

MASCOE News

December 2015



Letter from the President

As I went through all the back roads this morning to find a road that was not flooded, I am reflecting back on this year at FSA looking at all the roads we have taken to get to where we are today. We as FSA employees have gotten it done for the farmers of Missouri this year. That is why I personally love my job at FSA. I know that what we all do each and every day makes a difference in the lives of the people we serve. That brings us to MASCOE and what I feel that our organization does for the employees. Just as we work for our farmers each day, the people of this organization work for the employees of FSA. They are trying hard to make this a great place for you to work and to ensure you have all the benefits you deserve. Our plan for this year is to get our MASCOE webpage back up and running with MASCOE information readily available to you. This will be coming soon so be watching for the new and improved webpage. This is our first newsletter of the year. We intend to do two per year. MASCOE also has a facebook page that will have information from time to time. NASCOE has set up their national web data base and have already sent out some email blast via this system. Check out the membership section to see how to update this information and stay informed on the national level. Your job is to stay informed and to let us know how we can help you. We have a great MASCOE board so please go to one of them with your questions or concerns. I look forward to serving you as President and to a great year for MASCOE.

MASCOE has a big announcement which will be very exciting for our state. Missouri has agreed to do the National NASCOE Convention in 2017. We are currently working on a location. Randon Leathers and Ron Highley are the convention co-chairs and we are lucky to have such great guys leading the way. When we have more information and how everyone can help, we will let you know. This is a time to let the nation know just how wonderful it is to be a member of MASCOE and I know we will come through.

Sheria Yancey
MASCOE President

Programs—Cathy Hemme & LeAnn Barnard MWA Chair

What are Program Submissions? Employees across the nation are full of good ideas that would make all of our jobs easier. Now you can submit those ideas online ANY-TIME! We want to hear your ideas on program delivery, software fixes, efficiency or issues of concern. The Nascoe web-page has a form you can fill out.

- Go to Nascoe.org—Forms and Downloads—Programs Submission
- View the Nationwide report on submissions with WDC's responses at nascoe.org.

Negotiations—Steve Morrison

What is a Negotiation item? Items submitted by members that NASCOE leaders negotiate with management. Some negotiation items from the past are the Key PT positions, workload data, benefits and shared management ideas.

- Go to Nascoe.org—Forms and Downloads—Negotiation Submission

Membership Report

Barb Denker and Randon Leathers

- 1st Quarter (July-October) 242 Members & 2 Associate members

If you are not currently receiving NASCOE emails please complete the survey in the NASCOE Database at: *(members that have already completed the survey should check their inbox and junk folder to see if their email was successfully added to the database.)*

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Tr6Dw-t0yG4XqGdX4yRwztR7sRX87VKOksIGrQYo-P0>



Introducing PriceMATCHERZ, the ultimate grocery price matching tool. We look through the weekly

grocery ads in your area and compile a list of items that we believe to be better than the current Walmart price. Select your state and city, take your list to Walmart, and they will match all local deals. We do not list every item in an ad, rather just items that we believe are lower than the Walmart price. PriceMATCHERZ is a great tool for anyone interested in saving money on groceries but lacking the time to look through fliers or clip coupons.

Legislative Report—Mandi Bird & Jackson Jones, Legislative Chair

Late last month congressional leaders, along with the president, reached an agreement regarding budget caps and statutory borrowing limits which included one agricultural provision. This agreement was intended to allow the appropriations process to be completed before the current continuing resolution runs out on December 11, 2015. The agreement also increased the nation's borrowing limit before it reached its max.

As a budget savings move, the agreement would reduce the RMA Crop Insurance Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) from the current 14.5 percent to a renegotiated 8.9 percent cap on the overall rate of return for insurance providers. It also mandated a new agreement must be re-negotiated no later than December 31, 2016.

This agreement drew the attention and anger of members from both the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees. "Farmers and ranchers have done more than their fair share to reduce government spending," said Chairman Roberts. "To target the number one priority for producers with additional cuts will undermine the delivery of this important protection for agriculture. While Congressional leaders may sell this package as providing budget stability, it is anything but stable for farmers and ranchers. It took years to negotiate and pass a new Farm Bill."

"These types of cuts only undermine the economic certainty that the Farm Bill provides. The Farm Bill made meaningful reforms to help reduce the deficit. Any attempts to reopen any part of the Farm Bill to more cuts would be a major set-back for rural America and our efforts to create jobs." Said Ranking member Stabenow.

Shortly after the agreement was reached, a joint statement from House Chair Conaway and Ranking Member Peterson read in part; "I want to thank all my colleagues who have made it very clear over the last 24 hours that the attempt to cut crop insurance in the budget agreement was not acceptable. Our nation's farmers and ranchers did their part in reigning in our nation's debt in the 2014 farm Bill, saving an estimated \$23 Billion. It is imperative we do not undermine their trust by attacking the primary tool they use to manage the tremendous risks involved in producing food and fiber. Leadership has heeded our concerns by agreeing to completely reverse this disastrous provision in the upcoming omnibus." The statement continued, "I will continue fighting against policies that hurt our farmers and ranchers and I am thankful to leadership for working with us to avoid these harmful cuts."

While agricultural state lawmakers managed to stop changes to the crop insurance program from making their way into the budget deal, Secretary Tom Vilsack told reporters there was still room for potential savings. "There are opportunities for reforms to the crop insurance program that could save money," Vilsack said. Some people considered the 8.9 percent cap "pretty dog-gone low" but he continued by saying "there are ways in which we could potentially work the crop insurance program more effectively from the tax payer standpoint without jeopardizing its survival or the important role it plays in risk management."

The House passed the two year deal followed by the Senate, sending the budget to the president for signature. This will prevent the possibility of a U.S. default on the debt and significantly reduces the risk of a government shutdown in December.

Scholarship—Bill Dubbert & Tina Young

Congratulations to the 2015 MASCOE Scholarship Winners

- Brant A Francis, son of Barbara Francis and Tony Francis, CED in Monroe County
- Breanna Gottman, daughter of Dara Gottman, PT in Macon County and David Gottman

*Judged on work experience, scholastic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community service.



2016 MASCOE Scholarship nominees due February 1, 2016



There's many categories in which you can apply. If you have a student, are a student or have grandchildren that are students please read the 5 categories. MASCOE will award two Scholarships for \$500 each for 2016. It's worth your time to apply. See Daily Update MASCOE 59 for the information.

MASCOE BENEFITS

Cell Phone Discounts—AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, US Cellular and Verizon.



SAVE 60% on Theme Parks ★ Movie Tickets ★ Hotels
 Ski Tickets ★ Museum, Broadway, Sporting Event Tickets ★
 Health & Fitness Membership ★ Gift Certificates & Online Shopping

Visit WorkingAdvantage.com (You must have your NASCOE member ID.)

Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. is NASCOE's Benefit Provider. Visit myNASCOEBenefits.com

AAA Memberships for \$51 + enrollment fee waived

- Vacation Packages, Hotels
- Attractions/Movie Discounts
- Roadside assistance, Hertz Rental Cars, Shopping Discounts, 30% off Six Flags, Prescription Glasses.

Contact Crystal Blaker to renew or enroll 314-681-7494

blaker.crystal@aaamisouri.com.

Mention the NASCOE Group membership.



Letter from NASCOE Vice-President, Dennis Ray

I hope that everyone is doing well during this Holiday Season. We have much to be thankful for and I hope that each of you have been able to share some time and make some memories with loved ones. I have been asked to provide a few comments about what NASCOE has been doing at the national level. Wes Daniels, your NASCOE President, and I spent two days meeting with FSA management on October 26th and 27th. The meetings were very informative and beneficial. Notes from those meetings were distributed through the new NASCOE database, posted to the NASCOE NEWS Facebook page and posted to the new NASCOE mobile friendly webpage and I hope everyone has seen them by now. If you did not receive them via email through the database please let your state leaders know. NASCOE recently had to complete re-establish the database. Everyone should have been notified on how to join the new database. If you did not receive that information please let us know and we will see that you are added to it so that you can receive future releases.

Hopefully you have noticed the new NASCOE website. The transition to the new website was intended to provide a mobile friendly website. The website is still in a transitional phase and new links and information is being added frequently. The domain name is still www.nascoe.org and it has a search option. So if you did miss the notes from the Washington trip you can go to the home page, search for WDC notes and find them. Please take the time to visit the new webpage and let us know how it is working for you. Also on the webpage is information on the NASCOE scholarship and awards process. The applications and eligibility requirements are located by clicking on the forms and download link. There have been some changes in the deadline dates for this year so be sure and check it out if you or one of your family members are interested in applying for a scholarship. The Distinguished Service Award information is also located on the link. There are awards for service to NASCOE, Service to Agriculture and Service to Community. I know there are many people in the association that are worthy of those awards. All it takes is for someone to make the effort to nominate them. Please consider doing that if you know someone deserving.

Also coming up is one of the foundational processes of our association. That is the negotiation process. The area executives had been sending out requests for items and the deadline was December 15. Please keep in mind that this is a continuous submission process. The negotiation team and NASCOE leadership will be meeting in Dallas over the Martin Luther King weekend to review submitted items and prepare the meritorious ones for submission to management. The actual negotiation session will be held the week of March 28, 2016. One of the more significant gains from the negotiation process has been the Key PT position. Please take the time to submit items as you see the need.

We are frequently asked what does NASCOE do for me and why should I join. There are many reasons to join but I will share three with you today. As I mentioned earlier NASCOE has the right to negotiate with management on your behalf and NASCOE is the only one who can negotiate on the behalf of CO employees. Secondly NASCOE has a Legislative Consultant who advocates on your behalf in Washington DC. Thirdly, NASCOE has an attorney on retainer and members are eligible for one free hour of consultation if they are facing adverse personnel actions. This is around a \$350 benefit to members.

Again I hope that you have a wonderful Holiday Season. One of the things I am thankful for is the benefits I enjoy today because of the long hours and hard work members of NASCOE have sacrificed on my behalf over the years.



Missouri Board, Officers & Chairs

National Vice President—Dennis Ray, CED
 National Legislative Chairman—Jackson Jones, CED
 Mid-West Area Programs Chair—LeAnn Barnard, PT

District #1: Mandi Bird, CED
 Eric Redden, Alt
 Michelle Comer, PT
 Norma Stransky, Alt

District #8: Dennis Ray, CED
 Rick Hill, Alt
 LeAnn Barnard, PT
 Laura Sarratt, Alt

District #2: Blake Conrad, CED
 Debbie Clevenger, Alt
 Debra Leeper, PT
 Carol Gorham, Alt

District #9: Steve Morrison, CED
 Ryan Eddy, Alt
 Douglas Lynn, PT
 Brink Naile, Alt

District #3: Patty Lamber, CED
 Tony Thompson, Alt
 Christina Young, PT
 Mary McCoy, Alt

Secretary—Jessica Claypool

District #4: Jared Singer, CED
 Brandon Holley, Alt
 Cathy Hemme, PT
 Brenda Steiner, Alt

Treasurer—Barb Denker

Awards—Debbie Leeper

District #5: Randon Leathers, CED
 Daryl Raithel, Alt
 Barb Denker, PT
 Sherry Bean, Alt

Audit & Budget—Michelle Comer & Tina Young

Benefits—Patty Lambert

District #6: Sheria Yancey, CED
 Kate Gerlemann, Alt
 Bill Dubbert, PT
 Linda Hodges, Alt

Legislative—Mandi Bird

Membership—Barb Denker & Randon Leathers

Negotiations—Steve Morrison

Programs—Cathy Hemme

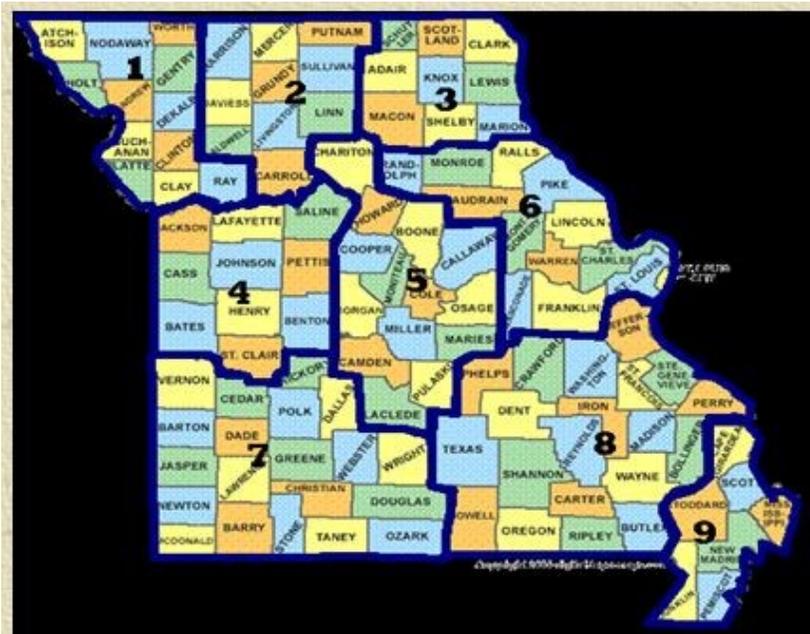
Publicity—Abby Inglis

Web-Page—Jared Singer

District #7: Jackson Jones, CED
 Tim Kennemer, Alt
 Teresa Garver, PT
 Lisa Heath, Alt

Scholarship—Bill Dubbert & Tina Young

MASCOE DISTRICT MAP



57th Annual NASCOE Convention

Cedar Rapids, Iowa August 2-6, 2016
Doubletree by Hilton Cedar Rapids Convention Complex
350 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401



2016 NASCOE National Convention

<http://www.nascoe.org/Pages/NationalConventions.aspx>



MASCOE and NASCOE At Work for you...

Below are a few examples of NASCOE's legislative accomplishments in recent years. NASCOE is constantly working to ensure that members' concerns are addressed and that the dues paid by our members are used responsibly and effectively.

- Secured Significant Funding Above the Budget Request for FSA Salaries & Expenses
- Blocked Implementation of CBS Office Restructure/Closing Plan
- Secured Funding for Monthly COC Meetings
- Stopped the Transfer of Salaries & Expenses Toward IT Initiatives
- Worked to Maintain Employee Benefits Regarding FERS Annuity Calculation and Retirement Contributions
- Prohibited Unjustified Direct Reassignments of Staff



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEES--MASCOE Member Information

Date: ____ / ____ / ____ County Office: _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Home Email Address: _____

Service Beginning Date: _____

****please write legibly****

Please check your membership type:

___ **Full Voting Members: County Office employee serving under permanent appointment**

___ **Associate Members: GS employee at the county level under permanent appointment**

___ **Associate Members: Temporary FSA employee**

___ **Associate Members: State Office employee**

___ **Associate Members: County Committee Member**

Please send member information to: randon.leathers@mo.usda.gov

If you have questions or comments, please Randon Leathers or Barb Denker.