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| **BECKY ZIRPEL, PRESIDENT**  We had a BIG win this year with President Biden signing into law H. R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act.  We now patiently await the implementation of this. Another task we recently completed was a new packet put together with letter to SED’s/AO of each state office.  This packet consisted of a welcome letter to the SED, a letter to the person retiring, a waiver to allow the State Office to share the new retiree’s information with RASCOE, membership form and brochure.  I truly thank the Area Representatives for disbursing the packets.  We are in hopes to continue to reach all employees retiring and give them the opportunity to become members of RASCOE with better communication. Always remember to check our web site (RASCOE.org) or our Facebook page (RASCOE Association) for updates. Face Book page had been compromised this last year to the extent that we had to secure the page better.  Thank you to Shelly Odenkirk, Benefits Chair and Web Page as she will be monitoring it. Processing your retirement is still a slow process.  We have done what we can to try to draw attention to the Government of the slow process, but it simply appears to be a lack of employees to process retirements.   You can help yourselves and make sure you have a copy of your entire file and make sure all forms are correct and up to date before retiring.   We are aware of a document being drafted in the House that would greatly affect our benefits.  At this time, we have little information on it but will keep you informed.  Another way to stay up to date is through NARFE. (National Association of Retired Federal Employees). RASCOE Vice President and Legislative Chair, Mary Behm will keep us updated as needed.   We always encourage people to check out our Web page ([rascoe.org](https://click-807670.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=40616103&msgid=434717&act=JJL6&c=807670&pid=3422530&destination=http%3A%2F%2Frascoe.org%2F&cf=4844&v=36380fb9d3ee4cc469fa61c663c42d150d1b7e11b22d3d46e6f604c32af18a33)).  The Board holds monthly conference calls as a way to stay in communications and stay on top of anything important to Members.  Shelly has added a place for the notes.  They are not official it is simply brief notes and is only a way to keep communication fluent.  I look forward to seeing the members at the All South Rally in Wichita KS in April and at the NEA/MWA Rally at Hope Lake Lodge at Greek Peak Mountain Resort, NY in April.  NWA will be a business meeting in conjunction with the National Convention. Remember to join us in Whitefish MT for our National Convention.  Maybe take a day or more extra to enjoy the beautiful Glacier National Park.  Check out the NASCOE App for complete information and RASCOE Facebook page also has the information needed.  They also have 3 great fund raisers going on so check them out.  I personally know the importance of the fundraising for a successful Convention. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Rallies and National Convention, but until then think Spring! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **MARY BEHM, VICE PRESIDENT/LEGISLAIVE CHAIR**The Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset were repealed in December 2024 by overwhelming votes in both the House and the Senate.  These 2 provisions did reduce eligibility for social security benefits for 2.8 million beneficiaries.  These provisions became law in 1983 and had been in effect for 40 years.  And that is how long groups, unions, and individuals have worked to get them repealed.  Finally, it has happened through the dedication of many.  As the old adage states “it takes a village to raise a child”, so too it took a large community of groups like RASCOE/NASCOE, NARFE, AFGE, Texas Teachers Union, NEA, Firefighters Union, and many others too numerous to mention to repeal the provisions and giving a fairness to those who paid social security and also receive pensions.  Hundreds of individuals also worked in many ways in this effort over 40 years.  Everyone who worked in this effort is to be congratulated! It is with patience that we now wait until the Social Security Fairness Act is implemented and those eligible receive increased benefits and back benefits. Shortly after this victory, Congress began its work on the budget and reconciliation processes.  A large item on the agenda is to continue the large tax cuts made in 2017.  To accomplish this, cuts to our benefits are on the table.  Some proposals have been around for some time such as reducing the federal workforce, elimination of departments entirely, and cuts to federal employee and retiree benefits.   Such items we need to watch are elimination of the FERS supplemental annuity, 5 year calculation of retirement, reduction of government payment for FEHB, possible elimination of government subsidy, installation of a payment voucher system for FEHB, reduction of pensions, and no FEHB for new hires.   Every day I check the ways and Means Committee but what is in the budget seems to be a well-kept secret for now.  The Senate has its own version of a budget act as well.  The House has several versions. Any way you want to view government, cutting taxes and cutting expenditures are part of the plan. Even if our benefits are not in a draft for the budget bill, DOGE may consider when seeking their cuts from OPM. To protect our benefits, it is going to take a massive effort by all partners to do so.  There can only be success in numbers.  You can read more about the budget on any federal union website.  NARFE (for those of you who are members as well) has a few webinars for information.  However, and wherever you choose, stay informed.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT****BY CINDY HALL, TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR** The Importance of Our Members in the Age of AI Embracing Innovation While Celebrating Human ConnectionsIn today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, artificial intelligence (AI) has become an integral part of our daily lives. From simplifying complex tasks to providing us with instant information, AI has undoubtedly transformed the way we interact with the world. As we embrace these advancements, it is essential to remember the irreplaceable value of human connections and the unique contributions of each individual member of our community. This newsletter article, for instance, was crafted with the assistance of artificial intelligence. AI has enabled us to streamline the writing process, ensuring that the content is both informative and engaging. However, it is crucial to recognize that while AI can facilitate certain tasks, it can never replicate the essence and spirit of our members. Our members are the heartbeat of our organization. They bring a wealth of experience, passion, and creativity that no machine can emulate. Each member's unique perspective and dedication contribute to the vibrant and dynamic culture that defines us. It is through the collective efforts of our members that we achieve our goals and create lasting impacts. At its core, our organization thrives on the relationships and collaborations fostered between our members. These connections are built on trust, empathy, and mutual respect—qualities that AI, despite its advancements, cannot possess. Our members' ability to understand and respond to the nuanced needs and emotions of others is what sets us apart and drives our success. As we continue to integrate AI into our operations, let us not lose sight of the human element that is the foundation of our community. AI can assist and augment our efforts, but it can never replace the invaluable contributions of our members. Together, we can harness the power of technology while preserving the irreplaceable human touch that makes our organization truly exceptional.In conclusion, while this article may have been written with the help of artificial intelligence, it is you—our members—who remain at the heart of our mission. Your dedication, creativity, and passion are what fuel our progress and inspire us to reach new heights. Let us continue to celebrate and cherish the unique contributions of each member, and together, we will navigate the future with confidence and optimism.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **MICKI LINEHAN, SECRETARY/PUBLICITY CHAIR** We are having a beautiful spring in Yuma, AZ. I’ve been getting back into golf again.  It’s been almost a year since I’ve been able to play golf because I broke and dislocated my shoulder last May.  It put me out of golf and into physical therapy all last summer.  But even though I’m scoring a little higher than I was before my accident, at least I’m able to play!  We take lots of things for granted until we are unable to do them. Tough moments sometimes become our greatest strengths. I am thankful for all my RASCOE friends across the country. We are all especially important in our own unique way. I hope I will see many of you in Whitefish, MT in June for our Convention. It’s a beautiful area to visit. Once again, I am reaching out to you all to send me a nomination for our “Spirit of RASCOE”  Award. There are so many RASCOE members out there that are working hard for our Association, and we should recognize them. Please consider nominating someone and send me the nomination form.  There is always a form in our newsletter, but I will be happy to send one to you if you want one. Just let me know and I’ll email you a form. Have a beautiful spring everyone, and hopefully I will see you in Montana in June. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* **SHELLY ODENKIRK,** BENEFITS CHAIR/WEBMASTER You may have noticed a slight change in the RASCOE website.  I tried to rearrange a bit, delete some obsolete items and add a few more current ones (like the exciting HR82 Social Security Fairness Act information!). If anyone has ideas for new things that you would like to see on our website, please notify me and I will see if I can make it happen.  In case you don/t visit it often all the pictures from the August National Convention in Illinois/Iowa that had retirees in them have been posted to our website. There is also information on our Constitution and Travel Policy, Annual meetings, past Newsletters, and past Spirit of RASCOE winners, along with legislative and benefit updates. Also, our RASCOE Facebook was getting compromised/scammed quite a bit, so we clamped down on it and made it so that any post on the page have to be pre-approved before they are posted.  You would not believe the amount of scam/fake post I have declined, which just proves this was a needed added step to securing legitimate posting on our page.  Not much happening with benefits at this time, so no updates there. Shelly OdenkirkBenefits/Webmaster \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **2025 Spring Report****BY John Lohr****Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc.  Marketing Director** I once again hope this report finds all our RASCOE friends safe and well.In January the incredibly mild winter weather went south quickly for us in western Pennsylvania. We had a string of below zero nights and snow almost every day for much of the month. The groundhog saw his shadow last week so he’s predicting 6 more weeks of winter. Some encouraging news is that my neighbor just tapped his maple trees in advance of the sap starting to move up the trees as the days get longer and somewhat warmer. Some early 2025 items:·        After being involved with Dillard Financial Solutions (DFS) since shortly after I retired from FSA in November 2013, I am taking a step back to a role as NASCOE Account Advisor. This will take me out of the mainstream of dealing with NASCOE and its members and give me more time to spend with our seven grandchildren, all age 10 and younger.  Over the last several years Debbie Staley, an FSA retiree and a past president of the Illinois NASCOE state association, has been learning the ropes and has now fully taken over as NASCOE Marketing Director for DFS. I am confident that Debbie will do a great job. Be sure to visit with her at this spring’s NASCOE rallies and state association conventions.I very much appreciate the opportunity that Steve and Teresa gave me after my FSA and NASCOE careers to stay involved with NASCOE and RASCOE members and to travel around this great country helping FSA employees and retirees. It’s been a great ride! ·        Lots of publicity about changes in Washington. Much of our attention as retirees will be having associations like NASCOE and RASCOE keeping an eye on our federal retirement benefits, including social security. ·        Fortunately for some of us who retired in the CSRS and had also paid into social security, in early January the Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law.o   The Act ends the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).The elimination of GPO can be especially significant to a CSRS retiree who doesn’t qualify for social security on their own but now will qualify for 50% of their spouse’s social security without the GPO reduction.It turns out that I have earned social security with my own work outside of FSA and also have a spouse who has earned social security benefits. So, I will now get the larger of my own full social security benefit or 50 % of my spouse’s benefit.§  Unfortunately, the Act did not include any funding for implementation, so the Social Security Administration is tasked with making changes to millions of accounts within their current budget and staffing constraints. Some recent reports indicate it could be well into 2025 before social security beneficiaries see any benefit increases. §  As a CSRS retiree if you never applied for retirement, spouse's, or surviving spouse's social security benefits because of WEP or GPO, you probably will need to file an application now. The best information about all your social security benefits, the elimination of WEP and GPO, and any needed applications can be found at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). o   Many thanks to all the groups, including RASCOE, who after years of effort finally got this broadly-supported bipartisan legislation to the finish line. Some of us have been retired long enough that each year more of our what seemed to be lifetime investments are likely in need of attention to be sure they are providing maximum benefit. Please feel free to contact financial advisors Steve or Teresa Dillard to explore your options. Steve and Teresa can be reached by calling toll free at 1-(800) 692-7643 or by email at dfs@dillardfinancial.com  As always, the entire team at Dillard Financial Solutions stands ready today to continue helping federal employees and retirees. We want to show our clients how we can help get them into a position where they get to grow and keep more of their hard-earned retirement dollars.Hopefully, we’ll be able to catch up with many of our RASCOE friends at one of upcoming NASCOE meetings. Take care.John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **RASCOE AREA REPORTS** **CHAROLETTE SAUNDERS, NEA REPRESENTATIVE**      Hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and has started 2025 with many Blessings!      First, the NE and MW Area Rally is coming up soon on April 27 – 29, 2025.   Information is on the NASCOE Webpage ([https://nascoe.glueup.com/event131995](https://click-807670.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=40616103&msgid=434717&act=JJL6&c=807670&pid=3422530&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fnascoe.glueup.com%2Fevent131995&cf=4844&v=89b683afb750ec105237eb9c572dc9a4474549010ed9e43a629b490f2f9ecda3)).  The NE will be joined by the Midwest again this year.  Location is Hope Lake Lodge and Conference Center at Greek Peak Mountain Resort in Cortland, NY.  Early Registration Deadline is March 15, and final registration is March 31.  Hope many, especially retirees, can attend.      I worked for USDA/ASCS/FSA for 30 years and was a member of NASCOE the entire time.  On June 4, 2005, I had to have a lung transplant and due to complications was required to retire in November of 2005.  For most of that time and after becoming a Retiree, many of us have fought the Windfall Elimination Program (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) for they seemed discriminatory against those of us who worked for the Federal Government.  These programs were set after Social Security had been approved and then money was borrowed from Social Security, thus, causing the WEP and GPO.       I will give you my situation.  I worked in the private sector paying my 40 quarters into Social Security.  Then, when I retired, I got my Grade 8 pension and was told that I would receive between $600 to $800 per month Social Security.  Ooops!  After checking, the lady told me that since my pension was from the federal government, I would only receive $197 due to the WEP.   (If I had worked for a fast food place for 30 years, I could have drawn the full amount.)   My Social Security is up to $250 after 20 years.   But that is not all!  My husband, Paul, died of Alzheimers.    He worked for the State of West Virginia for 36 years and paid into Social Security all those years.  It was my understanding that after he passed, I would get the greater of my Social Security or his.  Guess what – I did not get a dime of what he paid in due to the WEP and GPO.  In my circumstance, I feel that I have been discriminated against.      Social Security IS NOT an Entitlement.  Many of us have paid in to this for many years.      So, I have said all of this to say – THANK YOU – to anyone who had a part in the repeal of the WEP and GPO – HR82 and S597.  This could affect 2,000,000 Social Security Beneficiaries and another 800,000 retirees.   Thank you to then President Biden for signing the Social Security Fairness Act into law.      I called the Social Security Administration on Monday, February 10 and was told that they were reviewing each situation on a case-by-case basis.  I reminded them that I had also applied for my husband’s Social Security.  There is about a 120 minute wait (but I had them call me back).      I think I have rambled on enough.  It is cold and snowy here in West Virginia.      Hope to see you all at the Rally in New York and the National Convention in Montana.      Blessings and Best Wishes     Charolette \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***SHERYL BLAKELY, SEA REPRESENTATIVE** Hello from Alabama.  It was sunny and in the 70's for the first week of February. Wow!! But...I don't think we are finished with Winter yet! We are expecting snow in Alabama again for the third week in February.  Did you see that our beautiful Alabama beaches received eight inches of snow?  You didn't know if it was snow or white sand leading yo the water's edge.  It was amazing to see such a sight. I certainly hope you are comfortable, cool or warm...whatever state you are in.Lots of changes are occurring as you have heard from our officers.  Reach out to those you know who may be retiring to let them know that their first year's dues with RASCOE are free.  We need to keep everyone engaged. The East and West are joining forces again this year to have an All South Rally.  We hope you will consider joining us in Wichita, Kansas April 3-5.  Watch the NASCOE and SEA NASCOE Facebook pages for all of the up to date information. Meet me in Montana in June for our national convention.  Yes..it's a very different time of year. This will be a very different and beautiful scene to view.  We hope you can join us as we begin on June 22...and plan to stay a few extra days to enjoy all that Montana has to offer. Stay tuned in to our FB page for the latest information on all of the changes taking place.  You have a great team of officers and board members following all things pertinent to us as former government employees.  We continue to fight for the best benefits we need to enjoy our retirement years to the max!! Sheryl Blakely                                                                                                     SEA Board member+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++ **DARLENE ZAHNOW, MWA REPRESENTATIVE** Hello from the MWA! The weather in Minnesota has been unseasonably warm and it's difficult to remember it is only the last days of February. Today it was in the 50's and my little schnauzer and I enjoyed our walks as he explored every newly found scent and treasure. It's also the season for Area Rallys and the MWA Rally is rapidly approaching. The 2025 Rally is being held in conjunction with the NEA at the Hope Lake Lodge at Greek Peak Mountain Resort in Cortland, New York. The registration form and other information can be found on the NASCOE website at [https://nascoe.org/](https://click-807670.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=40616103&msgid=434717&act=JJL6&c=807670&pid=3422530&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fnascoe.org%2F&cf=4844&v=9c3c43225e66b671669dd309253d8ce8543570dd4324b15c12f8133b59d9b2b7).  As previously mentioned, the 2025 National NASCOE Convention will be held June 22 - June 26, 2025, in White Fish, Montana rather than the usual August. Information and registration can also be found on the NASCOE website. RASCOE is continuing to build our membership but could use your help. If you know of anyone retiring, please let me know or contact Cindy Hall, the RASCOE Treasurer and Membership Chair. I know it would be greatly appreciated. Until next time... Darlene ZahnowMWA Representative +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++ **JANIE HUDSON, NWA REPRESENTTIVE** Greetings from the Northwest Area, where we are beyond excited to be hosting the 2025 NASCOE National Convention in beautiful Whitefish, Montana from June 22-26th. The convention will be held at the Grouse Mountain Lodge, which sits next to the Whitefish Lake Golf Club and includes a free shuttle to downtown.  The Lodge rooms filled up quickly with reservations, but a backup hotel, the Hampton Inn & Suites, was secured, so please don’t wait to contact them if you’re planning on attending!  Alternative places to stay include other hotels in Whitefish, vacation rental properties, and camp sites.  This is the perfect convention to bring your family or friends along to spend some extra time exploring and enjoying the great outdoors that Montana has to offer.  Majestic Glacier National Park is only about 26 miles from Whitefish.  Be sure to check out the restricted areas requiring pre-purchased timed-entry reservations or pre-booked activities in 2025 before you arrive by visiting [Glacier NP Reservation & Pass (2025): All You Need to Know](https://click-807670.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=40616103&msgid=434717&act=JJL6&c=807670&pid=3422530&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fgatherandgotravel.com%2Fglacier-reservation-and-pass%2F&cf=4844&v=4fdb461dd88238a4e98fce6f5a7d93fb2b23803b6e9357668062a36a2c417c86).  Whether it’s hiking, ziplining, golfing, or simply enjoying the quaint little downtown Whitefish shops, restaurants and breweries, this will be one convention you don’t want to miss! In addition, the Northwest Area Rally will be held the day before the convention starts, so come early to attend the meetings and join the volunteers in helping the Montana crew prepare for the festivities.  And be sure to bring your coats and jackets as the weather can be somewhat cool in the mornings and evenings. I’m looking forward to seeing many old friends, and hope to make many new ones, in Whitefish, MT this June. 😊 Respectfully submitted, Janie HudsonNW Area RASCOE Representative +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++ **DARVIN COLLINS, SWA REPRESENTATIVE** Southwest Area RASCOE Roundup Greetings to all my RASCOE friends and family!    I must begin my report by expressing my gratitude and thanks to RASOE and NASCOE legislative team and all of those individuals who worked, lobbied, and ultimately carried HR 82 “2023 Social Security Fairness Act” across the finish line becoming law on January 5, 2025.    New eligible Social Security payments will be made retroactively from January 1, 2024.   However, these payments may take up to a year to be processed.   I’ll briefly share how these new Social Security rules positively impacted our family.  Before passage of HR 82, upon my death my wife Betty who retired under the Texas Teacher Retirement System and didn’t pay into Social Security, would not have received my survivor social security benefits.   Today, Betty is now eligible to receive my survivor SS benefits.    This is just one example of how the passage of HR 82 positively impacts federal retirees across the nation!   No federal income tax on Social Security benefits is also being considered in future legislation and could be passed this Spring.   Good news for retirees! Join the fun at the 2015 All South Rally, April 3-6th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wichita, Kansas.   Room rates are $142.00 a night.   Information regarding hotel reservations and registration can be found on the KASCOE Facebook page.  If you can’t make the All South Rally in Wichita, I highly recommend you consider attending the 2025 NASCOE Convention in Whitefish Montana June 22nd-26th.  If you are a retiree but have not joined RASCOE, I would encourage you to join the rowdy crew of RASCOE.   Annual dues are $25.00 and Associate dues are $15.00.  State RASCOE Associations may also charge a small state dues fee in addition to the RASCOE fee of $25.00.    If retirees in your SWA state have not established a state RASCOE association, and you are interested in doing so, please contact me at Darvin.collins28@gmail.com or text or phone me at 903-721-2404.    Often my county office friends ask me when I knew I was ready to retire.    My answer is very simple, you just know it’s time to check out and start a new life.    Retirement is a new beginning to new opportunities and adventures.   Whether starting a new career, travelling, or simply enjoying your grandkids, retirement is highly recommended and enjoyable.   I pray for all our current and state FSA employees during the current period of change and uncertainty.    Remember, that you serve the American Farmers and Ranchers of this nation to ensure the safest, most abundant, and cheapest food supply to the American people.   If you aren’t ready to retire, don’t.   Your work ethic and skills to timely and efficiently administer federal farm legislation makes you the most important resource of our state and county offices of FSA.   Talk of USDA reorganization goes all the way back to the 1990’s.   Stay positive and know that you are valued by your farmers and ranchers. God Bless!Darvin Collins, SWA RASCOE Representative \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*NASCOE/RASCOE National Convention June 22-June 25 Travel days are Sunday and Thursday. The tours are on Monday June 23rd.  The meeting days are Tuesday and Wednesday June 24-25th.   We are looking forward to seeing you in Montana!  NASCOE has shared a manual registration form for those that wish.  Just to note a couple things.  If you hold a card of Honorary Life Membership you need to still mark registration, then write the code in (honorarylifetime) on the manual form.  If you are completing it online it is a line item code at the bottom of selecting each event you wish to purchase.  Online registration worked with ease.  Please watch for more details on the NASCOE App or Facebook page and on the RASCOE Facebook page.  I am sure it will also be shared with each area page.  Activities in a short synopsis: ·  Scavenger Hunt in Downtown Whitefish is a great way to explore the area and they will be giving prizes out.  Where your Sherlock Holmes hat and magnifying glass, wear jeans/shorts or camouflage for a fun evening.  ·  The tours do have limitations on them for the number of people so plan early to see the area of your choice ·  Under the Big Sky at Clydesdale Outpost - State pin trading night if you wish with a Dutch oven catered meal and live music.  Put your Country on. ·  Scholarship Auction and NASCOE Banquet: Serving a delicious meal of roasted Salmon and Bistro filet with all the sides.  Bring your checkbook to help support the Auction and enjoy the final night of the convention with friends.   ·  RASCOE Luncheon on June 25th at noon at the Golf Course directly across from the Grouse Mt Lodge - More to come on this  Becky Zirpel,RASCOE President\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **AREA RALLY INFORMATION** **2025 ALL SOUTH RALLY****APRIL 3-5, 2025, WICHITA, KS****++++++++++++++++++++++++++++****2025 NEA & MWA RALLY****APRIL 27-29, 2025****CORTLAND, NY****+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++****2025 NWA RALLY****JUNE 22, 2025****WHITEFISH, MT** **SEE ALL RALLY INFORMATION AT**[**NASCOE.ORG**](http://NASCOE.ORG) ############################################################################################# ***SPIRIT OF RASCOE AWARD*** NOMINATION FORMNOMINEES SHOULD EXEMPLIFY THE TRUE “SPIRIT OF RASCOE” IN ACTIONS, SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF THE RASCOE RETIREE ORGANIZATION. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON NO LATER THAN *June 20, 2025***Entries received after the deadline will be reviewed and/or saved for the next year.MAIL NOMINATION TO:                                                Micki Linehan                                                                                [3743 Swallows Nest Ct](https://www.google.com/maps/search/3743%2BSwallows%2BNest%2BCt%2B%0D%0A%0D%0A%2B%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0Clarkston%2BID%2B99403?entry=gmail&source=g)                                                                                Clarkston ID 99403 NOMINEE NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NOMINEE’S ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ STATE OF RASCOE MEMBERSHIP:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *IN SEVENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS, EXPLAIN WHY YOU NOMINATED THIS RETIREE FOR THE SPIRIT OF RASCOE AWARD:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*OTHER COMMENTS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PAST SPIRIT OF RASCOE AWARDS WINNERS:       2005 – ERA JARRARD, GA                                             2006 – VIRGINIA SHORT, KY (AND ROSE MELICK, SD)2007 – CONRAD SHEPP, WI                                           2008 – DORIS STUCKY, SD2009 – GENE LUTZ, CO                                                2010 – CLARA RUTH SAINT, LA2011 – JUNE FAULK, GA                                               2012 - GENE VOGNILD, SD2013 – PAUL NEWTON, IL                                             2014 – Leo Osborne, UT2015 - Lynda Steichen, SD                                           2016 – Sandi Rocker, NE                                              2017 -  Mike Schryer, AL                                              2018 – Joyce Logsdon, KY                                             2019 – Jim Iverson, SD                                                2020-2021 – Brenda Boomer, TX – Laura Ann Evans, KY2022 - Laura Howell, KY                                             2023 - Charolette Saunders2024 - Larry Olsen, SD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **ELECTED OFFICERS AND APPOINTED CHAIRS FOR FY 2024-2025**Becky Zirpel                              Mary Behm                                   Micki LinehanPresident                                   Vice President&                           Secretary &                               [206 Heritage RD](https://www.google.com/maps/search/206%2BHeritage%2BRD?entry=gmail&source=g)                         Legislative Chair                          Publicity ChairBrandon SD 57005                       9097 Thouroughfare RD                [3743 Swallows Nest CT](https://www.google.com/maps/search/3743%2BSwallows%2BNest%2BCT?entry=gmail&source=g)   flyingz@alliancecom.net             Minocqua WI                                 Clarkston WA 99403Cell:  605-999-2290                     mpbehm9@gmail.com                   mickilinehan@gmail.com                                                  Cell: 715-797-2407                        Cell:  509-595-0156 Cindy Hall                                Shellly OdenkirkTreasurer &                              Benefits Chair &Membership Chair                     Webmaster[3025 Snead Drive                      4416](https://www.google.com/maps/search/3025%2BSnead%2BDrive%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%2B%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A04416?entry=gmail&source=g) Creighton LoopFremont NE 68025 2133             The Villages FLnwanascoe@gmail.com              shelly.odenkirk@gmail.comCell: 402 210 1814                     Cell:  330-64-1475  ***NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FSA/ASCS RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEES***  |

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