**SECRETARY/PUBLICITY ANNUAL REPORT**

**MICKI LINEHAN**

I’m very excited to be going to Whitefish, Montana for our thirty-first Annual Meeting/NASCOE Convention. We haven’t had a convention in the Northwest Area since 2012 when it was in Idaho. I actually go to Whitefish a time or two during the summer months because my granddaughter lives nearby in the Kalispell, Montana area. It’s incredibly beautiful there. Last year we were in Davenport, Iowa. What a great experience! I had never been in that area, and everyone went out of their way to ensure a fabulous convention. I had lots of fun and I’m sure everyone else did as well.

Another year has gone by and your RASCOE Board and Representatives have been busy trying to keep up with all the changes that have been made, or that are being considered by our Administration, that involve RASCOE retirees in 2025. I’m well aware of the feelings that go along with a certain amount of uncertainty. We have worked hard for our benefits that we retired with and continue to work hard to maintain those benefits. We have had a strong Legislative Chair in Mary Behm and she is staying very well informed in terms of what is going on.

I can’t say enough about our RASCOE Board and Area Representatives. They are all working very hard on behalf of all of our RASCOE membership. We continue to communicate effectively and compassionately. I encourage all of you to ask newly retired FSA employees to join RASCOE. And also encourage anyone that wants to step up into RASCOE leadership to please do so. It’s extremely rewarding and fun!!

Let’s talk about our “Spirit of RASCOE” award. Please look around and nominate a RASCOE member for this award. It’s a meaningful way to recognize someone who is always doing positive things for our Association and our members. I put our “Spirit of RASCOE” nomination form in every newsletter, but you can always email me to request the nomination form. Each year our President appoints a “Spirit of RASCOE” committee to select a winner from all nominations that I have received. The committee consists of two RASCOE members from across the country and they discuss the nominations and make their selection. Then they notify me prior to the Annual Meeting to tell me who the winner is. I then contact that winner to tell them they have been selected and remind them that RASCOE will give them $200 to help towards expenses to travel and attend the Annual Meeting. It’s one of my favorite things that RASCOE does for membership, and it is indeed an honor.

Thank you for trusting me to be on our RASCOE Board to serve you all . I’m blessed for sure.

As a final thought, “To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world”. *Dr. Seuss*