

2017 NASCOE National Convention Delegate Report

Roxie Stambach & Joel Foster - Delegates

The Convention was held in St. Charles Missouri with roll call being taken on Thursday August 3, 2017 with 401 members in attendance. President Wes Daniels asked for bids for the 2019 convention and Kansas offered a bid no other bids being on the floor their bid was accepted.

Bob Stevenson representing the Under Secretary of Ag

- Informed members of dollars FSA had paid out in each program, and praised the work of FSA staff.
- He was a former CED in Illinois and worked in Conservation as a PT.
- He said NASCOE was an important representation for the members in Washington.
- The New Reorganization should provide smoother and less costly services with stream lined programs and consolidated office services. They hope customer service is improved and wants suggestion to get the merger off the ground.

Chris Beyerhem, Acting Administrator

- He said it is rewarding to see how FSA has responded to all of the disasters.
- Economic Development is what FSA does. When asked what FSA does, we need to tell the story of Economic Development, and we need to make sure the new SED's are aware of what we do. FSA is Economic Development, and we do make a difference.
- Staffing is at 98% of our ceiling. We are in an uncertain budget time. FSA is different because we have boots on the ground delivery and there is a need to look at each office. The 2018 budget is in and marked, but still uncertain as to the outcome but it is looking better than projected.
- Leadership training will continue with the 201 course and they are developing a 301 and 101 course also.
- They have worked hard on updating handbooks and feel they have accomplished this he wants to hear from us if something has been missed.
- The topic of working overtime without reporting on timesheet should not be done as this is not legal. If you are working and not getting credit hours, overtime, or comp time you are not helping and once again stated it is illegal. The workload story is not being told if it is not being reported.
- Farm bill ideas need to be submitted as now is the time to let them know your ideas.
- Bridges to Opportunity was talked about, and it is mandated by Congress so they need to be completed.
- Length of Service Awards are being changed to a medal being given as Bronze Silver and Gold for years of service. They are working on getting new Beginning Farmers and trying to coordinate how to get help out there. There is a pilot in Iowa to try to get the non-op landowners to give beginning farmers a chance and sell to them. This will be going Nation Wide.

Brad Karmen Acting Administrator Farm Programs

- With no political appointees in place except Secretary Perdue they have been doing business as usual acting on the wild fires and the drought in Montana and the Dakotas Mr. Perdue has been acting very quickly getting programs approved and out to the producers.
- RMA and NASS yields will be disclosed. NASS used first but it seems more faith from producers with RMA data. He encouraged to express opinions to Congress on the yield procedure.
- The disaster programs are permanent legislation and will be going on forever. Have found discrepancies in grazing dates and will be looking at the LFP grazing dates, data has been gathered and will be sent to STO's for review and will become effective 2018.
- CRP is the closest it has ever been to the CAP May 3rd stopped approving so the Secretary can decide how to move forward with the remaining acres.

John Chott – DAFO

- In 2001 there were 9017 CO and 3956 Federal in 2017 there are 7100 CO and 2900 Federal, 2500 office and now 2124.
- 75 COTs are now being announced and they have asked for more critical requests and hoping for good news and temp dollars have been awarded thru FY and into next year.
- In 2001 60-70% of the CED's were 12's, and now 90% are CO-12. The majority of the PT's are 7's. Key PT's were added in each state and he would like to see one per district.
- Counter Skills for PT's train the trainer has been completed and will be online soon and will do groups of 25

Rhada Sekar-CFO

- She has been on 2 years 3 months and it feels like 20. She has her interest in her heart and wants to make sure we have the right level of staff.
- She is having a hard time as the payments etc are getting out on time so it appears we do not need more so she also stated it was important to not be working without capturing it on timesheet it is not helping only hurting.
- She feels the 2018 budget is looking ok if what she is hearing comes true. Most of what has been asked for she feels will be given by Congress but time will tell. She also feels we need to figure out a way to capture what is not getting done.
- For the 19 Budget she has asked for an increase in the temp budget and looks at it as a succession tool.

Darren Ash – FSA CIO

- Copiers and printers are a major problem and needs to be accelerated. Computer refresh needs to be on a regular cycle.

The panel from DC took part in a Question and Answer session and the National Committee, and those will be posted.

Election was held for the new officers of NASCOE with Dennis Ray elected President, Vice President is Brandon Wilson and Secretary is Marcinda Kester and Treasurer is Curt Houck. I think we will be well represented by the board.

Hunter Moorehead was in attendance. His presentation will be posted on the NASCOE webpage along with his Question and Answer session. He did state it was a very different and unpredictable time currently but looks forward to many more wins.

The PAC was discussed and the SE area leads the way with contributions. This is a very important part and encourages the membership to contribute it is a great insurance. It does make a difference.

We need to build relationships with our agricultural partners, and if we have contacts please share with the State board members.

Respectfully submitted
Roxie Stambach
Delegate