



SEA NASCOE

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Southeast Area NEWSLETTER Ashlee Dalton, SEA PUBLICITY CHAIR

NASCOEINFO@GMAIL.COM

Southeast Area Executive Mike Mayfield, Tennessee



This has certainly been a challenging spring not only for the NASCOE leadership but for the producers we serve. The cold and wet conditions in many parts of the Southeast Area have made for a tough spring for crops and livestock. It appears that spring is about to finally get into full swing and I certainly hope all of you take time to enjoy time away from work.

The challenges for your leadership team has been just as real. The unknown waters of FPAC, workload tool, staffing shortages, and performance evaluation.

Your leadership team has addressed each and every one of these issues constantly with management and through legislative visits. NASCOE has worked tirelessly to make sure that our members are represented on the task forces and work groups that are making decisions and developing policy that will affect you.

The SED's were in Washington, DC the week of May 7th to be educated about the workload tool and its use. At the culmination of that meeting, it was announced that vacancies for 400 new employees was forthcoming. As the SED's return home, the process is to begin in earnest. This will require a lot of decision making within your respective states. Repeatedly at the Area rallies we have been told the goal is to get back to the same number of employees that were onboard 10/1/2017, this is a step in that direction. I think we can all agree that will be a challenge. In an attempt to bridge that gap quickly 175 temporary slots have been released for states to use needing immediate help. Make sure your State Directors in the Southeast are aggressively pursuing a share of those slots.

FPAC is still a work in progress. The first step to get all of the sister agencies under one undersecretary was a big step. It will take a while to get all the logistics of that first step completed and most of that will be happening above the county office level. NASCOE continues to be vigilant to keep any movements positive for our members.

The spring has been packed for your leadership. Meetings were held to prepare for the Negotiations session with management and to provide information to national leadership on our opinions on FPAC. The month of April contained the Negotiating session, SEA Rally and State Conventions. I want to take this opportunity to say a special THANK YOU to Kentucky for hosting and doing a great job with the Southeast Area Rally. I also want to commend the states of Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia for having informative meetings for their membership.



*From The Desk of
The Southeast Area Executive*

I want to conclude by addressing a question I am asked often and hope this article addresses.

Why Be a Member of NASCOE??

- There is always strength in numbers. A team linked together and committed to a central goal is hard to defeat.
 - Provides a DAILY legislative presence on the hill. Hunter Moorehead continually watches for action that will negatively impact members.
 - Provides employees with a direct conduit to management. (e.g. negotiations, meetings and your programs chair)
 - Provides an avenue to seek protection during adverse personnel actions
- These are just a few of what I see as some of the most important reasons to be a NASCOE member and where your dues are invested.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Southeast Area Executive. Please feel free to contact me anytime I can be of service. I need your ideas and insight to be your voice in the Southeast Area. Enjoy your spring and I hope to see you at a State Convention and certainly at our National Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota!

A NOTE FROM THE SEA ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE



DAWN OVESEN, KENTUCKY

Hello Spring! I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication on the SEA Rally. It was truly a team effort to get it together and be successful. I appreciate everyone taking time out of their busy schedules to attend and make it the success that it was.

Thank you to North Carolina for being such gracious hosts during their State Convention! A great time was had by all! I was able to take away lots of great ideas for successful state conventions.

I would like to say a special Thank You to Mike Mayfield for having the confidence in me to be his SEA Alternate. I will not be seeking re-election but will continue to fully support NASCOE behind the scenes, but only for a while, then I will be back in the action again. I promise! I love this organization and what it stands for. If I can ever be of service to anyone just let me know. I am here to help any way I can.

Southeast Area Chairs

- *Awards/Scholarships: Julia Davidson, Mississippi*
 - *Benefits: Clint Bain, Tennessee*
 - *Emblems: Nancy Chlapecka, Arkansas*
 - *Legislative: Neil Burnette, North Carolina*
- *Membership: Glenn Thomas, South Carolina*
 - *NAFEC: Pam Rhoades, Mississippi*
 - *Negotiations: Sabrina Conditt, Arkansas*
 - *Programs: Amy Moore, Mississippi*
 - *Publicity: Ashlee Dalton, Virginia*

Awards/Scholarships

Julia Davidson

The South East Area had 34 scholarship applications received. 17 Traditional, 10 Open Continuing, 4 Grandchildren, 1 Member Continuing, 1 Adult Children of Member and 1 Associate Member. Out of the 34 applications received, 13 were ineligible to be judged. Reasons for the applications being ineligible were either no documents received or either letter or recommendation or transcript was missing. Winners:

Traditional Scholarship: Senah Stephens, Virginia



Open Continuing: Faith Gilman, Georgia



Grandchildren: Gracyn Webb, North Carolina



Member Continuing: Phillip Moore, North Carolina



**Continuing Education for Adult Children of Member:
Sheila Mills-Mode, North Carolina**



DSA-NASCOE: Sabrina Conditt, Arkansas



DSA-Community: Tony Corbin, Kentucky



DSA-FSA-AG: Neil Burnett, North Carolina



Benefits

Clint Bain

How Does a NASCOE Member Utilize the Services of the NASCOE Attorney??

There have been several questions by membership concerning the use and availability of the NASCOE Attorney. In order to better educate the membership on the process, NASCOE Vice President Brandon Wilson agreed to answer the following questions regarding the appropriate use of the NASCOE Attorney.

Who is the NASCOE attorney? [NASCOE has an agreement with a legal firm in Washington DC to provide legal services for NASCOE members.](#)

Who is eligible to utilize 1 hour with the NASCOE attorney? (Regular, Associate etc.)

[Full regular members are eligible to use up to 1 hour of time with the attorney at NASCOE's expense. After discussing the issue with employee, the Vice President will determine the best way to proceed. If the case is meritorious, the NASCOE Vice President will refer the case to the NASCOE attorney who will then contact the employee.](#)

[There are times an issue can be resolved without it being escalated to the attorney. We always try to resolve an issue at the lowest possible level. Depending on the issue, the best course of action may be addressing it with the appropriate state office or the national office on behalf of the employee.](#)

What types of things can the attorney be used for? [Adverse personnel actions, harassment or undesirable working conditions. Things along those lines.](#)

Can you use the attorney for questions that are not related to work? **No.**

How often can you use the attorney? [At this point in time a member can use the attorney once for each instance or occurrence.](#)

Who should I contact if I need to utilize this service? [Recently it was pointed out that the NASCOE website does not contain information about the NASCOE attorney benefit. In the next few months the website will be updated with NASCOE attorney contact information under the Benefits page. Until the website is updated, members should contact their state president to request help. If they are uncomfortable contacting their state president, they should contact their Area Executive instead. Contact information for the Area Executives can be found on the NASCOE website.](#)

What happens if the two people that have issues are both members and seek help from the NASCOE attorney? [From time to time this happens. In a case like this, NASCOE will find both employee's separate legal counsel.](#)

Sometimes things are not addressed or fixed within one hour. What happens after the 1 hour? [It is really surprising how efficient the NASCOE attorney is and how much they can get done in one hour. The main purpose of the attorney is to give the employee an immediate assessment of the situation and a path for swift action in the short term. Many cases only use 30-40 minutes of attorney time. After one hour, if the employee chooses they can hire the attorney to work for them by paying a retainer fee.](#)

What should be completed prior to utilizing the service? [A questionnaire form is being developed that will eventually go on the website. Employees will fill this form out to the best of their ability and knowledge. Until the questionnaire is loaded on the website, members should contact their state association president \(or Area Executive\) and then wait to receive a phone call from the NASCOE Vice President.](#)

If you should have any further questions about utilizing the NASCOE Attorney, please email me at clihbain@gmail.com.

Emblems

Nancy Chlapecka

NASCOE Emblems



Our color-locking polo has a soft hand, wicks moisture, resists snags and is energized with an all-over heather pattern.

Available in Purple or Black Electric Heather with white embroidered USDA logo.

- 4.1-ounce, 100% polyester jersey with PosiCharge technology
- Gently contoured silhouette
- Removable tag for comfort and relabeling
- Self-fabric collar
- Taped neck
- 4-button placket with dyed-to-match buttons
- Princess seams
- Set-in, open hem sleeve
- Curved drop tail hem



A moisture-wicking, snag-resistant tee with a soft hand. The Electric Heather (black or blue) pattern is on the front and back with colorblock neck, shoulders, sleeves and sides.

- 4.1-ounce, 100% polyester jersey with PosiCharge technology black or blue (Electric Heather)
- 4.7-ounce, 100% polyester jersey with PosiCharge technology (solid)
- Removable tag for comfort and relabeling
- Set-in sleeves

Available with USDA embroidered logo in white

Great shirt for everyone in your office.

Sling Bags!!



Get all of these and more at NASCOE.org/store

Greetings NASCOE family. It has been a busy few months since my last report. There have been many issues that your legislative team has been tracking. I will try to touch on each of the major items of interest and point out the things that may change before this issue of the newsletter even hits the press. That's one thing about working on the Legislative Committee, things change a lot between start to finish and what you think you know quickly becomes what you thought you knew. Please bear with me as I give you the, what I think we know version; but I reserve the right to be wrong later!

So where do I start; let me touch on FPAC first. The Administration has tried to be as open and transparent as they know how to be and are attempting to educate us all on their intentions. They welcome your questions on the MyFPAC portal. I believe the concept is simple, at least for the moment. The first step is a combined business support center that will provide many "home office" type functions to all 3 agencies. This will mainly effect the people that work in these roles and not field level personnel. Is that the end of it? I personally think not. My belief is that we eventually will see some duplicative functions streamlined at the field level. I think this will be a good thing in the end. I also believe that the Administration hasn't given much thought to this part of the process. That planning will come later, once the business center is up and fully operational. Your NASCOE national leaders and legislative team are closely following these developments and we are in regular contact with top administration leaders.

Hiring additional employees seems like a good place to visit next. What we think we know is that there should be another significant hiring announcement between the writing of this article and you reading it. I sure hope that I remain correct on that one. We need staffing; and we have shared this message with everyone that will listen. Congress heard us and allocated an additional 22 million for staffing in the Consolidated Appropriations Act that was passed March 23rd. We thought we knew another hiring announcement was coming just days after passage of the bill, but Secretary Purdue requested that facts be presented showing where these new employees needed to be placed. Enter the ARS Work measurement staffing model. All those 15-minute increments that you have been keeping up with are now going to be the basis of where new employees should be placed. The SED's have been trained on the use of their staffing reports so hopefully the announcement of another round of hiring will be out any day now. We anticipate 200 to 300 employees will be included in this round and that 75% will come from outside the agency. We also expect another similar round of hiring to follow soon afterward. The Administration's goal is to finish FY-18 with at least as many employees onboard as we had at that same time last year.

Now let's talk about the next BIG issue, the Farm Bill. Congress is working hard on crafting our next Farm Bill. The House has already released their draft and their final bill is expected to come to the house floor for a vote by May 18th. The Senate plans to introduce their draft version of the Farm Bill in late May or early June. The House version contains work requirements related to the SNAP program. This will likely be the largest point of contention in the whole bill. The Senate version is not expected to contain work requirement provisions. That brings us to the biggest issue that NASCOE has been wrestling with. The House version has a provision to eliminate base acres on farms where there has been no covered commodity acreage planted any of the years 2009-2017. If any acreage was planted, then the base acres will be protected. Commodity organizations appear to be in favor of this. The provision saves nearly \$1 billion over 10 years. Proponents want to use the cost savings to allow producers to update yields. There is also a Senate proposal that has been gaining strength that would force base updates according to a farm's recent production history. There is a lot of controversy over the elimination of bases and it would have some very negative effects in some states but would be beneficial in others. I think it's also important to consider how the public views payments to farmers. In general, Americans are in favor of supporting farmers to keep them in business and providing affordable food to everyone. What the public doesn't understand is why we pay support payments to people that don't farm. This is the view that many lawmakers will be taking into account when they vote on the Farm Bill. At this point, it's hard to say how it will all shake out in the end. It will also be interesting to see if the House and Senate can agree on a final bill that will pass both houses so that we avoid an extension of the current law. Stay tuned on this one. We will do our best to issue announcements when anything major breaks.

No Legislative article would be complete without a report on the NASCOE PAC. I will tell you that the SEA has been rocking some awesome numbers in the past couple of months with new enrollments and increases. We have had great gains in states like Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia. Congratulations to the efforts in these states! In fact, the results have been so good that we have not been able to complete a tally of where all states stand. I can report that at the SEA Rally we added 16 new enrollments!

I will finish with a little educational piece on why we need a strong PAC and how NASCOE uses it. First, your NASCOE dues are used to help pay for your National Officers, Chairs, and Area Executives to travel to WDC several times a year to sit across the table face to face with management to discuss your issues. Your dues also pay for our Legislative Consultant, Hunter Moorhead to represent us with Congress and the Department. The PAC is a totally separate issue. Your contributions are used to support members of congress that support agriculture and thus support us. It takes an incredible amount of money to get elected these days. That money comes from donors and PAC's. Every organization that has the means has a PAC. If you want your voice heard, then there needs to be money behind your cause. I know; it's a sad state of affairs but it is how the electoral process works these days in America. Think of it this way: If you can regularly donate a couple thousand dollars to your local congressman then you can rest assured that person will know your name and will talk to you and listen to your views. They will also support your views if they can. Without that yearly donation, you are just another handshake and a vote. Most of us can't afford to provide that kind of financial support. But together, we can all donate a little and be heard by all those that care about and support agriculture. Working together we can be at the table with Representatives of the House and Senators, especially those that are on the Ag or Appropriations Committees. Our collective voices can be heard, and we can make a difference. Let's all band together and protect our jobs and support our farmers. Enroll in the PAC today and if you give \$3 or more per pay period then I have a shiny new NASCOE PAC stainless steel tumbler for you! If you are already a contributor and increase by \$3 or more, I'll make that same deal with you!

In closing, I want you to know that if you have legislative questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. Let me know what's on your mind. I am here as a resource to our SEA members. If you are willing to help educate and sign up members in the PAC then I have a place for you on our team as well!

Membership

Glenn Thomas

For the past 6 months, it has been my honor to serve as your SEA membership chairperson. I want you to know that the members of the NASCOE membership committee have been working on the goals formulated in St. Charles, Missouri. The 3 goals that were discussed include:

- That the membership and benefits committees move forward with updating the NASCOE membership pamphlet/brochure for both new employees and non-members;
- Provide a membership card template to be used by states if they choose to do so;
- Create a Facebook page for state and area membership chairpersons to communicate and share ideas.

NASCOE Membership Committee Chairperson, Lynsey Brooks, Oklahoma, has been very active with the Committee and has made headway on these and many other items.

As of this date, the following has occurred on the above recommendations:

- A one-page "NASCOE Membership Flyer" has been created and is now available. NASCOE membership benefits pamphlet will continue to be updated. It is found on the NASCOE website at www.nascoe.org.
- Membership cards (both regular members and associate members) have been provided to area membership chairpersons. These cards include benefit and discount information on the back of the card.
- The Facebook page has been created and is in use. See [NASCOE Membership Group](#)

At the SEA Rally, the Membership Committee was asked by SEA Executive Committeeperson, Mike Mayfield, to review the current area dues rate and use of these funds. The Committee was informed that the current rate of 25 cents per CO member per state, has been used to assist in the handling of unexpected expenses at a Rally, seed funds for a SEA state that is hosting a Rally and for other expenses when needed.

The membership committee recommended, and members at the meeting approved, an increase in the SEA dues to \$1 per CO member per state. This increase is set to begin in 2019 and is to be paid no later than February 1st of each year into an account held by the Area Executive Committeeperson. These funds are to be used for (in no particular order):

- Seed fund for the host state of an Area Rally (up to ½ of the monies collected);
- Unexpected expenses that occur during an Area rally;
- Additional expenses as needed.

A Committee is to be established that will oversee the use of these funds.

The Membership Committee also discussed the following topics:

1. Dillard's Financial Solutions Membership Drive – The state with the highest increase in new members, including associate membership, from July 1 to June 30 of each year will receive a \$1,000 award sponsored by Dillard's Financial Solutions, Inc. The winning state president will receive a plaque on behalf of their association. Dues must be paid by July 10th to be eligible for the contest. More information is on the NASCOE website at www.nascoe.org
2. Honorary Lifetime Membership (HLM) – states were asked to update and maintain a listing of their members who have been approved as Honorary Lifetime members. Please send your updated list to NASCOE Membership Chairperson, Lynsey Brooks, as soon as possible. Also, if any state has a recent retiree who meets the HLM requirements and you would like to nominate them for this award, you must have your Secretary/Treasurer complete and submit the online request form found under the membership icon on the NASCOE website by June 15, 2018.
3. Promote the county and individual years of service awards 25-55 years (every 5 years). Your state Secretary/Treasurer must complete and submit the online request form found under the membership icon on the website by June 15, 2018 to Lynsey Brooks, NASCOE Membership Chairperson.
4. Take the time to remind membership of the NASCOE Memorial Presentation that is a tradition at our NASCOE National Convention. During this observance, we recognize our deceased members with a touching power point presentation set to music. We ask that you help us honor the deceased members from your state by submitting their information and a photo, if available, so they may be memorialized in the service. Andrea Stafford, Program Technician from Tennessee, has volunteered to put the memorial service presentation together for the National convention in August. If you have a member(s) that you would like to have memorialized, please submit the information to Andrea using the directions found under the membership tab on the NASCOE website BY July 1, 2018.

With many states having their State Conventions on the horizon, I would like to remind you of the following notes:

- *Please be sure to work with your State Offices to get the NASCOE membership package added to the hiring package for new employees.
- *Talk with your membership. Encourage them to start conversations with nonmembers to spread the word about NASCOE and what it can do for them. Many need to be contacted individually. A general letter or e-mail is not enough. Make a nonmember list and contact them. Some may be ready to join and just need the 444 to see the cost. I ask that you “Lead by Example!”
- *Review your membership list each year and be sure that dues rates have been updated in case of a promotion, pay increase, etc. Be sure the correct amounts are being deducted on the 444’s.

In conclusion, NASCOE represents all county office employees. We are always looking for opportunities to enhance the services for our employees. As the SEA membership chairperson, I can assure you that the NASCOE Membership Committee is continuously looking into new avenues of promoting membership. If anyone has any suggestions, please don’t hesitate in contacting your State Membership Chairperson or email me at thomas928613@bellsouth.net.

NAFEC

Pam Rhoades

It is hard to believe we are almost at the mid-way point of 2018. This year started off with so much uncertainty from staffing to furlough and now we have moved into the new mission area of Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC). With FPAC there are so many questions still left unanswered as to how the realignment will actually look when it finalizes. With all the “what-ifs” and “maybes”, one thing I would like for each of you to know is that your NAFEC remains diligent to keep the grassroots foundation of the County Committee System of governing strong. As in earlier newsletters, your NAFEC leadership continues to address any issues that hinder the structure, strength and integrity of the COC system and ensures that those issues remain top priority, which means you and I as employees, also remain top priority.

One of the ways that you can help keep the system strong is make sure that you County Committee is aware of NAFEC and what NAFEC does. I want to remind everyone that NAFEC is not just for the COC, but for County Office employees as well. NAFEC addresses; COC, Program, Policy, Producer and Employee issues. Any concern that impacts the County Office, NAFEC wants to know about. Your NAFEC leadership wants to make sure that COC and employee concerns are heard and dealt with timely. Many times we assume that one little incident will not change the whole, but in most cases that is exactly where it starts, one small isolated incident. Early this year NAFEC information was sent to all of the State leaders and NAFEC chairs for distribution. That information is not limited to just once a year, NAFEC is available to you every day. So please do not hesitate to call, e-mail or text me if you need information or just want to ask a question.

Some highlights I would like to share that NAFEC has been working on;

- NAFEC has picked up close to 50 new members in the past 3 months- 14 of those from the SEA. Way to show up and show out SEA!!!
- NAFEC has been working with various states and FSA headquarters to find the funds needed to avoid the limiting of COC meetings
- Working to continue to be able to hire temporary county office staff-without pulling from COC funds
- NAFEC committee continues to hold a monthly teleconference to stay current on issues and concerns from the COC and field.
- Continue to increase awareness of NAFEC and NAFEC membership through distribution of membership documents and other related material, and the
- Continuance of stabilizing and updating NAFEC membership data-base for better communication with membership

I do want to remind everyone that the **NAFEC and JM Marketing \$1,000 Scholarship deadline is June 15, 2018**. The NAFEC scholarship is for a child, grandchild, or great grandchild of a current or past COC members and paying full dues as a regular member of NAFEC. To be eligible for this scholarship, the child must have graduated from high school (or graduating) and is enrolled, or in the process of enrolling into an accredited college, university, or trade school this fall. I ask that if you know of a young person that would be eligible to please encourage them to apply for this opportunity. \$1000.00 can go a long way in offsetting the cost of college or trade school. It is a simple application process and anyone interested can contact me or the NAFEC Chair for your State to get a copy of the guidelines.

One last thing, I want to thank Mr. Coy Higdon from Kentucky for handling my NAFEC duties at the SEA Rally. From everything I have heard it was not only informative but a lot of fun too. I really hated to have missed time with my friends but family responsibilities came first. For those of you that have never attended an Area Rally, State Convention, or National Convention, I encourage you to attend and to get involved, you will not be disappointed.

Visit www.fsacountycommittees.org to learn about NAFEC and ways you can support your COC. Your support of NAFEC makes your county office and your county committee stronger. NAFEC leadership is constantly engaged with National and State FSA management that affect County Office employees, the COC system, and our customers!

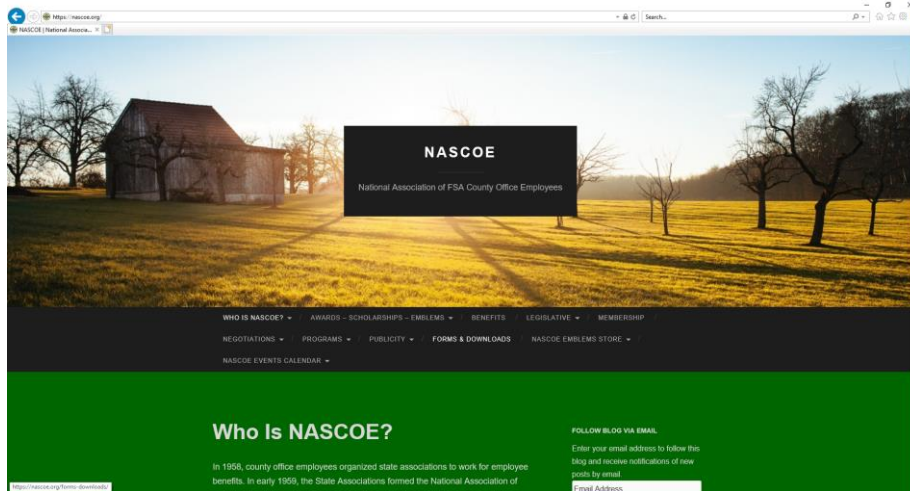
If you have questions please email me at preidrhowades@gmail.com.

Programs

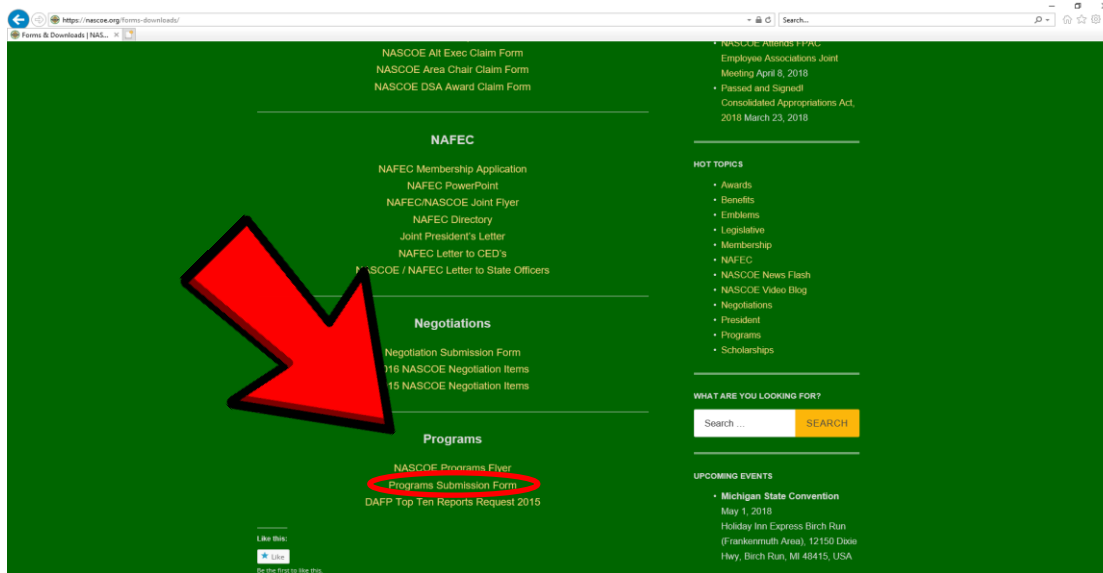
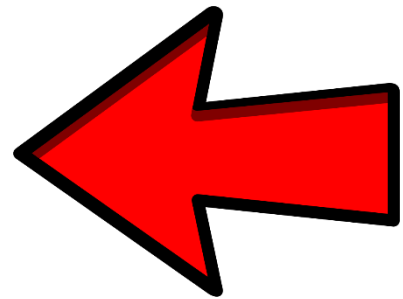
Amy Moore

Hey guys!

If you missed the Southeast Area Rally in Lexington, you missed a great one! Kentucky really knows how to host a rally. We had a great Program's breakout session. While most of us have different ways of doing our jobs, we all agreed that we don't work in perfect offices. Each office is different and we all have those special circumstances arise. While our programs have come a long way over the years. It's still not perfect. Unless we let the National Office know when things aren't working, they don't know that it's not working. This is why Program submissions are so important. We have the opportunity to let the National Office know when things aren't working and it's our job to take advantage of this opportunity. Below are a few screen shots to help you submit in Programs:



Step 1: Go to the NASCOE website:
www.nascoe.org



Step 2: Click on Forms and Downloads; scroll down until you see Programs

Step 3: Click on Programs Submission Form. Very simple!

So far in fiscal year 2018, there have been 106 program submissions with 10 from the Southeast Area. 39 have been submitted and acted upon; 57 still to take action. Many of these items went to negotiations or they were duplicates.

While this is great, we can still do better! We "Southerners" know how to fix things, it's in our DNA.... My co-worker and I have decided that we need to be the President and Vice President. We would have world peace, save money, and everything would be color coded and all match. We would have it going on! While this will never happen, we do have a way to let our national office know when counties have a problem. Even if it's not a problem, if you know a better way to make our jobs easier, submit that also. Don't be shy about it.

If you have any questions or need help with your Program submission, please email me at moore5312@hotmail.com.

Negotiations

Sabrina Conditt

The negotiation meeting was held in Washington, DC during April 2-6, 2018. For the majority of us Monday, April 2 was a travel day. On Tuesday, April 3 the executive board, area execs and negotiation consultants met and reviewed the items that we were going to meet with management about. There were 11 items from this year that were submitted and we also had a few items from previous years that we reviewed.

This year on Wednesday, April 4 we had an All Association meeting. NAFEC, RASCOE and other FSA employee associations were in attendance also. There were several speakers at this meeting. Some of the speakers were Undersecretary Bill Northey, Acting FSA Administrator Steve Peterson, Darren Ash, Linda Treese, Joy Harwood and others.

On Thursday, April 5 was the day that we met with management to discuss the negotiation items. Like most years there are items we win, some we lose and some we agree to disagree. This process is very important to NASCOE. I would like to encourage members to continue to send in items. You do not have to wait till we ask for them you can send items in anytime during the year. It is simple process just go to NASCOE.org and go to negotiations submission and complete the form. If you have any questions or need any help please feel free to give me a call at 870-612-2373 or email me at sabrina.conditt@gmail.com.



"Don't let it throw you - It's just a negotiating tactic."

There were some items that came up during discussion that were not sent up from members. For example, management said there will be a prepayment report for arc/plc something that offices have not had will come out soon and will have all exceptions on it. The report will not be like the CRP prepayment report and list only one exception at a time. Management did mention they would look at the CRP prepayment report and see about fixing it to show all exceptions at one time. Also, that when we take a 578 and then have to do a recon the system is supposed to maintain the info in the system from the 578. Also, space per employee and office safety. After 3 full and successful days of meetings we all headed back home on Friday, April 6. All items with responses will be posted to the NASCOE website when we get the final report from WDC.

Publicity

Ashlee Dalton

Thank you Megan Smith Kennedy for all your help with this newsletter! We will miss you as the Publicity Chairperson. If you have not already done so, please visit the [SDASCOE site](http://SDASCOE.site) and register for the 2018 National Convention!

- The dates are set for – August 2, 2018 – Saturday August 4, 2018
- Place is Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls SD
- Room rates are \$104.99 plus tax
- We will have all 225 rooms plus quality hotels nearby to honor the rates and time frames
- Free Shuttle service which will help to shuttle all to and from the motels from the airport and even with the guest staying in nearby hotel's



Please help me spread the word about the wonderful things we are doing in each state in the Southeast Area. I would love to have a report from each state for the newsletter! Some examples of things to send: Birth announcements, retirements, awards, promotions, new life events, etc. Thank you for all that you do for our employee association.



State News



ALABAMA

- Pictured from left to right front row: Mike Schryer-retired; Shawn Gable-STO specialist; Sheryl Blakley-retired; Cathy Blackburn-CED; Back row: Sydney Griffin-PT; Judy Rudd-PT; Beth Farmer-CED; Lana Atkinson-CED



ARKANSAS

- The 51st Annual State Convention will be held at the Hilton garden inn in North Little Rock, Arkansas June 28th-30th.

TENNESSEE

- TASCOE looks forward to welcoming the Southeast and Southwest Areas to Nashville next year for the 2019 All South Rally. We hope to have details on the date and hotel out to everyone very soon.

KENTUCKY

- Bethany McKinney, daughter of Dana McKinney from KY is graduating Cum Laude from Eastern KY University with a major in Ag Business. She will receive her Bachelor's Degree on May 11, 2018. She has also received EKU's 2018 Outstanding Agricultural Student Award. She makes Momma proud!



LOUISIANA

Congratulations to the following retirees:

- Macaria Williams 50 years
- Theron Graves 38 years
- Coniece Carr 32 years
- Sondra Maybery 30 1/2 years

SOUTH CAROLINA

- The South Carolina State Convention will be held June 8-10, 2018 at the Hyatt Place in Columbia, SC. Please contact Chris Wallace for registration information!



State News



MISSISSIPPI

- Pictured below are retirees that attended the 60th Annual MACOE Convention held in April. From Left to Right: Susan Brown, Janice Goza, Jimmy Sullivan, Beverly Roberson, Alice Jean Monday, Bobbie Williams, James Redding, and Rachel Frost.



NORTH CAROLINA

The pictures below are from the 2018 State Convention held on April 18-21, 2018 at Carolina Beach, NC. NoCASCOE had 101 Members attend the Annual State Convention!



From Left to Right: David McBryde, NoCASCOE State President and Neil Burnette receiving the SEA DSA Award.

Plaque presented to U.S. House of Representative. From left to right: Matt Ellis, NoCASCOE Vice President and Congressman David Rouzer

VIRGINIA

- The 2018 VASCOE Convention was held at the Great Wolf Lodge on May 4-5th, 2018. Pictured below are VASCOE members enjoying the banquet meal and DJ.



Plaque presented to Congressman David Rouzer's Agricultural Field Director (l to r: David McBryde, NoCASCOE State President and Mr. Billy Barker)

2018 NASCOE Southeast Area Rally

April 11-14th, Lexington, KY



2018 NASCOE National Convention

August 2-4th, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

NASCOE Convention Sioux Falls SD 2018

South Dakota has won the bid for hosting the 2018 NASCOE Convention. Now we need the help of the membership.

The dates are set for – **August 2, 2018 – Saturday August 4, 2018**
Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls SD

*Room rates are \$104.99 plus tax

*We will have all 225 rooms plus quality hotels nearby to honor the rates and time frames

*Free Shuttle service which will help to shuttle all to and from the motels from the airport and even with the guest staying in nearby hotel's

*All Meeting rooms are free if we fill 910 room nights through this week. Savings to our members on registration

*More to come on the motel accommodations in the future. It has been suggested that as many of the SD group stays at the off-site hotel as needed so that we give our guest a place where all activities are held. We will of course continue to fill so that all rooms are taken at the Best Western. More information to come!

We will be holding meetings and conference calls to help in the planning and organization of this National Convention.

Becky Zirpel and Joel Foster will Co-Chair the event.

Please contact one of the following people for more information:

Joel Foster – jrfoster@itcmilbank.com or work

Becky Zirpel – flyingz@alliancecom.net

Larry Olsen, Advisor - larryeolsen@yahoo.com

Please visit: <http://www.sdascoe.org/2018-nascoe-convention.html> for more information and to register for the convention!