

South Dakota State SDASCOE Convention-2022

May 13-14, 2022-Chamberlian

The 2022 SDASCOE Convention opened with the Welcome from President Mary Jane West. The General Session was called to order.

President West introduced our New SED Steve Dick.

SED Steve Dick runs a small family farm near Canistota. He is married to Jeanne and father to son Truman and Daughter Eleanor. He served for 17 years as Executive Director of Ag United for South Dakota. SED Steve Dick has been on the job for 5 weeks now. He thanks us for our service to the farmers in South Dakota. SED Steve Dick asked Joe Schultz our past acting SED to visit with the group. Joe stated that SD is in the process of hiring 2 to 6 new CEDT (County Executive Director in Training). They are hoping for 4 hires. There is allocation money for Temp PT's so if a county thinks they need one to contact State Office. We still have retired people helping with the extra workload as well.

President Mary Jane West introduced SD State FSA Committee Wayne Morgan.

Wayne visited with the group about his past history with FSA and he is looking forward to working with the again.

NASCOE Vice President Joel Foster introduced Clint Bain-NASCOE Legislative Co-Chair.

Clint Bain joined the meeting virtual. Clint is the NASCOE Co-Chair for Legislative. He visited with the group on FSA salaries and expenses-Budget. The budget was passed back in March for fiscal year 2022. Clint stated that NASCOE was pleased and surprised on the outcome for FSA. The budget increased from FY21. 15 million was earmarked for new hires. FY23 appropriations talks have started and NASCOE feels we have a good starting point for this right now. The new Farm Bill is conducting hearings at this time. They are going over the good items of the last farm bill and what the needed changes should be. NASCOE has been looking at grading factors between private sector salaries and ours. FSA needs to keep up with the private sector so as not to lose good hard working people. Clint visited about the HR4268 bill. This is the bill for full time employees to buy back Temporary time. Clint indicated that retirees may want to keep contributing to PAC. NASCOE is trying to increase the number of employees and retirees to contribute to PAC by having a drawing for 2 free nights at the NASCOE Convention. At this time we have 612 members that contribute to PAC with \$3208 per pay period.

NASCOE Vice President Joel Foster introduced Lacey Orcutt-NWA Executive

Lacey joined the meeting virtual as well. Lacey has been a CED in North Central Montana for 12 years but been with FSA for 16 years. Lacey stated that new employees need to know about NASCOE and what NASCOE does for them. Benefits are not a given with CO employees and we need NASCOE to fight for our benefits. The Area Rally will be held in Oklahoma next weekend and the 2022 NASCOE convention will be in Savannah Georgia in August. Lacey indicated that they have monthly president calls. Something new that Lacey is trying to get started is NWA Happy Hour call members. Lacey invited everyone to join NASCOE.

NASCOE Vice President Joel Foster stated that the items that he was going to cover had already been covered by Clint Bain and Lacey Orcutt. The 2023 Farm Bill is top priority for NASCOE along with new hires. Joel reminded the group a few years ago SD was able to hire on 20 plus new PT's when other states were not so lucky. Joel indicated that membership is a struggle nationwide not just SD. Actually SD is Number 2 in the nation for membership.

NWA COAC Chairperson Jim Anderson visited about the purpose and responsibilities of the COAC.

President Mary Jane West introduced Teresa Dillard-Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc

Teresa and Wes Daniels handed out packets to attendees at the meeting. Teresa said new hires need to contribute at least 5% to TSP because of the matching 5% from the government. If new hires are not going this, they are leaving free money on the table. Teresa also reminded members that the increase cost of living amount could be put in TSP. When a new hire comes aboard, it may be a good idea to go into the Lifecycle Funds. Dillard Financial Solutions are here to help members and answer financial questions.

President Mary Jane West introduced Kimberly Compton, Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Kim presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group. The presentation was geared more for taking your insurance into retirement. Kim said the one thing we don't ever want to do is cancel your health insurance. Once you cancel your insurance you can't get it back it back. Kim indicated you can put your insurance in suspension and join again at the next open season. When you are 3 months from your 65 birthday, go enroll in Medicare so when you turn 65, your benefits will kick into place. Kim suggests that members get Medicare Part B right away but this Part B is voluntary. Kim also indicated that members don't need Medicare Part D. Kim said that she is more than willing to come to the office to visit with new hires or the new hires can call her as well.

President Mary Jane West introduced Larry Olson-SD RASCOE President.

Larry invited members to join RASCOE when they retire or as an associate member. RASCOE works hard for members benefits as well.

President Mary Jane West introduced Becky Zirpel-National RASCOE VP.

Becky talked about the retirement paperwork taking too long for new retirees. This has been a big issue with newly retired members. OPM is the contact person for members after retirement. Retirees need to help themselves through the process and retirees need to be proactive. Becky also talked about the HR4268 bill for buying our temp time back.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned until the next morning.

Saturday, May 14, 2022

President Mary Jane West started the business meeting. We had the National Anthem and reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Deceased Employee Power point presentation was done at this time.

President Mary Jane West welcomed the members to the business meeting. President Mary Jane indicated to the group that Courtney Hansen has been updating the SDASCOE website. Members need to go and check the website out. President Mary Jane West also told the members that for retirees there is honorary lifetime membership for NASCOE. The form is on the NASCOE website and would need to be sent to the SDASCOE Secretary for signature. One of the benefits of the membership is no registration fees for NASCOE conventions.

Roll Call

SDASCOE Secretary Karen LaFurge took Roll Call for the convention. We had 28 Regular members, 13 Retirees, and 15 Guests for a total of 55 attendees. We had 12 first time SDASCOE attendees for the 2022 Convention. Melanie Ellsworth won the drawing for paid expenses for 1st time attendee.

Secretary Karen LaFurge had Courtney Hansen post the 2021 SDASCOE Convention minutes to the SDASCOE website before the convention. Marlene Reuman made a motion to accept the 2021 SDASCOE minutes and Kathy Torres seconded the motion. All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

SDASCOE Treasury Report:

Joel Foster presented the SDASCOE Annual Treasurer's report. Joel also went through an income/expense report from 09/29/2020 to 05/13/2022. Desiree King has resigned from Treasurer so we will need a treasurer going forward. See both attachments. Donnie McManus made a motion to accept the reports and Kathy Torres accepted. All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

SDASCOE Committee Reports:

Awards/Scholarships/Fundraising: Courtney Hansen-see attachment

Benefits/Emblems/Programs-report from NWA Chair-see attachment

County Office Advocacy-Terri Roth: No Report

Legislative/PAC/NAFEC-Dawn Nagel-see attachment

Membership-Leslie Heyden-see attachment

Publicity/Webmaster-Courtney Hansen-see attachment

Donnie McManus made a motion to accept all committee reports as presented and Kathy Torres seconded the motion. All members voted Aye. Motion carried.

SDASCOE Old Business: No old business

SDASCOE New Business:

- Director Elections: The even number districts conducted elections for new directors:
 - Area 2: Director: Courtney Hansen
Alternate: Jenny Budahl
 - Area 4: Director: Sherri Hanson
Alternate: Kris Rademacher
 - Area 6: Director: Carrie Hanson
Alternate: Tammi Serr
- Delegates for National Convention:

SDASCOE needs delegates for the 2022 National Convention. Kathy Torres and Sherri Hanson have volunteered to be the delegates. As delegates, part of their trip will be paid for by SDASCOE.
- SDASCOE inventory:

Joel Foster visited with the group about the need for an inventory spreadsheet. We have been purchasing some bigger items in the past few years like the virtual equipment, external hard drives and recently a new computer and printer for the Treasurer. It will be the Secretary's responsibility to keep the inventory up to date. Joel will work to get the list ready and will email it to the current SDASCOE Secretary Karen LaFurge.

- Joel Foster brought an idea to the group since we are able to meet in person again for FSA meeting. SDASCOE could have a Meet and Greet time with members. It could be a picnic with 3 or 4 counties getting together or a FSA round table meeting as ideas. SDASCOE would purchase water, pop & snacks for the event. Bill Chase made a motion to limit the expenses to \$200 per event. Kathy Torres seconded the motion. All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.
- Since no other SDASCOE member is able to attend the Area Rally next weekend in Oklahoma, Joel Foster has indicated that he would be the delegate for SDASCOE. Joel is responsible for the Sponsorship gift for the auction.

Election of 2022-2023 Officers:

- Nominations for Secretary: Joel Foster nominated Karen LaFurge for SDASCOE Secretary. Sherri Hanson seconded the motion and Joel Foster moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Karen. All voted aye.
- Nominations for Treasurer: Kathy Torres nominated Jessica Weets for SDASCOE Treasurer. Sherri Hanson seconded the motion and moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Jessica. All voted aye.
- Nominations for Vice President: Kathy Torres nominated Sherri Hanson for SDASCOE Vice President. Joel Foster seconded the motion and moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Sherri. All voted aye.
- Nominations for President: Joel Foster nominated Kathy Torres for SDASCOE President. Jim Anderson seconded the motion and moved that all nominations cease and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Kathy. All voted aye.

The new SDASCOE officers take effect as of July 1, 2022. With President Mary Jane West retiring on May 27th this will leave a void of President until July 1st. According to the by-laws the interim President would be the secretary until July 1st.

President Mary Jane West presented the 2022 Distinguished Service Awards on Friday Night during the Banquet.

Winners are listed below:

2022 Service to NASCOE: Mary Jane West (NW Area Winner as well)

2022 Service to Community Award: Donald McManus (NW Area Winner and NASCOE winner)

2022 Service to Agriculture: Sharon Rolstad (NW Area Winner and NASCOE winner)

Scholarship Awards:

2022 Tradition award: Megan Sanders

2022 Open Continued Award: Erin Moncur-Hand

Dillard's Financial Services presented a check to SDASCOE for \$500 to help with the expenses of the convention.

With no further business, Kathy Torres made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jim Anderson seconded the motion. All members present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen LaFurge, Secretary

SDASCOE ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT - MAY 14, 2022

New Checking Account - First Bank and Trust - Opened 9/30/20 - Balances Transferred from Quoin Bank			\$ 90,723.13
INCOME	Cookbooks	\$ 80.00	
	Georgia Raffle Ticket Refund	\$ 500.00	
	American Equity Interest	\$ 313.83	
	Checking Interest	\$ 35.42	
	Mary Johnson Memorial	\$ 45.00	
	Membership Dues	\$ 28,124.34	
	Misc Deposits	\$ 767.36	
	NWA Rally Deposits	\$ 8,980.04	
	State Convention Deposits	\$ 300.00	
	TOTAL DEPOSITS		\$ 39,145.99
EXPENSES	Accounting Software	\$ 66.45	
	Amazon Order	\$ 50.04	
	County Office Membership Award	\$ 100.00	
	Computer and Printer	\$ 1,144.82	
	Virtual Equipment	\$ 1,099.66	
	Bank Fees	\$ 19.00	
	Sec of State Filing Fees	\$ 10.00	
	Memorials - Flowers	\$ 99.05	
	Misc Expense	\$ 32.22	
	NASCOE Convention Donation - Georgia	\$ 500.00	
	NASCOE Convention Donation - Indiana Masks	\$ 2,052.00	
	NASCOE Convention Expenses - Scholarship Item	\$ 81.84	
	NASCOE Membership Dues	\$ 20,709.99	
	NWA Rally Expenses	\$ 8,840.72	
	Office Expenses	\$ 179.18	
	Postage and Delivery	\$ 228.61	
	Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00	
	Scholarship - Mary Johnson Memorial	\$ 45.00	
	State Convention Expenses	\$ 3,459.86	
	Travel	\$ 1,468.38	
	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS		\$ 41,186.82
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES			\$ (2,040.83)
	Dillard's American Equity Accounts Transfers		\$ 20,000.00
	Dillard's American Equity Earned Interest (not in checking account)		\$ 313.83
	Ending Checking Account Balance on 05/12/2022		\$ 68,368.47
	<u>Internal Funds within SDASCOE Checking Account as detailed below</u>		
	NWA Fund Balance - See Below	\$ 909.00	
	Scholarship Fund Balance - See Below	\$ 3,363.81	
	TOTAL INTERNAL FUNDS		\$ 4,272.81
	Funds Available for SDASCOE use minus internal funds		\$ 64,095.66
	<u>Internal Funds within SDASCOE Checking Account</u>		
NWA Fund Balance	Beginning Balance	\$ 909.00	
	Deposits	\$ -	
	Withdrawals	\$ -	
	NWA Fund Balance		\$ 909.00
Scholarship Fund Balance	Beginning Balance	\$ 4,168.81	
	Deposits - NWA Rally Card Raffle (\$260X 75)	\$ 195.00	
	Withdrawals	\$ 1,000.00	
	Scholarship Fund Balance		\$ 3,363.81
	<u>Dillard Financial Services Annuities</u>		
American Equity 521 - 3 year	Original Value \$10,000 - Account Values as of May 9, 2022		
Issued on 9/15/21	Contract Value	\$ 10,137.34	
	Surrender Value	\$ 8,945.69	
	Surrender Charge	\$ 912.36	
	Market Value Adjustment	\$ 154.29	
American Equity 526 - 5 year	Original Value \$10,000 - Account Values as of May 9, 2022		
Issued on 9/15/21	Contract Value	\$ 10,176.49	
	Surrender Value	\$ 8,945.69	
	Surrender Charge	\$ 915.88	
	Market Value Adjustment	\$ 189.92	
	TOTAL DILLARD CONTRACT VALUES		\$ 20,313.83
	TOTAL SDASCOE ASSETS - Checking Account Balance as of 4/30/22 PLUS American Equity Contracts		\$ 88,682.30
	<i>Includes internal funds within checking account</i>		

Income/Expense by Category - All Dates
9/29/2020 through 5/13/2022 (Cash Basis)

Category	9/29/2020- 5/13/2022
INCOME	
Cookbooks	80.00
Georgia Raffle Tickets Refund	500.00
Interest Inc	
American Equity	313.83
Checking Account	35.42
TOTAL Interest Inc	349.25
Mary Johnson Memorial	45.00
Membership Dues	
ACH	27,198.15
Associate	60.00
Check	866.19
TOTAL Membership Dues	28,124.34
Misc Deposits	767.36
NWA Rally Deposits	
Dillards NWA	2,000.00
Dillards SWA	2,000.00
Registration, Scholarship, etc	4,980.04
TOTAL NWA Rally Deposits	8,980.04
State Convention Deposits	
Dillards	300.00
TOTAL State Convention Deposits	300.00
TOTAL INCOME	39,145.99
EXPENSES	
Accounting Software	66.45
Amazon Order	50.04
County Office Membership Award	100.00
Equipment	
Computer-Printer	1,144.82
Virtual Equipment	1,099.66
TOTAL Equipment	2,244.48
Fees & Charges	
Bank Fee	19.00
Secretary Of State	10.00
TOTAL Fees & Charges	29.00

5/13/2022

Income/Expense by Category - All Dates
9/29/2020 through 5/13/2022 (Cash Basis)

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Category	9/29/2020- 5/13/2022
Memorial	99.05
Misc. Expense (Business)	32.22
NASCOE Convention Donations	
Georgia	500.00
IASCOE Masks	2,052.00
TOTAL NASCOE Convention Dona...	2,552.00
NASCOE Convention Expenses	
Scholarship Item	81.84
TOTAL NASCOE Convention Expe...	81.84
NASCOE Membership Dues	20,709.99
NWA Rally Expenses	
Airport Transportation	920.00
Meals-Room Rental	7,653.39
NASCOE Scholarship Fund	65.00
SWA Share Of Profit	202.33
TOTAL NWA Rally Expenses	8,840.72
Office Expenses (Business)	179.18
Postage and Delivery (Business)	228.61
Scholarship	1,000.00
Scholarship - Mary Johnson Memorial	45.00
State Convention Expenses	
Awards	42.60
Cash	300.00
Entertainment	3,117.26
TOTAL State Convention Expenses	3,459.86
Travel	
State Convention	1,468.38
TOTAL Travel	1,468.38
TOTAL EXPENSES	41,186.82
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,040.83

May 14, 2022

Scholarship & Awards Report

Courtney Hansen- Chair

\$ 3363.81

We currently have a balance of \$\$\$\$ in this fund, please refer to the Treasurer's report for this amount. We have paid out our scholarship winners from last year.

2021-2022 Scholarship and DSA Deadline was January 15, 2021.

- Several emails had been sent out state-wide for reminders.
- Kyra forwarded me the nominees and applicants after deadline.
- This is all done online through the NASCOE website.
- DSA Awards and Scholarships- The scholarship and DSA nominees must be a SDASCOE/NASCOE member or affiliated with a member. National Officers, Area Executives, Alternate Area Executives, and National Committee Chairpersons are ineligible for consideration of a Distinguished Service Award while serving in any of these capacities.

2021 DSA Winners:

- Donald McManus- Service to Community- He also won the NWA and National Level Award for Service to Community
- Mary Jane West- Service to NASCOE- She also won the NWA Service to NASCOE Award
- Sharon Rolstad- Service to Agriculture- She also won the NWA and National Level Award for Service to Agriculture.

2021 Scholarship Winners:

- Megan Sanders- Traditional Scholarship Winner
- Eric Moncur- Open Continuing Scholarship Winner
 - We had 5 submissions for Traditional Winner
 - A panel consisting of Jenny Budahl, Karen LaFurge, and Eleanor Goetz
 - We also had an applicant for the Grandchild Scholarship but due to ineligibility we were unable to award her or send her on for NWA/National level ranking.

2021 Time Off Awards:

- Jill Beaner- She has reached the 1,000 hours of sick leave mark.
 - This is a new process. States are no longer required to keep track and send to Kyra. This is to be done online via the NASCOE website and is self-certification by the employee.

2021 Length of Service Awards:

- Deb Schiley- Day County = 38.86 years
- Joe Schultz- DD/Acting SED = 38.7 years
- Collette Palmer- Oglala-Lakota/Bennett = 38.59 years
- Theresa Hoadley- STO = 38.56 years
- James Anderson- Brule/Buffalo = 38.55 years
- Ruth Bergin- Charles Mix = 38.55 years

NWA Benefits Report

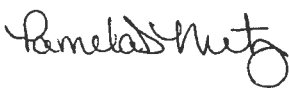
Pam Metz, NWA Benefits Chair

The Benefits committee has been working on adding some extra benefits this past year. Currently, our benefits offerings are:

- **Dillard Financial Solutions**-the official NASCOE Benefits Provider. They focus on Federal Benefit and Retirement Training and Planning. In addition to Retirement Training, Dillard also offers cancer, critical illness, hospitalization and life insurance plans; an annual nest egg review (for retirement planning) and a discount on Lifelock for identity theft protection.
- **AirMedCare** has offered a group discount of \$10 per membership to NASCOE members who want to join. Each membership covers your entire household. So, if you check the coverage map and you are in a covered area, this is great peace of mind for a small annual fee.
- **Live Streaming Fitness**-Offers online classes in fitness, cooking, and nutrition with community support groups included. NASCOE members receive annual memberships for half price with promo code. Membership is good for your ENTIRE family.
- **Working Advantage** - All NASCOE members can take advantage of discounts on hotels, rental cars, theme parks, movie tickets, skiing, concert tickets, sporting events, online shopping and more. To join, you just need to be a NASCOE member, contact your state or area benefits chair for the NASCOE member ID and sign up online.
- **Emblems by Superior**-has been offering monthly specials to boost USDA apparel sales. 15% of all sales with Emblems by Superior comes back to NASCOE towards our scholarship fund.
- **ABCmouse**-NASCOE members receive a 74% discount on the first 2 months of either ABCmouse or Adventure Academy.
- **Allstate Identity Protection Pro**-Identity protection that monitors financial transactions to social media sharing. NASCOE members receive a discount on individual and family plans.
- **FEDS Professional Liability Insurance**-NASCOE has secured a 50% reimbursement of the annual premium costs for liability insurance for supervisors. This liability insurance covers CEDs and Program Technicians In-Charge when their decisions are questioned and potential allegations are taken to court.
- **Employee Relations Services** is available for NASCOE members who are in need of advice, education or legal services regarding employment and human relations type issues.
- **NASCOE exclusive scholarships** are available to NASCOE members for themselves or their family members.
- **Voice at the table**-County employees have representatives going to bat for them with the national office and WDC-we have input on programs and other issues that directly affect FSA employees.

NASCOE is continually looking for new benefits or ways to improve upon the benefits that we already have. If you have suggestions, please contact your State or Area Benefits Chair and let them know your ideas!

Respectfully submitted,



Pam Metz
NWA Benefits Chair

Legislative Updates from Clint Bain and Neil Burnette:

House and Senate Ag Committees are conducting hearings as they start to lay the groundwork for the next Farm Bill. Commodity groups and Congress know that major program changes are needed to deal with increased production costs and higher grain prices to make programs effective. Uncertainty on how the new programs need to be structured.

President's 2023 budget includes \$70 million dollar increase for FSA salaries and expenses. Provides funding for the proposed 4.6% cost of living increase. Means no decrease to Full time employees to pay for the cost of living increase. Legislatively we will work with Congress to secure the increase.

Working with Congress and USDA regarding PT starting salaries. Recognize they are not keeping up with the private sector and that change needs to be made in the grade qualification requirements when bringing on new PTs. This will also spur the need for pay increases for experienced PT's. The question is weather or not USDA Leadership is getting the understanding that employee retention is a serious problem.

Top priority remains to get the Federal Fairness Act into law so that temporary employees have the opportunity to buy back their time. This would be a costly change so it is hard to get accomplished. We continue to look for the right legislation to get the bill attached and pushed through.

Work with OPM continues to establish an allotment for retirees to contribute to the NASCOE PAC through automatic monthly contributions to come from their retirement pensions.

PAC Promotion is a large priority. Promotion that allows members to get into a drawing for a free registration at the 2022 NASCOE Convention in Savannah, GA. There will be a winner from each area and a grand prize winner that gets 2 free nights at convention. Get a new PAC member or get an existing member to increase their contribution and list your name on the referral line of the form. Submit the form to the area legislative chair. Additional details on the NASCOE site under Legislative and then the PAC tab.

2021-2022 Membership Report
Lesli Heyden, Membership Chair

As of May 10, 2022:

CO Employees:	229
GS Employees:	67
CO Membership:	205 (89.08%)
GS Membership:	3 (4.48%)

On June 30, 2021 our CO Membership percentage was at 90.87%.

Annual reminder letters were sent out for dues. All offices that were 100% paid by July 1st were put in a drawing with a chance to win \$100.00. Pennington County was the lucky winner.

When I took over the membership chair job I mailed out letters to all county office employees who were not members.

Every month I go through the personnel changes and mail out a welcome letter, application, and 444 to the new hires.

While going through reports and comparing to the NFC payroll deduction report it was noticed that several employees may not be paying the correct rate based on their grade. Several reminders have been sent asking members to verify their payroll deductions.

May 14, 2022

Webmaster Report

Courtney Hansen- Chair

- I have currently updated the website, freshened up the pages, moved the order of pages, and deleted very old news/pictures that are no longer relevant. I have been tossing around the idea of adding a page titled “Back in History” and that could be a good place to keep some of the old news and pictures for SDASCOE.
- Shana has mailed me the external hard drive that has all our information backed up. I will continue to do this throughout the year.
- The president will continue to send me updates for the website as needed.
- I encourage all committee chairs, ^{directors}~~delegates~~, etc. to send me any information they feel would be necessary for the website, along with any pictures you may take at conventions and meetings to continue making our website as fresh and updated as possible.
- Please hop over to SDASCOE.org and check out the new changes and feel free to reach out with any suggestions or tips.

County Office Advocacy Committee (COAC)

SDASCOE Convention

May 13th – 14th

The County Office Advocacy Committee (COAC), formerly the NAFEC Committee had a change of name and was approved by the Executive Committee at the Organizational Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. The National COAC Committee is chaired by Morgan Limmer from Texas. This Committee is the new to NASCOE and is very much evolving. First and foremost, this Committee would like to stress to each of you the importance of getting to know the history and uniqueness of the County Committee System each of us works under. No other like it in the federal government.

NASCOE's leadership decided to chart a different course to focus our mission on education, protection, promotion, and enhancement of county office roles and authorities. With this change in focus, comes a new mission. **The mission of the COAC is as follows: To protect, enhance, and provide continual education for the farmer-elected committee and county office system for the betterment of NASCOE's membership, county office FSA employees, and the agricultural communities we serve while working independently, but cooperatively, with the National Association of Farmer-Elected Committee (NAFEC).**

Although the mission and focus of the committee has changed, NASCOE will continue to work with NAFEC to preserve the importance of the county committee (COC) system and promote NAFEC membership. State associations are encouraged to review their respective bylaws, as they may require an amendment if standing committees are in place. We need every state president to make sure their state has a state COAC chairperson.

Please remember to visit with your COCs and stress the importance of NAFEC and encourage committee members to join NAFEC. We also urge county office employees to support the county committee system by becoming associate members of NAFEC. It's only \$20/year and is a great investment!

Please visit the County Office Advocacy Committee's page at: <https://nascoe.org/nafec/>. The latest information this Committee is working is on this website.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Anderson, NWA COAC Chair
LaCresha Dale, SWA COAC Chair