**UNAPPROVED MINUTES 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024, DAVENPORT, IOWA**

The annual meeting was called to order by President Becky Zirpel, followed by the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. President Becky Zirpel gave the invocation. Becky then introduced the RASCOE Board, Chairs and the Area Representatives.

Roll call was 55.

President Becky Zirpel called for the reading of the minutes. Micki Linehan, Secretary stated that the unapproved minutes are included in the RASCOE Summer Newsletter that went out prior to our meeting, and are also in our Annual Report. Past President Chuck Land made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as written in the Annual Report. The motion to waive the reading of the minutes was seconded by Brian Stuckey. Motion Carried.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT –** Becky Zirpel talked about how the Board and the Area Representatives have continued to promote membership. Becky has encouraged membership, associate membership and also being a member of NASCOE and NAFEC. She also continues to promote keeping a close watch on the retirement process. Last year there was a NASCOE survey posted to provide a tool to use to help the process for the future. Becky encouraged everyone that knows someone that is retiring to complete the survey if they have waiting for more than four months for their retirement to be completed.

Becky also said our website (RASCOE.org) and our RASCOE Facebook page are great places to go to keep yourself update on current RASCOE issues.

Becky talked about the monthly conference calls that the RASCOE Board, Chairs and Area Representatives hold. It’s a way for the leadership to keep an ongoing line of communication during the year.

Becky talked about how she was able to attend all of the Area Rallys this past year and was impressed with the attendance of RASCOE members.

**VICE PRESIDENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPORT –** Mary Behm talked about how she spent most of her time researching the changes in legislative issues. She also checks of the progress of retirement processing. OPM does indicate that retirement processing takes 3-5 months depending on the state of an individual account. This is an improvement from two years ago. She said that if anyone is having trouble with retirement processing to consider the NASCOE survey site.

Mary has spent time during the past year dealing in legislative research. She has established contacts with groups similar to RASCOE such as NARFE to make sure that communications are passed on to members appropriately.

Mary said that Congress has passed little legislation this past year. HR 82 now has 323 sponsors and has been in the Ways and Means Committee since January. She said she would say the word for Congress these days in chaos. Little action is being taken on many bills. RASCOE will monitor progress, especially HR 82.

**SECRETARY/PUBLICITY REPORT –** Micki Linehan talked about how proud and grateful she is to be RASCOE National Secretary. It’s an honor and privilege to represent and work for all of the retirees across the country. Micki stated that RASCOE has a competent Executive Board and Area Representatives that keep a handle on what is going on in their Areas. There is effective and compassionate communication during the monthly conference calls.

Micki talked about the importance of acknowledging a RASCOE member that has gone above and beyond for our Association. She encouraged everyone to consider nominating a member for our Spirit of RASCOE award. Our President appoints a Spirit of RASCOE committee each year to choose a winner from the nominations that have been submitted.

**TREASURER/ MEMBERSHIP REPORT –** Cindy Hall talked about how our RASCOE membership has been decreasing. There are many reasons for that, however, there have been a lot of retirements over the last several years, which should have increased our membership. She said we have lost two State organizations. Ohio sent her $5400 which she put in a CD. Cindy said she needs help from Area Representatives so she will know who retires in their areas. She will then send them a welcome letter telling them they have a free one year RASCOE membership. Cindy also reminded members present that if they are aware of any member that reaches 90 years of age to let her know because they will be awarded a Certificate and free membership.

Cindy recognized new members that were attending their first RASCOE Annual Meeting.

**BENEFITS CHAIR/WEBMASTER –** Shelly Odenkirk said there have been very few benefit changes in the past year. She encouraged everyone to remember to check in the fall as open season begins to make sure rules and regulations have stayed the same. Anytime we are made aware of changes it will be posted on our Facebook page and on our website. Shelly said one addition to some BCBS health policies has been a Flex Card. These cards are an additional stipend towards health cost. Everyone who has a BCBS policy should contact them to see if their policy qualifies. There are three options for dental benefits. 1) through FEDVIP during annual open enrollment, 2) Amerilife/Benefits Direct (formerly J.M. Marketing), 3) Private companies. If you haven’t already, you can still request your Medicare reimbursement for 2023 and now 2024.

Shelly reminded everyone that our website is RASCOE.org and our Facebook page is RASCOE Association. Pictures of the convention will be updated to the website along with all annual reports and the minutes of our meeting.

**AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –** Sheryl Blakely, SEA Representative, talked about how the Southeast Area leads the nation in membership but still have work to do. She encouraged everyone to stay in contact with friends who have retired, or who are looking forward to retirement and share how important it is to keep our membership growing.

Janie Hudson, NWA Representative talked about how NASCOE and RASCOE have given so many people so many opportunities. Janie expressed how important it is to encourage NASCOE members to become Associate Members of RASCOE. It would keep them informed on RASCOE issues and could very well lead to more RASCOE membership after retirement.

Treasurer Cindy Hall said that we offer 5 year membership, but do we want to have a discounted option? After much discussion from the membership present, it was decided everyone could talk about it after the meeting recesses today and we can discuss options at tomorrow’s meeting.

**2023-2024 Audit Committee Report –** Shelly Odenkirk and Cathy Blackburn were appointed to the 2023-2024 Audit Committee. Shelly stated that they have examined the books as presented by RASCOE Treasurer Cindy Hall and found the records and receipts to be in good order with no exceptions noted. Paul Newton made a motion to approve the report. Ben Bosshart seconded. Motion carried.

Shelly Odenkirk and Tom Austin were appointed to serve on the 2024- 2025 Audit Committee.

**DILLARD’S FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INC. –** Teresa Dillard spoke to the membership present, thanking them for allowing Dillard’s to continue to participate in the RASCOE newsletters to keep RASCOE members updated on benefits they provide. She encouraged everyone to stop by their table with any questions they may have. Brian Pearson, President/COE at American Benefits Exchange, updated the membership present saying that his parent company had purchased Benefits Direct (formally J.M. Marketing) last year. Brian stated that Trevor Garner is still the contact person for Benefits Direct and nothing has changed except ownership. Benefits Direct is an independent benefits consulting company, but now with the power of AmeriLife Benefits organization and their parent company Amerilife Group behind them to maximize support for their clients.

**NAFEC –** Jim Zumbrink, Ohio, spoke briefly about what was happening with NAFEC. He encouraged everyone to become associate members in support of their association. The associate dues are $20.00 annually.

**2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION –** Lacy Orcutt, Montana, told the membership present that the 2025 National Convention will be held in Whitefish Montana at Grouse Mountain Lodge. The Convention is scheduled for June 22-26, 2025. Flights are available into Glacier International Airport. There is also an Amtrak that travels through the state of Montana and stops at Whitefish that could be an alternative travel option. Room rates are blocked at $229.00. NASCOE will make an announcement on their website when it is time to register for the Convention and book rooms.

**HUNTER MOORHEAD, NASCOE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT -**  Hunter talked about HR 82, the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision bill. He said in the House of Representatives it only takes 218 votes to pass a bill. HR 82 currently has 323 sponsors that have publicly supported the bill. But the issue is it hasn’t been introduced to the floor. The main reason is how expensive it will be if it passes since it has a 183 billion dollar price tag. The Farm Bill extension may not happen in September., but may happen in December. Hunter said we have to get through this election before anything will be done.

**NASCOE –** Joel Foster, NASCOE President and Kayla Mattson, NASCOE Vice President, gave a report to the membership present on issues that NASCOE is working on. Becky asked Joel about the Organizational Meeting for the 2025 convention. Joel said the NASCOE board was going to Florida for a leadership conference instead of having an organizational meeting. NASCOE has delegated two people to take care of the organization of the 2025 convention in Whitefish. He said he will tell them to include RASCOE in their plan.

President Becky Zirpel called for “Willingness to serve” for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Becky Zirpel announced her willingness to serve as President.

Mary Behm announced her willingness to serve as Vice-President.

Micki Linehan announced her willingness to serve as Secretary.

Cindy Hall announced her willingness to serve as Treasurer.

Thursday session was recessed at 4:00 p.m. and will resume Friday at 9:00 a.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024, DAVENPORT, IOWA**

Meeting resumed at 9:10 a.m.

Roll Call resulted in 43 members present.

Cindy Hall presented the RASCOE Memorial video honoring and remembering deceased members who have gone before us during the past year.

Vice-President Mary Behm asked if RASCOE should offer compensation to states that want to organize a State Association. Becky Zirpel said she had spoken with some people about money to help states get started organizing their State Association. Mary said that since our membership has decreased so significantly we should try to promote ourselves through states that desire to have a State Association. Cindy Hall said that RASCOE has done that in the past. After discussion from membership present, Cindy Hall made a motion to provide $500 to states if they are organizing a State Association. Chuck Land seconded. Motion carried.

Vice-President Mary Behm asked what the membership present thought about doing something for RASCOE members when they pass away. Cindy Hall said that we normally put a notification on Facebook if we are aware. Brent Orr said maybe we should just send a sympathy card to family members. The consensus was that individuals could send out card condolences on behalf of RASCOE if they would like to. Ben Bosshart suggested that we should acknowledge active Board members if something happens. Membership present agreed.

Vice President Mary Behm entertained a motion to approve the reports as presented by the President, Vice-President/Legislative Chair, Secretary/Publicity Chair and Treasurer/Membership Chair. Sheryl Blakely moved to approve all reports as filed. Deb Krusemark seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary/Publicity Chair Micki Linehan talked about the 2024 “Spirit of RASCOE” committee. Debby Sweet and Charolette Saunders were appointed to the 2024 Spirit of RASCOE committee. Micki spoke with both Debby and Charolette and neither of them were able to attend the Annual Meeting to present the award. They told Micki who the recipient was and that they would like President Becky Zirpel to present the award. Micki announced that the 2024 winner was Larry Olson. Becky read the nomination that was submitted and made the presentation to Larry. He said he was very honored to receive this award.

Debby Sweet and Larry Olson were appointed to the 2025 “Spirit of RASCOE” committee.

Vice-President Mary Behm called for the nomination of officers.

Brian Stuckey nominated Cindy Hall for the Office of Treasurer. Sheryl Blakely seconded. There being no other nominations, Cindy was elected unanimously.

Janie Hudson nominated Micki Linehan for the office of Secretary. Brent Orr seconded. There being no other nominations, Micki was elected unanimously.

Chuck Land nominated Mary Behm for the office of Vice-President. Ben Bosshart seconded. There being no other nominations, Mary was elected unanimously.

Shelly Odenkirk nominated Becky Zirpel for the office of President. Deb Krusemark seconded. There being no other nominations, Becky was elected unanimously.

President Becky Zirpel appointed the following Committee Chair and Area Representatives:

Legislative Chair – Mary Behm

Membership Chair – Cindy Hall

Publicity Chair – Micki Linehan

Benefits Chair/Webmaster – Shelly Odenkirk

North East Area Representative – Charlotte Saunders

South East Area Representative – Sheryl Blakely

Mid West Area Representative – Darlene Zahnow

North West Area Representative – Janie Hudson

South West Area Representative – Darvin Collins

Chuck Land made a motion the 2024 Annual Meeting be adjourned. Ben Bosshart seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.