



National Association of FSA County Office Employees Midwest Area Breakout Session Agenda College Station, Texas August 3rd and August 4th, 2023



Midwest Area Executive: Kayla Mattson, Minnesota
Midwest Area Alternate Executive: Amy Mormon, Ohio

Programs/Negotiations: Stacia Slover, Illinois
Legislative: Ron Pethoud, Iowa
Scholarship/Awards: Jennifer Achman, Minnesota
Membership: LeAnn Oltmanns, Illinois
Benefits/Emblems: Kathy Nelson, Michigan
COAC: Katrina Miller, Indiana
Publicity: Jamie Wegner, Michigan

-
- I. Call to Order & Roll Call – Meeting was called to order by MWA Executive Mattson at 3:45 PM on Thursday, August 3, 2023. Shelby Niskanen was appointed as the Recording Secretary and Roll Call was completed and the following were present:
 - Kayla Mattson, Executive
 - Amy Mormon, Alternate Executive,
 - Awards and Scholarship -absent
 - Benefits-Travis Eisle,
 - COAC -Katrinia Miller,
 - Legislative-Ron Pethoud,
 - Membership-LeAnn Oltmanns
 - Publicity-absent
 - Programs and negotiations- Stacia Slover
 - Representatives from Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio – including 2 delegates from each state.

 - II. Benefit Provider Presentation– Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. Team
Steve and team provided updates to attendees regarding new opportunities they are working on. They are looking forward to working with states for the future. Any questions be sure to visit with them this week.

 - III. Updates from Committee Chairs –
Committee reports were delivered from the floor from each of the committee chairs.
Awards and Scholarship: A lengthy discussion was held for both topics.
Scholarship process. It was proposed during scholarship selection that the same judging sheet be used, and names be redacted to promote fairness in the judging process. The state makes sure that the applicant follows membership rules before the application is moved forward. All scholarship applicants submitted from a state will be forwarded to the MWA and to the National Scholarship Committee. The area does not feel that individual states need to submit rankings to the area and national level.

Awards – how will awards be given to deserving members?
It was noted that current NASCOE officers, Executive Committee, and National Committee Chairs are not eligible for Distinguished Service Awards. Some retire after serving in their positions and are not able to be recognized so the area discussed if this is this appropriate?

A recommendation was put forward that past officer be eligible for awards. Additionally, it was recommended that committee members be allowed to be recognized as eligible in the next awards year if they return. Finally, it is the MWA's wish that all award nominations that are being judged would have names redacted.

There are lots of people who participate for the good of NASCOE, their Community, FSA/Agriculture and all states should promote these awards. The Executive Committee recognizes the deserving members that have worked to make NASCOE successful.

Benefits: Discussed a few benefits offered that could be promoted a bit more were FEDS Liability Insurance for persons in management, Working Advantage, and MetLaw for \$18.95 per month for legal services associated with legal documents such as wills, trusts, etc. Always looking for suggestions if there are more benefits members would like to see.

COAC: no new updates about equity commission results. The COAC factsheet has been updated and is found on the NASCOE website. Each state needs a COAC chair and co-chair.

Legislative – no new updates. Membership is encouraged to join the Political Action Committee (PAC).

Programs & Negotiations: 2022 negotiations have been concluded. There were 91 submissions. Results will be published in the next couple of weeks.

Membership: 67% membership for the area. Jump teams may be needed in 2 states in the future. More discussion on membership items in New Business.

Publicity – Membership is encouraged to download the NASCOE App called “Glue Up”. More sensitive material will be passed through the app. It will replace Facebook page. Most updates will still appear on the NASCOE website. It was recommended to re-load the app if you have problems.

- IV. Legislative Updates with Hunter Moorhead and Legislative Team
Discussions with Hunter and the attendees took place with many items brought forward. Some items will be brought forward for negotiations in the future and other items will be monitored during Farm Bill work.
- V. Updates by State Presidents – due to the lack of time, state presidents will submit reports within 2 weeks of the close of convention.
- i. Illinois – *LeAnn Oltmanns*
 - ii. Indiana – *Janice Acree*
 - iii. Iowa – *Todd Perden*
 - iv. Michigan – *Jamie Wegner*
 - v. Minnesota – *Kayla Mattson*
 - vi. Missouri – *Maureen Cope*
 - vii. Ohio – *Amy Morman*
 - viii. Wisconsin – *Shelby Niskanen*

VI. Officer Reports

- a. Midwest Area Executive – to be sent out to members through Exit Report. Please be sure that when information is shared after area calls or via email, that you are each sharing that information somehow with your members.
- b. Midwest Alternate Executive -thank you for allowing us to represent you. Looking forward to continuing to build relationships with you and help be your voice in the future.

VII. Old Business - none

VIII. New Business/Discussion Topics

a. Benefits Provider Proposal

Six companies bid to become benefits providers. Names were redacted on each bid to make the selection equitable. Company B was chosen. The Executive Committee will enter into negotiations and if an agreement is reached, they will become the benefits provider for the next six years. The Provider will be announced in the coming months. This was supported by each state and all delegates.

b. Secretary of State Filing/Merger

NASCOE elected a new treasurer. It was discovered that for tax filing purposes it was more beneficial monetary to move NASCOE headquarters from New York (not corporate friendly) to South Dakota (very corporate friendly) for tax filing purposes. This is called “the merger.”

To complete the merger the NASCOE by-laws need to be changed. By-law language will be modernized. Language will include a procedure for voting by proxy and include a 100-member quorum for voting matters. Proxy sheets were distributed. A meeting will be called within 30 days of the by-law change. All members of NASCOE are asked to attend and vote. New York is very particular in that all members have the right to voice and vote.

No additional questions or concerns were brought to the attention of the Executive.

c. Membership Dues

i. Dues Structures of States

NASCOE is gathering information as to how dues are collected. Dues increase on the horizon. Some states set dues as a percentage of salary. Some states set dues for each grade level. It is important that dues are changed with grade changes. If we cannot reach our membership dues will need to go up. Attendees discussed and requested that good, detailed communication occur over the next months to help states with sharing this information. Many states are struggling to retain membership and an increase, requiring updates to policies, may cause more members to leave.

ii. Associate Member Dues

There is a proposal to have a flat rate associate dues which will be collected by NASCOE through the App. After lengthy discussion, most states have a fee that is higher than the flat rate and are concerned that this may impact their association.

MWA recommends that associate membership dues be set by the state.

d. 2024 Rally – possibly in Fargo, ND with NWA early April

e. SEA Resolution in Support of the COC system – reviewed, discussed and supported by MWA.

f. Other

- i. MWA Website - Teresa Holmquist, MN delegate has administrative access to the Midwest Area Website on the NASCOE website. She is asking for re-imbusement of \$200 for maintaining the licensing if we are going to continue. More discussion with States and Area Publicity Chair in the near future.

IX. Nomination and election of MWA Alternate and MWA Executive

- a. Chris Hare nominates Janice Acree for Alternate Executive, seconded by Teresa Holmquist. No other nominations, Janice unanimously was elected.
- b. Shelby Niskanen nominates Amy Morman for Executive, Maureen Cope seconded. No other nominations, Amy unanimously was elected.

X. Adjournment – Mitch Towne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chris Pannier seconded, no discussion, Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM on Friday, August 4, 2023.