**NORTHEAST AREA ANNUAL REPORT**

**BY: CHAROLETTE J SAUNDERS**

**NORTHEAST AREA RASCOE REPRESENTATIVE**

What a privilege I have experienced this year serving as the

Northeast Area Representative for RASCOE. I think back as this year

comes to a close and remember all the wonderful people and old

friends who have touched my life. After working for 30 years for

ASCS/FSA, and a member of NASCOE for all that time as well as

being NASCOE Secretary-Treasurer for 7 ½ years until I had to have a

lung transplant; then returning to work and retiring in November,

2005. Then, I became active in RASCOE, NARFE, NAFEC so that I

could maybe help our employees, farmers, and each other. I also

spend a lot of time volunteering for CORE (organ donation) as well as

the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

As far as the Northeast, Sandra Scott, NE AREA NASCOE

Executive invited me to listen in on their monthly conference calls. I

appreciated this so much and felt I could pass things on from

RASCOE. Joel, NASCOE President, participated on some of these

calls and I thought it was wonderful.

The NE had the opportunity to host the MW Area for our combined

Rally in New York. My report back from the group was that they had a

great time but that there was a lot of confusion due to decisions being

made in DC. I was unable to go due to health reasons. Rally next

year is being planned for Ohio.

As I mentioned the various groups and individuals who have

touched my life this year, the BIG thing that many of them/us have

been working on for 40 years is the Windfall Elimination Provision

and the Government Pension Offset. I had my 40 quarters in with Social Security prior to working for the federal government. When I went to apply, I was told that I would get between $600 and $800; however, I received $197. Then when my Paul passed, I checked the rules and I thought I would get the greater of his or my Social Security. My Paul worked 36 years for the State paying in to Social Security. However, I received zero of his benefit. So, I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE, for all their efforts in helping pass the Social Security Fairness Act!!!!

In closing, I hope I have relayed my concern for each of you getting involved! It is easy to sit back and do nothing but it it really wonderful to be involved with groups and individuals who want to improve benefits and help their fellowman! I want to leave you with this thought that I try to live by:

“Go share with a Sister or Brother thy bread,

For giving is living the Angel said.

But must I be giving again and again

My peevish and pitiless answer ran,

Oh no, said the Angel piercing me through;

Just give til’ the Master stops giving to you!

See you in Montana!