

BENEFITS REPORT
SDASCOE CONVENTION – APRIL, 2016

It has recently come to my attention that there have been some major changes to the Benefits page on the NASCOE website. An email was sent earlier this spring to call attention to some of the important changes.

As you know, in order to take advantage of most of the NASCOE/SDASCOE benefits, it has been necessary to sign up for the “**Members Only**” Registration through the NASCOE website. This is no longer the case. **NASCOE no longer has the Members Only page.** The website was reformatted so it could be mobile friendly and, in the process, the Members Only page was eliminated. It was felt to be cumbersome and time-consuming and difficult to maintain with passwords and such.

Working Advantage:

Working Advantage membership is one of the newest benefits available to NASCOE/SDASCOE members. All members now have exclusive access to the Working Advantage discount network which allows you to save up to 60% on ticketed events and online shopping. Through Working Advantage, you can save on: Movie Tickets, Theme Parks, Ski Tickets, Broadway Shows, Sporting Events, Hotels and Travel, Health and Fitness, Museums and City Passes, Merchant Gift Certificates, Online shopping...big items and small items.....and much more than I have time or space to mention here! To subscribe, access the Working Advantage website at <https://workingadvantage.com>. When opening an individual account, you will need the **NASCOE MEMBER ID Number**. I have that number. As Benefits Chairperson, it is my responsibility to verify membership before giving that number to employees. Thanks to Lori Jones, Membership Chairperson, for keeping me updated on membership! Please send requests for the ID number to my home email at jeanieemmett@hotmail.com. **I do make this firm request. DO NOT give this membership ID number to anyone else. It is a benefit of NASCOE/SDASCOE membership, and we should honor that requirement.** I will give this number to Linda Steichen for RASCOE members. It will be her responsibility to make sure the number is only issued to members.

Cell Phone discounts:

This is actually a benefit you can receive by being a Government employee. Contact your local cell phone provider. Inform them that that you are an employee of the USDA and would like to get the discount available to Government employees. They should be able to get you set up. If it works as it has in the past, you will have to use your Government email address so that they can verify you are a Government employee by accessing the site from that email. Most of the local cell phone providers have been quite good to work with-I think! The biggest problem we face with cell phone discounts is for the RASCOE members, since they don't have a Government email address any longer. We'll keep working on this, and if anyone has any testimonials (pro or con) as to how this has worked once retired, please let me know!

Sam's Club discount:

We no longer have the benefit for Sam's Club membership discount. It was discovered that the Sam's cards are issued on a state basis only. In order to continue to offer a Sam's Discount card on a state basis, each state would need a state representative to collect the fee and submit it to Sam's Club. There is no savings or additional benefits to NASCOE; therefore, the Benefits Committee did not see a valid reason to pursue this any further.

Dillard Financial:

Dillard Financial Solutions is the official benefits provider for NASCOE and offers numerous resources to educate NASCOE members on retirement planning, TSP strategies, and life insurance options. Check out the documents found on the NASCOE website for information, or see one of the representative here this weekend.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please contact me through my personal email anytime. Thank you, Stan, for allowing me the “Benefit” of being the Benefits Committee chairperson during your tenure as President. It has been my privilege!

Jeanie Emmett
SDASCOE Benefits Chairperson
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