**MINUTES 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**THURSDAY, AUGUT 3, 2023, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

The annual meeting was called to order by President Chuck Land. The invocation was given by RASCOE Treasurer Cindy Hall. President Chuck Land introduced the RASCOE Board and the Area Representatives. Chuck asked everyone present to introduce themselves and share what state they are from.

Thursday roll call was 37.

President Chuck Land called for the reading of the minutes. Micki Linehan, Secretary, reported that the unapproved minutes are included in the RASCOE Summer Newsletter prior to our annual meeting and also they are in the Annual Report.

Brenda Boomer motioned to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as written in the Annual Report. The motion to waive the reading of the minutes was seconded by Rob Cline. Motion carried.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT -** Chuck Land began by thanking the membership for trusting him to serve as RASCOE President for the last two years. Chuck also thanked the Board, the Chairpersons and the Area Representatives for all of their help during his tenure as President. He talked about the RASCOE support of two legislative issues, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, and secondly to ensure FERS annuitants cost of living allowance is calculated the same as other government retirement COLA’s. RASCOE also supported the membership drive going on within NASCOE and NAFEC. Our support also involved RASCOE, NASCOE NAFEC, AND NADD working together to support our common goals.

Chuck also shared how much he enjoyed attending the NWA Rally in Fairbanks Alaska, the NEA Rally in Wheeling, West Virginia and the SEA Rally in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina.

Chuck stated that as he leaves his post after the National Convention, he feels RASCOE is strong and will be so in the future with those who pick up the reigns and the support afforded to them.

**VICE-PRESIDENT/LEGISLATIVE REPORT –** Becky Zirpel began by saying how much she appreciated working with all of the RASCOE Board and Chairpersons, and also the Area Representatives and thanked them all for being such a great team to work with. Becky also talked about how her duties as Vice-President and Legislative Chair are somewhat intermingled. She said one of the main issues that she has been working on is the backlog of retirement processing. NASCOE’s Legislative team created a survey in a shared app for everyone to access. NASCOE has the contacts with OPM and this information would be shared through NASCOEs Legislative team and their contacts. She encouraged anyone who is still experiencing long waits in having your retirement finalized, to simply complete the survey to find out where the problem lies. Other areas that Becky is working on is updating the Constitution and By-Laws. Travel policy and Duties need to be clarified and new responsibilities added for the Area Representative appointments. Becky talked about the ongoing bills that have been before Congress for a while now. H.R.82, H.R.866 and H.R.716. She has been working with NASCOE Legislative Consultant Hunter Moorhead concerning the progress of these bills. Becky also talked about her trip to Grand Rapids, MI for the MWA Rally in conjunction with the Michigan State Convention. She said they hosted guests from the MI State Office and representation from NASCOE and WDC. She spoke about the benefits of RASCOE representation at the Area Rallies. She had an opportunity to work with MN and OH on how to revive or start a state RASCOE group.

**SECRETARY/PUBLICITY REPORT –** Micki Linehan talked about how rewarding it is to be part of the RASCOE Board. The RASCOE Board and Area Representatives work hard together to keep everyone informed and aware of upcoming issues. Monthly conference calls and communication through emails and texts throughout the month keep us informed and on track. Micki said that it’s what makes RASCOE strong, its leadership and its membership. Our RASCOE Facebook page is out there for everyone to read or to post appropriate messages on. Also there is our website that’s an awesome place to get updated on what’s happening. Micki spoke about the “Spirit of RASCOE” award. Recognizing a deserving member that has been working hard for RASCOE members and their concerns is very rewarding. For both the person that nominates someone, and for the person that receives that nomination. To be selected for this recognition is an honor.

**TREASURERS/MEMBERSHIP REPORT –** Cindy Hall talked about the recent membership report. Our membership has reduced by 6% over last year’s membership. She said if anyone knows of any newly retirees in their state to please reach out to them and invite them to join RASCOE. Reminding everyone that the first year is free, and that it’s only $25 per year for National Dues plus any state dues. Cindy thanked all of the state treasurers that help her along the way. Cindy reported that the RASCOE financial report shows $35,707.38 as of 6/30/2023. She also stated that she has set up a savings account that we will be putting $5000 a year in. Cindy said that she had planned to present a RASCOE Lifetime Membership to Mildred Scarborough but she wasn’t able to attend our Annual Meeting. The certificate will be mailed to Mildred. Cindy talked about membership increase award. The award goes to Oklahoma for having a 33% membership increase.

**BENEFITS/WEBMASTER REPORT –** Mary Behm said that OPM has begun a new transformation of postal worker’s health benefits coming in 2024. There will be a separate unit from FEHB. She encouraged everyone to be sure to look over their policy information as soon as they receive it. Mary talked about a budget bill proposal that has been introduce that will change pensions, COLAs and health insurances. It isn’t law yet, but she urged everyone to review their current health insurances and the offerings for 2024 to make sure each of us have what we require. Mary said that dental insurance is still of interest to many members. There are three choices for dental insurance. To enroll through government at FedVip during open season, Benefits Direct (formerly JM Marketing) has a dental option, and the third one being to enroll in a private company on your own. Mary reported that our website is performing well. Pictures of the 2022 convention are posted and photos of our 2023 Annual Meeting will be available soon. RASCOE constitution and current reports are also posted. You can view them at rascoe.org.

**McCALL FINANCIAL and BENEFITS GROUP LLC –** Penny McCall, Co-Owner, Retirement Specialist and Federal Employee Benefits Consultant, spoke to the attending membership about the benefits they provide. In the first stages of meeting together, they discuss with you and your family what your financial concerns are, and your desired plans for the future. She said they explain how their services work and what to expect from a relationship with them. They work with you to explain all of your options and design a financial plan for you. She said McCall will guide you through implementing your plan. And through an ongoing relationship together they monitor your progress and make changes to your strategy as your life evolves, saying they are a source of dedicated support to your family throughout the years.

**DILLARDS FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INC. –** John Lohr, Dillard’s Financial Solutions, Inc. Marketing Director, thanked RASCOE for allowing Dillard’s to continue to participate in our newsletters to keep RASCOE members updated on all of the benefits they provide. Steve Dillard spoke to the membership about a financial agreement between Dillard’s Financial Solutions, Inc. and RASCOE. He explained in detail all of the advantages the agreement would include for RASCOE membership. Teresa Dillard introduced Brian Pearson, President/CEO at American Benefits Exchange. Brian explained that they are a National Marketing Organization, which means they have personal relationships with the nation’s largest carriers that give them numerous advantages over Insurance Agencies and Brokers. He said they have access to the nation’s largest insurers to find you the right policy for the best possible price by researching insurance options for your personal situation and find the best solution for you. They don’t try to sell you one policy from one carrier, they offer choices and options. Teresa Dillard said they have worked with American Benefits Exchange many times on benefit issues. Teresa talked about Long Term Care. Dillard’s has many Long Term Care options if anyone is interested. Teresa also talked about RASCOE entering into an agreement with Dillard’s for being RASCOE’s Benefit Provider. She said they would be around to answer any questions anyone may have.

**NASCOE PRESIDENT MARCINDA KESTER** – Marcinda said she was wrapping up her duties as NASCOE President. She spoke about how some State Offices around the country are not providing adequate information to people that are retiring. She spoke of several people that are going through issues within their State Office and also within OPM.

She said that their NASCOE membership is getting much stronger than it has been over the last couple of years. They have several new people that are attending their first convention. Joel Foster NASCOE VP spoke about looking forward to working with RASCOE in the future as NASCOE President.

**HUNTER MOORHEAD, NASCOE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT –** Hunter talked how stalled congress has been in the last several months. There are several bills that have been on hold for not just months but for years. He is working with congressional people daily, pushing issues that concern everyone. Hunter was asked about the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision bill. He said since there have been retirements in Congress it has stalled the bill. But he thinks it will be brought to a vote and will pass. Hunter also was asked about Social Security. He said it is not anywhere near the catastrophe that some of the congressional people are saying. He encouraged everyone to contact their State Representatives and express their concerns.

**2022-2023 Audit Committee Report –** Sheryl Blakely and Cathy Blackburn were appointed to the 2022-2023 Audit Committee. Sheryl stated that they have examined the books presented by RASCOE Treasurer Cindy Hall and found the records and receipts to be in good order with no exceptions noted. Ben Bosshart made a motion to approve the report. Gene Vognild seconded. Motion carried.

Cathy Blackburn and Shelly Odenkirk were appointed to serve on the 2024 Audit Committee.

President Chuck Land called for “Willingness to serve” for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Becky Zirpel, SD, announced her willingness to serve as President

Mary Behm, WI, announced her willingness to serve as Vice President

Micki Linehan, ID, announced her willingness to serve as Secretary

Cindy Hall, NE, announced her willingness to serve as Treasurer

Thursday session was recessed at 4:00 p.m. and will resume Friday at 9:00 a.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023 COLLEGE STATION, TX**

Meeting resume at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call resulted in 35 members present.

Vice President Becky Zirpel talked about clarifying the RASCOE Executive Policy and Travel Policy. Becky handed out paper copies of the clarifications and changes that are proposed to the membership present. She said the updates are mostly clarifications to include changes that were made and approved in 2022. There was discussion among the members present on the clarifications. Brenda Boomer moved to approve the clarifications to the Executive Policy and Travel Policy. Sheryl Blakely seconded. Motion carried.

Vice President Becky Zirpel called for authorization and approval for the RASCOE Executive Board to attend the NASCOE Organizational Meeting and any pre-negotiation meetings. Brian Stuckey moved to approve travel to these meetings. Gene Vognild seconded. Motion carried.

Vice President Becky Zirpel informed the membership present about proposals from two different Financial Providers. Dillard’s Financial Solutions, Inc. offered RASCOE $5000 per year for a 5-year agreement to be RASCOE’s Financial Provider. The agreement included a yearly newsletter they would put out for us among other amenities. McCall Financial and Benefits Group also offered to be RASCOE’s Financial Provider. The agreement included an offer of 40% profit reimbursement from all contracts sold due to this agreement.

There was much discussion among the RASCOE membership present about these two Financial Provider offers. Many RASCOE members voiced concerns about entering into a contract with anyone at this point in time. It was noted that our RASCOE financial position is currently pretty strong without limitations that could be involved within a contract obligation.

Brian Stuckey moved that we do not enter into a legal contract with any Financial Provider at this time. Gene Vognild seconded. Motion carried.

Vice President Becky Zirpel entertained a motion to approve the reports as presented by the President, Vice President/Legislative Chair, Secretary/Publicity Chair, and Treasure/Membership Chair. Hugh Hunter moved to approve all reports as filed. Debby Sweet seconded. Motion carried.

 Secretary Micki Linehan talked about the 2023 “Spirit of RASCOE” committee. Joyce Logsdon and Laura Howell were appointed to the committee. Neither Joyce or Laura were planning to attend the Annual Meeting in Texas, so Micki contacted them and asked them who they chose, and who they wanted to present the award. Joyce said they chose Charolette Saunders, and they wanted Chad Hart to make the presentation to Charolette. Charolette wasn’t able to come to the Annual Meeting due to a family event that was planned at the same time. Chad Hart called Charolette and had her on speaker before the membership as he read her nomination for “Spirit of RASCOE”. She was very honored and moved by the award.

Debby Sweet and Charolette Saunders were appointed to the 2024 “Spirit of RASCOE” committee.

Vice President Becky Zirpel suggested that RASCOE give the “Spirit of RASCOE” award winner a stipend of $250 for attending the Annual Meeting to help defer their cost of attending the meeting to receive their award. It would be a requirement that they attend the meeting to receive this compensation. Brian Stuckey moved to give the “Spirit of RASCOE” award winner $250 to attend the Annual Meeting. Larry Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Carolyn Slightom**, Illinois State NASCOE President, talked to the membership present about the 2024 National Convention in the Illinois /Iowa Heartland.

Cindy Hall presented the RASCOE Memorial video honoring and remembering deceased members who have gone before us.

Vice President Becky Zirpel called for the nomination of officers.

Sheryl Blakely nominated Micki Linehan for the Office of Secretary. Chad Hart seconded. There being no other nominations, Micki was elected unanimously.

David Goodman nominated Cindy Hall for the Office Treasurer. Brian Stuckey seconded. There being no other nominations, Cindy was elected unanimously.

Ben Bosshart nominated Mary Behm for the Office of Vice President. Chad Hart seconded. There being no other nominations, Mary was elected unanimously.

Shelly Odenkirk nominated Becky Zirpel for the Office of President. Hugh Hunter seconded. There being no other nominations, Becky was elected unanimously.

President Elect Becky Zirpel appointed the following Committee Chairs and Area Representatives:

Legislative Chair – Mary Behm

Membership Chair – Cindy Hall

Benefits Chair – Shelly Odenkirk

Publicity Chair – Micki Linehan

North East Area – Charolette Saunders

South East Area – Sheryl Blakely

Mid West Area – Tony Augustine

North West Area – Janie Hudson

South West Area – Brenda Boomer

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.