**MID WEST AREA REPORT**

**BY: DARLENE SCHOUTEN - MWA REPRESENTATIVE**

Because I’m still learning the position of MWA Representative for RASCOE, I don’t have a lot to report. I will say it gives me added insight to what RASCOE is and what RASCOE continues to do for all retirees. If you have any questions as to what RASCOE is doing for you, just read the reports of the officers, committee chairs and area representatives. You won’t find a more dedicated group of individuals.

The first task I undertook was to contact all the SEDs and AOs in the Midwest Area, providing them with updated RASCOE information to include in their FSA Retiree Packets. Hopefully, this will encourage membership in RASCOE. Now that I’ve opened this line of communication with the State Offices, we can continue to work together.

Minnesota hosted their first MNASCOE Convention since 2019 on May 4-5, 2025, in Willmar, Minnesota and I attended as the RASCOE MWA Representative. It was a pleasure to see many old and new faces interested in carrying on the traditions of MNASCOE/NASCOE. The Midwest Area Executive from NASCOE, Janice Acree from Indiana, presented the History of NASCOE and took questions from the group. I mentioned to Janice after her presentation that it was so important to inform new employees and NASCOE members what has been accomplished. Hopefully, more states will join in the education of NASCOE.

The MNASCOE leadership was kind enough to give me a spot on their agenda. I mentioned to the group that as an employee who began in 1986, I was the fortunate recipient of many of the benefits that NASCOE fought for and obtained. As retirees, we enjoy these benefits today. RASCOE is working diligently to ensure that we keep all the benefits to which we are entitled.

I would like to thank Becky Zirpel and the RASCOE Board for encouraging me to become the Midwest Area Representative.