**NORTH WEST AREA REPORT**

**JANIE HUDSON, NWA REPRESENTATIVE**

When President Chuck Land asked me to serve as the NW Area RASCOE representative at the 2022 NASCOE Convention, I was honored and excited to accept the position. Then a few months later, life took a sudden turn as my parent’s health started failing and I found myself missing the RASCOE conference calls and then missing the 2023 NW Area Rally and the 2023 National Convention in College Station. I was devastated – it was the first NASCOE Convention I had missed in 22 years. I called Chuck and offered to give up my position and let him appoint someone else, but he said no, and then when Becky took over as President, thankfully, she still had faith in me. Now, as the 2024 NASCOE Convention approaches, my emotions are all over the board. I am beyond excited to see my NASCOE and RASCOE family again, but sadly, I know of several who won’t be there due to serious illnesses, death, or other personal reasons that will keep them away. Realizing this makes me reflect on the many wonderful friendships I have made since becoming a NASCOE member way back in 1984. At the time, I just signed the paper and paid the dues, but it was only a few years later that a very outgoing (pushy), neighboring CED convinced me to run for the IASCOE Board of Directors – and the rest is history. All throughout my career, as a Program Technician, a County Office Director, a MIDAS Business Analyst, and a Program Analyst in the FPAC Customer Service Division, I have been blessed along the way to meet the most amazingly good people. Thank you NASCOE and RASCOE for the many opportunities you have given me! I hope those who won’t be at the National Convention know how much they are missed, and for those who will be there, can’t wait to see you in the Quad Cities!!😊