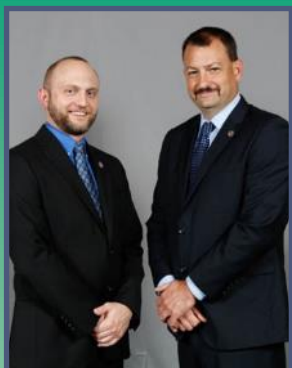




## AREA EXECUTIVE

**Chris Hare**  
(765) 505-3355 Cell  
chrishare05@gmail.com



## ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE

**Jackson Jones**  
417-818-9147 (Cell)  
want2c\_bass@hotmail.com

## MWA COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2017-2018

**Awards**  
Kathy Balbaugh, OH

**Benefits**  
Jon Williams, WI

**Emblems, Scholarships**  
Tina Young, MO

**Legislative**  
Kay Lumsden, MI

**Membership**  
LeAnn Oltmanns, IL

**NAFEC**  
Mary Roberts, IA

**Negotiations**  
Debbie Staley, IL

**Programs**  
Jamie Garriott, IN

**Publicity**  
Teresa Holmquist, MN

# MIDWEST AREA BULLETIN

Volume 2, Bulletin 2

## MWA Executive

**Chris Hare** [chrishare05@gmail.com](mailto:chrishare05@gmail.com)

**PT's and CED's, Let's Talk about the County Committee System.**

**GREETINGS MIDWEST AREA!** I hope everyone is surviving the wild winter we are experiencing throughout the Midwest this year. Not only has the weather been on the move, but so has the talk and progression of the USDA re-organization. Employees have received emails about FPAC and videos from Secretary Perdue in regard to ONEUSDA. Rest assured, your NASCOE Executive Committee is working hard to keep you informed. I know Jackson and myself have fielded many questions from each state. What does this mean, and will I be impacted, are just a few questions we've received to date. While these are good questions, we don't have complete answers to them now.

While the winds of change are starting to blow; there is one topic which doesn't change that I would like to take this opportunity to educate ALL members about, and that is the County Committee System (COC).

As County Office (CO) employees, we take great pride in our ability to implement farm programs locally through our County Committee system. The federal system (GS) was first and the CO system came second. ***The CO system was developed as a result to give local control of Federal programs back to the local community.*** Under the CO system we truly work and are supervised within our communities- there are no distant chain of command supervisors.

Did you know that the County Committee duties go much further than outlined on the FSA-332A? County Executive Directors (CED's), may I suggest you have all of your employees review the FSA-332A annually, not just the County Committee. Did you know that there are over 200 paragraphs in over 30 handbooks that spell out the County Committee responsibilities?

Since I have been involved in NASCOE, it is interesting to learn that every County Committee is utilized differently. I learned recently that in one office the CED does not approve any of the ARCPLC contracts. Where in my office, I approve the contracts I am allowed to approve according to 1-ARCPLC with the proper redelegations on file. The only contracts the County Committee physically signs are the ones I am not delegated or have authority to approve. Another item I found that differs across the country is the approval of the CCC-576. I ask the County Committee not to delegate these to me. All three counties I oversee are impacted by the Wabash River. I prefer the County Committee to analyze and review each and every CCC-576 filed in my offices to ensure accuracy, integrity, and compliance. These are just a few examples of the value of monthly COC meetings.

While all 2,124 county offices have the County Committee system in place, we

(Continued on page 2)

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have the luxury of tailoring the delegations to their wants and needs. When an appeal arises, I always encourage the appellant to attend the meeting and plead their case. Unlike other government agencies, this face to face appeal system is the “grass roots” and has shown over the years that it works. Typical government agencies have a phone number or an address that you mail your appeals to. Those agencies don’t get the face to face interaction, the voice inflection, or the dialogue with the person who is appealing.

CED’s and Program Technicians (PT’s) should feel lucky we are covered under the CO series because we cannot be permanently detailed or permanently relocated that easy. I have a friend who is a GS employee and one morning she reported to work only to find out she was being detailed across the state. This could have been worse. With her agency’s cut backs, it could have been as far as 3 states away. She informed me that she was to report the next day. This truly rocked her family’s world. Listening to her share her story and troubles, I found myself being thankful that the County Committee supervises me. Due to this type of CO supervision, I will not be detailed like she was.

By now, I am sure that there are a few PT’s reading this that are thinking, “this is great Chris, but this doesn’t apply to me”. On the contrary, it does.

The County Committee supervises the CED, and the CED supervises the PT’s. PT’s you too are CO employees. You also have the protection of the County Committee system. Generally speaking the COC ultimately is the body that can terminate both the CED and the PT, not some distant chain of command supervisor. If we look at our programs, when non-routine cases arise, we take the issue and copies of the applicable handbook policy to the County Committee. The County Committee and the CED review the applicable procedure and take the action necessary as deemed by the County Committee. How about that reconstitution that was “County Committee initiated”? When the COC makes an approval or denial, it is more creditable than if a COF employee made the decision. Also, the decision is owned by the COC, which provides a level of protection to County Office (COF) employees.

It surprises me that many County Committees don’t realize they truly are the direct supervisors of the CED and the County Office. In your COF, is the County Committee Chairperson physically signing the AD-435 performance plan and performance review for the CED according to 5-PM Par. 3I? Are your County Committee’s involving you in your reviews?

As you can see, I am very passionate about the County Committee system. There is not a month that goes by that I truly dread two County Committee meetings back to back or completing 4 – 6 sets of minutes either. The importance of maintaining this system is imperative to our future and our success to delivering farm programs to our producers.

The locally elected County Committee is well recognized throughout our agency by many agency personnel. Recently, I heard of a case where the FSA District Director watched the CED present to the County Committee an application and paperwork for membership in the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC) at their 2018 Organizational Meeting. The District Director, who supports the County Committee System, was so excited to see what NAFEC has to offer elected County Committee’s, that he went to several COC organizational meetings in the district and

*By now, I am sure that there are a few PT's reading this that are thinking, "This is great Chris, but this doesn't apply to me." On the contrary, it does.*

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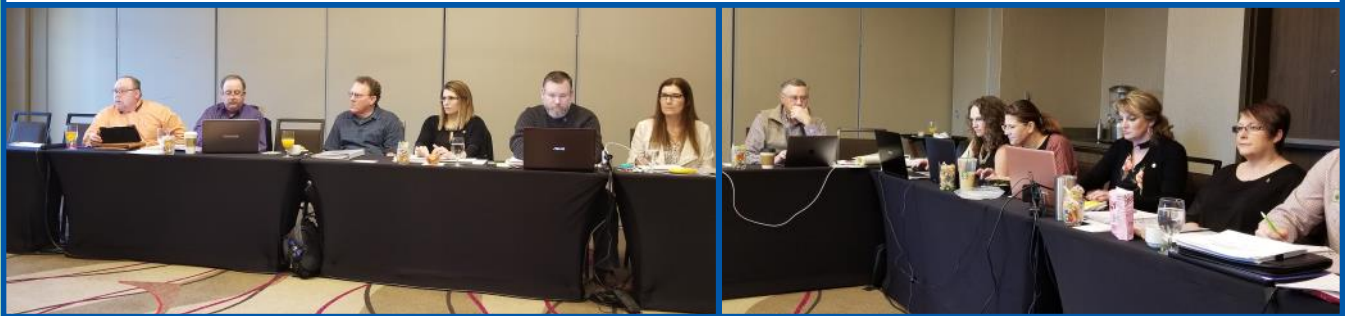
promoted NAFEC to COC's. This is another example of how respected the COC structure is across the nation. It is our duty as employees to understand, appreciate, and teach new hires, the County Committee system. It is our heritage and our history.

I personally feel that when you work under the COC system you are truly motivated to work hard as you are working for the COC and that the COC can appreciate in a local sense how PT's and CED's fit into and add value to their communities- something no distant chain of command supervisor can do.

How neat is it that the COC can do all this in each local community? Where else do you get local flexibility in the workplace? Where else can you experience a work unit that is like family? AND where else can you work with farmers and ranchers all day?

Join me in promoting and keeping the County Committee system.

Respectfully yours,  
/s/ Chris Hare  
NASCOE MWA Executive



## ***MWA Negotiations Consultant***

**Debbie Staley, Illinois**     [gogodeb@hotmail.com](mailto:gogodeb@hotmail.com)

2017-2018 NASCOE Pre-Negotiation Meeting was held January 12-15, 2018 in Grapevine, TX. As this being my first meeting in my position as the Midwest Area Negotiation Consultant, it proved to be truly interesting to see the process unfold. I want to start by saying that I am excited and honored to serve the Midwest members in this position and even more honored to be a part of taking these concerns to management.

We had 50 items submitted from across the country. The Midwest accounted for approximately one-third of those submissions. After the submissions had been reviewed and discussed, a group of 10 items made the negotiation category. There were several that will be take into consultation with management and several that will be referred to a committee.

I am in the process of contacting the individuals from the Midwest who submitted items to thank them for taking the time and let them know the results of the review.

Respectfully Submitted  
Debbie Staley  
MWA Negotiation Consultant

## ***MWA Alternate Executive***

**Jackson Jones, Missouri** [want2c\\_bass@hotmail.com](mailto:want2c_bass@hotmail.com)

### **Random Thoughts from the MWA Alt Exec**

When Chris reminded the area chairs and myself it was time to write and submit articles for the upcoming MWA bulletin, I started gathering ideas for a topic to write about. Then as the committee reports started rolling in, almost every idea I had was taken, so it was back to the drawing board. Here we are almost a week after the deadline Chris gave us and I am the only one with no article.

This shouldn't be so hard; come on Jackson get it together! Come up with something! So, as I go back through the committee reports that have been submitted looking for inspiration it hits me, the reason why it is so hard is because our area chairs are awesome and have covered almost everything there is to cover!

Last August at National Convention, during my campaign speech, I said I was going to be an advocate for our committee chairs. I said that the committee chairs on the state, area and national level are the backbone of our association. It is important that our committee chairs are engaged, involved and empowered. If we do those things our association will be strong.

Chris and I floated the idea of having an area wide all committee chair conference call, where each area chair would be able to host a conversation with their state chairs to talk about their responsibilities, communication, and their action plan for the upcoming year. Although it was a long day for Chris and I, we believe that the state committee chairs generally came away with a better understanding of their responsibilities, and what was expected of them. Our area chairs also had a sense of empowerment and ownership over the committee areas that they are responsible for.

Chris and I couldn't have been prouder of the leadership our area chairs displayed, or the engagement of our state chairs. There was an abundance of back and forth conversation, when it would have been easy to just sit back and listen. States should be proud of the work their state chairs are doing. It was so successful that we intend to do it again in the future.

A question that Chris and I often get is "what can I do to help NASCOE, I want to get more involved?"

The best answer to that question is to talk to your state president, make sure all your state committee chair positions are filled, see if there is room for a co-chair somewhere. This is the best way to get involved with NASCOE, learn how the association conducts business. Learn about the standing committees and what they all do, become involved in your state, attend the area rally and participate in the committee discussions. There is no reason to be shy! If you want to be more involved in NASCOE it's a good idea to get engaged and become active on a state and area level.

NASCOE is always looking for bright engaged individuals to be on a task force, or study group, or state/area and even national chairs. If more involvement in NASCOE is something that you would want, make sure you are attending National Conventions, area rallies, and state conventions, network with other members, engage in the issues, and please let state president know you would like to be more involved at that level to kick start your NASCOE career.





# Registration for IASCOE Convention and NASCOE Midwest Area Rally

Location: Des Moines Marriott Downtown, Des Moines, Iowa

## IASCOE Convention – Thursday, March 22, 2018

- ☐ \$10 Thursday Only NASCOE/IASCOE/IACS/IASSE Members- Includes meeting materials, morning coffee, and afternoon break
- ☐ \$10 Thursday Evening Activities NASCOE/IASCOE/IACS/IASSE Members - Includes Hospitality with light snacks/appetizers. Bean bag tourney and/or a Scavenger Hunt in the Sky Walks of downtown Des Moines
- ☐ \$10 Spouse/Guest of Member will attend Thursday evening activities
- ☐ Scavenger Hunt (check if participating)

## NASCOE Midwest Area Rally – Friday, March 23 – Saturday, March 24, 2018

- ☐ \$45 Member
- Thursday Evening Activities - Includes Hospitality with light snacks/appetizers. Bean bag tourney and/or a Scavenger Hunt in the Sky Walks of downtown Des Moines
  - Friday AM Breakfast
  - Friday Evening Hospitality, light meal, LIVE BAND- Farm Rock (Country/Classic Rock) (silent and live auction to benefit the scholarship funds)
- ☐ \$15 Spouse/Guest of Member
- Thursday Evening Activities
  - Friday AM Breakfast
  - Friday Evening Activities

*\*\*Cash concessions will be available for purchase during lunch break Thursday & Friday\*\**

## Attending Both IASCOE and MWA?

- ☐ \$50 Member (all inclusive)
- ☐ \$20 Spouse/Guest (all inclusive)

**MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS @**  
**Des Moines Marriott Downtown**  
**700 Grand Avenue**  
**Des Moines, IA, 50309**  
**Phone: (515) 245-5500**

A block of rooms have been reserved under the group:

**IASCOE MWA18**

(Valid until February 28, 2018)

**Deadline to Mail Registrations - March 10, 2018**

**After March 10<sup>th</sup> register at the door**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks Payable to IASCOE**

**Return To: Mary Roberts**

**51814 Little Clear Lake Road**

**Albert City, Iowa 50510-8610**

## *Legislative*

**Kay Lumsden, Michigan** [kay.lumsden@yahoo.com](mailto:kay.lumsden@yahoo.com)

As of today (1/24/18) we ARE working!! ☺ After three days of a government shutdown, Congress finally passed the fourth Continuing Resolution for FY2018, which will go through February 8th, 2018. There has been no prediction of what is going to happen at that time. Hunter Moorhead, NASCOE Legislative Consultant, did send out a very detailed message of what will be deliberated and included into the 2018 Omnibus Bill. If you have not received that information, please contact your State President or Legislative Chair.



There have been many questions brought up to the Legislative Committee on the reorganization of FSA, NRCS and RMA. Originally, it was portrayed this reorganization was only affecting the top portions of USDA's administration...i.e. Undersecretaries and who the FSA, RMA and NRCS administration reports to. However, since the original roll-out of the reorganization, it has been stated the Departments Leadership envisions county office staff (all agencies and functions) working together as one unit as opposed to stating their individual programs, which has legitimately brought many concerns to our association members on how it will affect county office employees.

NASCOE's ultimate goal is to work with Secretary Perdue to address our staffing needs, and improve the county office structure/function. In addition, we are working to protect the county committee system and continuing local oversight of FSA programs. Both the NASCOE Executive Board and Legislative Committee, along with Hunter Moorhead, NASCOE Legislative Consultant, are working diligently to be proactive on this issue.

Also in Hunter's detailed message (mentioned earlier) of what will be deliberated and included into the 2018 Omnibus Bill, he discussed the future of the Farm Bill. The House and the Senate are working towards reauthorizing the Farm Bill before September 30th, 2018 (the expiration date of our current Farm Bill). Depending on other issues happening, the House is planning to release the House Ag Committee's draft of the Farm Bill toward the end of February or early March. If floor time becomes available to vote, they may even pass their bill by early spring. The Senate has not released when the Senate Ag Committee will begin the process. Today (1/24/18), at a town hall meeting in Pennsylvania, Secretary Perdue announced the Administrations Farm Bill and Legislative Principles for 2018. You can google "USDA Farm Bill and Legislative principles for 2018" and a bunch of information will pop up.

As always, I am available to assist with any questions or concerns members may have. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

## Membership

**LeAnn Oltmanns, Illinois** [loltmanns2@gmail.com](mailto:loltmanns2@gmail.com)

On November 16th 2017, we had a teleconference for the MWA state membership chairs and state presidents. We talked about:

- The importance of keeping listings of our members and NON members so we know who to target in our membership outreach.
- Keeping track of each county's years of consecutive membership so counties can be recognized for their years of support of NASCOE.
- The benefits of keeping track of each individual's consecutive years of membership. Individual members can also be recognized for their years of NASCOE membership.
- Being a lifetime NASCOE member has benefits too so we need to track that as well.
- Each states dues transmittal forms and shared ideas about those.



I believe all teleconference participants agreed that the teleconference was a benefit to us to be able to discuss with each other what works and some obstacles we are facing in getting our information out. I'm looking forward to more such teleconferences in the future!

We have recently received a list of All CO employees in the MWA and have sent each state's employee listing to them. Each state will reconcile the report with their membership database and report back to me the names of their NON members. After the reconciliation is complete, we will be contacting all nonmembers and ask them to review a short video about NASCOE membership.

The most important thing though is to reach out to new hires to make sure we don't miss the boat with new employees. I have found that even though new hires can be given information about NASCOE it either isn't being done, or there is so much information being given right at the beginning that the importance of being a NASCOE member isn't fully sinking in and we need to not be afraid to try again.

Respectfully submitted,  
LeAnn Oltmanns  
MWA Membership Chair

### ***Website tip: Negotiations***

Do you have an item that you would like to submit for consideration for negotiation with management? Submissions can be made at any time using NASCOE's simple to use online submission tool.

[Visit http://nascoe.org/forms-downloads/negotiations-submission/](http://nascoe.org/forms-downloads/negotiations-submission/)

## Awards

**Kathy Balbaugh, Ohio**    [littleone9699@gmail.com](mailto:littleone9699@gmail.com)

This year is the second year of using the online nomination system for the Distinguished Service Awards. It seems most of the issues we had last year have been worked out; I didn't have any complaints or issues with our nominations! I feel it was definitely easier and encouraged people to do more than 'think about' nominating someone!

In the MWA alone, we received FORTY-ONE total nominations in the categories of Service to NASCOE, Service to FSA/Agriculture and Service to Community. THIS IS AMAZING!!! We DOUBLED the nominations from last year – Way to go MWA!!! This is wonderful to see so many people nominate their colleagues for their hard work both on and off the job!



Applications for nominations had to be submitted by January 1, 2018. The breakdown of nominations is as follows:

**Distinguished Service Award for services to NASCOE: 9**

Illinois – 1	Indiana – 0	Iowa – 0	Michigan – 0
Minnesota – 1	Missouri – 4	Ohio – 2	Wisconsin – 1

**Distinguished Service Award for services to FSA/Agriculture: 26**

Illinois – 3	Indiana – 1	Iowa – 10	Michigan – 5
Minnesota – 2	Missouri – 1	Ohio – 3	Wisconsin – 1

**Distinguished Service Award for services to Community: 6**

Illinois – 1	Indiana – 0	Iowa – 1	Michigan – 1
Minnesota – 1	Missouri – 0	Ohio – 1	Wisconsin – 1

The nominations have been forwarded to the appropriate states for judging. On February 2, the state winners will be sent on to the Area judges where those winners will be selected and then sent on to the National judges by March 1st. Congratulations to all our nominees and thank you to the nominators for taking the time to recognize your co-workers.

Last year I challenged each state to have AT LEAST one nomination in each of the three categories. Congratulations to Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin for meeting this challenge! I would like to challenge each state next year to have AT LEAST TWO nominations in each of the three categories! Start thinking about it now; write up a summary and add to it throughout the year as you get more information about your nominee. It won't be so tough to come up with WHY someone is deserving of the award when you look back at what they've accomplished over the last year. I'm sure we all know someone who excels at work, in NASCOE, and around their community!

At the state level, certificates will be awarded to employees who have accumulated 1000, 1500, and 2000 hours of unused sick leave. Also, plaques are awarded to employees who have accumulated 2500, 3000, and 3500 hours and above of unused sick leave. Certificates and plaques will be distributed at the MWA Rally, so make sure that information is relayed to me 60 days before the rally.

A HUGE thank you to all the state chairs and both the state and area judges!! Without you, we would not be able to make this process work as smoothly as it does and recognize so many deserving individuals.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or need more information please let me know!



## Benefits

**Jon Williams, Wisconsin** [jonwilliams321@hotmail.com](mailto:jonwilliams321@hotmail.com)

There seems to be a lot of uncertainty right now but one thing for sure is that NASCOE is doing its best to provide benefits that appeal to all members.

Dillard Financial Services is the Exclusive Benefits provider for NASCOE and provides excellent retirement planning seminars and assistance that everyone should take advantage of regardless of the stage of their career.

Information is also available on JM Marketing under the affiliates tab on the NASCOE website. JM Marketing has been providing NASCOE members with excellent insurance policies that help cover expenses associated with dental, long term care, cancer, heart disease and stroke for many years. You should check these policies out and see what may appeal to you.

NASCOE has also been able to obtain discounts and gift cards from several vendors that only NASCOE members can receive. Sam's club will provide a \$10 gift card to members of NASCOE that either signup for the club or renew their membership. Members can also obtain a \$10 discount for joining Air Med Care however those interested need to make sure this company covers the area where they live. NASCOE is also working on an association discount with Costco.

One of the most popular benefits is membership to Working Advantage. When a person signs up for Working advantage they need to use the NASCOE ID they to get substantial discounts on anything from movies to trips to Disney theme parks or Broadway shows. You can obtain the NASCOE ID from your State benefits chair or President once they verify your membership.

Check out the NASCOE website for more detailed information on all the benefits available to members.

I am always looking for new benefits that NASCOE members are interested in but may not be available through NASCOE at this time. If you are interested in a new benefit let me know and I will see if we can put something together.

I wish you all the best and much success in the upcoming year. Please keep in touch and if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



## Emblems / Scholarships

Tina Young, Missouri [tina.young.98@gmail.com](mailto:tina.young.98@gmail.com)

### Emblems

We are gearing up for State Convention season which means Emblems season for most states! This is typically the case but for the MWA it has been Emblems Season since August of 2017. This year with our Step-Up Challenge from our Area Executive, Chris Hare, I have been tracking online sales for the MWA and let me tell ya, "membership is FIRED UP ABOUT OUR EMBLEMS"!!! You can tell by the sales totals. Thus far each state has online purchases and 3 of our states have sales exceeding \$1000. Great job everyone! I have been sending sales updates to the State Emblems chairs and will continue to do so up to National Convention. Each state chair is keeping there membership well informed of any Emblems updates.

We visited on our area conference call that each state needs to have a non-government contact list or alternative. Each state seems to have this available, so membership has been being informed of information that should not be shared through gov email. This has been well received by the states and the chairs are doing a wonderful job keeping their membership informed.

As always, there are notifications on social media that are helpful in keeping membership apprised of new emblems available or any sales that might be taking place. If you are on social media and not following [NASCOE Emblems by Superior](#), be sure to check that out.



We are in the process of ordering Emblems to be available at the State Conventions and our Area Rally. We have some exciting designs available. National is working on some things that will hopefully be available by National Convention time.



Membership seems very excited about the Emblems that are available to them. Be sure you check out your Emblems area at your State Convention, so you can "touch and try on" anything you might be eyeing from the online store. Remember if we do not have your size available at the convention you can make your order and it can be shipped to you.



(Continued from page 10)

## *Scholarships*

The application period for 2018 Scholarships have ended. The Scholarships received for 2018 have far exceeded expectations for the MWA! This is the second year for the online process and it seems to be going very well for our area. In the MWA had a total of 62 applications. The following is a breakdown of each category:

- Traditional – 43 applicants
- Open-Continuing – 16 applicants
- Member Continuing Education – 1 applicant
- Adult Children Continuing Education – 0 applicants
- Grandchildren – 1 applicant
- Associate – 1 applicant

Each State from the MWA had applicants which again if fantastic for our membership.

- Wisconsin – 9 applicants
- Ohio – 8 applicants
- Missouri – 10 applicants
- Minnesota – 3 applicants
- Michigan – 4 applicants
- Iowa – 12 applicants
- Indiana – 7 applicants
- Illinois – 6 applicants

Again, this has far exceeding the Areas expectations, and my expectations as your Area Scholarship Chair. We are in the process of judging all applications. Each state Scholarship Chair has received their respective applications and have sent those out to there state Judges. The Area Judges have also received the applications for area judging. The deadline for judging at the state and area level is February 20th. The area winners will be forwarded on for National judging by March 1st. National selections will be made by April 1st.

This is a very exciting time for the MWA as we have great representation on the scholarship front. This goes to show that our membership is being informed and taking advantage of benefits that are available to them and their family.



## NAFEC

**Mary Roberts, Iowa**

[lazydaneacres@gmail.com](mailto:lazydaneacres@gmail.com)

As I write this update, the sun is shining and the snow from Monday's blizzard is melting. I find it hard to believe that we are less than 2 months away from Spring. Soon there will be baby calves out on fresh green grass and flowers blooming. However, before that can happen we will see the end of another continuing resolution. Hopefully an agreement will be reached, and we will not have another shut down. As I think about what I can do and to help avoid the shutdown, I realize how important it is to support the organizations that fight for our producers and the programs we administer. Ultimately, these organizations are battling for FSA's piece of the pie too. Membership within NASCOE, NAFEC, and your local agricultural organizations help to strengthen the voice when it comes time to divvy out the budget and ultimately the writing of the upcoming Farm Bill.



With that in mind, I strongly encourage all of you to consider an associate membership with NAFEC. If you've been to any meeting I've spoken at, you will recognize this next statement. "It only takes \$1.00 per pay period or to support NAFEC and strengthen your voice". The FSA 444 and your state office can get that set up for you. The other option you have is simply writing a check for \$20 annually to cover your membership dues. A few documents are in the works right now to help boost NAFEC's associate membership. I will be sending these out as soon as I receive them and would encourage you to take some time to review and see what NAFEC can do for you, your County Committee, and your producers. Another point to consider is that anyone can be an associate member of NAFEC even if they don't work for FSA.

If you have not already signed your County Committee up for NAFEC, the time is now. NAFEC's membership year starts January 1 and documents were sent to each state president as well as state NAFEC chairperson the first week of December. The membership drive documents were intended to be disbursed to all counties prior to your organizational meeting. If they did not make it to you timely, please present them at the next COC meeting you have. I do have a revised membership application with a new NAFEC address that will be sent out asap. NAFEC provides support to our local grassroots form of government and we need to do everything in our power to help strengthen this organization. Our county committee members understand the unique scenarios and needs of the producers. Without that local input we would not be able to serve the county as well as we do. NAFEC is the voice that can take concerns to the next level when issues arise. All current and past County Committee members and advisors are eligible to sign up for regular membership. They can sign the FSA-444 and have \$4.00 taken out from each paycheck or write an annual check for \$40.00. All members receive a complimentary \$1,000 life insurance policy, but regular members are also eligible for additional benefits that can be obtained by contacting JM Marketing.

NAFEC has been working on issues that hinder the structure, strength, and integrity of the COC system. Most recently, NAFEC President Craig Turner and NASCOE's NAFEC Committee Chairperson Billy Wayne Denison attended the Pre-Negotiations meeting in Dallas, TX. They

*(Continued on page 13)*



(Continued from page 12)

are working diligently with NASCOE to share thoughts and ideas with management that include the need for monthly COC meetings and to clarify the COC's specific role as the CED's direct supervisor in the performance planning process, mid-year reviews, and the evaluation process. NASCOE's NAFEC committee has been actively working on growing membership (both regular and associate), reconciling and updating the NAFEC membership database, and addressing concerns of NAFEC members and FSA employees as they are brought to our attention.

As NASCOE's MWA NAFEC chairperson, I will do anything I can to assist you and your COC when questions or issues arise. Please do not hesitate to call or email at any time and I will do my best to address your questions as timely as possible. If you would like me to talk to your COC during one of your meetings, please give me a call and we will get something set up.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Roberts

## NASCOE & Midwest Area State Websites



### NASCOE

<http://nascoe.org/>

### Iowa

<http://iascoe.org/>

### Missouri

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

### MWA-NASCOE

<http://midwestnascoe.org>

*Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin  
[statename].midwestnascoe.org*

## Programs

**Jamie Garriott, Indiana** [jamieupdike@hotmail.com](mailto:jamieupdike@hotmail.com)

There has been a change with the Programs area this past fall. Michelle Stahl from Ohio is now the new National Chair. She has not had a chance to get into the full swing of things yet, therefore these numbers might sound a little low yet. The MWA has had a total of 21 program submissions. Saying that there has only been 1 sent to me since Michelle has taken over and I know she has more to send yet. There are 2 that were better suited for negotiations and were sent for this past session.



For your Step-It-Up challenge here are the numbers by state:

Indiana – 2  
Michigan – 1  
Wisconsin – 1  
Missouri – 1  
Illinois – 0  
Iowa – 3  
Ohio – 4  
Minnesota – 9

I would like to challenge each state to hit 10 submissions before May. If you are close to 10 try for 20. The more we submit the better our programs can be. This is how the programmers and DC employees hear what we like or dislike and what is working or not working. This is also how your state can help contribute to the Chris challenge. Congratulations and keep up the hard work!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Garriott



**PROGRAMS**

**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](mailto:resarae@gmail.com)

IT'S HEEEREE! At long last, the MWA Website is online and the States that bought into the site, have begun updating their pages. This has taken nearly a year of planning, study (on my part!), and now training and implementation. Thank you to all the states for their patience during this transition. Hopefully, [midwestnascoe.org](http://midwestnascoe.org) can be a valuable resource for years to come.



During the recent Government Shutdowns, the importance of making sure that we can communicate quickly and efficiently with our membership was highlighted. Legislative updates were sent using the following methods:

- blog posts to the [NASCoe website](http://NASCoe website),
- posts to the [Nascoe News Facebook page](http://Nascoe News Facebook page),
- emails using the NASCOE communications database with the MailChimp service
- Emails sent from through the Email Communications tree  
(Officers to Execs, Execs to State Presidents, State Presidents to members)

**FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL**

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

**Follow**

Did you receive the emails? Did you see the posts? If you're on Facebook - have you followed the Nascoe News page? Have you signed up for updates on the NASCOE website?

If you're not receiving emails, or need to provide an updated address, please contact your state membership chair.

On the NASCOE website on the upper right of each page, there is a place where you can sign up to receive an email when a new blog post has been added to the NASCOE website. When a post has been added, you will receive an email instantly. Click on the link above to go to the NASCOE News facebook page and click Like, then follow the [instructions](#) to make sure that you see NASCOE News posts first.

## Never been to a NASCOE Convention?

THE NASCOE

# Convention Cash Club

**CAN HELP WITH A \$500 STIPEND!**

Members who have never attended a NASCOE Convention can enter.

Visit [www.nascoe.org/publicity](http://www.nascoe.org/publicity) for more information or to enter.

**Deadline is April 1, 2018!**

# MWA Action Items and Deadlines

(Click on the underlined words for more information)

April 1, 2018	<u>Convention Cash Club Contest deadline</u>
July 1, 2018	NASCOE Memorial Presentation
December 1, 2018	<u>Negotiation Item Deadline</u>
Ongoing/no deadline	<u>Program Efficiency Submissions</u>

## Conventions / Rallies

Illinois - March 9 - 10, 2018

Indiana - April 27, 2018

Iowa - MWA Rally - March 22-24, 2018, Des Moines

Michigan - May 5, 2018

Minnesota - April 6, 2018

Missouri - August 27 - 28, 2018

Ohio - TBD in 2019

Wisconsin - April 20, 2018

NASCOE Convention—Sioux Falls, South Dakota

August 1 through 4, 2018

