



TASCOE

Tales

Winter 2022



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 15, 2023

NASCOE Scholarship
Applications Due

April 1, 2023

TASCOE Scholarship
Applications Due

August 2-5, 2023

2023 NASCOE
Convention
College Station, TX

From the Desk of the President...

Jim Rohn said, "One of the greatest gifts you can give to anyone is the gift of attention." Sometimes these gifts could be overlooked, possibly forgotten about and/or not responded to as timely as one would like. This time of year brings about constant reminders, to-do lists and sometimes the occasional whoopsie daisy because something was missed. However, we find ways to give our attention to what we deem important...and that is the true gift, which is the balance. It is where we find ways to pay attention to help someone day in and day out.

After much self-reflection, I find myself re-evaluating what I need to pay attention to and what gifts I can give or bestow upon someone. With the holiday season upon us we all need to find time for these types of gifts while remaining mindful that this type of gift can be hard and time consuming.

We want to pay attention and get everything done, but how? How do we work on all of these things and get them done within a feasible timeframe and still have time to go home and hug our friends/family. I know each of you does this each and every day.

A producer calls or drops by or another email hits your inbox, and then your day was changed. A family member or friend tells you some unfortunate news, and then your day is changed. A deadline is missed or application is reviewed and an error was found, and yet again your day was changed. Each of these changes affords the ability to make time to pay attention to what is needed right then and right there. We just needed to be reminded that attention was gift.

It was an exchange between you and your brain, and how you decided to process this information. Did you decide to pay attention and give your gift to help interpret what you just read or learned to help a producer complete a new-to-them program application. Did you give your gift of time and listen to a colleague vent or family member share their health concerns? Those are truly great moments in our lives.

So, please don't forget you give these types of gifts day-in and day-out. You are a gift and your attention is a gift that someone might not even know they needed. Share your attention, give your gift of admiration or help a colleague clarify something or find the right handbook reference. That is what we do as colleagues, faithful TASCOE members and as friends. I consider each of you in each of those categories. If you need me, please let me know and I will try to find a way to share my time and attention with you. I hope the same from me.

Merry Christmas and remember not all presents come in boxes or bags. The Grinch learned this fact, as well. We all learn the best gifts can come from the smallest acts but make the biggest impact. You make a bigger impact more than you think.

Thanks again for all that you do for your offices, your producers and our association. Cheers to giving and sharing all the gifts your life has to offer. Thanks for being a gift to me and to our TASCOE Team!

King regards,

Christa Kraatz



Vice President's Report

Howdy y'all!

WOW! The holiday season is now upon us! It seems like this time of year gets here quicker each year and we are in a daze to get 'all the things' ready for family and friends, plus ourselves!

Speaking of ourselves.... have you taken some time for yourself?! How do we do that this time of year? It is so very challenging but so very necessary to do for peace of mind. I encourage you this holiday, busy bustling season to STOP and take time for YOU! I am telling myself this as I type this out. We all work so very hard in our FSA lives, plus personal lives, we must realize that truly matters in our lives and that is time for yourself, your faith, your friends, and most of your family!

Speaking of family, the FSA, and TASCOE family, remains the best in the west! That sounds kind a hockey but rings so true. Wherever you are...north, south, east, or west, you can certainly count on your FSA, TASCOE and NASCOE family for support, networking, problem solving and reassurance in all avenues of our lives. With that being said, if you are reading this and have not shared your love and passion for our association, please do so with someone who is not a member of TASCOE/NASCOE. Tell them how it has helped your career, your attitude, and the friendships you have for a lifetime. We need our association! We need our TASCOE/NASCOE family.

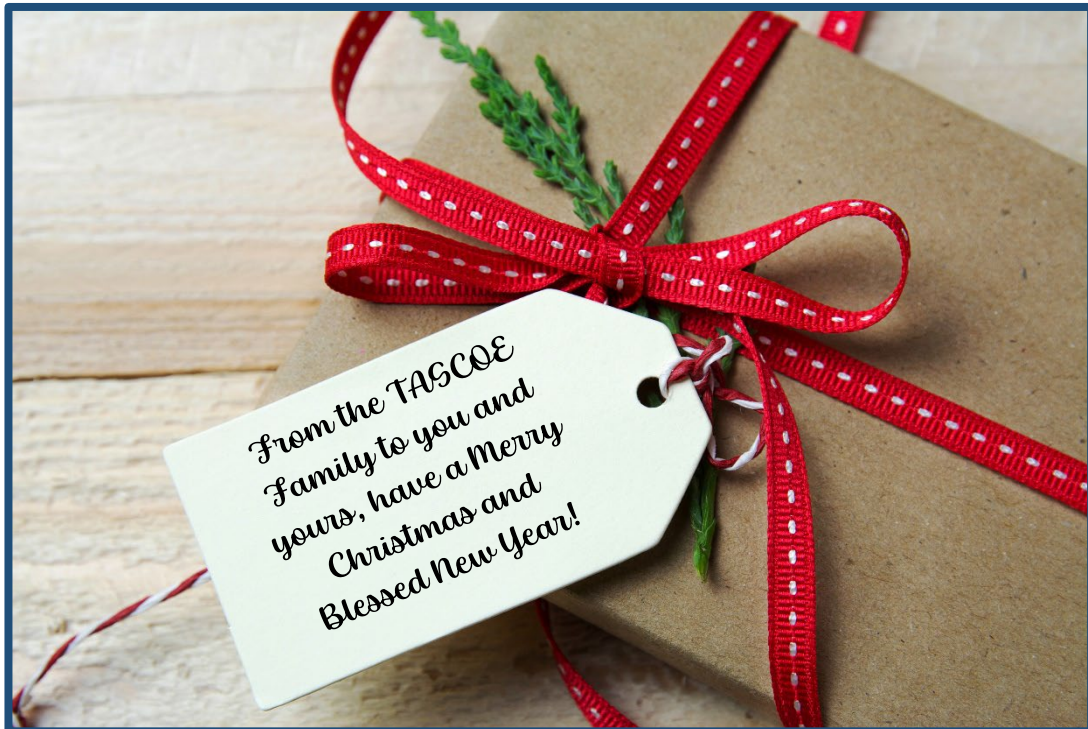
I promised this time to be short, since all of my articles tend to be so long and wordy! I truly love to write...and take photographs! (If you know me, you know all of these things bring me joy!)

Thank you for being a TASCOE and NASCOE member and supporting our association and the employees we are here to serve. A big thank you to the TASCOE Executive Board and Directors that go all out to keep information flowing from our association and agency to you, our members, and prospective new members. Without YOU, we would not be able to continue onward through all the struggles! PLEASE keep believing in our mission and striving for our true success overall!

With the joyful season here, I wish you and yours the *Merriest* of *CHRISTmas* ever with a song in your heart, greetings and hugs from near and far that make you smile and that warm feeling that keeps you happy all year through. Blessings and Cheers from my family and me!

Respectfully yours,

Jeannine P. Wendel



Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Hello fellow TASCOE members aka my fabulous work family,

I pray that each one of you is enjoying the holiday season. I have to admit as a mother of 3 incredibly active kids, the holidays have been a massive struggle! However, I am trying to enjoy the hustle and bustle because I know one day it won't be the same.

The last year has taught me to savor each and every day for that day will never happen again. I hope that each one of you is doing the same. We've been through A LOT these past few years and in the end, taking care of ourselves and each other is the most important part of our journey. Enjoy the holidays. Take time off. Make the memories with your family and friends!

These next few months will be very trying for everyone and please know that your Executive Board is here for you when you need us. It may be to just to vent but never forget your fellow co-workers are usually experiencing exactly what you are and are just a phone call away.

TASCOE activities are going to begin ramping up with fundraising beginning for NASCOE Convention this summer. I look forward to working with each one of you and showing our NASCOE members our Texas charm at convention.

Thank you for all that you do for your producers and our association. If you every need anything, please know that I am an email or phone call away! Again, I pray each one of you has a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Cheers to a great 2023 no matter what it brings!

Best wishes,

Veronica Crum



Legislative Report

Greetings, Members:

With the 2022 mid-term election cycle out of the way, many statewide and national offices saw changes to elected officials. Please, make the effort to reinforce communication bonds with familiar faces and reach out and introduce yourself and our Association to newly elected representatives.

Keeping the people close to us who make decisions about our programs, personnel, and budget is a critical tool. This tool is of great benefit to you, to me, and to our customers. With changes on who leads the House and Senate, there will also be changes to committees, such as the Agricultural committee and related sub-committees. We must familiarize ourselves with their functions, who sits on them, who chairs them, and causes they favor.

If you are unsure how to go about this, please reach out to me or your TASCOE Executive Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Garcia
Legislative Chair

10 REASONS WHY SANTA CLAUS COULD HAVE BEEN A FARMER

1. He works all year, just to give his stuff away.
2. He's good with livestock
3. He knows how to get by with the same equipment season after season.
4. He works outside, even in bad weather.
5. He's good with kids.
6. His wife is an excellent cook.
7. He could stand to lose a few pounds (see reason 6).
8. He's used to getting in and out of tight places.
9. He covers a lot of ground in a hurry when the pressure is on.
10. He takes care of the needs of the whole world.



Scholarship/Emblems Report

Hey TASCOE Members,

I'm Ellie Stringer, Program Technician in Red River County, and I'm back for my second year as Scholarship/Emblems Committee chair.

The year end is approaching which means we have some important deadlines fast approaching as well.

- NASCOE Scholarships Due- January 15, 2023
 - (Apply here: <https://nascoe.org/awards-scholarships/awards-scholarship-applications/>)
- TASCOE Scholarships Due- April 1, 2023
 - (Apply Here: <https://tascoe.org/why-join/scholarships/>)

If you have any questions about the application or the process itself, please let me know.

Please remember that these scholarships are largely funded through the live and silent auctions at the TASCOE Convention each summer. As some of you know, this year the NASCOE Convention will take place in College Station, and we are very much looking forward to that! Please start thinking about donation items for the auction! If you already have some donations ready, please email me at tascoescholarship@gmail.com!

If you haven't checked out the Emblems store lately, head over to <https://nascoe.org/store/>. They have added so many new items! Bonus, they have gift cards that would make a great stocking stuffer!!

I hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas!

Ellie Stringer

TASCOE Scholarship/Emblems Chair



COUNTY OFFICE NEWS



Childress County Office with
new and old employees:

L-R: *Kathy Williams (CED),
Frances Medina-Thomas
(FP PT), Pauline Gambol
(FP PT), Jerry McCracken
(FL PT), Whitney Serrano
(SFLD)*

*Kathy Williams,
Childress County CED*
with her two daughters
Virginia Barron and Jessica
Brown both home for
Thanksgiving and with her
8-year-old grandson,
Nathan (How do they get
so big so fast??)





Grandsons of **Cottle/King-Motley County
CED Shonda Elliott** ready for fall. Haygen,
Sawyer, and Cayson Elliott.

District 3 met in
November in
Matador Texas and
was honored to
have **CED Kelly
Adkins** as a special
guest.



*Texas Farm Service Agency
District 3 - October 11, 2022*



District 4 was blessed to have an in-person pay limit training on November 9th, 2022. We have several newly onboard PT's that found the training very helpful. We hope this is the first of many. We are hoping to have a CRP one next.

Master griller, **Darryl Perryman**, treats the **Hockley County** staff to some charbroiled delicacies.



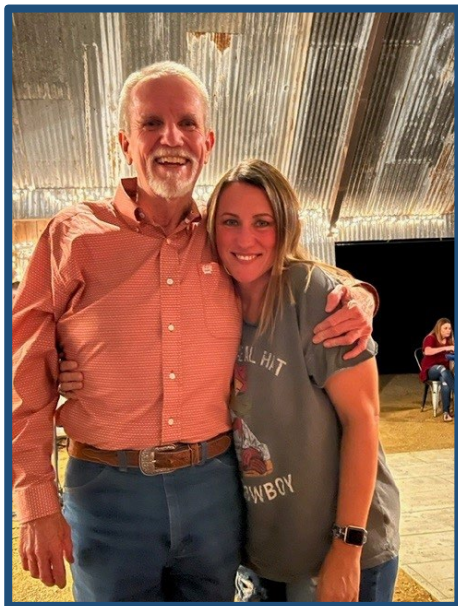
Payton LeBlue, son of **Lori LeBlue** (**Fayette/Lee County PT**) was inducted into the National Honors Society at Fayetteville, ISD.

Haskell County recently hosted a Retirement Reception for **Randall Frierson** (retired PT), **Susie McLellan** (former and re-hired back on with FSA PT), and **Vickie Coker** (former FLPT). **Texas FSA SED, Kelley Adkins** was in attendance along with many FSA employees, currently in the agency and retired. There were many more that popped in to wish these 3 FSA folks well



Cooper Whitis (11), son of **Lamar County CED Randi Whitis**, won his first showmanship buckle at the S&S Buckle Bash in

Lamar County CED Randi Whitis, husband Lester Whitis, and sons Cooper (11) and Cade (3), celebrated Pallister-Killian Syndrome Awareness Day on December 4th.



Johnny Patterson, Lamar County PT, celebrated his 70th birthday with friends and family in September.

Lamar County PT Julie Nation retired from the Lamar County FSA Office on October 31st after 12 years of service. Her husband, Mark Nation, joined Julie at her retirement reception.





Allie Maria Aguilar celebrated her Quinceañera on Sunday, November 27th! She is the daughter of **Guadalupe County CED Albert Aguilar** and wife Linda.

Rachel Nessel, daughter of **Jackson County PT Lisa Gabrysch** and husband Mark, graduated from UHV (University of Houston-Victoria) in Katy, TX on Saturday, December 10, 2022 with a Masters of Education degree. She currently is the Executive Director of Continuing Education at Victoria College.



Wyatt Decker participated in his first-ever stock show this year! Here he is with his broilers at the Shiner Junior Livestock Show in November. He is the son of **Lavaca County PT Courtney Decker** and husband Tim.

**Victoria County PT Ryan
Worsham** and son Heston after
winning championship at Perfect
Game 12U tournament in Houston
recently.



Kylee and Clay Hoffmann (daughter
and son of **Victoria County CEDT,
Dawn Hoffmann**) participated in
the Schulenburg Junior Livestock
Show Pre-Show on December 10th.
They received lots of good pointers
from the judge to put to practice for
their official show in January 2023.
Even the Extension Agent's daughter
wanted to get in on the photo op!

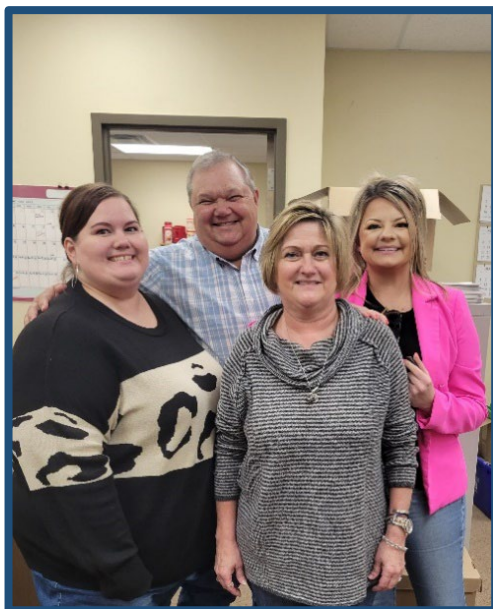
Charlotte Watkins, freshman daughter of
Victoria County CED Darrin Watkins and
wife Rachel, portrayed Rosebud in Victoria
Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker."





Miller Watkin's youth league football team made it to the Super Bowl finals this year! Miller is the son of **Victoria County CED Darrin Watkins**

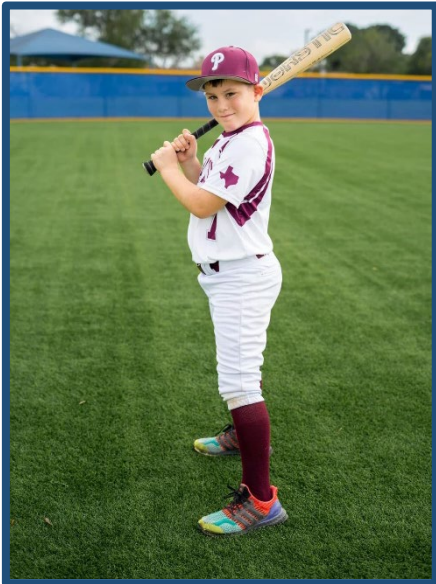
Braden Watkins, son of Rachel & **Darrin Watkins (CED Victoria County)**, just wrapped up the 2022 football season with the Edna Cowboys where he played running back and defensive back. Braden is in 7th grade and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society as well.



Victoria PT Marcy Logan knows you can't drive through Fayette County without stopping by the FSA Office to see the (in)famous Levi Garlick!

Pictured L-R: **Victoria CEDT Dawn Hoffmann, Fayette CED Levi Garlick, Fayette PT Lori LeBlue, & Victoria PT Marcy Logan.**

On October 1, 2022, **San Patricio County PT**
Kay Sliva became Kay Jones!
Congratulations!



Bee County PT Amanda Wilson and
husband Stephen's son Rowdy, 9 years old,
enjoys playing for the Phanatics Baseball Team

Becca Wilson, daughter of **Bee County PT**
Amanda Wilson and husband Stephen,
won 1st in her class and 3rd overall in the
Coastal Bend Classic Show.



Length of Service Awards



Megan McCraw
Fannin County PT
5 Years

Patrick Reynolds
Nueces/Kleberg-Kenedy CED
5 Years



John Hinojosa
Hidalgo County CED
15 Years



Tacho Cavazos
Willacy County CED
25 Years





Jennifer Garcia
Jim Wells/Brooks-Jim Hogg County CED
25 Years

Cris Perez
Cameron County CED
30 Years



Rene Reyna
Starr-Zapata County CED
30 Years

Belinda Balderrama
Willacy County PT
30 Years





*Darren Pruski
Bee/Live Oak-McMullen County CED
30 Years*



*Mary Cantu
Hidalgo County PT
35 Years*



*Young-Throckmorton County
Left: Tanya Bell (Lead PT), 15 Years
Center: Jeannine P. Wendel (CED), 35 Years
Right: Erin Collins (PT), 10 Years*



*Jeannine P. Wendel
Young-Throckmorton County CED
35 Years*



*Mike McDonald
Clay-Jack County CED
20 Years*



*Nathan Cockerell
Baylor County
CED*



*Jacob Chapman
Shackelford-Stephens County CED
35 Years*



Carla Bowden
Wichita County PT
30 Years

Charles Morton
Wichita County PT
20 Years



Whitney Serrano
Childress County SFLQ
5 Years

Stacey Garton
Donley County FLM
5 Years





Christie Winger
Cottle County PT
15 Years

Stephen Reynolds
Dickens/Kent County CED
30 Years



Kathy Williams
Childress County CED
30 Years



Gerry Summers
Floyd County CED
35 Years

