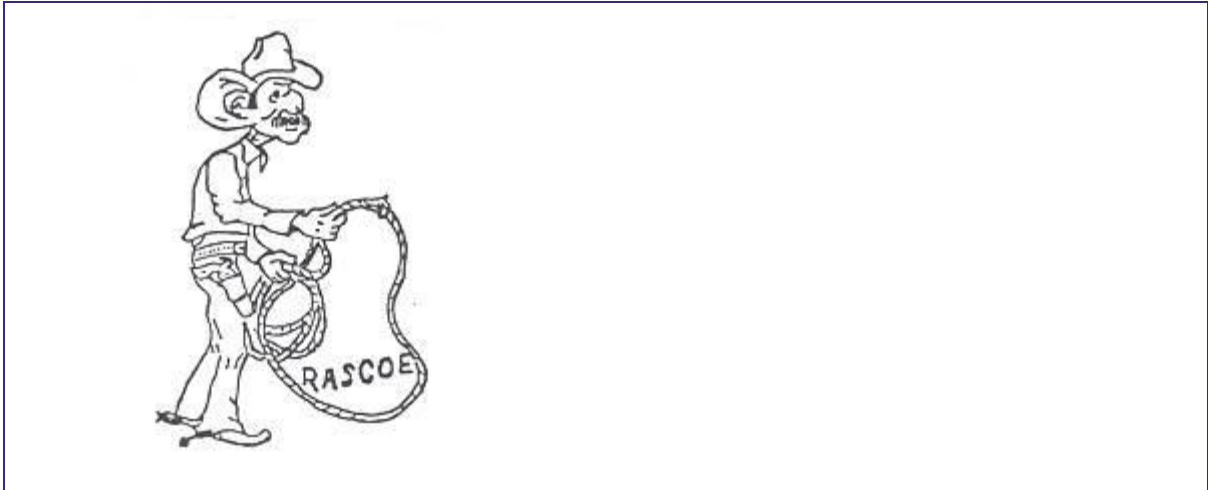




DAVID GOODSON, PRESIDENT

April was a busy month for your RASCOE President as I traveled to the Rally's.

I had the privilege of attending the East Rally in Cincinnati OH, as well as the Far West Rally in Reno, NV. I was able to visit and make connections with current and future RASCOE members and explain that RASCOE represents the interest of retired FSA employees.

I am excited and looking forward to our annual meeting at the NASCOE convention in Sault St Marie later this summer. From what I have heard, Michigan has big plans for RASCOE.

If you haven't already, make plans to attend!!



SHELLY ODENKIRK, VICE PRESIDENT/LEGISLAIVE CHAIR

Hello from the sunny south! Things are heating up already in Florida, but that isn't bothering me quite as much as usual since I tore my rotator cup and can't play pickleball for a while. Guess its good timing for me!!!

As your Vice President, I am working closely with David in the plans for the upcoming convention. Also, in addition to being your Vice President, I am also the Legislative Chair. We are currently following 2 areas of interest to retirees in Congress:

1) Equal COLA ACT - HR 491/S624

Would remove the cap on FERS cost of living adjustments when inflation is >2%, thereby providing full cost of living adjustments to our pensions. (Protecting our benefits from inflation).

This would equate us to CSRS cost of living annual increases.

While introduced to the current (119th) Congress in early 2025, it has not made it out of committee (house over site and government reform) nor been scored by the CBO.



The last I talked to Hunter about this he said he would look for someone to sponsor getting it scored, but was not hopeful, as it is common knowledge that it would be extremely expensive.

2) Federal Retirement Fairness Act - HR 1522

Provides that civilian service in a temporary position after December 31, 1988 may be credible service under the FERS retirement system for other purposes.

This was also introduced in early 2025, and has also not made it out of committee (house over site and government reform).

Your leadership team remains committed to keeping you informed and advocating to ensure that retiree benefits remain fair, protected, and reflective of the commitments made to all of us upon retirement.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Michigan in July!
Shelly Odenkirk

**TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT
BY CINDY HALL, TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

After 10 years or so of writing reports for the newsletter I struggle with coming up with new ideas. But here goes!

I have a calendar that sits on my breakfast table. It's full of inspirational quotes and Bible verses. Recently the quote was "Listening is half of any successful conversation." For some reason, that quote stuck with me. Too often, I think we are so busy trying to decide what we're going to say next we forget to listen to the other person. And quite frankly, listening is the only way that we can learn where the other person is coming from. Try to spend some time this week listening to someone and see if you can learn something new about that person. And, if they are retired FSA employee, ask them if they would like to be a member of RASCOE!



Three reminders:

1. Members who have reached their 90th birthday and are eligible for free lifetime membership. I just need their contact information, and I will send them a lifetime membership card and a certificate.
2. If you normally send your dues directly to me (for those who don't have a state organization), I can now accept Venmo payments. Just contact me at nwanascoe@gmail.com or 402-210-1814 and I will send you the information necessary to make the payment.
3. Our dues year ends June 30. You can send in your 2026-27 dues any time. Thanks for your support!

MICKI LINEHAN, SECRETARY/PUBLICITY CHAIR

We have had great weather in Yuma, AZ for the last 6 months. It's been warmer here than it has been since we started "wintering" here. But I have to say, now that it's getting hot, I need to be back home in the Northwest! It's going to be 110 degrees today. I won't be spending too much time outside for sure. We're heading home in a couple of days. I'm ready to see family and friends at home.



This Spring newsletter is a little later than normal because your Board and Representatives wanted to wait until after the Rallies in order to put more information in their articles concerning the National Convention/Annual Meeting in Michigan, and also issues that were discussed at the Rallies. It sounds like both the Rallies were great successes. The Area Representatives have some very good information in their articles for everyone.

Once again I am asking for "Spirit of RASCOE" nominations. I have received a couple so far, but there is still plenty of time to get more. Please consider nominating a RASCOE member that goes above and beyond for our "Spirit of RASCOE" committee to consider. It's an honor. Just ask anyone that has already received the award! There is a nomination form in this newsletter. You can either mail it to me or email me. All of our contact information is also in this newsletter under "Elected Officers and Appointed Chairs for FY 2025-26". Debby Sweet and Chuck Land were appointed by President David Goodson to be on our 2026 "Spirit of RASCOE" committee.

Blessings.....

SHERYL BLAKELY, BENEFITS CHAIR/SEA REPRESENTATIVE

As we move into the Spring season, nature is in full transition. In Alabama, Spring has sprung, we have experienced Summer heat in the 90's and now it is cool and rainy. We are very happy to have rain because we have many counties in the Southeast experiencing severe drought. Longer daylight hours, increased humidity and rising temperatures signal a time of growth, renewal and activity! I hope that you and your family are enjoying watching the flowers bloom and the ground giving forth sprouts of new birth of needed crops. Our cows are certainly enjoying the greener grasses sprouting in the pastures!

I enjoyed the beautiful city of Cincinnati and the friendly and welcoming locals at the MWA/NEA/SEA Rally in April. We visited with a few of the WDC speakers and enjoyed others via Zoom. It is great that we have a wonderful working relationship with these speakers. It is encouraging as we bring news to the offices back home. I remember a time when we had so many more attendees, but we also had so many more people in the offices. May we never take our benefits for granted. We must continue to support NASCOE and RASCOE in these changing times. Mark your calendars for the NASCOE CONVENTION July 29-August 2 in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan and start making plans to attend.

Friends who have retired or may soon be retiring should be encouraged to become members of RASCOE. Of course, anyone can become an associate member too. It takes all of us to progress. We appreciate all of the work being done by every Officer and Board member of our organization. Stay informed by following the website for RASCOE.org and our Facebook RASCOE page. These are two great avenues to stay informed.

As your Benefits chair, I would like to remind you that you get a monetary benefit for taking the health assessment and completing health goals each year. Visit the FEP BCBS website. There is also the Hinge Health and Livongo programs for those who use the BC/BS benefits

program. If your state is participating, simply download Hinge Health from your Play Store on the phone or computer and enjoy a free exercise program as often as you wish. You will also receive free Health Coaching and a Physical Therapist to ensure you are receiving the best exercise program for any area of your body. Try it!! I love this program and use it several times per week. GEHA benefits are offering \$1000 reimbursement for those who participate in Medicare B this year. BC/BS continues to offer an \$800 reimbursement for their Basic members. You can apply at any time. You do not have to wait until the end of the year, but it is best to wait until you have paid in.

If there is anything I can do for you, please reach out to me. We hope to see you in Saulte St Marie, Michigan in July, 2026. Get involved! Have fun and enjoy retirement!

BRENT ORR, WEBMASTER/NEA REPRESENTATIVE

Greetings from Massachusetts. Spring has been a little slow arriving on the Cape. A quick update from the NEA.

Unfortunately I was not at the rally in Ohio. A trip to Italy and Paris had been on the books for quite a while. I am looking forward to the national convention in Sault Ste Marie, MI in July/August. Registration is open as is hotel reservations. Make your plans now to attend.

Our RASCOE Facebook page has been active. Just a gentle reminder - you must answer the membership questions before you can be added to the RASCOE Facebook group. If the questions are not answered, I cannot add the member without violating our own rules which MAY make our group in violation of Facebook rules. Sounds silly I know, but it must work that way.

My focus for the NEA is membership. I must reach out to each state's NASCOE president for assistance in obtaining retiree names and addresses. I have a letter geared up for those new members.

I hope to get to see all of you in Michigan. I decided to drive as opposed to investing my right leg for airfare! Hopefully Canada will let me in and out as I ride over. I should be a pretty drive!

Here is to a great spring!
Brent

DARLENE ZAHNOW, MWA REPRESENTATIVE

After another classic Midwestern winter—equal parts beautiful and stubborn—spring has finally stepped onto the stage. The longer days, the return of birdsong, and the first brave tulips pushing through the soil remind us that renewal is not just a season, but a mindset. For our retiree's community, spring is a perfect moment to reconnect, refresh routines, and rediscover the joy of shared experiences, like RASCOE.

Across the Midwest, communities are waking up. Local farmers' markets are reopening, nature trails are clearing, and small-town festivals are posting their spring schedules. Whether you're eager to get back into gardening, planning a road trip, or simply looking forward to porch-sitting weather, this season offers something for everyone.

Now that the NEA, MWA and SEA Rally is over, it's time to look ahead to the NASCOE/NADD 2026 National Convention held July 29 - August 2 at the Kewadin Casinos - Sault St. Marie in Michigan. As usual, RASCOE will be meeting in conjunction with the NASCOE Convention. Although we are retired, RASCOE continues to work for us through legislation, discussions with NASCOE and encouraging membership. It's important to make sure our voices continue to be heard with OPM and Management. Please invite other retirees to join RASCOE and keep us strong. **Celebrating the Midwest Spirit.**

If there's one thing that defines our region, it's resilience paired with warmth. We know how to weather storms—literal and figurative—and we know how to celebrate when the sun returns. Spring invites us to step outside, reconnect with neighbors, and enjoy the simple pleasures that make the Midwest feel like home.

As we move into this new season, we hope you'll join us in embracing the energy and optimism that spring brings. Whether you participate in an event, volunteer, or simply share a smile with someone new, you're helping strengthen the community that makes our association special. Be sure to bring that energy and optimism to the National Convention in Michigan, our partner in the Midwest!

Wishing you a bright, healthy, and joyful spring.

JANIE HUDSON, NWA REPRESENTATIVE

I just returned from the All-West Area Rally in Reno, NV where over 50 attendees gathered from the Northwest and Southwest Areas to listen to our NASCOE, RASCOE, and NAFEC leadership share about what issues they have been working on. Many there were attending a rally for the first time ever, and it was so rewarding to get to meet them and hear about the changes this past year has brought them. It was disheartening to hear how low morale is in the county offices. Some CED's are now managing up to 5 offices or more, often with their entire staff having less than one year of experience. As RASCOE members, we all went through some rough times during our careers - RIF's, office closures, and office combinations - but it feels different this time around. I encouraged those I talked with to keep involved with NASCOE and to encourage their co-workers to join if they are not already members.

It was great to get some news on the 2026 NASCOE National Convention. I know some folks were questioning the registration, which includes most of your meals, but I can attest that it worked well at the NW Area Rally, which was also held in a casino. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Sault Saint Marie, MI in July.

Respectfully submitted,
Janie Hudson
NW Area RASCOE Representative

DARVIN COLLINS, SWA REPRESENTATIVE

Howdy my rowdy RASCOE friends! I hope retirement is treating all of you very well as we approach our 2026 NASCOE Convention in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. Betty and I will be traveling to the convention with Kevin and Diana Dale via Amtrak train to East Lansing, MI then

on to Sault Ste Marie via rental car. I am very excited to embark on my first train ride experience and look forward to seeing more of our beautiful country via train. NAFEC and RASCOE are partnering again on a hospitality room at this year's national convention. RASCOE appreciates NAFEC's help and fellowship in offsetting our convention expenses that benefits all of our RASCOE membership.

I often get the question of what are the benefits of RASCOE membership after I retire. Well the number one benefit is the legislative work that RASCOE does in preserving our retirement benefits including social security benefits, federal income tax provisions, and health care costs. Secondly and just as important is maintaining friendships and relationships with our ASCS and FSA coworkers that we have built over our careers. The importance of networking doesn't just apply to young active FSA employees. The importance of sharing problems and concerns as well as solutions between RASCOE membership is so invaluable. Brent Orr is doing a fantastic job with our RASCOE facebook page and website. RASCOE allows you as a retiree stay in touch and in the know! Life doesn't end with retirement, it just begins!!!

If you are a retiree but have not joined RASCOE, I would encourage you to join the rowdy crew of RASCOE. Annual dues are \$25.00 and Associate dues are \$15.00. State RASCOE Associations may also charge a small state dues fee in addition to the RASCOE fee of \$25.00. If retirees in your SWA state have not established a state RASCOE association, and you are interested in doing so, please contact me at Darvin.collins28@gmail.com or text or phone me at 903-721-2404.

In closing, I would like to thank our RASCOE President, David Goodson for the opportunity to serve as the Southwest Area RASCOE Representative for the 2025-2026 year. It is truly a joy to be able to serve with this outstanding group of RASCOE Executives and Area Representatives that I can call my friends.

NASCOE NATIONAL CONVENTION/ RASCOE ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

JULY 29 - AUGUST 02, 2026
KEWADIN CASINOS
SAULT STE MARIE
MICHIGAN

SPIRIT OF RASCOE AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEES SHOULD EXEMPLIFY THE TRUE "SPIRIT OF RASCOE" IN ACTIONS, SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF THE RASCOE RETIREE ORGANIZATION.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON NO LATER THAN July 1, 2026

Entries received after the deadline will be reviewed and/or saved for the next year.

EMAIL NOMINATION TO:

mickilinehan@gmail.com

or

MAIL NOMINATION TO:

Micki Linehan
3743 Swallows Nest Ct
Clarkston ID 99403

NOMINEE NAME: _____

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS: _____

STATE OF RASCOE MEMBERSHIP: _____

IN SEVENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS, EXPLAIN WHY YOU NOMINATED THIS RETIREE FOR THE SPIRIT OF RASCOE AWARD:

OTHER COMMENTS: _____

PAST SPIRIT OF RASCOE AWARDS WINNERS:

2005 - ERA JARRARD, GA	2006 - VIRGINIA SHORT, KY (AND ROSE MELICK, SD)
2007 - CONRAD SHEPP, WI	2008 - DORIS STUCKY, SD
2009 - GENE LUTZ, CO	2010 - CLARA RUTH SAINT, LA
2011 - JUNE FAULK, GA	2012 - GENE VOGNILD, SD
2013 - PAUL NEWTON, IL	2014 - Leo Osborne, UT
2015 - Lynda Steichen, SD	2016 - Sandi Rocker, NE
2017 - Mike Schryer, AL	2018 - Joyce Logsdon, KY
2019 - Jim Iverson, SD	2020-2021 - Brenda Boomer, TX - Laura Ann Evans, KY
2022 - Laura Howell, KY	2023 - Charolette Saunders
2024 - Larry Olsen, SD	2025 - Chuck Land

—

ELECTED OFFICERS AND APPOINTED CHAIRS FOR FY 2025-2026

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david.goodson62@gmail.com
Cell: 870-403-7588

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Vice President &
Legislative Chair
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The Villages FL 32163
shelly.odenkirk@gmail.com
Cell: 330-464-1475

Micki Linehan
Secretary &
Publicity Chair
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Clarkston WA 99403
mickilinehan@gmail.com
Cell: 509-595-0156

Cindy Hall
Treasurer &
Membership Chair
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Fremont NE 68025 2133
nwanascoe@gmail.com
Cell: 402 210 1814

Sheryl Blakely
Benefits Chair
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mablakely@bellsouthnet
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Cell: 571-275-4108

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FSA/ASCS RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEES

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