*Not all NASCOE members make it to a rally or convention, so how about scheduling a Retirement and Benefit Workshop for your state?*

### **MEMBERS CAN BENEFIT FROM:**

- Learning How to Calculate Retirement Income
- Understanding the Different Types of Retirement Products
- Recognizing Their Risk Tolerance
- Knowing Where to Put Their Money
- Understanding How to Draw Retirement Income
- Understanding Social Security Options and Life Insurance

There is no cost to the attendees or state association for this workshop. The workshops usually run about 4 hours and are educational only with no product promotion. The opportunity for one-on-one sessions for interested members is available after every general training session. Excused absence time for attendance during the workday may be available through your SED. For more information on scheduling a benefits workshop, State Association leaders should email Dillards at [NASCOEBenefits@aol.com](mailto:NASCOEBenefits@aol.com) or call John Lohr (one of our own! – he was President of NASCOE several years ago) at 724-771-3682.

For more information on NASCOE benefits and Dillard Financial Solutions, visit the [NASCOE Benefits](#) page or the [Dillard Financial](#) page.

## FIRST TIMERS AWARD

*Tina Penley, Publicity Chair***2017 NASCOE First Timer's Contest**Contest Overview

The First Timer's Contest will award a \$500 scholarship to an eligible NASCOE member from each area to help defray the cost of attending the NASCOE Convention in St. Charles, Missouri, August 2-5, 2017. Applicants must submit a one-page essay of 500 words or less explaining to the judging panel why they want to attend the convention.

Eligibility

Applicants must be regular NASCOE members in good standing and have not attended a NASCOE national convention. Winners must attend the 2017 NASCOE Convention in St. Charles, MO and must be present for all general sessions and awards banquet. Failure to meet the attendance requirement will result in forfeiture of the scholarship and a full refund of \$500 will be required.

Entries

Essays must be submitted via email to [nascoefirsttimers@gmail.com](mailto:nascoefirsttimers@gmail.com) by April 1, 2017. Email subjects should contain the applicant's last name as well as their area. Example: Penley-NEA. Please attach the essay as a Word document or a PDF. All essays should include a heading including the applicant's name, county office, state and area.

Example: Tina Penley  
Franklin County, Maine  
Northeast Area

Judging

The judging panel will consist of Area Publicity Chairs. However, Chairs will not be allowed to judge entries from their respective area. Essays will be judged independently and scored on a scale from 1 to 20. Total scores from each judge will be added together to obtain a composite score for each essay. The highest scoring essay from each area will be declared a scholarship winner. Ties will be broken by the National Publicity Chair. Winners will be notified by May 15, 2017.

Scholarship and Recognition

Verification of hotel reservation and convention registration must be received by the national Publicity Chair prior to distribution of scholarship funds, but no later than July 1, 2017. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the awards banquet.

Judging Panel

National Publicity Chair	Kristal Rater	<a href="mailto:kristal.rater@tx.usda.gov">kristal.rater@tx.usda.gov</a>
Midwest Area	Teresa Holmquist	<a href="mailto:teresa.holmquist@mn.usda.gov">teresa.holmquist@mn.usda.gov</a>
Northeast Area	Tina Penley	<a href="mailto:tina.penley@me.usda.gov">tina.penley@me.usda.gov</a>
Northwest Area	Christy Randall	<a href="mailto:christy.randall@id.usda.gov">christy.randall@id.usda.gov</a>
Southeast Area	Megan Kennedy	<a href="mailto:megan.kennedy@ga.usda.gov">megan.kennedy@ga.usda.gov</a>
Southwest Area	Carla Spencer	<a href="mailto:carla.spencer@tx.usda.gov">carla.spencer@tx.usda.gov</a>

Good luck and hope to see you in Missouri!



Where the beaches meet the bogs!

# "WHERE THE BEACHES MEET THE BOGS!"

## NORTHEAST AREA RALLY May 4-6<sup>th</sup> 2017 Wareham MA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4/21/2017

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:  NASCOE  NAFEC  RASCOE  NACS  NADD

Rally Registration (Includes Banquet): \$85 x \_\_\_\_\_ number attending = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday only (Breakfast/Lunch/Meeting): \$45 x \_\_\_\_\_ number attending = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Tour (includes box lunch): \$40 x \_\_\_\_\_ number attending = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MASCOE RAFFLE Group of 4 tickets for \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ x number = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Single tickets @ \$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ number of tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form and check payable to: MASCOE

Hampshire Hampden County FSA

c/o Heather Baylis, CED

195 Russell St. Suite B-5

Hadley MA 01035

[Heather.baylis@ma.usda.gov](mailto:Heather.baylis@ma.usda.gov)

P: 413 923 3225; C: 413 977 6058



### Rosebrook Conference Center@ Townplace Suites by Marriott

50 Rosebrook Place Wareham MA 02571

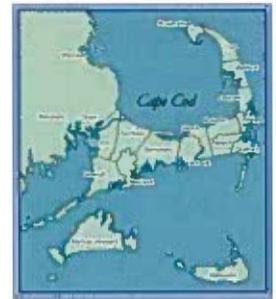
Call 888-236 2427 to make reservations Block is under:

MASCOERoom rate: \$105 + Taxes

Web: [Book your group rate for MASCOE](#)

MASCOE RAFFLE

Grand Prize: Taste of Massachusetts Basket (value \$300) Second Prize Hand Woven Rug (value \$200) Third Prize: One Free Conference Registration (value \$8S)



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- May 4 4:00 - 7:00 pm Registration 5:00 - 8:00 pm Taste of Massachusetts Buffet and 50/50 Raffle (cash bar available) May 5 7:00 - 8:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Rally Meeting & Dillard Financial Solutions Inc. Retirement Training 6:00 - 6:30 pm Social (cash bar available) 6:30 pm Banquet, Scholarship Auction and DJ May 6 7:00 am - 8:30 am Breakfast 8:30 am - 3:30 pm Farm Tours

Cranberry Tour-Join us for a walking tour of the cranberry bogs adjacent to the hotel. The owner, AD Makepeace Company is the largest and one of the oldest growers in the industry. Learn from actual growers how cranberries are grown and have been grown in Massachusetts for 200 years.

Decas Cranberry Company-Cranberry Receiving Station and Sweetened Dried Plant Tour -This tour will focus primary on how the company makes Sweetened Dried Cranberries, but it will also include a tour of the receiving station where cranberries are delivered each fall.

Tihonet Village Market (and Gift Shop) - Lunch. This is where the AD Makepeace Company headquarters, workshops and where many of the cranberry workers were housed in the early to mid- 1900's. While having lunch, you will be able to do cranberry themed gift shopping, and you can see many of the machines and equipment used to grow and harvest cranberries.

Onset Oyster Company Farm Tour-We will tour an oyster farm located just outside Buzzards Bay next to the southern end of Cape Cod Canal. Enjoy beautiful views as we tour this waterfront property, which combines the growing site and processing operation of Onset Oyster Company

Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center - Discover the rich history of the construction and operation of the Cape Cod Canal through various displays and exhibits provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This location also offers many beautiful views of the northern end of the Canal and Cape Cod beaches.

..... Please bring a contribution that will help us to continue to support scholarships!