**PRESIDENT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Becky Zirpel**

Year in review: Since last year’s annual meeting we have continued to work on the benefits we enjoy with much concern for loss in benefits as this Administration continues to cut into every aspect of Government.

We had a huge win this year! The Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, which was first passed in Congress in 1983 as part of a Social Security Bill, was repealed!   Groups have worked for 40 years to try to get these provisions repealed.  A repeal was finally signed by President Biden in January 2025.  It took a combined effort of unions and retiree groups like RASCOE, AARP & NARFE to succeed. RASCOE Legislative Chair, Mary Behm will talk more on this.

RASCOE’s Officers, Chairs and Area Directors held monthly conference calls to communicate anything of interest in each area of the country concerning our organization.  We have a great group of retired employees who have given of their time to stay on top of issues relative to our benefits and growth. The notes of our calls are posted on our RASCOE.org website. This new feature was implemented as a way for members to see what is being discussed without being official minutes.

The use of social platform (Facebook) has proven to be a good source of keeping members informed, but it recently came under attack by spammers.  We tightened the security and added 3 questions which new members must answer.  They are easy questions, and we encourage you to answer them or you may be declined if we do not know you.  We also took the stance to not allow political posts and only approve ones that appear to be informational.  With that said we will, for now, continue to approve membership and all posts.  RASCOE Benefits and Webmaster chairperson, Shelly Odenkirk will address this more. I also thank Shelly for updating the [rascoe.org](http://rascoe.org/) web page and arranging items to flow better for everyone to view.

Completing the retirement process continues to be a concern with little solution to speed up the process for some.  It has become more of a concern with the recent cuts to staffing. We will continue to watch this.

We continue to also work on and watch the following benefits:

\*COLA’s and FERS being treated the same as other retirees in receiving Government supported retirement benefits

\*Continuation of health insurance as we now have it

\*Continuation of Medicare in the same manner as we have had it.

\*Continue to support amending the IRS Code to allow federal retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis.

I attended the All South Rally in Wichita KS in April and we had a great turnout with a few Retirees present.  I also attended the NEA/MWA Rally in Cortland (Greek Peak Resort) NY.  My message was the same.  I empathized with the employees as we have been through much of what they are going through now.  I talked about how we continue to work on benefits even in retirement.  I promoted membership and communication through our Facebook page and through our web page [rascoe.org](http://rascoe.org/).  I addressed retirement stating that we are aware of the issues with the wait period for many.  I encouraged everyone to contact their congressional representatives to address concerns with issues that adversely impact the benefits of retirees, asking those who will soon be joining us in retirement to do the same.

Membership is always a passion of mine and this year we tried to help in promoting RASCOE to our new retirees by sending an updated packet to each State Office that included a letter to the SED/AO to reintroduce RASCOE.  We also included a letter to the new retiree or potential retiree with an updated brochure requesting them to become a member of RASCOE.  A waiver was also enclosed for them to sign to allow the State Office Staff to send their name and information to RASCOE so that we may reach out to them.

We have had a good year, and we continue to promote RASCOE to all in order to be a group that helps everyone stay informed about what will affect them in retirement.