



WASCOE Newsletter

November 2022

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FSA COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEES

2022-2023

Officers

President:

Shelby Niskanen, Clark County

Vice President:

Chris Pannier, Washington/Ozaukee County

Treasurer:

Jon Beam, Outagamie County

Secretary:

Shelly Daus, Juneau County



2022-2023

Area Directors

Area District 1:

Heather Kirkpatrick, St. Croix

Susan Schwebach, Dunn

Kristine Wieczorek, Trempealeau

Area District 2:

Shelly Daus, Juneau

Sheila Buchholtz, Richland

Area District 3:

Marilyn Lentz, Manitowoc

Jodie Groeschel, Outagamie

Stephanie McCarthy-Wondercheck, Fond du Lac

Area District 4:

Carrie Brzezinski, Marathon

Joelle Fiedorowicz, Oconto-Marinette

Serena Mense, Jackson

Area District 5:

Kristin Loock, Walworth

Dawn Oliver, Green

Lori Edquist, Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee

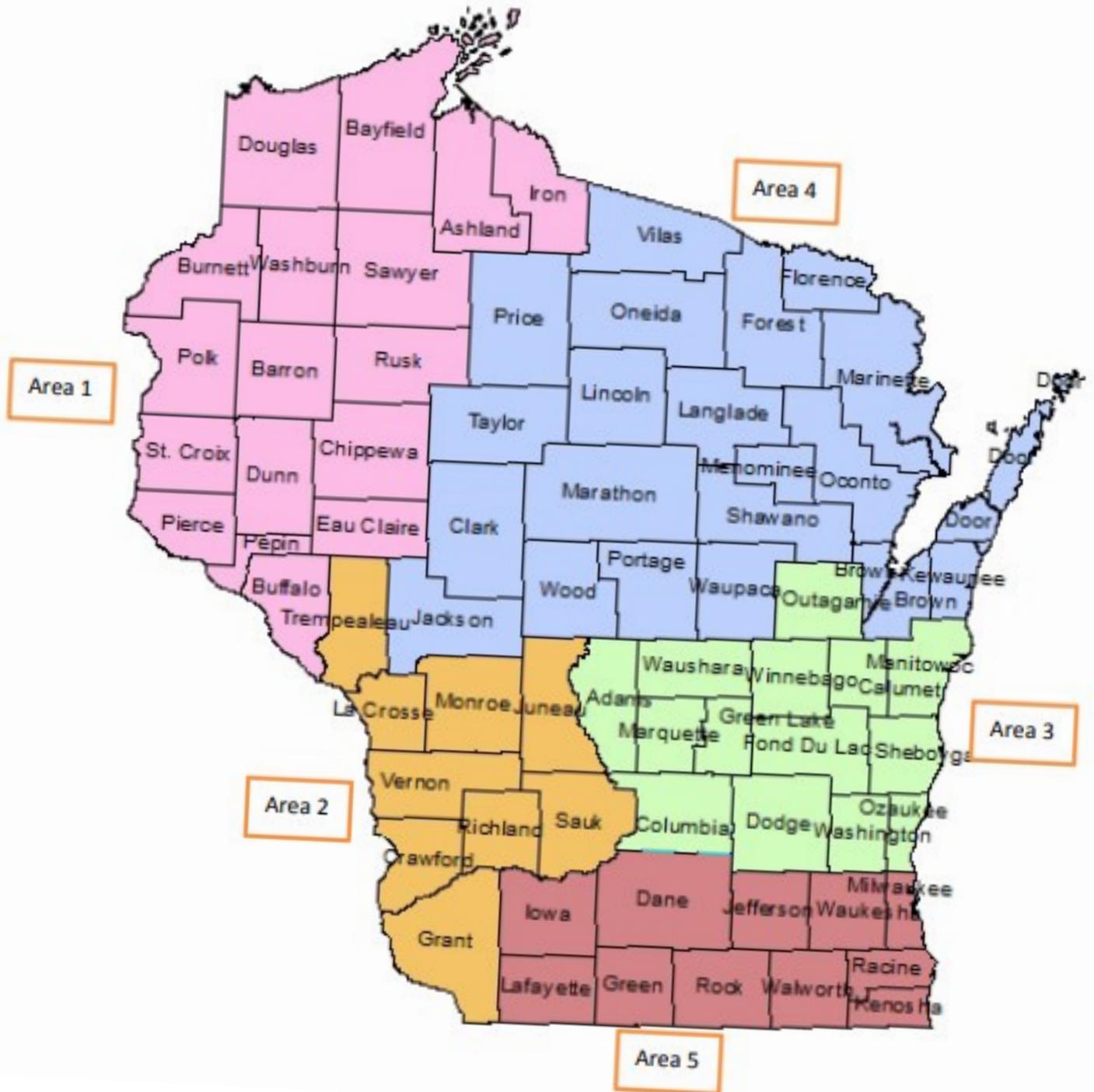
CONNECT WITH US

<https://nascoe.org/>

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

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

WASCOE is divided into 5 areas. Each area has directors representing the WASCOE members from their respective part of the state.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. *Shelby Niskanen*

It was good to be together as WASCOE hosted its 60th Annual Convention and Mid-West Area (MWA) Rally in Green Bay on March 17, 2022. There was a healthy exchange of ideas between State Office Staff, Mid-West Area Representatives, and NASCOE officers. Many thanks to the officers who used their experiences to provide a smooth functioning convention: Chris Pannier for organizing the scholarship auction; Shelly Daus for providing stress relievers, take home gifts, and for writing up the minutes for both meetings; Jon Beam, convention chair, who secured the contract with Tundra Lodge, organized the tour of the Packer Stadium, and kept track of the expenses. Thanks to Stephanie McCarthy-Wondercheck for setting up the Emblems display. Thanks to the county offices and individual members who donated items to the scholarship auction.

In October, the WASCOE board of directors had an organizational meeting. The Area director's concerns were shared. The board goals for this year are: 1) increase membership to 75%, 2) complete the officer/director handbook, 3) outreach plan to include newsletter, regular e-mail updates, and jump teams promoting membership, and 4) execute WASCOE convention.

The WASCOE state convention is on April 21, 2023, to be held at the Metropolis in Eau Claire. The theme is "WASCOE-Through the Decades." All are welcome to the convention, especially those non-members. Take time to participate in the organization that works for you! Watch for early bird registration.

Once a month, the state Presidents meet with the MWA representative, Kayla Mattson, MN, and MWA alternate executive, Amy Mormon, OH. The MWA representatives pass on information from NASCOE. MWA presidents share information and concerns from each state. This month MWA presidents from MN, IA, IL, OH, MI, WI, IN are planning state conventions and shared concerns about recruiting and retaining staff.

Midwest area chairs plan to periodically meet with state committee chairs. For instance, Lauren Shank, MWA membership chair, met with MWA state chairs (including Marilyn Lentz, WI membership chair) using TEAMS to discuss ways to promote membership in our states.

The NASCOE executive committee has opened bids for a new benefits provider. Dillard Financial Solutions Inc. contract ends December 2023. Bids will close and providers ranked. Delegates at the 2023 NASCOE convention in College State, TX will vote for one of the vendors chosen.

Marcinda Kester, NASCOE president, sent a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, that explained recruiting and retention of FSA employees. A copy of the letter was posted on the NASCOE Facebook page.

The contract for Emblems by Superior was renewed for five years. It was noted that where available, there is a new logo option: the words FARM SERVICE AGENCY under the USDA logo. "No One Fights Alone" t-shirt supporting the fight against cancer was offered. Emblems donated \$5 per shirt and NASCOE donated their 15% commission on these shirts to One Mission.

The report regarding the dissolution of the COC system through the Equity commission was addressed. The NASCOE legislative team cautions patience. This is not the first time there has been a proposal to remove the COC system. It was said that this statement was not officially published. The federal government legislative committees understand the value of the COC system. Please refer to the Legislative Updates on the NASCOE website for updates.

Lastly, please make it a point to reach out to new employees and talk about the benefits of NASCOE/WASCOE. Please let Marilyn Lentz or me know if you need welcome packets, dues forms, or words of encouragement to promote membership. We all need to do our part to offer companionship and cooperation between our colleagues at the Farm Service Agency.

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.

Have you heard about WASCOE/NASCOE? If not, please let me know. If you *have* heard about us, if you're not already a member – why not? I took over the membership chair position a few years back, so I would like to hear any reasons people may have for *not* joining.

Personally, being a member of NASCOE has directly affected me & my family in three specific ways:

- I once submitted a suggestion to let people use any sick leave for family leave, rather than limited to a fraction of that already earned. As the healthy parent of a special needs child, I used to have to use annual leave or even leave without pay to take her to frequent appointments or hospitalizations. NASCOE proposed my suggestion to folks at the national office, and the policy was changed.
- Program technicians have additional options for promotion, such as chief or lead PTs, or KeyPTs like me. NASCOE fought for those opportunities.
- My older daughter was hired as a PT in a neighboring state not quite two years ago. She recently enjoyed 12 weeks of parental leave when she gave birth to the cutest baby ever! (Just a little grandma-bias 😊). That benefit was not available until recently, and NASCOE helped remind policy makers in the process that county office employees work alongside, & just as hard as their GS coworkers, and were just as deserving.

NASCOE is currently working to make our pay competitive with the private sector. A speaker at the national convention gave the example of a fast-food restaurant offering more per hour than one of our entry-level employees – and they don't have to explain ARC-PLC!

Policy makers are looking at our membership levels to gauge how interested employees are in earning more money. I'm pretty sure 100% of us are, but our membership levels currently aren't indicating that. Don't get me wrong – NASCOE will still work for all of us regardless, but increasing our membership shows *our* commitment to the cause.

If you are a current member of WASCOE/NASCOE, encourage everyone in your office & neighboring offices to join our employee association. And if you're not a member yet, what are you waiting for? The cost of membership is minimal, and scaled according to pay grade. For me, the annual cost 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!

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

Membership Chair



MEET YOUR OFFICERS AND AREA DIRECTORS

President: *Shelby Niskanen* - This is my second term as WASCOE president. In the fourteen years I have been with the agency, I have served as WASCOE director and secretary. I joined NASCOE because I believe the organization works with Washington DC to protect our benefits. I enjoy the time members gather to have fun at the State Convention, Mid-west Area rallies, and National Convention. My other passions are my dog Murphy, reading, walking, being a church musician, travelling, and quilting.

Vice President: *Chris Bast-Pannier* - I have been with Washington/Ozaukee FSA going on 4 years, working out of the West Bend office. I have been involved with WASCOE/NASCOE since almost the beginning of my career here. My reasoning for getting involved is a simple philosophy of I better not complain about something if I don't get involved in fixing it. I have learned that you can't always "fix" things within the federal government, but I have learned much more on how the process works and that I do have a voice.

As for me personally, I came to FSA after a career in the private sector as an HR manager in mostly manufacturing. Most of my career was spent in union environments so I have lots of experience on the management side of the negotiating table. I also spent some time as a civilian with the Dept, of Defense, working with transitioning military to incorporate military skillsets into skills that civilian employers would find attractive. I live in the south end of Sheboygan County (Random Lake). I am the proud mom of 4 boys, 2 daughters-in-law and 4 grandkids, plus 2 dogs and a bunny. In my spare time, I like to buy all sorts of craft supplies and never complete a project. Pinterest is not always my friend. I like to go fishing and hunting. I am a terrible cook and even worse plant parent. I have killed artificial plants; and can't even grow zucchini.

Secretary: *Shelly Daug* - I have been serving as WASCOE Secretary for a few years. I am also currently chairing the Publicity committee of WASCOE. I have been a WASCOE-NASCOE member since day one on the job. I joined WASCOE-NASCOE because I believe employee voices joining together outside of the work environment is imperative. WASCOE-NASCOE gives us all a great opportunity to be engaged with our co-workers, as well as management, all the way to Washington D.C., on issues from HR and benefits, to program policy, software and delivery, to customer relationships.

Treasurer: *Jon Beam* - I cannot say that I have been a WASCOE member from the day I started with FSA. As I learned about NASCOE and what they have done to benefit county office employees, I became a member. I became an active member of WASCOE when I was approached and asked if I would be interested in putting my name on the ballot for treasurer. I thought this would be a great way to give something back to WASCOE and my fellow members. I started my FSA career at the Monroe County FSA office in January of 2002. I have worked in several offices throughout Wisconsin and Colorado. I have been in the Outagamie County office in Appleton since April 2015. My primary program responsibilities include Payment Limitation, Conservation Compliance, and Compliance. I enjoy going biking in my spare time when the weather is nice. I also like to travel. My favorite place to travel to is Europe. I have been there quite a few times and annually make a trip there to check out different music festivals.

AREA 1: *Heather Kirkpatrick* - CED in Dunn and St. Croix Counties and has been with FSA for just over 7 years. She lives in the Menomonie area with her husband Matt, where they have 2 quarter horses and 2 Auggie pups. Heather looks forward to getting more involved with WASCOE and helping other members to get involved as well.

Susan Schwebach - PT in Dunn County and has over 35 years serving producers in Dunn, Pierce and Pepin Counties. Sue lives in rural Pepin County with her husband and has 3 children. They enjoy spending time outdoors and growing vegetables for their family.

Kristine Wieczorek - I have been with FSA for 7 years, working in MN and WI, I enjoy what I do every day and look forward to going to work. WASCOE is a great opportunity for everyone in FSA. Because I'm a member of WASCOE, I have been able to use the additional benefits that come with the membership as well as be involved being a director.

AREA 2: Shelly Daugs - I have been with FSA for 12 years. I am a God-fearing wife and mother of three. We are always busy with church, school, sports, and 4-H. I serve on the Elroy Fair board and also as a General 4-H Club leader. My husband farms and I mostly watch him and tell him he's doing an amazing job.

Sheila Buchholtz - I work in the Richland County FSA Office. I am starting my 37th year with the same office. In those 37 years, I have been part of almost every program as either primary or back up. My programs consist of Conservation Compliance, Crop Reporting, Farm Records, and Admin. I purchase for 6 different counties in our district.

I am married with 1 child at home right now. My son will be 18 in November and is a Senior in high school. He keeps us busy with sports as he does Football, Wrestling and Baseball. I have 2 grown children and 4 grandchildren. They all keep me very busy. In between going to wrestling for my son this winter we will try and get to as many wrestling for my youngest grandson in Beaver Dam, WI.

AREA 3: Marilyn Lentz - Program technician in Manitowoc County, and KeyPT with technology duties – maybe you have heard about the WI FSA Toolbox? She & husband Bob are owners of Whispering Creek Farms LLC, and grow corn & soybeans, and hay for Marilyn's 4 Appaloosa horses. They have two daughters: Holly – married to Andrew, with son Caius; and Amber - at home. The family also has two barn cats - Alani & Dreamer, and two dogs - Dottie & Jordy. In her spare time, she likes to hike & canoe with the dogs, or travel to see her daughter & family in MN. Marilyn started with FSA as a temp in 1998 and was permanent part-time until 2015 when she accepted the KeyPT position, now working full-time. She remembers how confused she felt the first time she left the FSA office as a farmer, and her mission is to do whatever it takes to help producers understand the programs they apply for.

Jodie Groeschel - I work in Outagamie County, started here in 2005. My husband and I operate a small dairy farm. We have a daughter (30) and a son (27). Also have 2 dogs and a puppy that keep me hopping!! I love attending NASCOE and WASCOE conventions/rallies!! I have been a WASCOE/NASCOE member since I became a full-time employee. I look forward to being a director and welcome hearing from anyone on FSA concerns or to just chat about life and/or working for FSA.

Stephanie McCarthy-Wondercheck - PT in Fond du Lac County and has been with FSA for 15 years. Her time away from work is filled with caring for her family. This includes her husband- Jacob, her two sons- Bryce (11 yrs) & Gabe (8 yrs), and her elderly parents. Steph encourages new employees join and get involved with WASCOE as it is a vital part of keeping our rights as employees which results in us being a stronger workforce more capable of providing our producers with the high level of customer service they deserve. Steph is currently a WASCOE Director as well as the WASCOE Emblems and Benefits Chair.

AREA 4: Serena Mense - I am serving as a director in Area 4. I have been with FSA for 7 years. I love the outdoors and agriculture.

Joelle Fiedorowicz - I was raised in a small town in Marinette County on our family farm that celebrated its 120th year anniversary. We were a dairy operation up until 2000 and now we are primarily potato farmers but also do grain corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and timber with our sawmill. We also raise beef, chickens, and honeybees. We have hopes/goals to start raising sheep and converting some of our old Harvestors for aquaponics and greenhouses to produce year-round fresh veggies. Fun fact for our farm, we are currently the only potato producer in the United States to grow a variety called Wega's, which is a yellow skin and flesh potato that is super yummy! Other places you can find this variety is New Zealand and a few areas in Europe.

I've been with the agency at Oconto-Marinette County in Lena, WI for just over 7 years. I've handled a wide range of programs as a primary role or backup role and have gotten the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico for a month-long disaster detail back in 2018. I serve as an official mentor for DMC and GIS/GPS but if I handle the program and you ask me a question, I'll most likely help you find the answer or get you to a person that can. I strongly believe that if we all help each other in whatever ways we can, we form a strong-united network that delivers top tier customer service efficiently and effectively.

That's why when I started in 2015, I joined WASCOE. WASCOE provides a sense of community that helped me feel "part of the family" when I joined FSA and helped guide me through the first year or so of my career. Between attending conferences and reading newsletters, I started to understand the inner workings of WASCOE/NASCOE and how much they provide behind the scenes. Without this association, our voices in the county offices would not be heard. The struggles that we deal with sometimes daily would not be known. I've heard this from so many that the disconnect between the county office and the national level is a major problem. WASCOE/NASCOE to the best of their ability, is attempting to bridge this gap. WASCOE/NASCOE is the reason we have some of the benefits we do today and continue to fight for better benefits, pay, and resources.

I highly recommend joining WASCOE so that your voice can be heard and to help support the effort to better the current and future working environments and benefits for county office employees.

Carrie Brzezinski - I am a chief PT in the Marathon County FSA Office. I have about 14 1/2 years of service with FSA.

AREA 5: Dawn Oliver - I am a Program Technician in Green County and have been with the agency for six years. I have an Agriculture Business and Ag Economics degree from UW-Platteville and formerly worked in the Agricultural retail field for 23 years. This past summer my husband Kirk and I celebrated our 29th anniversary. We have a 24 yr. old son, Travis and 21 yr. old daughter Kirsten. In my spare time I am active in our church, Albany Lion's Club, and Albany FFA Alumni. I enjoy watching the Brewers, Packers and Bucks. I also like to go on long walks and runs with our 2 dogs, Macy and Clarence. I just ran a half marathon in late September with my daughter and twin sister. I look forward to serving on the WASCOE board!

Kristin Lock - I am the CED for the shared management operation that includes the Walworth and Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee County offices. I have been with FSA for over 10 years, starting as a PT before going into the COT program in 2019. I have been a WASCOE member since I started with FSA in 2012. I am a graduate of UW-Platteville with a degree in Secondary Education, specializing in High School Social Studies.

Lori Edquist - I joined WASCOE/NASCOE when I was hired somewhat out of guilt. The CED that hired me encouraged me to do so explaining the many benefits of WASCOE/NASCOE. He also told me that the office had a 100% membership forever. I certainly didn't want to be the one to ruin the office's accomplishment, so I joined. Over time, I realized he put me on the right path and I have NO regrets of joining. WASCOE/NASCOE has done and continues to do great things for all FSA employees.

A huge gain I found during my career was – I left the agency for about ten years to be home with my children. With my departure, I lost about 6 weeks of sick leave that I had not used. When I was hired back, I got all that sick leave back. It was because of NASCOE. They have fought and continue to fight for our benefits.

WASCOE Committee Chairs

Membership: Marilyn Lentz

Awards: Teresa Zimmer

Scholarship: Lisa Backus

Publicity: Shelly Daugs

Programs: *Vacant*

Emblems: Stephanie McCarthy-Wondercheck

Benefits: Stephanie McCarthy-Wondercheck

Legislative: Chris Bast-Pannier

County Committee Advisory (NAFEC): *Vacant*

Dear Membership,

WASCOE's fiscal year begins July 1st and ends June 30th. Our dues rates are one of the lowest among the states. We maintain low rates due to the diligence of the Board of Directors to make fiscally responsible decisions and weighs the available options before committing to an expense. Last year, we collected approximately \$8,400 in dues. We have collected approximately \$3400 in dues so far this year. Our annual cash raffle raises up to \$3,000. Typically, we average around \$2000 annually from the sale of the raffle tickets to supplement our general fund to cover annual expenses.

Locally, your dues are used to cover WASCOE's annual operating costs such as Board of Directors meeting and election expenses, teleconference services, employee & family memorials, annual WASCOE convention, awards, and welcome packets to newly hired employees are a few of these expenses.

Our largest annual expenditure is our quarterly dues to NASCOE. \$55 of every member's annual dues goes to NASCOE. We have paid a total of \$6,782.50 in dues for FY2021-22. Our first quarter dues this year was \$2442.50.

NASCOE uses the dues from each state for their operating expenses. The Executive Board meets to discuss and determine which issues County Office employees face that need priority for the Negotiations Committee to act upon.

Annually, two separate sets of delegates are nominated to attend the National Convention or the Midwest Area Rally (MWA Rally) on behalf of WASCOE. The MWA Rally was held in Green Bay in March and the National Convention was held last August in Savannah, Georgia. Delegates are reimbursed for their mileage, lodging, registration fee, and eligible miscellaneous costs such as a parking fees. Delegates are required to write a report detailing their experience and what they learned. Delegates to the National Convention were reimbursed \$2630.56. WASCOE receives a stipend from NASCOE for the delegates that attend. The stipend WASCOE received for the National Convention was \$418.14. The amount of the stipend is calculated by taking the cost of airfare from the state's capital city to the destination, multiplied by the state's amount of membership, multiplied by the number of delegates. Currently our membership is at 52%.

If you are interested in attending the National Convention, please be aware that NASCOE has a "Convention Cash Club" contest each year. Members in good standing who have never attended a NASCOE National Convention can enter the contest. Applicants will submit a one-page essay of 500 words or less discussing the selected topic for that year. A maximum of five stipends of \$500 each will be awarded! One winner is chosen from each NASCOE Area. Winners must attend the convention and be present for all general sessions and the award banquet.

NASCOE hosted an Aspiring Leadership Development program last October in Kansas City. Chris Pannier represented Wisconsin at the conference. NASCOE reimburses states for 50% of each attendee's total expenses. Delegates submit their request for reimbursement directly to NASCOE, who reviews and approves each request. NASCOE issues a stipend for 50% of the delegate's total expenses to each state. Chris's eligible expenses totaled \$919.02 of which NASCOE paid \$459.51.

If you wish to be a delegate for a future MWA Rally, National Convention, or the Aspiring Leadership Conference, please contact Shelby Niskanen for more information. These events provide a great opportunity for members' development into WASCOE and NASCOE leaders.

Our annual convention is an event that we tailor you, our membership, to be informative as well as enjoyable and entertaining. We arrange for a delicious meal during the banquet and offer a hospitality room of refreshments to enjoy while mingling with your FSA friends! We use this opportunity to award and recognize employees who contribute to their service to agriculture, their communities, and to FSA.

WASCOE supports the Midwest Area and NASCOE by providing a donation (a \$100 limit) to both of these scholarship auctions. Also, we support the host state of the National Convention by supporting their fundraising choices. In the past this has been either purchasing \$500 in raffle tickets or by making a \$500 donation. The information presented at these events really emphasizes what the leadership of NASCOE is doing and the issues they are addressing that face us. You see the passion your fellow members have towards FSA County Office employees and how much our work is valued in helping our farmers.

I hope this provides a brief understanding of what your dues are used for and the opportunities of being a delegate or representing Wisconsin at a NASCOE conference or event. To learn more, please check out our website to read delegate reports from delegates at previous NASCOE events. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, just reach out to an Officer or Director.

You can find us on the web at <http://wisconsin.midwestnascoe.org/> as well as on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WIWASCOE/>.

As always, contact me at bearsfan2003@gmail.com with any questions, ideas, or comments you have. 😊



Jon Beam
WASCOE Treasurer

Save the dates:

- April 21, 2023 – WASCOE Annual Convention at the Metropolis Resort in Eau Claire!
 - ❖ Theme: ***Class Reunion: WASCOE Thru the Decades***
- April 26-28, 2023 – MWA Rally hosted by Michigan!
 - ❖ Holiday Inn Grand Rapids, MI (next to the Airport)
- August 2023 – NASCOE National Convention – College Station, Texas

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

“WOW... thanks.. that really helped out!”

“I'm not sure I could have done that without you!”

“Thanks for your patience and belief in me!”



Are these things you have thought about a co-worker but for some reason just could not bring yourself to say it to them? Well, now is your chance to let your co-worker know you appreciate them and all they do by nominating them for a Distinguished Service Award.

The Distinguished Service Awards are a great way to acknowledge the good a person does within FSA, their community, or our WASCOE-NASCOE association. You have a few weeks to think about it, but the deadline to complete the award nomination is **early January**. So don't let time slip on by, take a moment and write up a nomination for the good things your co-workers do to make their corner of the world a better place. If you need help writing up the nomination, just let me know and I can help you, too.

SICK LEAVE AWARDS

Unfortunately with COVID, the Sick Leave Awards have been put on the back burner the last two years, so we are catching up. If you have reached a milestone number in hours of sick leave (1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, or 3500 hours) by **March 1, 2023**, be sure to let me know also. This is available to all WASCOE-NASCOE members. All I need is your name, number of hours and your home county.

If you have any questions, just let me know.
Enjoy the Fall weather and holidays!

WASCOE Awards Chair
-Teresa Zimmer

From the WASCOE State Convention on March 17, 2022 the following awards were given:

Nice Job Award - one nomination was submitted and the winner of \$25 Emblems awards went to Annamarie Merkt of the Washington/Ozaukee office.

100% Office Membership - random drawing \$100 award winner was the Trempealeau County office.

New Member - random drawing \$25 award winner was Alana Voss in the Juneau County office.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship season is **open**, and the online application process is now open! WASCOE will offer a traditional scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, \$750 & \$500 for 2023. NASCOE has an online application for scholarships and offers many types but, remember at the WASCOE level only the traditional scholarship is offered.

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 15th using the official application on the [NASCOE Website](#). Letters of recommendation and the most recent posted 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 of our convention in previous years! At the 2022 WASCOE State Convention, the scholarship auction raised **\$2,489**, as well as had \$580 in donations.

We would like to recognize and congratulate the 2022 WASCOE Traditional Scholarship winners:

1st place – Jacob Bourget, son of Jake Bourget, retired Portage CO CED. Jacob is attending UW-Madison studying Kinesiology and is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy.

2nd place – Caleb Lokker, son of Jennifer Lokker, St Croix CO PT. Caleb planned to attend UW-River Falls and major in Agricultural Engineering.

3rd place – Maggie Schut, daughter of Debra Schut, Jefferson CO CED. Maggie planned to attend UW-River Falls and major in Clinical Lab Science.

We would also like to recognize Marissa Vosberg, who won the Traditional Scholarship at the Midwest Area level and Allison Bragger, who won the Member Continuing scholarship at the Midwest Area and at the National Level.

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

Lisa Backus
Scholarship Committee Chair

Publicity & Webmaster Committee

Shelly Daug, Jon Beam, Kristin Look

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

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 Jon Beam at bearsfan2003@gmail.com.



The WASCOE website is at: <http://wisconsin.midwestnascoe.org/>



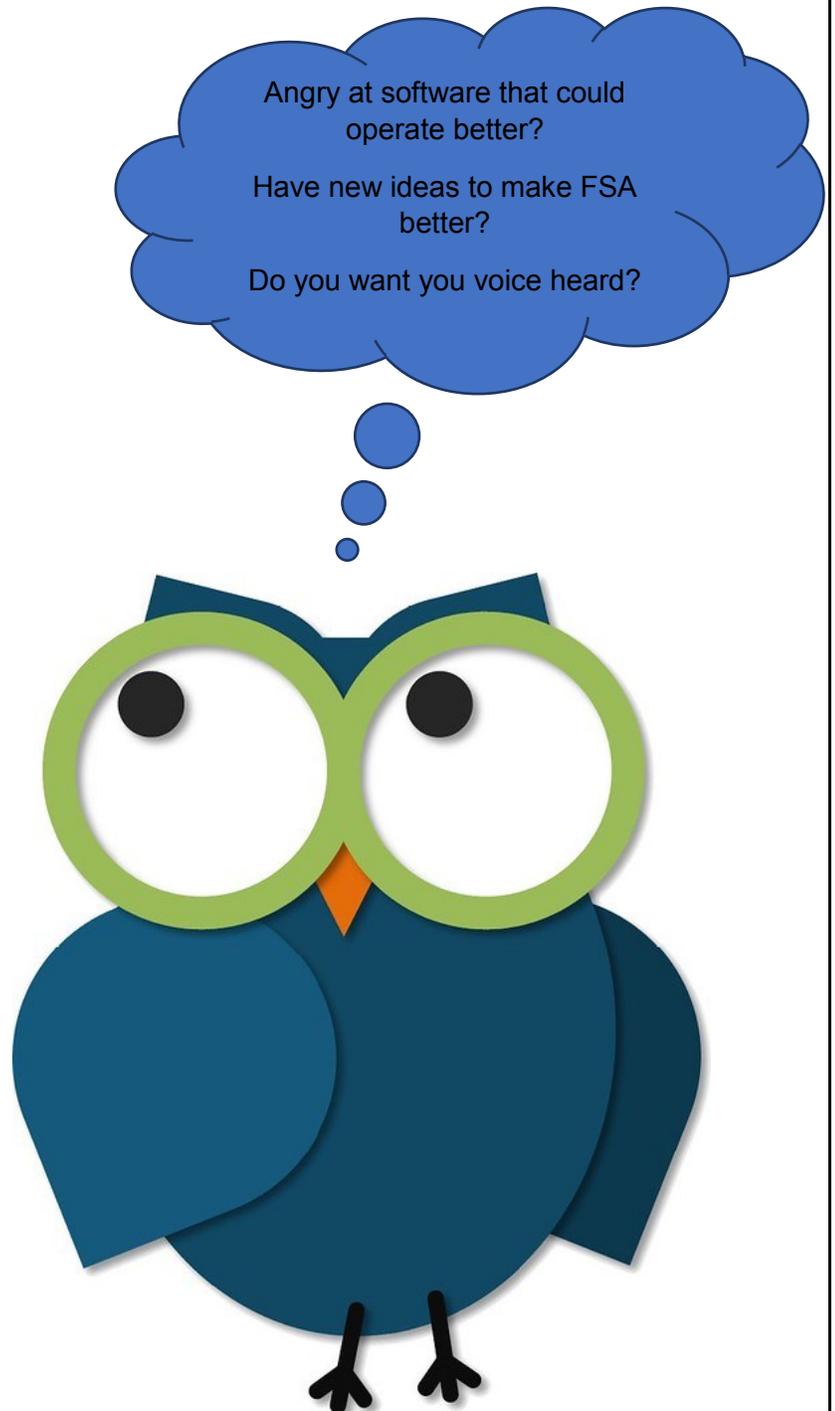
The WASCOE Facebook page is at: <https://www.facebook.com/WIWASCOE/>

The NASCOE website is at: <https://nascoe.org/>

WASCOE Program Committee

Your ideas and opinions matter. It takes three simple steps to get your 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. Submit items 1 and 2 via the NASCOE website at <https://nascoe.org/programs/programs-submission/>



Benefits & Emblems Committee

Chair: Stephanie McCarthy-Wondercheck
Fond du Lac County
Email: stmccart350@yahoo.com

Where can you find your FSA and USDA gear? <https://nascoe.org/store/>



NASCOE Emblems Store

We are now able to offer the USDA Logo with the words Farm Service Agency under the logo. You can still order just the USDA, NASCOE and RASCOE logos, but where available, there is a new logo option: USDA Farm Service Agency. The picture above, right, illustrates how it will look.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

emblemsbysuperior@gmail.com

Store: 800.342.9273

Cell: 270.704.0370

BENEFITS:

WASCOE members are reminded of all the great benefits that comes along with your membership! Check out the [NASCOE Benefits](#) page to visit the following providers that offers us extra benefits for being WASCOE members. These partners include:

- ❖ Dillard Financial Solutions
- ❖ Age of Learning- ABC Mouse & Adventure Academy
- ❖ AirMedCare Group Discount
- ❖ Allstate Identity Protection Pro
- ❖ NASCOE Employee Relations Services
- ❖ FEDS Professional Liability Insurance
- ❖ Live Streaming Fitness
- ❖ Working Advantage

Notably, Working Advantage is a great spot to find discounts for amusement park, theatre, and event tickets. It is also a great to find travel and online shopping discounts too!!!

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