

August, 2009

OASCOE members,

I am writing this to not only to update members with news but, also to alert everyone about needs for upcoming events. First, if you are still not aware, your directors voted not to have a State Convention this November. Instead, the 2009 State OASCOE Convention will be held in conjunction with the Mid West Area (MWA) Rally April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2010. Since it is Ohio's turn to be the host, the Rally will be held near Newark Ohio (see link on home page). PLEASE! We need your help! Your directors will be coming to you with requests for various things. Mark VanHoose has graciously accepted the role of Rally Chair and will be forming various committees soon.

One important factor with any Convention is finance. We have decided there will have to be a registration fee. However, we would like your help to keep the fee as low as possible. This will obviously mean fund raisers or making cuts in the agenda of events offered. I do know that over the years I have heard that some members do not think our dues should be used to fund parties. However, we do not want to make Conventions boring. I do not think that our Conventions are just for partying. Instead, I think of it as events that are at the same time both interesting and entertaining in an effort to make attendance more attractive and a vehicle to get to know your fellow employees and share some time for ideas while relaxing. Dues should not be used to fund conventions and never for party events. However, OASCOE is lucky in that we have a large carry over from past fundraisers. The directors are in the process of determining the exact amount of fundraiser carryover in the treasury as opposed to dues and considering using some of those carryover funds to finance the Rally. This decision was made in consideration of alleviating some of the burden on membership with staging another fundraiser or donation campaign. Registration fees and fundraisers will no doubt still be conducted but, will not require as high of a goal. If you have an opinion on financing the Rally, be sure to let your local director know as I have instructed them to conduct an informal survey. Your opinion is valuable in this endeavor. We took into consideration, and you can checkout, "your" opinions that we posted on the website as a result of that recent convention (paper) survey. Without your support and willingness to volunteer to help, a good productive Rally will not be possible. With the new administration and, hopefully, a new SED and STC, this Rally could be very interesting.

Second, as most of you know, we have added some new positions in Ohio in the last 12 months and many other new employees have been hired for other positions that have come open. I am asking for your help to make sure your fellow "newbee" decides to join NASCOE. To some extent, many would not have a job had it not been for the efforts of NASCOE. Besides, being a NASCOE member has its "Benefits" too. As far as benefits go, this is a great opportunity to reach out for "Associate" membership too. COC members, reporters, LAC's, DD's, FLM's and other Federals may find out that they would like to be an associate member to be eligible for the insurance and other discount programs offered to the membership.

Third, if you have not already done so, please remember to send in your office staff photo and brief write up of 4 to 5 sentences per employee about each of the staff regardless of NASCOE membership. The whole idea is to place faces with names. We rarely see each other in person anymore due to net meetings, conference calls, email, fax, phone calls, and soon to be added instant messaging. So, remember to send in your photo by one email and your write up by separate email to [oascoe@yahoo.com](mailto:oascoe@yahoo.com) ASAP. Any questions, contact publicity co-chairs Charlene Stone or Glenda Ward. Don't miss the fun!

Fourth, if you have any opinions on, or issues with, any FSA activity, let your director know. For example, recently the issue of "FSA Awards" has been brought up again. Do you think the present system is fair? Properly funded?

And finally, one last thing; we do not want to forget the Scholarship Fund. Since the 2009 OASCOE Convention will be held in conjunction with the 2010 MWA Rally in April, there will be no chance to have the traditional "silent auction" in time. So, we are asking for each office to make donations. The suggested goal is \$5 per employee. The directors decided that a direct cash request was more productive. Many employees have spent a great deal of time, materials, and expense on finding donations of items for the silent auction. The donors are appreciated very much; however, sometimes a particular item may not bring as much at auction as the actual original expense. This results in an indirect loss to the scholarship fund. So, we are asking for your support of a cash donation this year in any amount you are willing or can afford to make. Let us not let a good cause die.

Thank you – 2009 OASCOE President John Gaynor