

SDASCOE 2017 Fall Board Meeting

LEGISLATIVE/PAC/NAFEC Report

We have avoided a shutdown, thanks to hurricane Harvey. A continuing resolution, which funds us at current levels, through December 8th was signed by the President. This just kicks the can down the road and leaves quite a few things in the air. We don't know the status of early outs or buyouts. The White House wants to increase potential buyouts to \$40,000, but congress hasn't indicated they are in favor of that option. If buyouts happen it will probably be early in the fiscal year as that has the potential to help the budget the most. We also don't know what will happen with the Budget Control Act and how this will affect our funding and possible sequestration. The proposed cost of living increase for 2018 is 1.9% which would include across the board and locality pay.

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of the current farm bill. Congress is holding listening session on the new Farm Bill. Items being discussed:

- ARCPLC-payments based on physical location
- CRP acre cap and rental rates
- CRP hay donation
- Conservation Compliance
- Crop Insurance

FSA is now a part of the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) division of USDA. FPAC includes FSA, NRCS and RMA. The President has selected Bill Northeby as the Under Secretary for FPAC. Bill Northeby has served Iowa for the last ten years as their Secretary of Ag and is a fourth generation corn and soybean farmer. We are still waiting for selections for SED to be made.

Our benefits seem to be under constant attack. The FERS retirement system may be changed. The Blended Retirement System (BRS) for the military is starting January 1st. We need to understand the importance of the PAC. The NASCOE website (nascoe.org) has all the latest information about the PAC. Please take the time to educate yourself about the PAC and consider contributing. We have the power to save our benefits, but we need you to support the cause.

Please take the time to encourage your County Committee Members to become members of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC). The purpose of NAFEC is, and will always be, to promote and improve the farmer elected committee system for the local administration of farm programs. NAFEC is a partner of NASCOE and they are able to fight battles that NASCOE can't. Information on NAFEC can be found at: fsacommittees.org

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Chase and EJ Goetz, Legislative/PAC/NAFEC Co-chairs