

CAP WIZ

Dear OASCOE Members,

Two years ago the NASCOE Officers and Area Executives brought before the general assembly at the National Convention a request. The request was to purchase a 3 year subscription to Capital Advantage or better known as CAP WIZ. This is used as another communication tool by NASOE for mostly legislative issues.

Since that time we have had 2,016 NASCOE members complete the registration to be considered “subscribed”, 471 are listed as “inactive” or “disabled” and 528 have been listed as “un subscribed”. So are you interested in how the MWA and Ohio in general stand up in these numbers? Here they are:

MWA has:		674 subscribed users and 121 “other”	
State Break Down:	Iowa	170	31
	Illinois	94	24
	Minnesota	94	16
	Indiana	93	12
	Ohio	83	13
	Wisconsin	72	10
	Michigan	34	5
	Missouri	34	10

So the MWA has a little over 1/3 of the total National CAP WIZ Subscribed Users! WAY TO GO! This is great but we can do better. Here are some things to remember:

- * A home email address needs to be used (government addresses will be disabled)
- * Easy to sign up at www.nascoe.org and find CAP WIZ and click on icon.
- * Find Action E-list (close to Bottom) and load your home email address, name, mailing address and then hit the “submit” button.

“REMEMBER...I will disable any government address if used to register”

Do you want to know a little more about the numbers from the last year? From August 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006 the CAP WIZ/NASCOE sent out 33,259 messages and alerts to members. When the “FSA Tomorrow” issue came about, we hit the Hill with 5911 letters to our Congressional Offices. This was one of our biggest undertakings and it came from only one alert to members through CAP WIZ! Ohio sent the following number of letters to your State Congressional Representatives:

Senators:	DeWine	40
	Voinovich	40
Representatives:	Strickland	9
	Oxley	7
	Hobson	4
	Gillmor	2
	Turner, LaTourette, Boehner and Kaptur	1

The highest hit offices nationally were those of was Iowa's Senator Charles Grassley with 189 and Tom Harkin of Iowa with 187. Based on the amount of letters sent, NASCOE got the attention of Congress and the process was stopped.

If you have said any of these comments:

I sure wish I knew what Congress was up to and how it affects my job”

“Who are my Congressional Representatives?”

“I wonder how my Representative voted on a particular issue?”

“How do I contact my representative? What do I say?”

“I don't feel as informed as I should be”

“What action can I take to make my OASCOE/NASCOE membership dues count?”

Just remember you can grab hold of some of the information and stay informed through CAP WIZ. Here is what the site includes:

- Action E-Alert System- You get on an email lists by registering with a home email address and then you receive updates on Hot legislative and NASCOE issues.
- NASCOE composes a letter or you can compose your own and then send to your Congressional offices through the CAP WIZ email system.
- Shows information about Congressional Representatives plus their votes
- Follows status and votes on particular bills that are pf particular importance to NASCOE
- You can also send information to local and state media through the CAP WIZ connections.

At the 2006 National Convention the MWA voted to recommend the continuation of CAP WIZ as another legislative tool to be available to members. During the Legislative and Area meetings I encouraged all Areas and States to set up a CAP WIZ coordinator to help me as issues arise and we need to act on an issue quickly. I have been informed of Coordinators in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Don Lamb is your Ohio State Coordinator. I will be in contact with all coordinators several times in the year.

As we enter into the early stages of a New Farm Bill, I encourage all of you to be proactive and not reactive! I encourage all to sign up for CAP WIZ and have your voice be heard. If you have any questions about CAP WIZ or your registration address, please do not hesitate to contact me or your state coordinator.

Thank you,

Tammy Eibey, Iowa
CAP WIZ Administrator

MWA Legislative Chairperson