



July 2019

## National Association of FSA County Office Employees

# NASCOE Roundup

## NASCOE Behind the Scenes

As you are reading this, final preparations are happening for the National Convention July 31st through August 3rd in Manhattan, Kansas. NASCOE has prepared a great convention for us and I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. We anticipate good representation from the National Office even with the high demands on their time with farm bill implementation.

It has been a busy spring with state conventions and area rallies. NASCOE appreciates the National Office making sure that there were representatives at the area rallies. The opportunity to engage with senior leadership is always welcomed and an important part of the national conventions and area rallies.

A highlight of the Northeast Area Rally was news from the National Office that DD's and other members of state leadership teams will be receiving licenses to access the Optimally Productive Office (OPO) and the Staffing Model (SM) software. They have been instructed to share the workload information with the counties within their district. Local managers will only receive information that pertains to the counties they administer.

NASCOE is currently working on several items including a second Leadership Development Conference, a membership video, staffing and hiring issues, appropriations, performance plans, leasing and new



**NASCOE President  
Dennis Ray**

Farm Bill program development. We have several individuals contributing to each of the above mentioned issues. With the extreme weather affecting our producers and our offices, it is admirable that we have had several people willing to take on the extra demands of serving on these groups.

This has certainly been a challenging year and it looks like it will continue to present challenges as we go into the administration of the new Farm Bill. I want to personally thank the Executive Committee, Alternate Executives and National Committee chairs for all they have done this year in service to membership. They each have sacrificed their time and resources and it is very much appreciated.

## NASCOE Roundup

Official Publication of the National  
Association of FSA County Office  
Employees (NASCOE)

### Officers, Executives and National Committee Chairs

President Dennis Ray, Missouri  
Vice President Brandon Wilson, Kansas  
Secretary Marcinda Kester, Florida  
Treasurer Curt Houk, Iowa

#### Midwest Area

Executive Jackson Jones, Missouri  
Alt Executive Mary Roberts, Iowa

#### Northeast Area

Executive Lawrence Parker, Vermont  
Alt Executive Annette Hyman, New York

#### Northwest Area

Executive Jessi Colgrove, Nebraska  
Alt Executive Joel Foster, South Dakota

#### Southeast Area

Executive Mike Mayfield, Tennessee  
Alt Executive Beth Farmer, Alabama

#### Southwest Area

Executive Jay Goff, Oklahoma  
Alt Executive Vacant

#### Awards and Scholarships

Julie Goetzman, Texas

#### Benefits and Emblems

Christy Randall, Idaho

#### Legislative

Donny Green, Tennessee  
Neil Burnette, North Carolina

#### Membership

Lynsey Brooks, Oklahoma

#### NAFEC

Carla Spencer, Texas

#### Programs

Chris Hare, Indiana

#### Publicity

Teresa Holmquist, Minnesota

#### NASCOE Website

[www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org)

#### NASCOE Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/NASCOENews/>

#NASCOESelfie2019

## Marcinda's Memories

So many conventions, so many wonderful memories! It is really hard to just pick one.

Could it be the first convention I ever attended in **Nebraska** in 1996? The friendships I made that have lasted for over a decade.

Or could it be the **Sioux Falls, SD** convention where a friend took time out of their busy schedule to give me a tour of the badlands. What an amazing experience!

And then there is **Iowa** where we had an awesome time on the farm tour. What a beautiful place to host our family.

Or maybe it was **North Carolina** where we could either zip line or spend a day at the spa.

Speaking of spa's, the salt baths of **Little Rock, Arkansas** are definitely a memory for the books.

And then there are those memories of those who are no longer with us. **Dallas, Texas** definitely stays close to my heart when I remember meeting **Herb Sorley** for the first time and how he affected so many lives with his dedication to NASCOE.

Much like Texas, **Myrtle Beach, South Carolina** is dear to my heart as well. **Morris O'Quinn** was probably one of the main reasons I became so involved with NASCOE. His passion and dedication to NAFEC and NASCOE was contagious. I have vivid memories of the time I spent with him in South Carolina and watching him play tricks on people with his little mini slot machine and getting such joy of shocking people as they spun the wheel. His late night runs for food and the deep conversations that occurred over those meals are priceless memories that will last in me forever.

So, as you see picking my favorite memory is just too difficult. These conventions or "Family Reunions" each hold a special place in my heart. The amount of work that is put into them, the love and dedication shown by our members who host them are memory enough of how special this association is and how we should treasure each convention and the memories we make.



**NASCOE Secretary  
Marcinda Kester**

# Filled to Capacity in Cedar Rapids



**NASCOE Treasurer Curt Houk**

With the 60<sup>th</sup> NASCOE Convention fast approaching we have been asked to reminisce about our favorite convention memories. I have met many good people and have made lifelong friends and as I ponder this subject it makes me so proud to be a part of this NASCOE family. NASCOE has afforded me so many wonderful opportunities and great life experiences.

I have had the privilege of standing up in front of the general assembly and address the membership many times and the first thing that comes to my mind was in **Cedar Rapids, Iowa**. That convention drew the largest numbers that I have seen since my involvement on the Executive Committee, and to stand in front of that very large and crowded room, and to look out over 600+ people gave me goose bumps. You all don't know how good you looked. It was a real sight to see. I

remember the Washington DC dignitaries all commenting on how impressive of a sight it was as well. It is so humbling and satisfying to see so many care about the well being of our fellow employees and the people we serve to take the time to come together and make a difference. I have had so many great moments and am so proud of our organization and the members that assemble it.

It wouldn't seem right if I didn't talk a little shop when given the opportunity. Since NASCOE and many of our State affiliates just closed out another fiscal year I need to remind you all to file your taxes. It is very simple. The deadline for those that follow the NASCOE fiscal year is November 15<sup>th</sup>, but don't delay, file your taxes and put it away.

One more thing, NASCOE dues are the lifeblood of our association. Without this funding NASCOE would not be able to expend the time and effort to safeguard your rights and wellbeing as an FSA employee. It cannot be stressed enough to the State Associations the importance of getting dues paid on time. Quarterly dues are to be

submitted to the NASCOE Treasurer no later than 10 calendar days following the end of the quarter. This places due dates on October 10th, January 10th, April 10th, and **NO LATER THAN JUNE 30th** for fourth quarter.

I am proud of what NASCOE has accomplished and excited about what the future holds. This is truly the greatest organization and agency within USDA. NASCOE's membership is our greatest asset. Thank you for affording me the privilege to serve each and every one of you.

## NASCOE Membership has Benefits!

### Dillard Financial Solutions

[dillardfinancialsolutionsinc.com/nascoe/benefits/](http://dillardfinancialsolutionsinc.com/nascoe/benefits/)

email: [nascoe@dillardfinancial.com](mailto:nascoe@dillardfinancial.com)

### Working Advantage Employee Discount Program

<http://www.WorkingAdvantage.com>

### Sam's Club Benefit

### AirMedCare Group Discount

**To learn more, visit**  
[www.nascoe.org/benefits/](http://www.nascoe.org/benefits/)



# Buyer's Remorse to Favorite Convention!



**NASCOE Vice-President  
Brandon Wilson**

I was tasked to write an article for this newsletter and more specifically, I was to write about my “favorite convention memory”. The subject of favorite convention memory is a great idea and especially relevant since NASCOE will be celebrating it’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Manhattan, Kansas in a few weeks. Anyone who has attended one or more conventions will have a favorite memory or memories which are related to attending NASCOE conventions. Often these memories are good conversation pieces that will make us smile for years to come.

This year’s convention T-shirt slogan is “This one time, at NASCOE”. The theme reminds us that we should make memories so that some day we can recall those memories and share with others about that “one time” at the NASCOE Convention. What a neat idea, and a perfect slogan to place on a T-shirt.

At first glance, it seems obvious to me that my favorite “one time at NASCOE” memory must be my first convention which was at **Rapid City, South Dakota** back in 2005. What I first remember about that first convention is not being happy that I committed to attending the convention. At the time, my COT trainer had somehow convinced me to not only go to the convention, but also carpool to South Dakota from Kansas with a Program Technician from Cloud County that I had never met before.

I remember feeling buyer’s remorse as I jumped in the car and embarked on the 8-hour trip to the convention in South Dakota. After traveling several hours with my new travel companion convention my anxiety soon began to ease up and things started looking better. We had some great conversations and the long-distance trip didn’t seem to be as long as previously thought.

Upon arriving at the convention, I stumbled across a fellow CED from Indiana who was in my management training class in Austin only a few months before. I also met a convention first-timer from Idaho. What a relief to find first timers that were in the same situation as me. Turns out these folks would be my

first ever NASCOE friends.

Throughout the week I found that all the folks at the convention were very friendly. Folks that I had never met before were excited to see a “first timer” attend the national convention. The NASCOE Officers and Area Executives even took the time to introduce themselves and chat with me. It was a priority for them to make a first-timer comfortable. I also remember meeting and shaking hands with FSA National Office staff members. Imagine, a first timer being able to socialize in a personal setting with NASCOE and FSA leadership!

It seems that one of the most important convention memories was listening to the speakers and attending the break-out sessions. As a first timer attending my first convention, it was very important for me to learn what NASCOE does for its membership. It was at the convention I realized that NASCOE, as a trade association advocates on our behalf and tells our story to those who make decisions that affect our workplace. Even more special, it was apparent that NASCOE is an organization where the “every day” member, like me, can participate in its activities.



# 2019 NASCOE's 60<sup>th</sup> Convention

## *Denim and Diamonds*

### **This One Time, At NASCOE...**

We've all got a "This one time, at NASCOE" story. Some are fun, some are funny, some are inspirational, and the list goes on. The point is, you will never know what you are missing if you don't make it to convention. Some incredible memories are yet to be made- YOUR incredible memories! Some good times and laughter await you at the NASCOE convention in Manhattan, KS! It never fails, there's always a take-away; a story you will tell for years to come. Ask any NASCOE veteran about their memories of NASCOE conventions. You may hear something like the following:

#### **This one time, at NASCOE,**

- ◇ there was a haunted house at the pumpkin patch we went to for the "state association" night. One of the NASCOE members thought it would be funny to hide in the haunted house and scare the tar out of the other members as they came through.
- ◇ a member was waiting by the hotel's elevator doors to jump out and scare her roommate when she got off the elevator. Instead, she accidentally scared the SED from Texas.
- ◇ we were driving through residential Nashville and suddenly, the yard art from the house we were driving by ran out in front of our vehicle. Apparently, deer mingle with the people in the city of Nashville. Beware!
- ◇ we were trying to get home from an event and our plane got delayed. We spent the night in the airport in Dallas. We had our little "camp site" set up and you would not believe the hoops we had to jump through to get home. I don't recommend overnight stays at the airport, but we have some funny anecdotes we will never forget!
- ◇ I mistakenly believed 212 was the hospitality suite. It wasn't.
- ◇ there was a river walk. Let's just say, it's a good thing nobody got hurt.

There are so many NASCOE stories! Ask anyone what their "this one time, at NASCOE" story is! Get to national convention and be prepared to make your own "this one time, at NASCOE" story! The energy, atmosphere, new friends, old friends, networking and more, will create memories you will be the better for having had! Don't miss out!

#### **What to Pack**

It's almost here! I have been fielding some questions about dress code so here are some suggestions (ultimately, your choice of dress is up to you!). This is an excellent networking event and you never know who you will meet or what chain of events may be set into motion at a convention. It's a great idea to put your best foot forward!

People will make all sorts of assumptions and decisions about us without proper evidence. We may think that fashion is just a profligate indulgence and our sunny personality will eclipse our dull attire. Untrue. What we wear speaks volumes in just a few seconds. Dressing to impress really is worthwhile and could even be the key to success. And, when in doubt, it's better to be overdressed than to be underdressed. You never know who you will meet at convention or the role they may play in the trajectory of your career.

So, enough with the "why". How about the "what". As in "what do I wear?"

#### **Wednesday Tours:**

Dress casual. You may need a visor, ballcap or sunglasses for the times you are outdoors. If you are going on the lake tour, bring whatever you wear to the lake- swim suit, towel, etc. Check the forecast because you will be outside a lot!

#### **Wednesday Evening:**

Social time. Wear whatever makes you comfortable/happy.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## 2019 NASCOE's 60<sup>th</sup> Convention Manhattan, KS *Denim and Diamonds*

(Continued from page 5)

### Thursday General Session:

You may meet National Office staff, the FSA Administrator, the Undersecretary or the Secretary himself. Dress to impress!!! Business professional!

### Thursday Evening:

This is auction night! Kansas is referring to it as "Denim Night" to tie into our Denim and Diamonds (60th anniversary) theme. Wear your denim and be casual.

### Friday General Session:

National Office staff, the FSA Administrator, the Undersecretary or the Secretary may linger. And NASCOE is still doing business. Business professional.

### Friday Evening:

This is Kansas Night! If you bought a t-shirt, you get into Kansas Night free! Casual dress. Bring a ball cap or sunglasses to shade your eyes if you make it to the third floor patio where the DJ is playing before the sun goes down. You will be indoors some and outdoors some. Again, check the forecast.

### Saturday General Session:

NASCOE is still conducting business but you may find the atmosphere is more relaxed. Business professional or even business casual this day.

### Saturday Evening:

Diamond Night! Formal banquet and awards presentation. Formal dress! Black tie. Rhinestones and bling! Dress your best to show respect for the outstanding among us!

### Tentative Agenda

#### Tuesday, July 30, 2019

3pm - 9pm: Registration

#### Wednesday, July 31, 2019

7am: Meet in lobby to board for tours (different tours have different departure times)

8am - 4pm: Tours

8am - 4pm: NASCOE Executive Meeting  
3pm - 5pm: Hospitality Room  
5pm - 6pm: Delegates meeting  
6pm: **AGGIEVILLE NIGHT** Supper/Pub crawl with your peeps (not guided)

#### Thursday, August 1, 2019

7am - 3pm: Registration  
8am: Meeting begins; WDC Q&A this day  
12pm: Lunch buffet in Main Entry  
1pm: Reconvene  
2pm: COC and Area breakouts.  
4pm: Adjourn  
4 - 6pm: Hospitality room

#### DENIM NIGHT

6pm - 7pm: Social Hour (cash bar available) and supper  
7pm - 9pm: Scholarship Auction  
9pm - 10pm: Entertainment- Game Show  
10pm - 12am DJ and cash bar

#### Friday, August 2, 2019

7am - 3pm: Registration  
8am: Meeting continues; area breakouts and committee breakouts this day  
12pm: Lunch buffet in Main Entry  
4pm: Adjourn  
4pm - 6pm: Hospitality Rooms  
6pm - 7pm: Supper at the Hilton

#### KANSAS NIGHT

7pm: Social (cash bar) and entertainment at the Flint Hills Discovery Center (across the street)  
8pm - 12pm: DJ and Entertainment on the third-floor patio of the Discovery Center (you may want a ball cap to shade your eyes until the sun goes down).

#### Saturday, August 3, 2019

8am - 12pm: Registration  
8am: Meeting continues  
11am: Adjourn  
11am - 12pm: Executive Committee Meeting

#### DIAMOND NIGHT. Formal event. Dress your best!

5pm - 6pm: Social Hour (cash bar);  
6pm - 7:30pm: Formal Banquet, Dinner and Awards.  
7:30pm - 10pm: DJ and Entertainment after the banquet.

**2019 NASCOE's 60<sup>th</sup> Convention Manhattan, KS** *Denim and Diamonds*

**Auction Items** can be shipped to:

Kitra Cooper  
Kansas State Office  
3600 Anderson Ave  
Manhattan, KS 66503-2511.

**Auction Item Pictures** can be sent prior to convention for inclusion in the Auction Item PowerPoint to Dorothy Heim at [dorothyh@ruraltel.net](mailto:dorothyh@ruraltel.net). Use "NASCOE Auction Pic" as the subject line. Please send pics by July 19.

**Raffle tickets** can be mailed to

Marsha Gerstner  
2420 21st St  
Great Bend, KS 67530.

**Sponsor suggestions** can be sent to Jack Kelly, [j.kelly1361@gmail.com](mailto:j.kelly1361@gmail.com).

**Wine pull and door prize giveaway donations** are needed and can be sent to

Kitra Cooper  
Kansas State Office  
3600 Anderson Ave  
Manhattan, KS 66503-2511.

**Hotel changes/waiting list**, please contact Sarah Shove, [sarahbeth.shove@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbeth.shove@gmail.com).

**Personal emails** need to be included as part of your registration to ensure access to the Virtual Goody Bag to be distributed at convention. You will not have access to .gov email on your mobile device.

**COC members** are invited to attend convention.

**Uber and Lyft** are available as transportation options in Manhattan, KS.

**Questions or comments:**

please contact Marla Hammer, [marlajohammer@yahoo.com](mailto:marlajohammer@yahoo.com)









# 60th NASCOE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

## July 31st - August 3rd, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, KS Telephone: (785) 532-9116  
<https://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/kansas/hilton-garden-inn-manhattan-MANGIGI/index.html>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Delegate Member RASCOE NAFEC Honorary Member District Director Guest

First time attendee \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose ALL EVENTS that you plan to attend—even if it is FREE!**

**Honorary Life Members and guests under 13 years of age may attend the Convention free as our guest. Your registration is essential so that we can be prepared for the correct number of attendees to each event.**

DATES/TIMES	EVENT	COST PER PERSON	# ATTENDING	TOTAL \$ DUE
Postmarked by May 31, 2019	REGISTRATION	\$50		
Postmarked by June 30, 2019	REGISTRATION	\$65		
Postmarked after July 1, 2019	REGISTRATION	\$80		
Wednesday, July 31 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Tallgrass Prairie Reserve Tour</b> Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Symphony Building (bbq lunch), Chase CO Courthouse/Roniger Museum, Shopping and Grand Central Hotel lounge	\$65		
Wednesday, July 31 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Golf at Colbert Hills</b> Lunch on your own at the clubhouse	\$70		
Wednesday, July 31 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Historical Abilene Tour</b> Seelye Mansion, family style fried chicken lunch at Brookville Hotel, Eisenhower Presidential Library	\$65		
Wednesday, July 31 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>Dairy (morning) &amp; Milford Lake (afternoon) Tour</b> Dairy tour and ice cream, buffet lunch at The Cove Bar & Grill (Cedar Beach Fiesta), boat, fish, swim.	\$65		
Thursday, August 1 12:00 pm	<b>Lunch Buffet:</b> Sandwich buffet catered by Hilton	\$10		
Thursday, August 1 6:00 pm - 12:00 am	<b>Denim Night - Dinner buffet:</b> Taste of Home (pot roast and fried chicken) Scholarship Auction & Game Show followed by DJ	Free		
Friday, August 2 12:00 pm	<b>RASCOE Member Luncheon</b>	\$30		
Friday, August 2 12:00 pm	<b>Lunch Buffet:</b> Sandwich buffet catered by Hilton	\$10		
Friday, August 2 6:00 pm - 12:00 am	<b>Kansas Night</b> Discovery Center Dinner: Kansas City Barbeque (Order T-shirt to get in free!)	\$30 or free with shirt purchase See page 2 for information		
Saturday, August 3 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>Diamond Night -</b> Social Hour NASCOE Banquet and Awards	\$35		

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** Must submit Parental Consent Form for any and all Youth Activities.

Form available at [www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org) or at Convention Registration Desk

Youth Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals for noon and evening along with snacks and price of outings are included in the price.**

YOUTH ACTIVITY DATE/TIME	YOUTH ACTIVITY	COST PER PERSON	# ATTENDING	TOTAL \$ DUE
Thursday, August 1 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Youth Room	Crafts at Hilton, Insect Zoo Tour, Picnic and Playtime at City Park, Movie back at the Hilton	\$20		
Thursday, August 1 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Youth Room	Pizza, Games, Movies, snacks at Hilton	\$10		
Friday, August 2 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Youth Room	Crafts at Hilton, exhibits and tour at Discovery Center, picnic at Blue Earth Plaza, splash pad followed by movies and snacks at Hilton	\$20		
Friday, August 2 5:00 pm – 12:00 am	Discovery Center, KS Night with Parents (order T-shirt to get in free)	\$20		
Saturday, August 3 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Youth Room	Crafts at Hilton, Zoo, snacks at Hilton	\$20		
Saturday, August 3 5:00 pm – 12:00 pm Youth Room	Movie, games, fun and food at Hilton	\$10		

**Purchase your 2019 National Convention T-shirt for free Friday night meal and entertainment.**

Adult \$30 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
Kids \$20 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

Commemorative 60th Anniversary Wine Glass \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Commemorative 60th Anniversary Beer mug \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Commemorative 60th Anniversary Pin \$5 \_\_\_\_\_



**Page 1 Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Youth Activity Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Shirt Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Anniversary Item Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2019 NASCOE NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO: KASCOE**  
**Send to KASCOE/Heidi Clinkingbeard, 410 Peter Pan Rd, Suite A, Independence, KS 67301**

**INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THOSE ATTENDEES ARRIVING AT THE MANHATTAN AIRPORT:**

**ARRIVAL DATE AND TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AIRLINE/FLIGHT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER IN PARTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTURE DATE AND TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

*If flight information is not available at the time of registration, Please do not forget to contact  
Heidi Clinkingbeard, 620-453-0330 (call/text) when that information is determined.*

## QUESTIONS:

Heidi Clinkingbeard  
[heidiclink@hotmail.com](mailto:heidiclink@hotmail.com)  
620.453.0330

Jared Cook  
[j\\_cook\\_2008@hotmail.com](mailto:j_cook_2008@hotmail.com)  
785.673.3119