



June 30, 2015

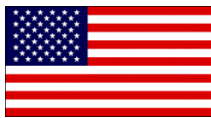
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FSA SUPPORT EMPLOYEES

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

NASE strives to:

- *promote the betterment of the Farm Service Agency through improved service to the public*
- *Improve our programs*
- *Establish a cooperative relationship at all levels of the Agency*
- *Help accomplish the mission of USDA and FSA*
- *Improve support staff effectiveness*
- *Improve morale, esprit-de-corp, and efficiency*
- *Promote self-motivation, self-education, and career enhancement*
- *Promote the social, economic, civic and personal welfare of support employees*



Wear **red** on Fridays to show support for our troops at home and abroad.



The year is drawing to a close and as I find it hard to find time to fit in yet one more letter or message, as I look back it has been the same all year. I do not feel that I have been able to give NASE as much time as it deserves and although the presidency has been a very rewarding time it has also been frustrating because of the “time” factors also.

Many of you are/have experienced the staff shortages, and much like my situation, you are carrying the weight of several employees at a time on your already burdened shoulders. Our Administrator continues to send “pats on the back” for a job well done and we should relish these moments. We, you, have done an exception job of keeping it all together and moving it forward.

NASE has grown. While we continue to lose our membership to retirements and such we are picking up new members and not remaining stagnant. Some newer, younger folks are coming in with their fresh ideas and we are all excited about that.

Nationally, we have an administration that welcomes the input from the associations and has been supportive and inclusive. We are invited to participate in calls with the Administrator and also with program divisions so that we have a front row seat for discussions with them. This year we were also invited to the National Office for a week of informative and open discussions about what we think should be happening within FSA. Those at the table all had an opportunity to express their opinions and have their viewpoint heard.

The old adage of “so little time, so much to do” (or words to that affect) are certainly true these days and it was impossible for me to do many of the things I had hoped to accomplish. With Cindy’s retirement a year (or so) ago, I felt like I was tossed under the bus. Luckily I did not get run over by the wheels but it certainly has been a ride. While I had hoped to do much more as your President and, since I am not able to give more time and do not see in the foreseeable future anything changing to allow that, I have decided to not run for an elected term. I will still be involved in NASE and look forward to working with all of you again.

I truly mean it when I say THANK YOU for allowing me to serve as President for 2014-2015. It was a privilege. I do want you all to remember ONE very specific thing about NASE. ONE very important thing about NASE!

YOU ARE NASE! NASE IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. IF YOU LIKE WHAT NASE DOES, SUPPORT IT AND GET INVOLVED. IF YOU DO NOT LIKE THE WAY NASE IS WORKING FOR YOU, GET INVOLVED, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE IT. YOU ALSO HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY IT BY DOING NOTHING.

Too many times we join an organization then sit back and expect it to work for us without any input and/or guidance as to what we want. All organization, not just NASE, operate this way and it is usually a small percentage of the membership that works for the whole.

You are free to do this because most organization have the small percentage that are willing to STEP UP and take some leadership interest in the organization and the direction it is heading. What happens though when that small percentage is not there? Who will step up? When the interests of many are represented by only a few, sometimes the direction an organization takes is not what the majority would want simply because no one is willing to step up and guide them. That brings up the question of who will STEP UP.

What about the people that use that organization? Good customer service would dictate that if the company you want to use is not staffed well enough the service is affected and then the customers fall off (you go elsewhere) and the company dies out.

NASE needs new members and new people to step up as leaders (officers, representatives, and committee persons) to provide the very best customer service to its membership that it can. Ask yourselves, what do you want out of a NASE membership?

I know when I first started working for USDA I joined NACOAC (30+ years ago) and I was pretty gung-ho. They were working on something near and dear to my heart, my paycheck. It was easy to be involved in the organization then. Through the years my interest has wavered some and for some years I was not even a member. I was busy with family, kids, outside interests, and life in general. Like many of you, I was satisfied with what NASE was already doing without my help. I have however come to realize just what I am telling you. NASE cannot/will not survive unless some of you are willing to step up. Is NASE important enough to survive? For me the answer is yes but you will need to decide for yourselves. I have worked at many levels in this agency and its predecessor agency. Support staff are a vital part of what takes place within the service we provide. Ask any Farm Loan Manager or CED just how important those people (their support staff) are to the whole. Be sure to ask those who have lost their support staff as the opinion changes somewhat when they realize all the little things that make a big difference in how the job gets done. NASE, collectively is continually working to help improve these processes so that each of us can work smarter.

Let me close, one final time with a plea that you consider stepping up! Remember -

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YOU ALSO HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY IT BY DOING NOTHING.

My door will always be open, and the phone always available,

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