

50 YEARS TO NOW

Originally Agricultural Adjustment Act (Triple A) as we were known then, did not have any benefits. In 1958, ASCS employees watched as Civil Service employees received pay raises and benefits without provisions begin made for ASCS. That is when the birth of NASCOE was formed. In 1958 we had no leave policy, no retirement, no health insurance, no life insurance and a salary schedule considerably lower than other government agencies. In May, 1959 in Memphis, Tennessee the first formal meeting of ASCS was held resulting in the National Association of State and County Office Employees (NASCOE).

Today we are very fortunate to have NASCOE fighting for our benefits. I heard a speaker at the convention say "*There is not a reason in the world for any employee in the county offices to not be a NASCOE member*". **MEMBERSHIP DOES HAVE ITS BENEFITS!** We have excellent cancer insurance, heart/stroke insurance, new dental insurance, life insurance, long-term care insurance, and accident insurance as well as cell phone discounts, theme park discounts, legal services (for work related issues), Sam's Club discounts, NASCOE travel discounts and much more.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Benefits Chairperson for the past 3 years. I have a new appreciation for how hard NASCOE works to bring new benefits to our members. I am also very happy to say we have a new Benefits Chairperson, Patti Knicely. I am very impressed with Patti and feel she will do an excellent job as your new state Benefits Chairperson. I'll let Patti tell you about the new benefits we recommended for the Midwest Area. Thanks Patti for taking on this new task as Benefits Chairperson in Ohio.

I am Patti Knicely, a 23 year veteran PT in Muskingum-Morgan County. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Benefits Chairperson for OASCOE. I believe this position has an important role. Too often we question the value of our NASCOE dues. I believe it is my job to ensure everyone knows **all** the benefits available to OASCOE members and their families.

New benefits recommended at the national convention were as follows:

- **Life-Lock Identity Theft Protection** – Cost \$8.92 per pay period for single or family policy. Covers spouse but not children against identity theft as well as giving assistance on preparing simple wills to policyholders and their families.
- **Accidental Life Insurance** – This policy will be written and funded by J.M. Marketing Company as a "perk" to NASCOE members.

Considering I am a "work in progress" which can only be improved by input from OASCOE members, I welcome any suggestions you may have concerning our benefits. I can be reached by calling my home (740) 796-3185, cell (740) 819-6164 or email knicely4@aol.com.

In closing, based on my experience in working with her, I believe Robin Williamson deserves to be congratulated on her dedication to OASCOE and I want to thank her for all the help she has given (and may yet have to give!) to help me in this transition.