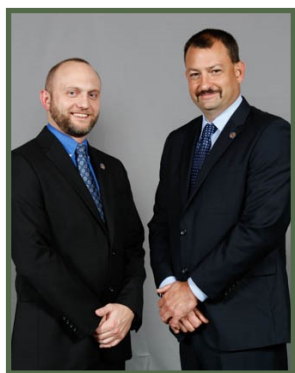




AREA EXECUTIVE

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ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE

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MWA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards

Kathy Balbough, OH

Benefits

Jon Williams, WI

Emblems

Tina Young, MO

Legislative

Kay Lumsden, MI

Membership

LeAnn Oltmanns, IL

NAFEC

Mary Roberts, IA

Negotiations

Sara Bateson, IL

Programs

Jamie Garriott, IN

Publicity

Teresa Holmquist, MN

Scholarships

Charlene Stone, OH

MIDWEST AREA BULLETIN

Volume 2, Bulletin 1

MWA Executive

Chris Hare chrishare05@gmail.com

Greetings Midwest Area. NASCOE met in Washington D.C. for the 2017 Organizational meeting. I am very excited to service on the Executive Committee along with the National Chairs. I feel that NASCOE is in a good place right now and it is refreshing to be a part of a team where there are no hidden agendas and the cohesiveness amongst the individuals in the room representing our membership was strong. We conducted a lot of business within the two days of the organizational meeting followed by another two great days of the Leadership Conference.

The following individual's names were submitted and approved as the MWA Chairs, Consultant, and Judges:

2016-17 MWA Chairs

Awards:	Kathy Balbaugh - Ohio
Benefits:	Jon Williams - Wisconsin
Publicity/Webmaster:	Teresa Holmquist - Minnesota
Negotiation Consultant:	Sara Bateson - Illinois
Membership:	LeeAnn Oltmanns - Illinois
Legislative:	Kay Lumsden - Michigan
Scholarship/Emblems:	Kitty Benda - Iowa
Programs:	Jamie Garriott - Indiana
NAFEC:	Mary Roberts - Iowa

2016-17 MWA Judges

Scholarship:	Awards:
Marilyn Dunn - Minnesota	Debbie Leeper - Missouri
Tammy Morrison - Illinois	Judy Dameron - Iowa
Michele Stahl - Ohio	Mindy Lolie - Illinois
Alt: Tammy Pruin - Iowa	Alt: Brandi Tatum - Missouri

I would like to pass along to membership a few highlights from each Committee Chairperson:

Awards:

The Awards Committee has designed a new "online" awards applications process for 2017. Manual Applications will no longer be allowed. I encourage all states to have at least one application submitted. Last year, there were a total of 37 DSA awards nationwide. Eleven of the DSA nominations were from the MWA.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Emblems / Scholarships:

There has been a lot of positive feedback from the new emblems provider. There was over \$8,222.00 sold at the National Convention. Micki and Missouri are looking at providing the same onsite service that was provided in Iowa.

For Scholarships, the deadline to submit scholarships is January 1, 2017. This will also be an "online" process only. We will still be submitting all applications from each state, not just the winners. We have seen in the past, some area winners were not the winners of their own states.

Benefits:

Brenda F. Estrada has stepped up as the new National Benefits Chair. Please welcome her. She brings a lot of good energy and thoughts to the table. Dillard's is still working on a potential credit card with a percentage of the purchases made with the credit card would come back to NASCOE. She wants to continue working on some of the projects that our previous National Benefits Chair Christy Randall had in mind and start and finish any new projects that might arise. An organizational conference call with all Benefit Area Chairs will take place in October with the purpose of establishing goals and deadlines.

Membership:

In the MWA the membership has increase by 68 members. Our area as a whole went from 79% membership to 81%. President Daniels has challenged all areas to increase our membership 2%. Don't forget about the Dillard's "Traveling Award" with the winning state association with the highest percentage increase in membership (including associate members), will receive an award of \$1,000.

Please welcome LeeAnn Oltmanns, the new MWA Membership Chair. Please give her a warm welcome by completing your membership transmittals timely.

Programs

Welcome Jamie Garriott as the new MWA Programs Chair. Thanks to Liz Ludwig from Minnesota for serving as our interim MWA Programs Chair. Liz left the MWA with a challenge. She is challenging our area to submit 3 Program Suggestions per FSA District Director district. There are currently 52 District Directors in the MWA. Our goal as an area would be 156 program submissions. We can do this. Liz created a power point available to all states to use at the state conventions or meetings.

Publicity:

Everyone by now should have forwarded out the MWA Rally Bulletin. Teresa has done a great job putting this together. She is currently working on the National Convention Bulletin. She is waiting on me to get my report done. Once she has everything, the next bulletin should be out hopefully by November. I promise to get her the information more timely. I was waiting on the approval of the area chairs at the organizational meeting before I completed my report. We are required to complete 3 bulletins a year.

Teresa has also started up the MWA website. This is in the early phases. She has shared with me the link and I think it looks great! WE will unveil this website.

Negotiations:

The pre-negotiation meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 13 – 16, 2017. We will be staying at the Westin in Alexandria. Please make sure we are submitting negotiation items.

NAFEC:

NAFEC is still looking for two directors from each state. States that currently do not have two directors for NAFEC are: Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin (0). Please actively reach out to your County Committee's during the next few meetings of the year and especially at the January Organizational meeting.

The MWA increased its NAFEC membership by 30 member's this year. To increase membership, you can show the County Committee's the video created by Val Dolcini during your meetings to increase membership. Remember, NAFEC is a strong supporter of NASCOE and their voices are stronger than NASCOE's.

Legislative:

The 2016 Leadership conference was a big success. There was a total of 150 members in attendance. Of the 128 members attending this conference, 99 of them were new and never had been to Washington D.C. There was a lot of ground work covered and positive feedback. The MWA had the following attendance:

Illinois – 3	Indiana - 6	Iowa – 3	Michigan – 4
Minnesota – 4	Ohio - 10	Wisconsin – 3	MWA Total Attendees: 37

A big thanks to our own Kay Lumsden, MWA Legislative Chair and Jackson Jones (in conjunction with Donny Green) and all of the Area Legislative Chairs for assisting with putting this on. Our visits on Wednesday were to “introduce” ourselves as NASCOE to Congressional leaders. This gave many of the new timers experience meeting with our nation's leaders and prepare them for a Legislative fly in in the future.

Other items:

RASCOE Support – If you have not joined as a member of RASCOE, please do so. Their membership is fighting for our benefits we need after our retirements. Such issues are taxing medical insurance, following 22-PM revision for STO to give out names of retirees to RASCOE, and windfall issues.

NAFEC – If you have not joined as an associate member, please do so! Support the voices who support us!

Everyone should review the Hatch Act. No PAC or Legislative issues should be conducted on government time or computers.

John Lohr from Dillard Financial wanted to reminded state presidents about the agreement Dillard's has with NASCOE and allowing J & M Marketing at state meetings. If you do not understand this, please contact me.

MWA Congressional Contact listing - a new tool I am developing for the MWA.

I look forward to serving the MWA this year as your Midwest Area Executive.

MWA Alternate Executive and NASCOE Legislative Co-Chair

Jackson Jones, Missouri want2c_bass@hotmail.com

The legislative team and NASCOE simply could not have started off a new business year in better way than to be organizing our legislative plans and goals and to be directly engaged in developing and enhancing future leadership in NASCOE! We believe the Leadership Training Conference was a great investment for NASCOE membership and will pay dividends for many years to come. We have received some really great feedback and we have attached a sample of participant comments to this report.

Our committee's goals for 2016-17, and beyond, align with improving communication, leadership development, and growing membership. The Legislative Committee will make every effort to communicate the processes of building effective stakeholder advocacies and meaningful relationships. We will reinforce responsibility and accountability for making sure we have top-to-bottom communications so that we have a well-informed and highly-engaged membership. This will not only move our legislative priorities forward, but also build and strengthen NASCOE's membership.

The Legislative Committee will coordinate and cooperate with all other committees to work for the common good of our members. We will ensure that our area chairpersons include a membership component in all communications with their areas. Subsequently, we will emphasize that our area chairpersons convey that same duty to each of the state chairpersons in their respective states. We will ensure that area committee chairpersons are encouraged and empowered to work within their areas to move our legislative priorities forward, as we align every goal with NASCOE's mission. We will systematically set priorities and demand accountability and responsibility of ourselves and our team members. Open and frequent lines of communication will be expected from everyone on the team. In order to do this, we scheduled monthly conference calls for our legislative team. We also established that when we have pressing legislative issues, we will have more frequent calls. The Legislative Committee will analyze cost-benefit and align every idea that we consider with NASCOE's mission.

And last but not definitely not least, growing NASCOE's PAC is always important and we certainly are stepping up to that challenge! The largest PAC contributor participation in the history of the NASCOE PAC was at 613 PAC contributors in pay period 24 of 2013. As of pay period 18, we now have 615 PAC contributors! The largest dollar amount of PAC contributions was in pay period 15 of 2012 at \$2,634 per pay period. As of pay period 18, we had \$2,652 in contributions and these figures do not even include all the enrollments and contribution increases that we received at the recent Leadership Training Conference! As much as we are excited about setting these new records, we are not at all satisfied with only about 10.5% of our membership participating in our PAC. We are dedicated and committed to finding new approaches to educate and engage our membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackson Jones & Donny Green
NASCOE Legislative Committee Co-Chairpersons

On the next page are some feedback comments made by attendees from each area after returning from the 2016 NASCOE Leadership Training Conference:

Positives:

- Liked the financial assistance (stipend) from NASCOE to encourage more members to go;
- Really enjoyed Wednesday's events - hearing from the Under-Secretary and the Ag Committee Chair, and making Congressional visits for the first time;
- Liked Hunter setting up the Congressional visits;
- Loved meeting new people from other states;
- Really appreciated the evening WCD tour;
- When reviewing the history of our association and why we were formed, I believe it opened many eyes to what NASCOE has accomplished in the past. It also made them understand and aware as to why it is so important to stay informed and active now and into the future. Many were unaware of the possibilities of benefits and jobs being lost if NASCOE was not there.
- I loved how the NASCOE Officers are so dedicated to NASCOE. The newbies got a small glimpse of how hard these officers work for our association. The energy level was out the roof! It really helped to get everyone excited about making their hill visits instead of dreading them. I loved how Hunter, Jackson, and Donny prepared us and to let us know what to expect.
- I really enjoyed Wes speaking on County Committees and their importance. Donny's speech on how to talk to our legislators was right on point for this training as well.
- It was a very good conference overall. It covered a lot of good information and exposed many young new employees to some very important things like the importance of the COC, the history of the association, what the association leaders do, and what Hunter does and how he does it;
- I really enjoyed Jackson's presentation that took us back to the beginning of FSA and demonstrated that we must understand our history if we want to have a focus on our future;
- The Monday evening "Meet and Greet" was awesome! It gave us a chance to meet NASCOE's leadership and network with attendees from other states. It was a very nice way to welcome everyone to this conference!

Suggestions for Improvement:

- Make sure the mission of future leadership training events is clearly communicated. A lot of folks were anticipating a normal legislative fly-in;
- Stick with the leadership training agenda and have less "commercial" presentations;
- Include role plays of how to conduct stakeholder meetings;
- Include visit to USDA's South Building for all attendees;
- Provide visit talking points more in advance of the event;
- Consider meeting room size if we have another hearing. It was crowded inside and some didn't make it inside the room;
- Include more group after-hour activities. This encourages networking and forces people to get to know each other;
- We need to follow up and make sure everyone knows to send "thank you" cards/letters to those visited. NASCOE could even develop a template document to be used by states;
- Allow the training schedule to include more breaks;
- I think it would have been nice to have a brief lesson in American Government...like how the House and the Senate differ, what their powers are, and how they work together.
- This would be a good training to continue on a 2-4 year cycle.

Awards

Kathy Balbaugh, Ohio littleone9699@gmail.com

We had 37 DSA nominations submitted this year nationwide. The 2016 National DSA winners are:

DSA – FSA/Agriculture: John Bahnsen, MWA

DSA – NASCOE: Larry Olsen, NWA & Tom Oasen, MWA

DSA – Community: Donny Green, SEA

In an effort to encourage submissions, we discussed whether to change the categories or keep the three that we have. Consensus was to keep what we have.

Deadlines for submission of 2017 DSA nominations (and Scholarship applications) will be:

- January 1 to the State chairperson
- February 1 to the Area chairperson
- March 1 to the National chairperson
- Returned from the National Judges to the National chairperson no later than April 1.

In 2017, DSA nominations (and Scholarship applications) will be made online. The hope is that people will be more likely to submit a nomination with this simplified format. We are working through the details and will be having a conference call in September to discuss. There will be emails set up for each area, as the online applications will be done through Google forms and there will need to be an email address to link the application to. SEA Awards/Scholarship chair Ella York is working on this project. The project is expected to be completed and open for submissions by October.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions on ways to improve the Awards program.

Benefits

Jon Williams, Wisconsin jonwilliams321@hotmail.com

The Benefits Committee meeting was held on Friday August 5th. Larry Olson served as the Interim NASCOE Benefits Chair and lead the meeting. There was a presentation made by Dillard's Financial Services regarding everything they are providing state associations and NASCOE including; membership cards at no cost to the association, looking into a NASCOE Credit Card, and supplemental insurances. Dillard's also will print brochures and other items for NASCOE and State Associations per request.

One thing that Dillard's requested was that State Associations review their websites and brochures to ensure that Dillard's is recognized as the sole provider of NASCOE benefits.

Dillard's also informed those in attendance that Federal Employees are required to receive retirement training on an annual basis. It was obvious that some states were not providing this training. They also said that there are personnel from both the TSP and Social Security that will come out to states and do presentations on their programs. Associations will have to cover travel costs of TSP staff but Social Security speakers would be at no cost.

The membership card was discussed as far as the need or purpose of the card, whether it would be a permanent or annual card, and what should actually be printed on the card. This will be something that will be worked out between the Membership and Benefits committees and Dillard's.

There was still concern about locating the benefits information on the NASCOE Website. Those in attendance felt that the Benefits information needed to be relocated or be more easily located. The current location is not very easy to navigate too and many members have a hard time finding the information. A tutorial on how to navigate the NASCOE website had been sent out by Christy Randall and was provided to those individuals that were interested.

The benefits meeting had good discussion and there was representation present from all areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Williams

MWA Benefits Committee

Emblems / Scholarships

Kitty Benda, Iowa rhilovesdance@gmail.com

NASCOE Convention Experience

This was my first National Convention and it was amazing! Everyone should try to attend so they can experience the comradery and see the magnitude of our organization. The hours many put in to benefit us all should be experienced and appreciated, which you more clearly realize by attending any convention, State, Area or National. It was so wonderful to see and visit with many including the retirees that still make it to the Convention! The retirees are missed for their presence, knowledge and many other reasons especially because they complete our FSA Families. They seemed so happy (Darn them all! LOL) to be retired from such a great place to work. Hopefully, someday we can all know this joy and wonder how we ever had the time to get everything done and don't forget why we have it so good – NASCOE (Fights for all of us)!

Scholarships

Nationwide we had 172 Traditional Scholarship applications submitted, 114 Open Continuing Education Scholarship applications submitted, 4 Grandchildren Scholarship applications submitted and 1 Member Continuing Education Scholarship application submitted.

The National winners were:

Traditional winner was Hadley Schotte SWA.

Open Continuing winner was Mitchell Royer NWA.

Grandchildren winner was Callahan Grund SWA.

Member Continuing was Angella Vanatta MWA.

Congratulations to them all! We wish them much success and happiness in their future endeavors.

New in 2017, Associate Member Scholarship for Children, Grandchildren and Legal Dependents for \$500 at the National Level. If there is a lot of interest it will be offered at the Area Level in years to come.

The Open Continuing Education Scholarship applications more than doubled from 2015 to 2016, so it will be recommended to increase it from \$250 to \$500 for the Area winner.

If there are not any Adult Continuing education category received in 2017 we will recommend it be discontinued.

The deadline set for 2017 Scholarship Applications is January 1, 2017. The Scholarship should reach the Area Chairperson by February 1, to the National Chairperson by March 1 and then returned from the National Judges to the National Chairperson by no later than April 1.

The 2017 Applications will be completed online rather than the manual completion as in the past. This will help with getting the right Scholarship submitted as well as the consistency and readability of the applications.

Emblems

Our New Emblem Provider is "NASCOE by Superior", the website is on our NASCOE.org site, then select NASCOE Gear and the category you want to look at such as, T-shirts.

The emblems were a tremendous success as they sold over \$8500 in merchandise! We hope to keep improving on this figure as they expand their inventory. The owners of the company were

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present at the convention personalizing many of the items purchased and they did a fabulous job! I can't compliment them enough, as they are an amazing couple and wonderful to work alongside.

We will have more merchandise options available including the possibility of creating items with our FSA or NASCOE Logo Designs plus our own related verbiage and the personalization of the items, if you wish for an extra charge.

Here are some of the items coming, three quarter and long sleeves tee shirts, sweatshirts, fleece vest and jackets, breast cancer tee shirt, along with Christmas ornaments and other items such as cutting boards, so check the site out often.

We have an Email Sign-Up Sheet, if you would like to be added to the list contact me, so you can keep current on the specials and new products available.

Submitted by Kitty Benda, Midwest Area Committee Chair for Scholarships and Emblems.

Legislative

Kay Lumsden, Michigan kay.lumsden@yahoo.com

Hunter Moorhead, NASCOE's Legislative Consultant, is doing an excellent job staying on top of situations in WDC that could affect NASCOE members. This past year, he worked closely with NASCOE Leadership and kept them informed of anything he thought could be an issue in order for NASCOE to be proactive instead of reactive. A few of the topics he kept us updated on this past year were the passing of a continuing resolution and the budget, the possibility of the Farm Bill being reopened by Congress, as well as an issue that took place with OPM regarding buy-back time of certain employees who had worked as temporaries many years ago. Due to the election, there is not a lot happening on the Hill or in the world of Agricultural politics. The upcoming election will affect many current legislators since all of the House members and half of the Senate members are up for re-election.

With that being said, NASCOE's Board of Directors have determined to hold a 2016 Legislative/Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. Unlike previous legislative conferences, which were 100% focused on legislative concerns, this conference will also include NASCOE leadership training to prepare our future leaders for their rolls and to give states the tools needed to grow and maintain membership. States were encouraged to recruit first-time members who have never attended a legislative conference before. All MWA States have submitted their registration forms and all MWA states have at least two 'first-timers' attending. Hotel reservation information will be distributed soon to all attendees. If a state has a change on their registration form as far as who is attending, please let me know as soon as possible.

The PAC continues to be an important part of our legislative process. The PAC is a resource in which we can support and help legislators, who are friends of Agriculture, FSA and NASCOE, to get elected (or re-elected) to the House or Senate. The Representative's in which NASCOE supports with PAC funds will be the people that fight for us when we get into the nitty-gritty of employee benefits, restructuring offices, etc. With this year's PAC promotion, the overall number of participants have increased and we have a possibility of getting back to, or exceeding, our all-time high of 604 contributors in 2012 (just before VERA and VSIPS were offered). The overall percentage of NASCOE members contributing to the PAC is very low so we have a long way to go and we need to continue discussing this with our members, especially with the number of retirements that are taking place in our organization. Currently, the MWA has 183 participants in PAC, contributing approximately \$742.00/pay period. This year, as the MWA hosts the National Convention, it is a prime opportunity to educate our MWA members on the importance of the PAC. I ask for your help in doing this. If you are interested in knowing the details of how much money is being contributed to the NASCOE PAC or where/who the money is being donated to, please visit OpenSecrets.org.

Jackson Jones, National Legislative Chair, has compiled a document that reviews the history of FSA. It covers how and why FSA became a government agency, all the way through to what FSA's current purpose is. The document will be released as soon as NASCOE's Executive Committee reviews/approves it but before the Leadership/Legislative Conference. The information in this document is interesting and informative and can be used to educate our partner organizations and congressional representatives of FSA's purpose and the services we

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provide to producers. I encourage everyone to read this document once it is released.

It has been an honor this past year to work with Curt Houk (MWA Exec), Jackson Jones (National Legislative Chair) and many other dedicated people who are committed to honoring NASCOE's purpose of improving benefits for County Office Employees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay Lumsden

MWA Legislative Committee Chair

Midwest Area Report

2016 NASCOE Convention

The Midwest Area (MWA) Delegates, two from each of their respective states, and numerous other members met in a break-out session at the 2016 NASCOE Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There were 79 MWA members and representatives present. The meeting was presided over by Curt Houk, MWA Executive and Chris Hare, MWA Alternate Executive. Special guests included Wes Daniels, Dennis Ray, Hunter Moorehead, Jackson Jones, Teresa Dillard, Brad Pfaff, Bob Wegand, Iowa AO, and John Whitaker, Iowa SED. Business items discussed are listed below.

Scholarship Submissions

The MWA representatives decided that they did not want to make any changes in how they submit their scholarships from the state to the area level. Currently the MWA submits all application received for area judging not just the state winners. They believe this gives more applicants an opportunity to receive a scholarship other than just the state winners. Past history has shown that people that did not win their state won the area scholarship. When submitting to national they just submit the area winners. Two of the five areas submit every application from each state for the area judging in which the MWA is one of them. Micki had suggested that there be a uniform way across all areas. The group decided the MWA Executive should recommend to the NASCOE Executive Committee that they feel strongly about continuing with the current method of submitting and judging for the MWA.

Area Rally

The MWA Rally will be held in Dayton, Ohio, March 31-April 1, 2017. It will be hosted by the Ohio association.

Reports

Committee Reports were given by the following: Area Executive, Alternate Executive, Awards, Scholarships & Emblems, Benefits, Legislative, Membership, Programs, Publicity, and NAFEC Committees. Reports will be made available to the membership in an upcoming area bulletin.

Membership Cards

The MWA agreed that the membership cards are a good idea if Dillard's are printing them at no cost. They feel that Dillard should not be allowed to mail out all the cards as they want to protect the database that we have, the membership gave us that information in confidence and expect us to treat it like our own. They are in favor of Dillard printing the cards and sending to State Presidents and allowing the State Presidents to disburse.

Legislative

The group was briefed on legislative activities performed by the NASCOE political consultant. The MWA supports the activities of the current political consultant and would reject any change to the current approach. The upcoming Leadership Training and Legislative Conference were discussed in detail. Those attending the Training/Conference in September were reminded that this is a working meeting not a site seeing trip.

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Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative

The group was brought up to speed on the ACRSI project which allows producers to choose where their acreage reports are filed (home, FSA or RMA). There will only be one acreage report. NASCOE must ensure that FSA has the software and staffing needed to continue to take acreage reports for producers. County Office employees must also support FSA efforts and be proactive about educating producers on the importance of the FSA comprehensive acreage report and for farm records updates. At present, NASCOE has representation on two acreage reporting task forces.

Area Chair Stipends

The MWA Area Chairs were questioned about the adequacy of the stipends to the Area Chairs for Rally and National Convention attendance. Some of the National chairs have started building extra money into their budget requests for their committees so they can help out their people above the level that NASCOE supplements. For the 2017 budget slippage in the committee area's budgets was denied and the Executive Committee requested further review of the current stipend structure as the amounts have recently been raised. The consensus of the MWA chairs is that the current level of stipend is sufficient and they did not need to be adjusted at this time.

Appreciation Awards

The MWA Executive presented 21 NASCOE appreciation awards to the area Committee Chairs, Awards and scholarship judges, and two NAFEC Officers that are from the MWA.

Nominations & Elections

Chris Hare was nominated and elected to serve as the MWA Executive. Jackson Jones was nominated and elected to serve as the MWA Alternate Executive.

The MWA wants to express their sincere appreciation toward the NASCOE membership for hosting an informative, enjoyable, and successful convention. The many hours of hard work and devotion did not go unnoticed.

The MWA requests that this report be accepted by the NASCOE Executive Board as filed.

Respectively Submitted,

Curt M. Houk
Midwest Area Executive

2016 National Convention Breakout Session
Cedar Rapids, IA
August 5, 2016

Curt Houk, Midwest Area Executive, called the 2016 NASCOE Convention MWA break-out session to order at 10: 50 am with 79 MWA members and representatives in attendance. The meeting was presided over by Curt and Chris Hare, MWA Alternate Executive.

Roll call of Delegates: Illinois – Deb Staley and Charlene Neukomm, Indiana – Brad Helbert and Jamie Garriott, Iowa – Jennifer Comer and DeeAnn Lehn, Michigan – Travis Murray and Rose Gallagher, Minnesota – Liz Ludwig and Nicki Miranowski, Missouri – Sheria Yancey and Jessica Claypole, Ohio – Charlene Stone and Amy Morman, and Wisconsin – Jon Williams and Jodie Groeschel.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Wes Daniels announced his candidacy for NASCOE President and thanked the many MWA members for their support. Dennis Ray announced his candidacy for NASCOE VP and thanked the members for their support. Deb Esselman announced her candidacy for NASCOE Secretary. Brad Pfaff addressed the MWA members about NASS yields and discussed the issues it is causing. Mr. Pfaff also discussed CRP rental rates. Teresa Dillard and crew reiterated Dillard's Financial Solutions is available to have retirement training for your states. If you are interested in having Dillard's conduct training in your state contact them to set that up. John Whitaker, Iowa SED addressed the members thanking them for their hard work and that Secretary Vilsack's message that we make the government look good. We are the face of the government in the community. Hunter Moorhead discussed the upcoming legislative conference and answered questions from the members. Also attending was special guest, Bob Wegand, Iowa's AO.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards – Kathy Balbaugh, Ohio

There were a total of 37 DSA awards nationwide. Eleven of the DSA nominations were from the MWA. The MWA's very own Tom Oasen, Wisconsin, is one of the recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Services to NASCOE Award winners. Kathy is hopeful that the number of nominations will increase once the application process is made available online. Kathy stated that award deadlines for 2017 would be as follows: January 1 to the State chairperson, February 1 to the Area chairperson, March 1 to the National chairperson, and back to the National Chairperson by National Judges no later than April 1.

Emblems/Scholarship – Kitty Benda, Iowa

Emblems – LOTS of positive feedback on the new emblems provider. The new emblems can also be seen on the NASCOE website.

Scholarships – The 2017 deadline for applications will be January 1, 2017 to the State Chairperson. Currently working on making an online application a reality. Association scholarships will be for children and grandchildren. Kitty asked the MWA members if we would like to make any changes in how the scholarship applications were submitted from the

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state to the area level. Jake Bourget (WI) made a motion to continue to send all scholarship applications from each state on to the area for judging. Motion seconded by Liz Ludwig (MN). Discussion was held. The members feel that we should continue to submit all applications, not just the winners. Past history has shown that people who did not win their respective state won their area scholarship. The members believe this gives more applicants an opportunity to receive a scholarship. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Benefits – Jon Williams, Wisconsin

Jon discussed JM Marketing and Dillard's Financial and how it is hard to find the info on the website for benefits. Dillard's is working on a potential NASCOE credit card. A percentage of the purchases made with the credit card would go to NASCOE. Another benefit being offered through NASCOE membership is Working Advantage. To use it members will need an ID number that can be obtained from their state Benefits Chair. Jon also discussed NASCOE membership cards and asked for feedback. The MWA agreed that the membership cards are a good idea if Dillard's prints them at no cost to NASCOE. The members feel that Dillard should not be allowed to mail out the cards since the membership gave NASCOE their information in confidence and expect NASCOE to protect it. The MWA is in favor of Dillard's printing the cards and sending them to the State Presidents for disbursement.

Membership – Samantha Garrison, Indiana

Membership in the MWA increased by 68 and went from 79% to 81%. We need to continuously be looking at ways to increase membership and ask ourselves "Why are people not becoming members?" Samantha also addressed the idea of membership cards. Samantha announced that with being the NASCOE National Benefits Chair she would be stepping down as the MWA Membership Chair.

Programs – Liz Ludwig, Minnesota

Liz discussed the Programs break-out session that was held earlier this morning and that there was good discussion regarding ARC/PLC, CRP, NPS, MIDAS, etc. There were 94 program suggestions submitted and 45% of those came from the MWA. Liz shared a quote from Darren Ash as a reminder to that we must continue to make program suggestions: "If you aren't complaining we think we are doing a good job." **Information will be shared on how to link spouses in MIDAS**

Publicity/Webmaster – Teresa Holmquist, Minnesota

Publicity -Teresa stated that the MWA published an area bulletin in March. She also stated that the MWA has been successful with Facebook and that our members have appreciated the NASCOE News Flash emails that were sent this past year. Teresa also discussed what was talked about during the Publicity/Webmaster break-out session. Each area will be putting out at least three area bulletins throughout the year. This past year, the Publicity Committee implemented the first annual First Timer's Contest to offer one member from each area a \$500 scholarship to attend their first national convention. The winners were very excited to attend and indicated that this experience has motivated them to become more involved in their state associations. The committee was encouraged by this response and will continue this contest in the coming year. In the future, winners will be required to write a follow-up article detailing

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their convention experience, which will be used in area bulletins and/or posted on the website.

The MWA winner, Amanda Morgan (IL), was unable to attend the convention due to a sick child. The committee requests that the \$500 be reserved for Amanda so that she can attend the 2017 NASCOE Convention in St. Charles, Missouri. Since the funds will be carried over from the current budget year, this will not affect the opportunity for another contest winner from the MWA to attend the 2017 convention.

Webmaster – Teresa the new website has been online less than a year. Due to the new format some members are having a difficult time navigating and finding certain information online but appreciate the more mobile friendly format. Teresa also encouraged members to subscribe to website update emails by clicking on the “Follow” icon at the bottom right corner of the website.

NAFEC – Mary Roberts, Iowa

The MWA increased its membership by adding 30 new members. Mary believes that this is a direct result from the Welcome video from Val Dolcini, FSA Administrator, and the brief history of COC and NAFEC informational PowerPoint that can be found on the NAFEC website www.fsacountycommittees.org. Both tools have been valuable to boosting membership. Mary reiterated the importance of ALL NASCOE members supporting NAFEC through Associate Membership.

NAFEC is still working on getting 2 active directors from each state. In the MWA Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio currently have 2 state directors. Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri each have one director. Mary challenged the states to talk to their NAFEC members and encourage them to step up and serve.

The MWA still has states who do not have a NAFEC chair or representative within their state association. Mary reminded all states the importance have having a NAFEC contact in place to help relay information. This will also help align state affiliate committee structure to match NASCOE’s Committee structure by appointing a State NAFEC Committee Chairperson. State presidents should be expecting a call from Mary asking for the name of their state NAFEC representative name.

Negotiations – Sara Bateson, Illinois

Negotiations were held in WDC March 27 – 31st. At that time the NASCOE Negotiation team took 16 items to Management. Of those items presented to Management a resolution was reached on 14 of those items. The items presented and the resolutions can be found on the NASCOE website. Sara also stated that negotiation items can be submitted any time throughout the year by going to the NASCOE website and completing the form online. Each item is discussed by the NASCOE Negotiation team in January at the pre-negotiation meeting. It is at that time the team decides what items will be presented to Management.

Legislative – Kay Lumsden, Michigan

Kay touched on the legislative accomplishments from the past year such as the Farm Bill not

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being re-opened. Kay discussed the PAC at length. At the time of the break-out session the MWA had the most contributors and money contributed to the PAC.

Kay noted that during the Legislative break-out session that Hunter has had many members say they are not contribute to the PAC because they do not agree with the members of congress that NASCOE is supporting. Hunter stated that NASCOE uses only one criteria to determine who the NASCOE PAC supports and that is if the member supports NASCOE. We do not base our support or non-support on any other issue. Kay also said this is one way to contribute and make an impact for those members who want to do nothing else.

The upcoming Leadership/Legislative Conference was also discussed. Kay and Jackson Jones discussed what to expect. Hunter is working on setting up those at the conference being able to attend a hearing or meeting on the Hill. The main purpose of this conference is to train members for future legislative fly-ins and get them excited and energized. Those attending were also reminded that this is a working meeting and not a site seeing trip.

Liz Ludwig (MN) made a nomination that we accept committee reports as submitted to NASCOE Secretary. Motion seconded my Jamie Garriott (IN). Motion carried.

Nominations

Sara Bateson nominated Chris Hare for Midwest Area Executive. No other nominations were made. Jon Williams (WI) made a motion that Chris Hare be nominated by acclamation and Rose Gallagher (MI) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Shelley Odenkirk nominated Jackson Jones for Midwest Alternate Executive. No other nominations were made. Jamie Garriott (IN) made a motion that Jackson Jones be nominated by acclamation and Debbie Staley (IL) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other Business

Curt brought the group up to speed on the Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). There will only be one acreage report. NASCOE must ensure that FSA has the software and staffing needed to continue to take acreage reports from the producers. The County Office employees must continue to support FSA efforts and be proactive in educating the producers on the importance of FSA's comprehensive acreage report. NASCOE currently has representation on two acreage reporting task forces.

2017 MWA Rally

The 2017 MWA Rally will be hosted by the Ohio association. The Rally will be held in Dayton, Ohio, March 31 – April 1, 2017. Further information will be forthcoming.

NASCOE Appreciation Awards

Curt presented NASCOE appreciation awards to the following:

Chris Hare - MWA Alternate Executive, Dennis Kuhlingel – NAFEC 2nd VP, Bob Braden – NAFEC MWA Director.

MWA Committee Chairs – Kitty Benda (Scholarship/Emblems), Kay Lumsden (Legislative),

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Samantha Garrison (Membership), Mary Roberts (NAFEC), Sara Bateson (Negotiation Consultant), Kathy Balbaugh (Awards), Liz Ludwig (Programs), Jon Williams (Benefits), Teresa Holmquist (Publicity), Leann Barnard (Programs).

MWA Awards Judges – Debbie Leeper, Judy Dameron, Michelle Stahl, Tammy Morrison. MWA Alternate Judges – Brandi Tatum and Tammy Pruin.

MWA Scholarship Judges – Marilyn Dunn and Mindy Lolie.

On behalf of the MWA Chris Hare presented Curt Houk with an award of appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the members of the Midwest Area.

Jennifer Comer (IA) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Charlene Neukomm (IL). Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Bateson
MWA Negotiation Consultant

NAFEC Officers & Directors

8/1/2016

Executive Committee

National Officers			
President	Craig Turner, TX	turner and turner@yahoo.com	(806) 269-0610
1 st Vice President	Tom Montgomery, MT	monty9@midrivers.com	(406) 538-8638
2 nd Vice President	Dennis Kuhlengel, IL	dkuhlengel@hotmail.com	(618) 968-0667
Membership Vice President	Cole Sims, LA	farmercole@msn.com	(318) 282-9951
Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Braden, IA	bas1000@aol.com	(563) 320-2061

Area Directors			
SWA Director:	Tony DeGiusti, OK	degustifarms@aol.com	(405) 831-3441
SEA Director:	Neal Baxley Jr., SC	baxleyfarmsllc@yahoo.com	(843) 431-8878
MWA Director:	Bob Braden, IA	bas1000@aol.com	(563) 320-2061
NWA Director:	Dan Noteboom, WA	noteboom51@gmail.com	(360) 815-2874
NEA Director:	Jim Cox, WV	jcox7214@gmail.com	(304) 651-0322
At Large Director:	Jim Densberger	densbergerfarms@aol.com	(402) 783-2563

MWA (9 directors, 7 states)			
<u>Illinois:</u>	Dennis Kuhlengel	dkuhlengel@hotmail.com	(618) 967-0667
<u>Illinois:</u>	Bob Cheeseman	bcheese@hotmail.com	(815) 453-2200
<u>Indiana:</u>	Kenny Culp	kenculp@rhsi.tv	(219) 866-5737
<u>Indiana:</u>	Regina Cornelius	reginacornelius@plantpioneer.com	(812) 257-7185
<u>Iowa:</u>	Bob Braden	bas1000@aol.com	(563) 320-2061
<u>Minnesota:</u>	David Huper	dave@huperfarm.com	(507) 874-3266
<u>Missouri:</u>	Donna Telle	drann2008@hotmail.com	(573) 768-1518
<u>Ohio:</u>	Cathie Kraeger	ckraeger@hughes.net	(740) 674-4844
<u>Ohio:</u>	Jeff Simon	villagefarm1@yahoo.com	(419) 644-3735
<u>Wisconsin:</u>	Vacant		

Legislative

Mary Roberts, Iowa

lazydaneacres@gmail.com

NAFEC and the Area Chairs have had a busy year since last convention. In the past year, we have worked hard to accomplish goals set in Milwaukee. One item that was accomplished was adding new promotional items to our “membership toolbox”. You can find both a Welcome video from FSA Administrator, Val Dolcini and a brief history of COC and NAFEC informational PowerPoint on the NAFEC website www.fsacountycommittees.org. Both tools are valuable to boosting our membership. All anyone has to do is open these items from the website and hit play. It is important that each COC and FSA employee be given the opportunity to view these items. I personally showed each of our new tools at the Illinois State convention and at MWA Rally. We were able to boost associate membership by 30 at both meetings. All NASCOE members need to realize their importance to NAFEC by supporting them through an Associate Membership – getting NAFEC members to those meetings helps do that!

We are still working toward having 2 active NAFEC directors from each state. Currently there are 40 State Directors and 2 Alternate Directors located in 29 states. Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio currently have 2 state directors. All other MWA states were encouraged to work with NAFEC members to recruit a second director for their states. This continues to be a major hurdle and challenge – that is, to find NAFEC members willing to step up and serve. Usually, it takes a CED or PT discussing the need and importance of NAFEC – take the time and do this. This committee will assist you, NAFEC will assist you, but we need you to take the initiative to personally say to those COC members back home – “You would make a great State or National NAFEC Leader!!” And many of you know who these future NAFEC leaders are, so make this goal one of your priorities.

In addition to State NAFEC directors, there are still states in the MWA who do not have a NAFEC chair/representative within their state association. I reminded all states that we need to have a NAFEC contact in order to help relay information. In addition to relaying information, this position is important to help align state affiliate committee structures to match NASCOE’s Committee structure by appointing a State NAFEC Committee Chairperson. In the next few months, I will be calling all state presidents to request a name for their state NAFEC representative name.

After National Convention last year, a meeting was held with JM Marketing to improve the current membership list. Many suggestions were recorded in Milwaukee for improvements and changes to the current membership listing. Since that meeting, Cathy Denison has become the new JM Marketing contact in charge of NAFEC membership. A discussion was held to send out membership cards once the membership database is current. Letters have been sent out to those who have not yet paid dues for 2016 and previous years if there was a gap in dues. Strides are being made toward this being an accurate report. It was noted that there is a delay in information being sent from NFC, for those with FSA-444, to JM Marketing.

And the most recent and significant point to make about this committee’s progress - At this convention this week, a HUGE goal we have been helping NAFEC pursue the past couple of years, and that is - we have had over 125 County Committee members from Iowa and some of the surrounding states who have experienced the NASCOE Convention and NAFEC Annual Meeting this week. They heard and visited with FSA’s state and national leadership, and a first for many COC attendees, they will be introduced to NAFEC by NAFEC’s own leadership. A tremendous thank you to Administrator Val Dolcini and Deputy Administrator for Field Operations Greg Diephouse for

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their support of this idea, and to Iowa's SED John Whitaker and the surrounding state SED's for making the budgetary decisions necessary to see the value in having COC members attend, receive training, and to also experience our memberships passion for FSA and agriculture. This NASCOE Committee also acknowledges and thanks President Daniels, Vice President Ray, David Senter, and IASCOE's leadership for their efforts in helping make this happen. President Craig Turner and Vice President Cole Sims had the opportunity to address the COC attendees during the working lunch. They stressed the importance of NAFEC membership and the benefits of being a NAFEC member. There was also discussion about becoming a NAFEC state director.

NAFEC participated in the FSA Joint Associations meeting in late March in WDC where they discussed their concerns about COC training, ideas on how the agency could better improve their direct dialogue with COC members nationally, and delegations of authority. NAFEC has worked with Congress, the Secretary's office and the FSA Administration. NAFEC has been asked to comment on issues, provide thoughts on program development and has stood by several national agricultural organizations to advocate on important issues. NAFEC requested to be included on any future task forces created by WDC and NASCOE.

During the NAFEC meeting at National Convention, President Craig Turner challenged all in attendance to promote membership and encourage current regular members to step up and become active directors in their state. He stated that we need to remember that anyone who is involved in agriculture can be an associate member. We need to look beyond FSA employees to assist in increasing associate membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Roberts
NASCOE's MWA NAFEC Committee Chai

NASCOE & Midwest Area State Websites



Illinois

<http://www.iascoe.com/>

Indiana

<http://www.indiananascoe.org/>

Iowa

<http://iascoe.org/>

Michigan

<http://www.mascoe1.org/>

Minnesota

<http://www.mnascoe.org>

Missouri

<http://www.mascoe.org/>

Ohio

<http://www.oascoe1.org/>

Wisconsin

<http://www.wiwascoe.org/>

NASCOE

<http://nascoe.org/>

Programs

Liz Ludwig, Minnesota lniess@hotmail.com

I am proud to report that the MWA program chair received 42 official submissions this year (45% of the total program submissions throughout the US). That doesn't take into account informal inquiries that were handled without involving WDC. 67% of the submissions have been closed, while others are in various stages of submission.

During the breakout session at the 57th Annual Convention, 35 attendees from all over the United States were afforded the opportunity to ask questions directed at a Five-Member National Office panel. The panel included the following: Brad Pfaff (Acting DAFP), Brent Orr (Program Specialist), Mark Rucker (DAM), Darren Ash (FSA CIO), and Glenn Schafer (BTO). A summary of the questions will be published by our National Program Chair.

Goals for Next Year

This year our MWA employee members submitted 42 of the 94 program suggestions. While this was 45% of the total submissions, I know we face more program challenges than those identified. I believe it was Darren Ash (FSA-CIO) that stated, "If you aren't complaining, we think we are doing a good job. It's important to tell us what you know. To us, no news is good news."

Each day, we face challenges in our offices. We are able to identify program improvements or suggestions to make software more efficient. Why not take a moment to identify the issue, suggest a solution, and make everyone's job more efficient and enjoyable? One person on the panel said, "Sometimes the littlest thing is really a big thing." Such as the addition of a "button" or having the cursor automatically go to the box that you need to type in.

I challenge our MWA membership to submit 3 suggestions per district. If we did that – we'd have a total of 156 program suggestions and our efficiencies would improve.

To assist in that process, I've prepared a short PowerPoint that outlines the ease of the submission process. This PowerPoint will be posted on the MWA website. Please utilize this PowerPoint at State-wide, District-wide or local meetings. Encourage all to get involved.

Don't sit there and complain...Make a difference!

Thank you for the honor of serving as your NASCOE Midwest Area Programs Chair.



Do you have an idea to
make our jobs more efficient?

Submit your idea to:

<http://nascoe.org/forms-downloads/programs-submission/>

Publicity

Teresa Holmquist, Minnesota resarae@gmail.com

During the Publicity breakout session, we discussed the changes made to the NASCOE Publicity plan following the 2015 NASCOE Convention. We evaluated progress made in the following areas:

Area Bulletins / Printed Newsletters

- Discussed how the printed newsletter was received by membership.
- Discussed frequency of Area Bulletins
- Discussed changing timing of printed bulletin from pre-convention to post-convention.
- Recommended the following items be forwarded to the Executive Committee:
 - Change the single printed bulletin from pre-convention to post-convention
 - Require each area chair to provide 3 Area Bulletins to membership with recommended timeframes of October/November (printed), January/February, April/May and June/July
 - Note: The executive committee decided to continue the pre-convention printed bulletin for 2017

Email Database

- Database currently has approximately 3700 unique emails
- Explore possibility of doing a “cut and paste” with state databases or do another push for email addresses post-convention

NASCOE News Facebook Page

- Facebook Events for Area Rallies were added this year
- Area Publicity Chairs are given update authority for the NASCOE News page
- Encourage members who are on Facebook to “Like” the NASCOE News page, and be sure to rate the page as 5 Stars!

First Timer's Contest

- Received 7 total entries; one each from MWA and SEA - 2 from SWA - 3 from NEA. No entries were received from the NWA.
- MWA winner was Amanda Morgan from IL. Due to an illness in the family, she was unable to attend the Convention. Session recommended to allow her scholarship to roll to the 2017 convention.
- Recommendation to executive committee to continue the First Timer's Contest, adding that winners right up a short report about their trip.

Website

- Newly designed site launched this year. New information is being added regularly.
- Members can receive real-time updates from the site, by signing up for subscriptions by selecting the Follow button on the bottom right corner of the webpage. The initial signup must be conducted on a PC or laptop as the “Follow” button does not appear on mobile browsers.
- Recommendation to post electronic copies of all area bulletins and hard copy newsletters to the NASCOE website for ease of reference.