

National Association of FSA County Office Employees NORTHEAST AREA BULLETIN



Unity is Strength -Richard Csutoras

The 2016 presidential election is over. No matter which candidate you supported or what party you most associate with, I expect that you, like me, are happy to see the end of it. I don't know that I've ever been so excited to see just a regular commercial on TV. And also like me, you were probably at work on November 9th loading crop reports and keeping your fingers crossed that the software would stay up. Considering the hype of this election season, it feels remarkable just how normal life still is. Farmers are still harvesting, planting, and coming into the office and we're still striving to give them the best service possible. And NASCOE is still here working hard so that our fellow employees have the best possible benefits and quality working conditions to ensure the success of FSA and its mission.

But despite how much is still the same, we would be remiss to not acknowledge that some changes are coming. A new administration means new political appointees, new State Committee members, and new State Directors. Most of these new faces will be unfamiliar with NASCOE and what our mission is. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to educate them on how valuable a tool and resource we can be! Later in this bulletin you will read about the National Leadership Meeting we recently had in Washington, DC. There was a lot of great information provided about our history, our current efforts, and tips on breaking the ice with new stakeholders. If you haven't already, please take the time to familiarize yourself with these tools.

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Finally, NASCOE and our state associations represent all county employees. However our voices are stronger when we can say we have most, if not all, of these employees as voluntary members. Now is a perfect time to remind non-members about NASCOE. Share what we're doing. Talk about our success in negotiations and with the Programs Committee. Share NASCOE's role in securing the funding that allowed for farm bill temps and face to face training. Talk about all the representation on national task forces. Above all, share your passion. Encourage them to join and help us better represent them to the incoming administration. Ask your state leadership how you can help with a membership drive. Let's work together to present a strong, united voice for our employees and our producers.

Make It Great Again... -Dan Smeal, NEA Programs Chair

GREETINGS to all!!! Rick has asked me to chime in on Programs and Negotiations and do a quick piece on the processes. I felt there was no better way than to tie in some election banter!!! The reality is that this November YOU CAN make something great again, but it has nothing to do with the election. What you can do is take the time to improve certain elements of your job. What I mean when I say this is that you-yes you the Grade 4 PT in the office can make any recommendation to be heard before any of FSA leadership. HOW, might you ask?? SIMPLE!! Go to the NASCOE's website and fill out the form here: <https://nascoe.org/forms-downloads/negotiations-submission/> click submit, DONE!! Please make sure to not only just voice your concerns towards a program or an application. We get the best results when we also offer solutions, so share what you view as a potential fix to the problem as well. **The deadline for this year's negotiation items is DECEMBER 1!** Please have them submitted by then for consideration for the NASCOE Executive Committee and Negotiation Consultants, including our own Jamie McLane. You can also make suggestions for FSA program improvements all year long at <https://nascoe.org/forms-downloads/programs-submission/>. Please be aware that depending on the complexity of the issue it could take a great deal of time to get a response. So once you click submit you likely won't get a phone call that afternoon with a solution. It could take days or even months to receive a response so please be patient and let the process that has worked for so many years continue to work for you!

Have A Question about what the NASCOE Committees are up to? Ask your Northeast Area Committee Chair:

Awards/Emblems/Scholarship	Kelly Sundy, PA	kers2570@yahoo.com
Benefits	Nancy Miller, MA	nm0745a@verizon.net
Legislative	Larry Parker, VT	lap1955@gmail.com
Membership	Lorri Dandignac, NY	dandignac@delhitel.net
Publicity	Tina Penley, ME	tmpenley@gmail.com
NAFEC	Dan Shockey, WV	dan.shockey@gmail.com
Negotiations	Jamie McLane, MD	jlmcane@bdvfd.org



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Thoughts from the Leadership Meeting - Larry Parker, NEA Leg Chair & Alt Exec

By all accounts the recently completed legislative/leadership conference held in September was a resounding success; by the raw numbers, 150 NASCOE members were at the conference, 128 of those were registered attendees, and 99 of those were making their first trip to our nation's capital. The enthusiasm and excitement of everyone was palpable, and just being around so many engaged, energized colleagues was inspiring. The focus of the conference was to identify and develop the future leaders of NASCOE, to educate them on what NASCOE does, expose them to the workings of Washington, and to ignite a passion that'll carry NASCOE thru the coming years.

While feedback from attendees has been very positive and folks left the conference in high spirits, the true success is measured by the lasting effects. In the two months since the conference, I can report that I've seen a number of examples where the seeds planted at the conference have taken hold, that there is residual enthusiasm and that is a tangible outcome. I recently attended a supervisor's leadership training in Bozeman Montana and met Dawn from Kentucky. She was one of the 99 first timers to DC and was still excited about NASCOE's mission, raving about the conference experience, and when I spoke to her about National Conventions she assured me she'd be traveling to Missouri and South Dakota. Each day during the training some mention of NASCOE seemed to weave its way into the conversation, whether it was about resolution of personnel issues, networking, or a vehicle to access FSA leadership. It was obvious that NASCOE is an important part of our working lives and people recognize its value.

In my home state of Vermont, our two first time attendees have become much more engaged in the operations of VASCOE, indicating their willingness to take on more responsibilities in leadership roles, and desire to attend future national functions. A real treat was receiving a copy of a message sent out to NYASCOE members by their legislative chair, Ford Barber. His message is "to be vocal, and to participate in the process. Don't sit on the sidelines, get in the game"

I think that's a great message to end this communication on!



"I think Hunter did a fantastic job and he clearly invested a lot of time into organizing visits and materials ..."

-Amanda Button, NY

"The conference was excellent and I commend all that helped to make it a success...I think the trip to the hill was a high point as well. The speakers were very informative.."

-Tina Williams, VT

"The trip was really informative, I learned a great deal about what NASCOE does, how it works, and the hard work and dedication that so many put forth..."

-NYASCOE

November, 2016

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NASCOE Scholarships

How familiar are you with all the scholarships that you and/or your family members are eligible for as a NASCOE member? Did you know there were SIX different scholarships?

Traditional Scholarship

This award may only be used to defray expenses for a graduating high school senior or first-year college freshman enrolled as a full time student with a minimum of 12 hours at an accredited college, university or trade school. Applicants must be a NASCOE member's child, or a member's legal dependent.

Open Continuing Education Scholarship

This award may only be used to defray expenses for a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year student continuing their education at an accredited college, university or trade school, while carrying 6 or more credit hours per semester. Applicants must be a NASCOE member, member's spouse, member's child, member's legal dependent, or member's grandchild who has previously won the Grandchildren's Scholarship.

Member Continuing Education

The applicants must be a NASCOE member continuing their education at an accredited college, university or trade school.

Continuing Education for Adult Children of Members

This award may only be used to defray expenses for a Member's adult child continuing their education as required or encouraged through their employer for 5 or less credit hours a semester. Applicants must be a member's child, member's legal dependent, or member's grandchild.

Grandchildren Scholarship

This award may be used to defray expenses for a student continuing their education enrolled at an accredited college, university or trade school while carrying 12 or more credit hours per semester. Applicants must be a member's grandchild.

Associate Member Scholarship

This award may only be used to defray expenses for an associate member, an associate member's spouse, an associate member's child, grandchild or legal dependent enrolled as a student with a minimum of 6 hours of enrollment at an accredited college, university or trade school.

NASCOE Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes NASCOE members who make outstanding contributions in:
Service to NASCOE; Service to FSA-Agriculture; or Service to Community

All state winners get submitted for Area consideration and those winners go on to the National level to compete. National winners receive round trip air fare to the National Convention and a stipend.

We have so many outstanding members here in the NEA and we typically don't get very many nominations. Please, please, please take a few minutes and recognize your fellow employees' accomplishments by nominating them for a DSA.

The Deadline for both Scholarships and DSA Nominations is
**** January 1, 2017 ****

Applications and Nominations are now online at
www.nascoe.org
under "Forms and Downloads"

2017 Rally & Convention Info

Pencil May 4-6, 2017 in your calendar now to attend the NEA Rally. This year's destination is West Wareham, MA near Cape Cod. Come a little early or stay a little late and visit nearby Plymouth or Martha's Vineyard. The MA folks are working hard to prepare a great rally. More information on lodging, tours, etc. will come soon.

Then on August 2-5, make your way to St. Charles, MO for our 2017 NASCOE Convention. Keep an eye on the our website at nascoe.org for further details. And please consider purchasing a raffle ticket to support the convention. See your state president for more information.

