

RASCOE OF SOUTH DAKOTA 2018 FALL-WINTER NEWSLETTER

Presidents Report – Richard Rische

Well it is time for another article again. The summers seem to fly by faster than they used to, but as we get older time seems to go a lot faster than what we want. We were busy again this past year with both of us having our knees worked on and trying to get some camping in with family and friends.

On the RASCOE side of things I would encourage all of you to keep watching for what Congress tries to do to our retirement benefits as well as what they want to do to Social Security and Medicare. It appears that CSRS retirees will receive a 2.8 percent COLA while FERS retirees will only receive a 2.0 percent COLA. I think this is terribly unfair, and we should all be talking to our congressional delegation to address this issue. There are rumblings that there will be cuts to Social Security and Medicare to help address the deficit issue caused by the recent tax cuts implemented by the Congress and the President. We all like to pay less taxes, but the elderly should not be responsible for paying for these cuts for the rest of the people in our country.

I would encourage all of you to be mindful of changes in your federal health insurance benefits that may impact you. Last year those of us who were enrolled in the basic Blue Cross Plan were able to request a reimbursement for enrolling in Option B of Medicare. I am of the understanding that this will be an option again for this coming year, but please be watching for this and other changes that may benefit us or impact us in a negative way. I will try and keep all of you updated as we hear more.

(The Federal Benefits Open Season for 2019 plan year run from November 12 through December 10, 2018)

I would take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy holiday season from Mary Ellen and myself. Be sure to spend time reflecting of what sacrifices that our veterans and their family have endured to ensure that we are free in this great country, be thankful for the blessings we have each day and be sure to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas as we spend time with family



Becky Zirpel - SD RASCOE VP

WOW - what will I do with my time now that the 2018 NASCOE/RASCOE Convention is done! For now, I want to thank all the RASCOE members for all they did to help make the 2018 NASCOE/RASCOE convention a success. It couldn't be successful without you!!!

As we all had our first taste of Winter it reminds us that only a few weeks until Christmas and a New Year.

In reading NARFE headlines this last month it appears that there will be a COLA for all but depending on the amount FERS is limited because of law passed when FERS was established. Once again this affects many retirees. They talk about it being the largest COLA since 2012 but anything is larger than 0 in which is what we had for many years. I am not promoting NARFE, but I do suggest that along with information coming from NASCOE and RASCOE sources NARFE is a great source for all Federal Employees.

There was some talk about this at our last RASCOE luncheon, so I decided to research as I know it can affect several retirees and that is the Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall. What I found was that NARFE has supported a bill introduced to congress to cosponsor a piece of legislation supporting this bill for eventual consideration. The bill H.R. 1205 should be supported perhaps check this out at www.narfe.org - legislature Action Center.

That brings me to the RASCOE luncheons. I am not able to make it to most of them, but I do when in my area. They are so much fun to visit with old friends. You do not have to be a member of RASCOE (but of course you certainly should consider it) it is never brought up. We talk about fun things and just enjoy good conversation and food with great people. Consider coming to the luncheons in your area next year. I promise you will enjoy it!! FUN DAY OUT
Remember as of November 1 it is only 22 days until Thanksgiving, 55 days until Christmas and 61 days until a New Year begins.

Wishing all of you a family fun loving Thanksgiving Day - Happy Black Friday shopping experience and a Merry Christmas. Keep God centered in your life and best wishes for the New Year in 2019!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Gene Vognild (and Shirlee Vognild) received an appreciation award for support of NASCOE and attending all National NASCOE Conventions.

RASCOE OF SD FY 18-19

BEGINNING BALANCE	4/30/2018	\$10,673.17
INCOME		
Dues	\$2,000.00	
2018 Raffle (received after Convention)	\$20.00	
2018 Raffle	\$234.00	
Donation	\$15.00	
Return Convention cash	\$511.00	
Interest	\$1.97	
Fish 'n Fun Donation	\$720.00	
Total Income	\$3,501.97	
Expenses		
RASCOE	\$3,044.00	
50/50 Raffle Winners (checks)	\$351.00	
2018 Door Prizes	\$60.00	
SD Secretary of State	\$10.00	
Office Supplies	\$567.33	
Postage	\$53.50	
Bank Fee	\$89.67	
Officer Stipend	\$300.00	
Early Bird	\$25.00	
Total Expense	\$4,500.50	
ENDING BALANCE	10/29/2018	\$9,674.64

South Dakota picture from the August 2018 NASCOE/RASCOE National Convention in Sioux Falls



Thank you Jim Iverson representing Fish 'n Fun for the wonderful donation of \$720 to SDASCOE President Joel Foster and \$720 to RASCOE Secretary-Treasurer Lynda Steichen as you close your books of 35 years of Fishing and Fun!