**PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT**

**BECKY ZIRPEL**

Throughout this year we have continued to promote membership.  I have encouraged membership, associate membership and also being a member of NASCOE and NAFEC.

We have also kept close tabs on legislation that may affect retirees or people retiring in the future.

We continue to promote keeping a close watch on their retirement process. The survey that was provided is a tool to use to help the process for the future.  We once again ask anyone that has retired and the wait period exceeds 4 months for your retirement to be completed to fill out the survey.  That is the only way we can begin to understand where the problem lies.

We promote our website ( [rascoe.org](http://rascoe.org/) ) and RASCOE Facebook page for you to receive the most up to date information.

Did you know that RASCOE officers chairs and Area Directors hold a monthly conference call? We do and if members have joys or concerns we encourage you to reach out to your officers or especially your Area Director. This is used as a tool to keep communications open and members to be informed throughout the year.

I was able to attend all of the Area Rally’s this past year and must say I am impressed at the attendance of the RASCOE members.  We held a short meeting for RASCOE at each Rally and it was a time to discuss area items which potentially affects all.

The NEA/MWA was in Freeport Maine. There was a small RASCOE delegation present, with the opportunity to interact.  I was pleased to have Charolette Saunders, NEA Director in attendance to help with encouraging membership. Tony Augustine, MWA was unable to attend. In our discussions amongst those members in attendance we discussed a need for a benefits provider, helping with jump teams for NASCOE Membership and the upcoming National Convention. A new offer, but similar to our other offer from Dillard Financial, was presented to me.  There seemed to be some thinking it was a possibility and others that felt it was not needed. I want to thank Charolette Saunders, NEA and Tony Augustine, MWA for all they do for RASCOE!

NWA was in Mandan ND and we had about 9 RASCOE members.  We had a brief meeting during the Rally with RASCOE members and were able to talk about a few things that may affect members.  One was about a benefit provider and possibility of a need or contract/sponsorship. It was unanimous that the need for a contract with a provider didn’t seem to benefit the members as retirees have already made those decisions on their retirement. We also talked about RASCOE members and how we could help NASCOE with jump teams to encourage membership.  In addition, we briefly discussed the upcoming NASCOE convention and how we could help with the 2025 convention in Whitefish MT.  It is always successful to meet individually with each area of RASCOE members.  Janie Hudson NWA was unable to attend due to short notice of the Rally plans, but I want to thank Janie Hudson, NWA for all she does for RASCOE!

Last was the All South Rally in Mobile Alabama.  There were about 22 RASCOE members in attendance.  We had our separate meeting during the event where we were able to once again have discussion from members of the area. One of the topics was talked about in-depth was the need for a contract with a benefit provider.  It was unanimous that the need for a contract with a provider didn’t seem to benefit the members as retirees have already made those decisions on their retirement. This was in conclusion and the group expressed it would pertain to any offers, but we thank Dillard Financial for the offer.  We also talked about the how RASCOE could help NASCOE with jump teams to promote and educate potential members.  We discussed National Convention and the need for communication on the agenda ahead of time and the need for a paper copy for registration.

I was pleased to have Sheryl Blakely and Darvin Collins attending to help promote membership and to make their presence known for members to visit with.  Success is that we have a state that would like to start their own association so we were able to help network with them to hopefully accomplish this.  Sheryl and Darvin also talked about perhaps establishing an Area association for RASCOE to help with membership in states and for better way of communication.  This would help smaller states that can’t support a State Association have that more individual community similar to State Organizations. I want to thank Brenda Boomer for being a SWA Director and although she made a choice to step down, Brenda’s help has been appreciated. I want to thank Darvin Collins, SWA for jumping in where Brenda left off and Sheryl Blakely SEA for all they do.

The main subjects I spoke to the NASCOE group at the Area meetings were pretty much the same.

I talked about how even though we may be retired and we are more of the fun, less stressed group we still watch for benefit issues that may affect us.  We tie ourselves together with NASCOE by relying on the Legislative Team and on occasion utilizing Hunter Moorehead, NASCOE Legislature Consultant.

I address the Retirement backlog and importance to be proactive of “their” retirement.

I finalized my presentation by addressing membership and the importance to support their current organization, but also important to be associate members as we work together on several benefit items.  I expressed how important Membership was to me personally in starting my career with FSA and coming from jobs with low pay and no benefits.

It remains important to combine our efforts for the benefit of all.

I continue to express it is always successful to gather together and to be allowed to promote RASCOE in the setting of NASCOE/RASCOE/NAFEC.  We are one goal in the end and make a great blend of knowledge and team! One member stated “we can’t have RASCOE without NASCOE”!

Enjoyed representing RASCOE and will continue to promote communication and working together with all associations.

I want to thank the officers that have stepped up to lead our group (Mary Behm, VP/Legislature, Micki Linehan, Secretary/Publicity, and Cindy Hall, Treasurer, Membership) Thank you goes out to our Benefits/ Web Master Chair person, Shelly Odenkirk and last but not least our Area Directors (Janie Hudson, NWA, Charolette Sanders, NEA, Tony Augustine, MWA, Sheryl Blakely, SEA, and Darvin Collins/Brenda Boomer, SWA). They make a great team to give success to our Membership.