

MASCOE News

December 2016



Letter from the President

It is a privilege to serve you as MASCOE President. This fall, you elected a Board of Directors with a great balance of both experience and fresh perspective. This diversity is one reason why I very much look forward to the year ahead. And what a year it is going to be!

MASCOE will have the honor of hosting the 2017 NASCOE Convention in St. Charles. We are excited to welcome our FSA family from across the nation to Missouri. But we will need your help to successfully execute an event of this magnitude.

Those of you who have attended a NASCOE convention in the past know that, historically, it's awesome! So too is the site of the 2017 Convention, historic St. Charles. The convention will be August 2 – 5, 2017 at the Embassy Suites/St. Charles Convention Center. Randon Leathers and Connie Gibson are serving as Co-Chairs of the Convention. Visit mascoe.org for a complete list of the Planning Committee Chairs. They have already spent many hours planning, and have only just begun. When you are contacted by one of these folks in the coming months, please help them however you can. Or better yet, reach out to the Chair of the committee you are most interested in helping with.

We hope you have noticed the refreshed MASCOE website and are using it to stay up-to-date with the latest MASCOE information. Check it regularly for news and updates.

Your MASCOE Board is working hard on your behalf. We are here to represent you. Please reach out to me or any Board Member if you have concerns or issues you would like us to look into. If you are not a member of NASCOE/MASCOE, please consider joining us. Or if you know of someone that is not a member, please encourage them to join. This organization works on your behalf and can do so more effectively with your membership. I would also like to encourage our farm loan and state office colleagues to join as associate members. Our shared interest in serving producers is far more important than our varied roles in delivering that service.

This holiday season, I hope you will take time to reflect on your professional and personal accomplishments during the past year. Spend time with those you love, and recharge for a challenging and rewarding 2017!

Respectfully,

Jared Singer

Scholarship Report—Tina Young

Congratulations to the 2016 MASCOE Scholarship Winners

- Kenna Schmidt, daughter of Kevin and Jeanne Schmidt, PT in the Caldwell County Office
- Meredith Jo Clevenger, daughter of Jo and Debra Clevenger, CED of the Caldwell County Office

\$9500



**IN SCHOLARSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
APPLY BY JANUARY 1**

2017 Scholarship Applications due January 1, 2017

We have multiple scholarships available! Traditional Scholarship, Open Continuing Scholarship, Member Continuing Scholarship, Adult Education Scholarship, Grandchildren Scholarship, and (our newest addition to the scholarship family) Associate Member Scholarship. All scholarship applications will be online this year. The form will come up and allow the applicant to pick the scholarship for which they wish to apply. The format is different this year. There are only 5 questions, but the last question is an essay question which will allow the applicant to express himself/herself and his/her future plans. The deadline for submission is January 1, 2017. Visit mascoe.org for details and to submit an application!

Membership Report—Sheria Yancey

We need you and you need MASCOE. MASCOE is the employee's organization that helps FSA remain a great place to work. By becoming a member, you can support the people who work hard every day to bring your concerns to management. You can help support the people who develop the programs that keep our members informed about what is going on within FSA. We have a forum developed that gets leaders together where we can ask them questions that change what goes on in our offices. All of these types of things happen because of the support of everyone that is a member in the county office. One of the most important things is our congressional consultant that keeps FSA in front of our congressional leaders so they know who we are and what we are doing out in the county offices. Your membership matters. I hope that if you were a member and for some reason, you have dropped your membership, you will reconsider. If you are new to the agency, please come aboard. It is simple to join, go to the MASCOE webpage, click on Membership, then click Join Now. You will need to fill out a FSA-444 and send in a MASCOE Dues Transmittal Form. That is all there is to it. Welcome aboard or Welcome back!!!

Don't forget to "like" MASCOE on Facebook!



Legislative Report—Mandi Bird and Jessica Claypole

Mandi Bird and Jessica Claypole were first-time attendees to the 2016 NASCOE Leadership & Legislative Conference held September 19-21, 2016 at the Westin in Alexandria, VA. They were proud to join NASCOE Vice-President Dennis Ray and Legislative Co-Chair and Midwest Area Alternate Executive Jackson Jones to represent Missouri and MASCOE at this year's event. They arrived Monday afternoon and attended a meet-and-greet reception hosted by NASCOE, where they had the opportunity to meet other NASCOE members and leaders, many of whom were also first-time attendees. They also reconnected with many members whom they first met at the National Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa this past August.

Tuesday's agenda was filled with sessions led by NASCOE officers and executive board members designed to better educate members on the role of the organization and also suggest ways to grow leadership and increase membership. Important topics that were covered during Tuesday's meetings included the role and importance of county committees within the FSA structure, importance of the PAC and ways to increase contributions and the role of NASCOE's legislative consultant Hunter Moorhead. Presentations were also made by NAFEC, RASCOE and Dillard Financial Solutions. President Wes Daniels also made a special announcement to recognize members of NASCOE Leadership, area and state organizational leadership and first-time attendees. Overall, it was a day filled with information-sharing, recognition and networking among members.

The highlight of the trip came Wednesday when attendees got the final schedule of Congressional visits for the day and traveled to Capitol Hill to see, hear and feel the pulse of the government in action. Jessica and Mandi traveled with group to the Whitten Building for an address by Deputy Under Secretary Lanon Baccam, followed by a discussion with the Honorable Mike Conaway (R-Texas), Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, in the Longworth House Office Building. Missouri attendees took photos with other Midwest area members on the balcony of 1300 Longworth before breaking for lunch at a nearby restaurant just steps from Capitol Hill. The Missouri delegation of Dennis Ray, Jackson Jones, Mandi Bird and Jessica Claypole, then made various Congressional office visits, including a stop at Senator Roy Blunt's office and scheduled appointments with Representative Sam Graves (R-6) and Representative Emanuel Cleaver II (D-5). The delegation felt the meetings were beneficial, even though there were no hot topics in queue at the time of the visits. Mandi and Jessica traveled back home later Wednesday evening upon completion of the day's activities.

Overall, Mandi and Jessica felt the conference was very beneficial in terms of meeting new people while also building existing relationships with fellow NASCOE members and leadership. The information discussed and presented on Tuesday was helpful in providing additional insight and ideas to move the organization forward. The opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and participate in discussions with Congressionals on Wednesday was especially important and helped shed a new light on the true scope of the NASCOE organization in the nation's capital. Both attendees came back with a better understanding of NASCOE's true purpose and impact and a renewed sense of pride in our own MASCOE organization. They appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity and represent Missouri alongside the top leaders in the National organization.

Benefits Report—Patty Lambert

When NASCOE was first formed, County Office employees did not have all the same benefits that other federal employees received. NASCOE was formed in part to gain equal benefits for its county office members. Now, many of the benefits county office employees may take for granted such as flexible work schedules, credit for sick leave, health insurance, life insurance, retirement, etc. are because of the work of NASCOE.

Dillard's Financial Solutions provides retirement counseling and financial planning and are experts in federal retirement. They are our national benefit providers:

<http://mynascoebenefits.com/>

The latest benefit to NASCOE members is the ability to sign up with Working Advantage for a wide array of employee discounts. NASCOE members can obtain discounts on everything from car rentals to Broadway plays, theme parks to hotels and even movie passes - just to name a few. Members need to obtain the NASCOE organization ID from their Benefits Chair in order to sign up for Working Advantage. <http://www.WorkingAdvantage.com>

Information on these benefits are available by clicking on the MASCOE website and then under "Membership" select "Benefits." This link will take you directly to the NASCOE Benefits link. There is also an Educational Benefit Guide on the NASCOE website put together by Dillard's. Future benefits that are actively being pursued by NASCOE are a nationwide credit card that would earn cash back rewards - cash back not only to the member, but also to our employee association. There was also discussion of issuing membership cards as well as possible discounts from national home improvement stores such as Lowe's or Menard's. Regaining discounts for Sam's Club memberships was also being looked into at the national level.

Don't forget that cell phone carriers may offer discounts simply for being government employees, as well.

Patty Lambert
MASCOE Benefits Chair

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**

Letter from NASCOE Vice-President, Dennis Ray CED, Perry County

It has been a busy couple of months since the National Convention in Cedar Rapids, IA. Missouri had good representation this year with several attending a National Convention for the first time. If you have not heard yet, Missouri is hosting the 2017 National Convention at the Embassy Suites in St. Charles, August 2-6, 2017. This is both exciting and daunting. Hosting the National Convention takes a tremendous amount of time, effort and commitment. We will need many members to contribute if we are going to have a successful convention. If asked, please consider helping. If you would like to participate but haven't been asked yet, please contact Randon Leathers for a list of the committee chairs and volunteer in an area that interests you.

I want to personally thank Sheria Yancey for serving MASCOE membership the past 3 years as President. While serving others can be very rewarding it is also a huge commitment. I would also like to welcome Jared Singer and Mandi Bird as they were elected President and Vice President respectively. They join Treasurer Barb Denker and Secretary Jessica Claypole as our state officers. Please join me in giving them our full support. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact any of our officers or board members. We are here to serve but need to hear from you if there are problems.

On the national level, NASCOE recently held our organizational meeting in Washington, DC. The organizational meeting traditionally is held at the site of the next National Convention. This year it was held in conjunction with a Leadership Training/Legislative Conference which required it to be held in Washington. Having the two meetings together resulted in significant savings in travel expenses for NASCOE since the executive committee and national chairs only had to travel to one location instead of two. The leadership conference had been requested by membership in a poll and has been in the planning for a couple of years. The purpose was to educate new members and motivate participants to become actively involved in the association. Of the 132 participants, 99 were attending a leadership/legislative event for the first time.

NASCOE is the only organization that can negotiate with management on behalf of CO employees and we are approaching the time of year that we begin soliciting items to submit to management. The deadline to submit items is usually around the 15th of December. Submitting items is very easy. There is an online submission form on the NASCOE webpage. The items will be reviewed by the negotiation team for merit at our pre-negotiation meeting in January. The items will be researched and prepared by the negotiation team and submitted to management for their consideration. The responses from management will be reviewed and any that are not agreed upon will be negotiated face-to-face with management.

NASCOE is always trying to improve our methods of communication. The NASCOE webpage was converted over to a more mobile-friendly platform last year. If you look at the bottom right-hand corner of the page there is a "follow" button which will let you subscribe to receive an automatic email any time the webpage is updated. NASCOE submits several program items with suggestions from membership throughout the year. These are usually answered promptly by management and those items are then posted to the website. Many improvements have been made to forms or processes because a member took the time to submit a recommendation. Please check out the programs links on the webpage to see all of the submissions.

As we approach the holidays, I would like to thank each of you for your support of MASCOE/NASCOE and hope you all have the chance to spend time with family this holiday season.



Missouri Board, Officers & Chairs

National Vice President—Dennis Ray, CED
 National Legislative Chairman—Jackson Jones, CED
 Midwest Area Emblems Chair—Tina Young, PT

District #1: Mandi Bird, CED
 Allyson Wells, Alt
 Kristy Gray, PT
 Ann Gilland, Alt

District #2: Blake Conrad, CED
 Becca Walker, Alt
 Debra Leeper, PT
 Katie Freeman, Alt

District #3: Patty Lambert, CED
 Jennifer Brummit, Alt
 Christina Young, PT
 Sara McSparren, Alt

District #4: Jared Singer, CED
 Ron Highley, Alt
 Cathy Hemme, PT
 Katie Hall, Alt

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

District #6: Sheria Yancey, CED
 Henry Westhues, Alt
 Kristy Shuck, PT
 Hannah Thomeczek, Alt

District #7: Jackson Jones, CED
 Travis Claypool, Alt
 Gayle Wilson, PT
 Lisa Heath, Alt

District #8: Dennis Ray, CED
 Logan McGhee, Alt
 Laura Sarratt, PT
 Mary Leible, Alt

District #9: Steve Morrison, CED
 Dickie Jordan, Alt
 Brink Naile, PT
 Penny Myers, Alt

Secretary—Jessica Claypole

Treasurer—Barb Denker

Awards—Debbie Leeper

Audit & Budget—Kristy Gray

Benefits—Patty Lambert

Legislative—Mandi Bird

Membership—Sheria Yancey

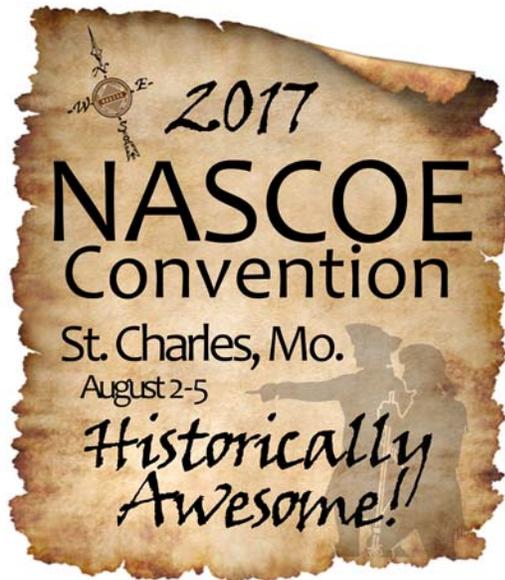
Negotiations—Steve Morrison

Programs—Cathy Hemme

Publicity—Abby Inglis

Web-Page—Jared Singer

Scholarship—Tina Young



58th Annual NASCOE
Convention

August 2-5, 2017
Embassy Suites, St. Charles
Convention Center
2 Convention Center Plaza
St. Charles, Missouri

Registration Opens Soon So Be Sure to Visit the MASCOE website at www.mascoe.org for more information.

Contact A Member of the Convention Planning Committee to Find Out How You Can Help us Make 2017's Convention "Historically Awesome!"

Convention Co-Chairs: Randon Leathers & Connie Gibson

- Concierge: Christine Ragan
- Decorations: Abby Inglis
- Door Prizes: Patty Lambert
- Entertainment: Mandi Bird
- Fundraising: Daryl Raithel
- Gift Bags/Favors: Leann Barnard
- Golf Tournament: Mary Leible
- Hotel Reservations: Gayle Wilson
- Publicity: Jessica Claypole
- Registration: Debbie Leeper
- Retirees Luncheon: Priscilla Eggering
- Scholarship Auction: Tina Young
- Sponsorships: Jared Singer
- Tours: Lori Painter
- Transportation: Blake Conrad
- Treasurer: Barb Denker
- Volunteer Coordination: Kate Gerlemann & Maureen Cope
- Youth Activities: Sheria Yancey



**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: sheria.yancey@mo.usda.gov

If you have questions or comments, please contact Sheria Yancey.