**SOUTH EAST AREA REPORT**

**BY SHERYL BLAKELY – SEA REPRESENTATIVE**

Greetings from Alabama!

Spring has sprung and it appears that Summer temperatures are approaching quickly.  Go outside and enjoy some pretty weather before it gets too hot!  If you live close to a farmer, offer him a nice, cool drink when he stops to take a break.  If you live close to a county office, stop by and offer a word of encouragement as they continue to work on the programs that help our local farmers and ranchers.  We are planning to meet with workers in county offices throughout our state for a quick lunch and to share words of encouragement and a hug or two.  Try this in your state if you need a bit of encouragement yourself!  To have a friend, be a friend!  Lift someone's spirits and see if you don't receive a blessing in the process!

What a wonderful time we had traveling the Yellow Brick Road in Kansas for the 2025 All-South Rally.  Thank you to Kansas for all of the hard work. We enjoyed our time with friends from across the south. We were proud to have our National President Becky Zirpel to join with us and speak with us personally about the legislation victory that many of you will now receive.

It is time to start planning our trip to the 2025 NASCOE Convention in Whitefish, Montana. There has never been a better time to attend a national convention and get involved. We hope to see many of you there. We have seen changes taking place since the first of the year, and it appears more changes are to come.  Come and get involved.  It takes all of us to stand and fight for the benefits we enjoy, and we can't sit back and assume that we will always have them.  I am proud to serve as your southeastern representative on a Board with others who are just as passionate about the business of our organization.  If you don't plan to attend the convention, please make sure to send in your national dues and stay involved in your state and area meetings.  It takes ALL of us to do the work!  Follow us on our RASCOE FB page and website.  Your input is valuable and we appreciate you all.  If I can ever be of assistance, please reach out to me anytime!

Sheryl Blakely, SEA