

## ***NASCOE President Candidacy Announcement***

### ***Dennis Ray***

Dear NASCOE Members,

My name is Dennis Ray and I am taking this opportunity to announce my candidacy for a second term as NASCOE President. I am currently the CED in Perry County, MO and completing my first year as NASCOE President. It has been a challenging year but equally as rewarding. One of the greatest things a person can do is make a positive difference in people's lives. We have the privilege of doing that with our jobs as we work with farmers and ranchers. I believe in NASCOE's ability to affect positive change for its membership and, therefore, ask for your support as I seek the position of President.

As we move forward, my goal will be to keep NASCOE moving in a positive direction. Recent years have seen progress on many fronts, however, there is work still to be done and it will be important to stay the course. My priorities include:

- Building a good working relationship with newly appointed members of management.
- Making sure the authority of the county committee system (COC) is protected and strengthened. This includes both program and CED supervision authorities.
- NASCOE represents all employees regardless of membership, however there is strength in numbers. Recruiting, retaining and educating new members will continue to be a focal point.
- Effective communication, both from NASCOE leadership to members and vice versa, remains one of NASCOE's biggest challenges. Recent changes to our communication strategy has helped NASCOE catch up to changing technologies and membership demographics. We must constantly monitor our effectiveness and be willing to explore new communication methods.
- A strong legislative agenda that concentrates on improving working conditions, job security and preserving our future as the "can do" agency in USDA. Improving our "grassroots" connections with Congress to enable us to better communicate our mission and objectives.
- Continue to seek opportunities for upward mobility and career advancement for Program Technicians.
- Continue to monitor benefit and retirement issues and be prepared to protect them when threatened.
- Continue to negotiate with management on your behalf in a professional manner, both during the formal negotiating session and as other opportunities present themselves.
- Work with management to ensure shared management operations, whether they are temporary or permanent, have the resources needed to operate properly.

There are many other issues and concerns that could be listed. While the above items are priorities, I have learned to expect the unexpected. Tomorrow's hot-button item may not even be on the radar today. I believe that my earlier roles serving as Midwest Area Negotiation Consultant, Midwest Area Alternate Executive, Midwest Area Executive, NASCOE Vice President and the past year as NASCOE President has prepared me to face challenges as they occur. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as your President this year and I trust you have found my service beneficial. I look forward to seeing each of you at the National Convention this August in Sioux Falls, SD and ask for your support for a second term as NASCOE President.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Ray  
Candidate for President