



December 2020

# WASCOE Newsletter

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FSA COUNTY OFFICE

## 2020-2021 OFFICERS

### President:

Shelby Niskanen, Clark County

### Vice President:

Chris Pannier, Washington/Ozaukee County

### Treasurer:

Jon Beam, Outagamie County

### Secretary:

Michelle Daug, Juneau County



## 2020-2021 Directors

### District 1:

Evie Moore, Washburn/Burnett/Polk  
Ashley Marschall, Washburn/Burnett  
Kristene Wieczorek, Buffalo

### District 2:

Michelle Daug, Juneau

### District 3:

Jodie Groeschel, Outagamie  
Karen Propson, Calumet  
Marilyn Lentz, Manitowoc

### District 4:

Brooke Sperberg, Waupaca  
Lisa Backus, Jackson  
Megan Kropidowski, Portage/Wood

### District 5:

Laurie Makos, Iowa  
Lori Edquist, Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee  
Kristin Looch, Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee/Walworth



# A Message from WASCOE President Shelby Niskanen

From the President:

It has been an unprecedented year-administering CFAP 1 and 2 and farm bill within the effects of Covid-19. It has changed how we interacted with each other and our producers. We learned a lot didn't we? Here is a short list. We learned to:

- Administer programs while teleworking.
- Work at home often juggling family responsibilities.
- Keep each other healthy during a pandemic.
- Use Microsoft Teams and Box.com to improve communication to better conduct business and service our producers.

Please add to this list. We acted as professionals and delivered the programs with integrity and courtesy. Keep up the good work!

NASCOE delivered the National Convention using Microsoft Teams. Hopefully, you were able to listen to our national leaders and participate in breakout sessions. Brandon Wilson emphasized membership. Members drive our association. Members give us an effective lobby with our national leaders in Congress and DAFO. Members provide ideas to maintain and improve our retirement benefits and working conditions. Encourage each other to become and maintain membership in the association.

WASCOE/NASCOE provide professional opportunities. Did you see the post on SharePoint for a Key PT for NAP? (Key PT's, Lead PT's, Chef PT's were positions achieved through negotiations.) Consider using your skills and leadership abilities to apply to these positions as they are posted.

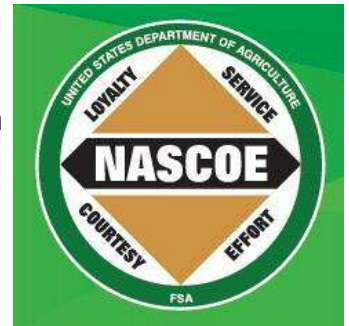
Neil Burnett, NASCOE Legislative Co-Chair, has sent out an inquiry to solicit a potential candidate for NASCOE Technology Coordinator position. If you have the skills or passion in elements like web design, app management, database managements or any other IT solution, please consider sending a brief introduction of yourself and your attributes, skills, and/or abilities to the NASCOE President at [brandon.wilson@nascoe.org](mailto:brandon.wilson@nascoe.org). This is an unique position helping to influence the creation of a national position from the ground up.

The Indiana Association will be hosting the 2021 Convention in Fort Wayne, IN August 3-7, 2021. Registration for the event is coming soon. Consider purchasing a USDA branded mask as a fundraiser for the 2021 National convention. Consider being a delegate to the National Convention. WASCOE sends two delegates. Mileage and room is paid when a report is submitted of convention activities.

WASCOE is currently organizing the Mid-West Area Rally and the state convention to be held Spring 2021. The Committee is working through the details within the confines of the pandemic. More details to come. Step up and volunteer to make this a successful event.

Stay Safe,

*Shelby Niskanen*, WASCOE President



## Who is WASCOE?

WASCOE is a member of the National Association of County Office Employees (NASCOE). Their objective is to assist in every way possible to assure successful operation of FSA and the attainment of FSA's objectives, to cooperate with other groups and organizations, to conserve and improve our soil resources, to secure equitable salaries, working conditions, and retirement provisions for all county office employees and to promote the professionalism of our employees.

## WASCOE Membership Committee

Congratulations to our former membership chair, Evie Moore, on her retirement! We thank her for her years of service to FSA & WASCOE, and hope she enjoys the retirement benefits that NASCOE has fought for – for all of us!

It's crazy to think about everything that NASCOE has done for county office employees in my lifetime. (I'm getting old, but they got a LOT done!) Job stability, good pay, insurance, flexible work schedules – imagine working as hard as we do without all that.

Currently, WASCOE has 136 CO members, plus 3 associate members. That puts our membership at 58%, based on the latest onboard figures of 234 CO employees and 66 GS county employees. There is strength in numbers, and we need to increase our membership numbers to help make our state and national organizations stronger, even though they work for the benefit of ALL employees.

The cost of membership is minimal, and scaled according to pay grade. For me, it is about the same as 10 of my venti caramel macchiatos that I love to pick up on my way to work. Many members have a couple dollars taken off each paycheck to automatically take care of their dues, and probably never miss it!

If you are a current member of WASCOE/NASCOE, encourage everyone in your office to join our employee association. And if you're not a member yet, what are you waiting for?

You can find all of the information you need to become a member of WASCOE/NASCOE here: <http://wisconsin.midwestnascoe.org/wisconsin/membership/>

*Marilyn Lentz*

Manitowoc County  
Membership Chair  
hmlmutti@hotmail.com





## Midwest Area Rally & WASCOE Convention

WASCOE is hosting the Midwest Area Rally during the annual WASCOE Convention in the Green Bay area during the spring of 2021.

Follow WASCOE on Facebook or check our website to get the latest updates and information on the Convention.

If you are a WASCOE member make sure you are receiving email updates. If you are not getting WASCOE emails and are a registered member contact Kristin Look at [kalook@gmail.com](mailto:kalook@gmail.com) to get added to the distribution list.



### Publicity & Webmaster Committee

Chair: Kristin Look

Walworth/Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee County

Email: [kalook@gmail.com](mailto:kalook@gmail.com)

The WASCOE website is at:

<http://wisconsin.midwestnascoe.org/>



The WASCOE Facebook page is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WIWASCOE/>



# It's Scholarship Time!

December is upon us and that means that the scholarship season for students will be open soon. WASCOE will offer a traditional scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, \$750 & \$500 for 2021. NASCOE has an online application for scholarships and offers many types but, remember WASCOE only offers the traditional scholarship.

## Scholarship Committee

Chair: Lisa Backus

Jackson County

Email: [lmbacus@charter.net](mailto:lmbacus@charter.net)



## Eligibility

To be eligible for the Traditional Scholarship:

- Applicants must be a NASCOE member's child, or a member's legal dependent;
- Applicants may be either a graduating high school senior or first-year college freshman enrolled as a full-time student with a minimum of 12 hours at an accredited college, university or trade school.
- Member's dues must be paid, and membership kept current for the past 5 years, or if less than 5 years, continuous membership has been maintained since becoming a NASCOE member within the first 12 months of becoming a permanent employee. Please check with a membership chair if you are unsure of your scholarship eligibility.



This scholarship can only be won once at the Area and National level.

All scholarship applications must be submitted online no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> using the official application on the NASCOE website at:

<https://nascoe.org/awards-scholarships>

Letters of recommendation and the most recent post-ed transcript shall be required to be submitted with the application no later than January 15. Applications submitted without these documents will be disqualified.

WASCOE can be proud of the scholarship program we have fostered over the years. The generous donations of our WI County Offices for the scholarship auction is one of the highlights our convention in previous years!

Please contact me for additional information or if you have any questions about the available scholarships or the process. Remember the deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> to submit your application! Good luck to all that apply!

# WASCOE/NASCOE Awards



## Awards Committee

Chair: Teresa Zimmer,  
Green County

Email: [trzimm@tds.net](mailto:trzimm@tds.net)

## Distinguished Service Awards

The WASCOE/NASCOE Distinguished Service Awards are designed to recognize fellow WASCOE/NASCOE members contributions to the Farm Service Agency/Agriculture, NASCOE and Community.

The recognition of a nomination is a great way to boost morale in our very busy and often stressful work environment. We all get in the groove of doing our jobs and forget the impact that we make on others.

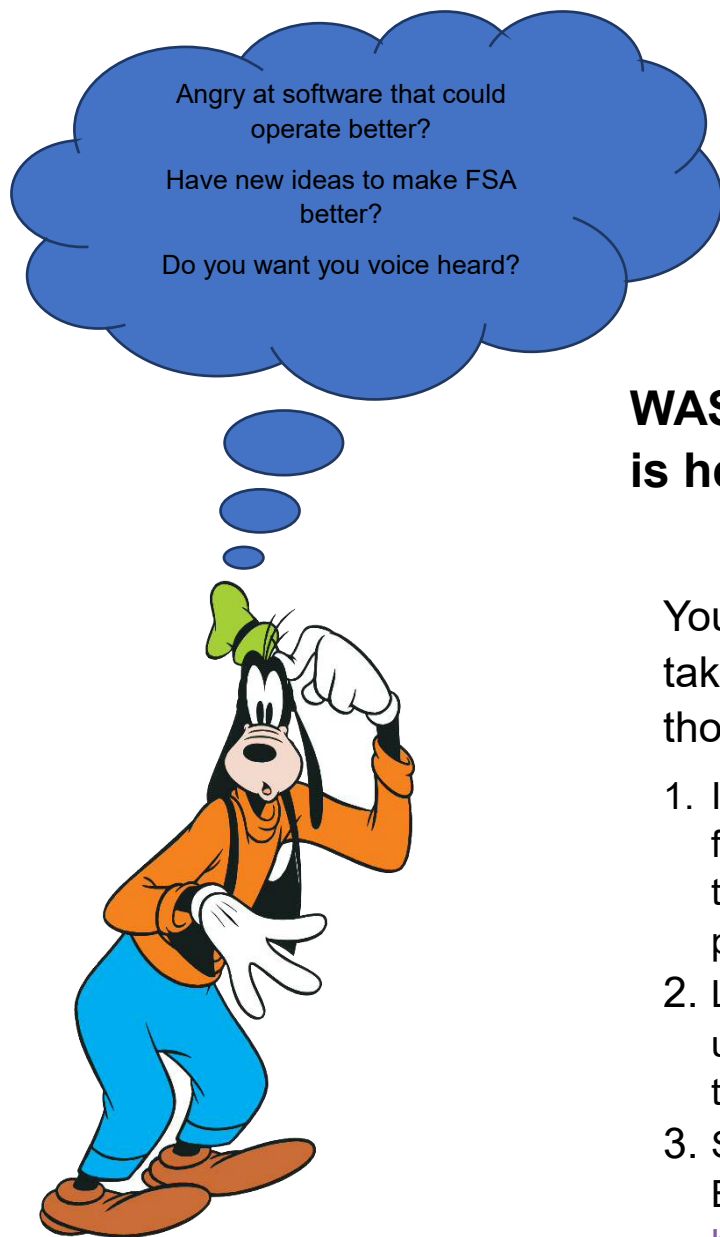
The nomination process is as simple as going to <https://nascoe.org/dsa-nomination/>, and filling out the online application. The deadline is January 15, 2021. If anyone does need help filling out the award application for someone, just let me know and I can help you out, too.

## Sick Leave Awards

Our WASCOE/NASCOE members take a great pride in providing assistance to American Farmers. In turn, employees often accumulate large amounts of sick leave. NASCOE has a process that will allow employees to be recognized with a Sick Leave Award.

Sick Leave Award increments are 1,000 hours, 1,500 hours, 2,000 hours, 2,500 hours, 3,000 hours and 3,500 hours. You can just send an e-mail by January 10, 2021 with your accumulated sick leave hours as of January 1st, 2021 to Teresa Zimmer at [trzimm@tds.net](mailto:trzimm@tds.net)





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## Programs Committee

Chair: Brooke Sperberg

Waupaca County

[brooke.sperberg@yahoo.com](mailto:brooke.sperberg@yahoo.com)

## **WASCOE Program Committee is here to help!**

Your ideas and opinions matter. It takes three simple steps to get you thoughts put into action.

1. Identify the problem. Write down a few sentences explaining what you think could be better or ways to improve the agency.
2. List some solutions. Help us to come up with ways to resolve or improve the problem you found.
3. Send items 1 and 2 to Program chair Brooke Sperberg at [brooke.sperberg@yahoo.com](mailto:brooke.sperberg@yahoo.com) or submit it via the NASCOE website at <https://nascoe.org/programs/programs-submission/>

View the program fixes already in the works below!

<https://nascoe.org/programs/program-responses/>



# NASCOE 2021 CONVENTION IN FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



Date: August 3 - 7, 2021

Location: Grand Wayne Convention Center

Contact: [nascoenationalconvention@gmail.com](mailto:nascoenationalconvention@gmail.com)

## WELCOME!

Fort Wayne is pleased to welcome NASCOE's 2021 Convention!

While you are here for the event, you can also have a great time exploring Fort Wayne. Visit one of our outstanding attractions, museums, great shopping malls, diverse restaurants, or urban parks. Catch a game with the Fort Wayne TinCaps at our award winning baseball stadium, Parkview Field, or take a look at local events happening here during your stay!

Check online for info on **guided tours** setup by NASCOE for attendees!

We'll see you soon!

*REGISTRATION COMING SOON...*

## Help support Indiana in their fundraising efforts for the convention!

IASCOE is raising funds to cover the cost of hosting the Convention by holding a drawing for the prizes listed below. WASCOE is donating the initial entry into the drawing for \$500. Each additional entry into the drawing is only \$250. If you would like to make a donation and obtain an entry into the drawing please mail a check for the \$250 made payable to IASCOE to Jon Beam by January 15, 2021 at the following address:

Jon Beam, Treasurer  
Outagamie County FSA Office  
3369 W Brewster St  
Appleton, WI 54914

**Grand Prize:** One free hotel room stay for the convention for Wednesday through Sunday

**Second Place:** Two free all-inclusive registrations for the 2021 National Convention

**Third Place:** \$50 credit to be spent at the 2021 National Convention



# USDA Masks

\$8 each, includes shipping

Checks or PayPal accepted

Email order form to:

[nascoenationalconvention@gmail.com](mailto:nascoenationalconvention@gmail.com) if

using PayPal (jamiegarriott)

Mail order form and check payable to:

IASCOE

217 E Bell Drive

Warsaw, IN 46582



All proceeds benefit NASCOE National Convention Fundraising for 2021

\*Order will not be placed until payment has been received.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Payment Method (select 1) Check \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal \_\_\_\_\_

Color Mask (Black, Red, Blue, Gray)	Color Print (Black, White)	Quantity	Total Price (includes shipping)

**Where can you find your FSA and USDA gear?**

<https://nascoe.org/store/>



**Benefits & Emblems Committee**

Chair: Stephanie McCarthy-Wondercheck

Fond du Lac County

Email: stmccart350@yahoo.com