

Candidacy Announcement for NASCOE Secretary Marcinda Kester

Dear NASCOE Members

I want to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for another term as NASCOE Secretary. I believe that communication is the key to any successful organization and if re-elected I will do my best to be a vital part of communicating the organizations message.

My name is Marcinda Kester and I am the County Executive Director for Polk, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties in Florida where I have lived most of my life. I grew up in small rural town in Indiana until I turned the age of 18 when I moved to Florida. I spent my younger years very involved in 4-H and helping my mom as the 4-H Leader. I grew up in a farming family and even though my parents did not farm most of my mother's nine brothers and sisters were very active farmers. After moving to Florida, I obtained a farm with a herd of over 100 head of cattle and produced my own hay. I have a deep love for rural America, FSA, NASCOE and the agriculture community that we serve.

I have been a part of the ASCS/FSA family since July 1990, starting as a temporary Program Assistant until the day I graduated from Florida Southern College in 1993. At that time, I took a position working for Publix Grocery Store in their corporate office in accounts receivable. In 1995 I applied and was hired into the COT program and worked my way to the County Executive Director position for the next 12 years. In 2007 I made the decision to expand my career and moved to Kentucky to work in the State Office as the Disaster Program Specialist and remained in that position until July 2011 when I became the Farm Programs Chief. During my tenure as Farm Programs Chief, I also served as a District Director for six months.

My continued goals as NASCOE Secretary will be a strong support for the county office level as well as the COC structure. I have made many friends through NASCOE and I appreciate each and every one of them. NASCOE members/county office employees are a special group of people that are the heart and soul of the communities that they serve throughout our great nation.

I have served on many national task force, was a member of the State Agricultural Response team, served as the Freedom of Information Office for 9 years, and served on Consent Decree for a little over four years.

I became a member of NASCOE on my first day with the agency. I am currently serving as the President of FASCOE. I have served in the past as the National Membership Chairperson, Southeast Benefits Chairperson and Programs Chairperson. I have attended many legislative conferences and missed very few Rallies and National Conventions, even as a GS employee. I have had the honor to serve as the Chairperson of two Rallies one of which while I was the Farm Programs Chief in Kentucky.

I am very active in my community and participate in many local groups. I am an active member of the Polk County Cattlewomen's Association, serve on the Southeastern Rodeo Circuit Finals Committee and currently serve as the Executive Vice President of the Miss Rodeo Florida.

I have the support of my fellow County Office co-workers, my County Committees, my State Office, and the encouragement, support and council from my many friends in this great association we call NASCOE. My goal is to leave NASCOE better than I found it and to use my experience to make a difference; not just for today, but for tomorrow. I humbly ask for your support and the opportunity to serve as your NASCOE Secretary.

Sincerely,

Marcinda Kester