



PROGRAMS

Kate Hemstreet, New York-NEA Programs Chair

The Who, What, When, Where and Why...

Who can influence program changes at FSA? We all can! Through the NASCOE programs committee, members have the opportunity to submit recommendations for changes to programs and procedure that allow employees to be more efficient and producers to be better served.

How? Identify and issue and submit the issue directly to the NASCOE website www.nascoe.org/. Follow the steps-NASCOE/Forms and Downloads-Programs Submission. You can also submit to your issue to the state programs chair (please see the list below to find your state program chair). These submissions are completely anonymous.

Once the submissions are received and reviewed, they are sent to WDC for a response. All submitted items will receive a response, whether it is to be addressed in the future or if WDC needs further clarification of the submission.

WDC will send their response through the Programs Committee. To see a running list go to: www.nascoe.org/category/programs/

The NEA has always submitted excellent recommendations! Keep up the great work!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your state representative. As a reminder-program submissions are appropriate for government computers.

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UPCOMING NASCOE EVENTS

- May 17-19, 2018

NEA Rally

Bolton Valley, Vermont

www.boltonvalley.com/

Book your room under the name of VASCOE NEA RALLY 2018

- August 1-4, 2018

2018 NASCOE National Convention

Sioux Falls, SD

Go to www.nascoe.org/ for more information.

RECENT NASCOE EMAILS

- 2/15—NEA RALLY REGISTRATION INFO
- 2/9—CR UPDATE
- 2/9—END OF SHUT-DOWN
- 2/6 & 1/22 CR UPDATES
- 1/17 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- 1/9 NEA CONFERENCE CALL

MEMBERSHIP

Tina Williams, Vermont-NEA Membership Chair

As with any association, we would not exist without members. We have all faced the hiring freeze, some have seen a little relief with short term temps and we are patiently awaiting ceilings to see how many empty seats we can fill. To say we are all frustrated is probably an understatement. Being the optimistic person that I am, I see all this as opportunity! Even the furlough we faced can be a great opportunity for NASCOE. Before you go thinking I have ridden the crazy train right off the tracks, let me explain.

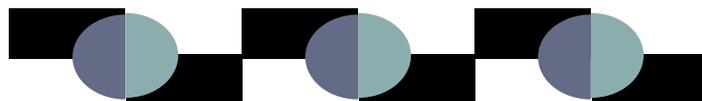
Where did you receive the most communication from before, during and after the furlough? Yes, NASCOE! Whether you liked NASCOE on Facebook or received email updates passed down the chains to membership, NASCOE kept you informed. Communication is key to keeping members engaged. Without periodic postings or emails from the NASCOE Executive Board, Area Executive or your state association members may begin to feel like the association is not working for them.

Don't roll your eyes, most of us know this is the furthest thing from the truth but you can see where I'm coming from. Communication is also a tool to use when speaking to non-members and encouraging them to join. How many updates did they get when we were furloughed? I know compared to the 2013 furlough this one was short lived, but it still happened. The furlough is also a great reason to encourage members to provide a home email address. Many members have not submitted their home email addresses. Therefore, did not receive updates via email during the furlough.

Which brings me to our latest membership project. Those of you who have been members for a few years may remember a database back in 2015 to compile a national list of HOME emails to avoid the lack of communication we had in the 2013 furlough.

We are revisiting how to go about getting home emails from ALL members. I am compiling what National currently has and reaching out to the state presidents and membership chair to fill in the gaps. Then to take it a step further, I am contacting members directly to acquire home email and ask if there are any concerns, comments or suggestions they may have.

In closing, the question I have gotten most as NEA Membership chair is "how do we get the non-members to join"? In response, get them to an Area Rally or even better a National Convention, I promise you they will be hooked! Until a person can see firsthand all the hard work, how we come together as one and the accomplishments the association has made, they won't understand the value of our organization and what we do for all FSA employees. I challenge all members to reach out to a non-member, offer to carpool to the Rally or share a hotel room and put yourself out there, that's how I got hooked!



LEGISLATIVE

Larry Parker, Vermont-NEA Legislative Chair

2018 promises to be a busy year for the legislative committee and we're taking an aggressive proactive approach to ensure that the best interests of our membership and all of FSA are protected to the best of our ability. Our points of emphasis are:

- Researching and addressing legislation that affects appropriations, budget, office structure, benefits, and Farm Bill components.
- Renew efforts to compile a comprehensive legislative contact list.
- Promote top to bottom communications.
- Prioritize recruitment and retention of membership.
- Build on the success of the Legislative/Leadership Training Conference held in 2016.
- Grow NASCOE's PAC

While I believe the North East Area has made great strides in a number of the bulleted items, to be honest, we need to work harder in a couple of key areas:

- Starting with communication; I wish I could say that the NEA has a well-established reliable communication network where information from NASCOE leadership is quickly funneled down to membership. I am not confident that occurs. Information is routinely sent out to state level leadership, but at that point breakdowns seem to occur. As a test, if you are a member of your state association and are not part of the leadership team, send me a note that you received this bulletin! I'd love to be swamped with email traffic! Lap1955@gmail.com
- Legislative contact list. We have a lot of work to do in completing this list. The value of the list was recently shown when our legislative consultant Hunter Moorhead requested that 4 NASCOE members with relationships with key congressional members fly in to Washington for personal meetings. The SWA and MWA were quickly able to provide names based on their contact lists, and those 4 went to Washington in support of NASCOE's mission.

We have also had unprecedented success:

- In the past two years the NEA has moved from the lowest percent of participation in NASCOE's PAC to the highest! We have had tremendous success in signing members up at the Area Rallies; my challenge to each state's legislative chair is get at least one new signup on your own outside of the Rally. If we can do that, then we will move towards 22% participation rate, well above the national goal of 15%.
- Last year jump team efforts successfully established full membership in Rhode Island! For two years running, the NEA has had a state with the greatest increase in membership, with MA and RI each receiving a \$1000 check from Dillard's. There's a good chance we could make it 3 years straight if jump team efforts in PA are successful or some other small state rises up. Keep up the efforts!
- The enthusiasm of those attending the 2016 Legislative/Leadership Training Conference remains high, and we have seen many of those attendees assume leadership roles within their state organizations and at the area level. This can only be considered a major win for all of us, as participation by membership is critical to our success and vitality. Let's keep the momentum going, and funnel that energy towards cracking the areas of concern mentioned above.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the NEA Rally being held in Vermont this May. Please make it a point to chat with me, let me know your concerns and what I can do to help. That's my role.

