



The NAFEC 2023 Organizational meeting of the Executive Committee was held January 4-5 in Lubbock, Texas. This year's meeting attendees included NAFEC Officers: Jim Zumbrink, President, Craig Turner, Executive Vice President, Cole Sims, Vice President, Bob Braden, Secretary/Treasurer as well as Dennis Kuhlengel, Midwest Area Director and NAFEC Legislative Consultant, David Senter. Others attending included: Brenda Boomer, RASCOE, NASCOE County Advocacy Chair: Morgan Limmer, NASCOE SWA Alternate Executive Terry Cater, and Dillard Financial Solutions NAFEC Committee: Teresa Dillard, Kevin Dale, Tammy Eibey and Wes Daniels. On Thursday the group was joined by several county committee members, CED's and Congressional staff members.

The meeting was an opportunity for the NAFEC Board Members, NAFEC Legislative Consultant, NASCOE COAC Chair, and Dillard Financial Solutions NAFEC Committee to work together to achieve a better line of communication and develop plans to work on the betterment of NAFEC through joint cooperative efforts of all attending the meeting.. The discussion with NASCOE and NAFEC centered on future commitments to work together on shared topics regarding FSA County Office employees and the preservation of the FSA County Committee.

NAFEC Board members asked for suggestions as to increasing membership and also participation by current and future members when it comes to conventions, legislative visits and COC educational training in states. There were many ideas suggested that included:

- Updating the NAFEC website with current information
- Complete a Newsletter for members
- Work with NASCOE for a joint packet to offices with information on membership and NAFEC purpose and importance to the County Office Employee and FSA
- Outreach to state leadership on COC and NAFEC
- Increase use of social media (facebook, twitter)
- Engage members with tasks and participation in events

- Create strong working relationships with local, state and national farm and ranch organizations and associations
 - Educate Stakeholders on COC mission and importance
- Hold educational meetings in states in conjunction with COC orientation training
- Address and respond to any recommendations by the Equity Commission
 - Congressional Contacts with COC Fact Sheet as educational tool
 - Follow up after recommendation published with Position Paper on COC Importance
- Continue to make Legislative Visits and build relationships with Congressional Members/Aides
- Monitor Farm Bill discussions and follow up at town hall meetings

NASCOE President Marcinda Kester, Vice President Joel Foster, SWA Alternate Executive Terry Cater and NASCOE Legislative Consultant Hunter Moorhead met with the group by zoom meeting. NASCOE Legislative Consultant, Hunter Moorhead, has already been reaching out to FSA/COC supporters. Initial reports regarding the Equity Commission recommendations have not been favorable towards the COC system. It was suggested that both groups need to be proactive now with educational legislative contacts prior to the release of the report recommendations. NASCOE has created a COC Fact Sheet and Educational Packet that will be sent out immediately. There also is a Joint Letter with NAFEC/NASCOE that will be sent out educating on the importance of NAFEC to county office employees and COC members and the promotion of membership at the local level. This packet will also go out once signed by both parties. NASCOE shared with NAFEC their County Committee Preservation Action Plan. NAFEC has developed a COC Fact Sheet for use in Congressional contact meetings as well as a Position Paper for a possible response to the Equity Commission Report recommendation. NASCOE and NAFEC felt that the meeting was productive and opened a new line of communication



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and cooperation that will benefit NASCOE members and the County Committee System.

NAFEC also met with Congressman Jackson's Agriculture Aides Doug Hight and Josh Worter. Congressman Jackson will be serving on the House Agriculture Committee and is a supporter of FSA and the County Committee System. David brought up the issue with eliminating the COC system but they have been approached by other agricultural groups in support of the COC system within FSA since it is grass-roots and locally elected members that are active farmers in their community. Producers feel more comfortable discussing issues with peers that have been locally elected and understand the local conditions and practices in the area. Congressman Jackson is aware of the Equity Commission report but has not seen the report or recommendations. He has requested by letter to the Secretary of Ag that the report and recommendations of the Equity Commission be released ASAP. The Farm Bill discussions was another topic discussed. The Congressman is looking at how to mitigate issues farmers are dealing with due to high inputs. Also looking into possible ARC/PLC advance payments, raise target prices, expand insured crops, resolving LFP and LIP issues and looking at adding staffing when disaster program become permanent programs or add staff funding in AD-Hoc programs.

The meeting ended with the Texas State Director, Kelly Adkins, meeting with the group. He has a long history with FSA and the COC system. He understands the current issues in the offices. Kelly talked with the Texas producers and staff that joined the meeting regarding staffing, programs and current activities across the state. NAFEC asked Kelly

if he would consider having a COC orientation in conjunction with the NASCOE National Convention. He seemed very interested with the suggestion and also asked that NAFEC send him a written invitation to the meeting so he could proceed with planning and request funding from the National Office. NAFEC will work closely with the TaSCOE convention chair and planning group along with NASCOE on coordinating invitations to the National Convention August 2-5, 2023 in College Station, Texas.

The NAFEC committee set forth a plan of action including:

- Complete NAFEC COC Fact Sheet
- Prepare Position Paper response to the Equity Commission recommendations on FSA/COC
- Make Legislative visits and build working relationships in support of the COC system
- Outreach with stakeholders in agriculture groups for support of the COC system
- Continue cooperation and communication with NASCOE and NASCOE COAC committee
 - Send out joint NASCOE/NAFEC letter and membership packet
- Work with Dillard Financial Solutions NAFEC Advocacy Committee
- Work on Communication tools of Website, Newsletter and Social Media
- Engage members and invite to convention/meeting and assign tasks
- Prepare Invitation to SED for COC educational meeting at the NASCOE National Convention
- Follow Farm Bill discussions and policy development

