

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: NASCOE



Wisconsin Delegation to the 2021 NASCOE Convention, Fort Wayne, IN. Back row: Tom Oason (retired), Lisa and Jake Bourget (Distinguished Service Award winner), Jon Williams (retired). Front row: Christine Pannier (WASCOE Vice President) and Shelby Niskanen (WASCOE President).

Each year active members of NASCOE may be nominated by their peers recognizing their outstanding contributions in the Areas of Service to NASCOE, Service to FSA-Agriculture, and Service to Community. This year WASCOE is privileged to announce that Jake Bourget, County Executive Director of Wood, Portage, and Waupaca has received the Distinguished Service Award to NASCOE. Below is the nomination submitted to the committee for their consideration. Congratulations Jake for contributions to WASCOE and NASCOE.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD OF NASCOE

Passionate is often a word to describe a person who loves something very intensely. Webster's dictionary also describes having a passion or being passionate as enthusiastic, a devotion, fervor, being with zeal or a defender for a cause. For those that know this individual, we have all seen and felt his passion for the farmers he serves and the employees he has helped over his years of service.

Even though this individual started out "across the aisle" working for the Conservation Department, his passion has always been to give assistance, support, and service to those he worked for and with. This dedication has brought him to a way of life of service for others.

It is with a very humble heart that I feel the need and have the honor to nominate Jake Bourget for the Distinguished Service Award for NASCOE. Jake has been a supporter of the WASCOE (Wisconsin) Association and NASCOE during his entire career with ASCS, CFSA and FSA.

Jake may have a story or two to share just how he developed an attitude of service for others, but nonetheless, this has led him to serve in many capacities that has benefited so many of us. Jake has served

as the as the NASCOE Programs Chair, Midwest Area Chair for Benefits and Programs. Jake has attended several Legislative Conferences traveling to Washington DC and representing the NASCOE and WASCOE associations over the years. In fact, while on a business trip in Washington DC with his wife, Jake took it upon himself to make an appointment with William Northey, Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. This appointment was set for 30 minutes but ended up lasting over 4 hours. We can only imagine the passion Jake had during that meeting explaining the circumstances that so many of our employees are working with and within. Jake has and continues to be an advocate for all employees within our agency.

Jake has also attended many national, state and area conferences over the years. He has also very proudly served the Wisconsin Association as a director, vice-president, and president along with being the chair of several committees during his years of membership. Jake was an integral part of the core committee when Wisconsin hosted the NASCOE national convention in 2015 in “making this happen” as we all know it does not happen on its own.

Jake has worked for the advancement of all employees, including County Committee Members, Program Technicians, Directors and State Office Employees. Jake has represented employees in grievances and challenged authority when he felt he needed to. Some may see this as defending the employees of FSA and fighting for the employees, but Jake just sees it as “doing the right thing”. This is his passion. He has met with the State Committee under some very tough situations. However, Jake has done this with honesty and integrity for the betterment of all of us. Jake has served as Acting CED for several counties, so well understanding the challenges of shared management

Jake’s service to others also is felt in his community. He provided leadership and direction on the Executive Planning Committees for Wisconsin Farm Tech Day’s, not only once, but twice. He also has provided coaching and guidance in his children’s sports teams. He provides direction in his radio programs to the producers, too.

Jake has a passion for agriculture and is passionate for his service to those he works with and works for. For these reasons, we are excited and proud to nominate Jake Bourget for the Distinguished Service to NASCOE Award.

Respectfully submitted and nominated by:

Teresa Zimmer, County Executive Direction Green County,
Shelby Niskanen, Program Technician Clark/Taylor/Price.