

Legislative Report
2018 WASCOE Convention
April 20, 2018

There has not been a lot of news coming out of the legislative committee so far this year but that doesn't mean it hasn't been busy. Since it was an election year the early activities have focused on educating congress on who NASCOE is and how unique and special the CO system is in Federal government. Hunter Morehead, NASCOE legislative consultant, continues to work hard for the membership and does a fantastic job delivering our message to those who have influence. Hunter, NASCOE leadership, and the Legislative team provided membership with updates and information several times during the lapses in funding for the Federal Government and will continue to update us on the FPAC and Farm Bill implementation.

On the state level, each state was asked to develop a grassroots contact list with our Representatives and Senators. The list is to contain the agriculture aide and the WASCOE member who is willing to be the local contact for that congressman. The goal is to develop a relationship between the two so they can work with each other and provide mutual benefit to each other. Any member that is willing to be a legislative contact with a congressman or already has a connection with someone working for a congressman should contact me or the WASCOE President. This is a vital and important part of what WASCOE and NASCOE does because through the actions of the Legislative Committee, the associations are able to influence the funding the agency receives for staffing and program delivery as well as, the benefits employees receive while working and into retirement.

Members are asked to take annual leave and attend local town hall meetings or visit there congressman when they hold office hours near them. These are great opportunities to meet the people that make the decisions that impact our lives. WASCOE will provide you members with "white pages " that can be given to the Congressman or Aid that will address the topics and positions that are important to the association so the message that is delivered is consistent and timely. All legislative activities need to occur outside of office hours and without the use of government equipment.

If anyone is interested in getting more involved the Legislative committee is very active and deeply involved in all decisions that impact our future as FSA employees.

Jon Williams
WASCOE Legislative Chair