

# The MASCOE Journal

W I N T E R 2 0 2 0 E D I T I O N

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- MASCOE Convention 2019 Highlights
- MWA Rally Brochure!
- Plan to attend the MWA Rally March 4-6, 2020 in Branson, MO .

## MASCOE PRESIDENT UPDATE

Hello everyone! I hope this newsletter finds you well. There are many things going on in the FSA and MASCOE world. I know many are playing the FSA juggling game as we manage several different programs at the same time, but I hope everyone can find their own silver lining in this, and in every situation. There's a sign in my hallway that reads "grateful is a good place to be" and during these stressful and hectic times it's a good reminder that there are still many things to be grateful for.

I would like to invite everyone to the Midwest Area Rally coming up March 5-7 in Branson, MO. Missouri will be hosting this year's rally where MO and 8 other midwestern states associations and their members come together to hold a business meeting and discuss programs, employee benefits, staffing, workload and many other topics. Missouri only host this Rally every 8 years so if you are able to attend, please do so. This is a great opportunity to network with other FSA staff across the Midwest and learn about current MASCOE and NASCOE topics. Please see the agenda further in this newsletter and other information relating to the rally. Deadline to register and book your hotel is Friday, February 7!

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns for MASCOE, please contact your district representative or any of the board members and we'd be happy to help you. I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2020!

Mandi Bird  
MASCOE President

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## A Letter from the State Executive Director

“You got this buddy!”. If you ever are earshot of me during a ballgame, before I send my kids to school, or pretty much anytime my kids are facing something tough you will hear me say this! It is amazing what a little pep talk can do for a person to boost their confidence. As a human, fear of failure is a scary reality. At times it is things like that that little pep talk to keep us moving forward. Maybe the pep talk is a piece of dark chocolate (one of my personal favorites) or just a nice note of thanks for all the help. It is the little things that make a BIG difference.

Being an FSA employee in the last 12 months has been tough. I know each of you are doing A LOT of little things that are making a BIG difference to the farmers and ranchers in Missouri. In the past year, Missouri FSA has paid out more than 1 billion dollars in program benefits to eligible producers. One billion dollars! FSA’s little actions have certainly added up to a big impact. The benefits and services you have provided to producers has no doubt made a huge difference in our rural communities. On behalf of the farmers and ranchers I thank you for all your efforts.

As we look forward to the next few weeks it can be a little overwhelming. Life can be very demanding with pressing deadlines, emergency programs that continue, and sometimes even our own commitments outside of FSA. There is life outside of FSA, right? We think about FSA when we are at home and I am sure many of us have had a few sleepless hours wondering how we are going to get everything done. As employees it is important to take each day one step at a time, and that we keep pressing on to meet our goals. Working together I am sure we will be successful. I encourage each of you to keep up the good work. And, as I would tell my kids, “You got this Buddy”.

Kim Viers  
Acting SED

## MASCOE Convention Highlights

2019 Mascoe Convention was held in Maryville, MO August 28 & 29, 2019.

The 2019 Mascoe Convention was great success with 43 people in attendance for both days of the convention and an additional 19 that came for Thursday only! Out of all of our attendees 25 were first timers!!! It was great to see so many people in attendance. Here are a few highlights from the event!



Susie Thompson, Speaker

Dennis Ray, NASCOE Update



Jackson Jones gives  
a Midwest Area Update

## MASCOE CONVENTION



Many awards were received at the Convention for a variety of reasons from participants being a first time attendee, to how many years of service a member has with MASCOE and also for being a dedicated member of MASCOE! Congratulations to all of our winners.





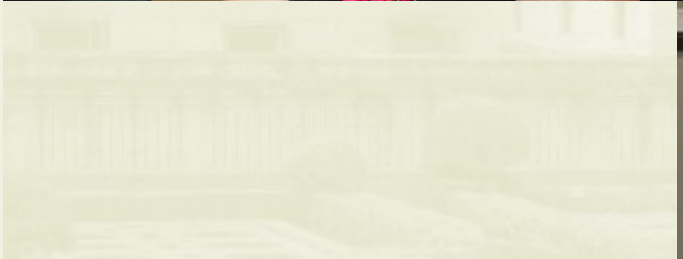
## MASCOE CONVENTION CONT

The State Office Staff was able to attend the convention and hold a state office Q & A so that members in attendance could ask questions about different program areas. It is a great opportunity for the members to visit with the state office! We appreciate them making the time to be in attendance.



MASCOE president, Mandi Bird and State Executive Director, Brent Hampy sign the Labor Agreement.

## MASCOE CONVENTION CONTINUED.....



**Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work in making the event a Success!**



M I D W E S T   A R E A   R A L L Y  
B R A N S O N ,   M O  
M A R C H   4 - 6 ,   2 0 2 0



**MASCOE is happy to announce we will be hosting the Midwest Area Rally in Branson! Come help MASCOE welcome NASCOE guests to Missouri on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton in Downtown Branson. MASCOE has negotiated the government rate at the Hilton during the event, and for 3 days before and after the event making this a great opportunity to enjoy Branson and support NASCOE at almost half the normal cost. During the convention enjoy speakers and a Q & A session with National Office Staff and NASCOE leadership. After hours take full advantage of all that Branson has to offer, and bring the family for a long weekend. Remember to use the MASCOE group code when reserving your room. We hope to see you there!**

**By: Drew Walters  
Callaway County CED**

**Brochure on Next Page**



# 2020 Midwest Area Rally

March 4-6, 2020 • Branson, Missouri

## Hilton Branson Convention Center & Hotel

Hosted by the  
**Missouri Association of FSA County Office Employees**



Enjoy Branson  
with the family!

MASCOE has negotiated  
\$96/night room rate to be  
available 3 days prior to  
and following MWA Rally.

"Branson's top to-dos could best be described as family-friendly with a country western bent. Think Disney World meets Nashville. There are also ample educational opportunities, from the history of the "unsinkable" ship at the Titanic Museum to animal and environmental science lessons at the Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery. What's more, Table Rock Lake affords a picturesque place for swimming and boating, while an array of performance venues like the Sight & Sound Theatres will entertain the whole family with singing, dancing and music." - *Travel, U.S. News & World Report, April 2019*

Other attractions:

Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede  
Branson's 1905 Train Depot & Scenic Railway  
Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

Branson Landing  
Marvel Cave



# 2020 Midwest Area Rally

March 4-6, 2020 • Branson, Missouri

## Hilton Branson Convention Center & Hotel

### Wednesday, March 4

2pm-4:30pm: MASCOE Board Meeting  
*(open to all MASCOE members)*

5pm: Registration opens

5:30pm-7pm: Social Hour @ Hotel

### Thursday, March 5

7:30am: Registration opens

8am-5pm: General Session

Noon-1:30pm: Awards Luncheon

5:30pm-7pm: Social Hour @ Andy B's

### Friday, March 6

8am-Noon: General Session continued

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration: \$45**

Please make checks payable to MASCOE.

Return registration by February 7 to:

• Abby Inglis •  
688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 300  
Springfield, MO 65802

**\*\*\*CHANCES TO WIN: DOOR PRIZES • SILENT AUCTION • RAFFLE TICKETS\*\*\***

**For hotel reservations: Call 866-442-0959 or visit [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)**

Direct link: [https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/H/HROBCHH-UM6-20200301/index.ihtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/H/HROBCHH-UM6-20200301/index.ihtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

Group Code: UM6 • Room rates are \$96/night plus tax.

Book by February 7, 2020 to receive group rate. Breakfast and parking not included.

Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel • 200 E Main Street, Branson, MO 65616

**FLYING IN?** Check out flights available directly into  
Branson Airport (BKG) or Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF)

Please contact MASCOE directly if assistance with transportation arrangements are needed from  
the airport to convention center. E-mail Mandi Bird at [mandi.bird.9112@gmail.com](mailto:mandi.bird.9112@gmail.com).

# MASCOE RETIREMENTS



Marilyn Thurnau retired from Atchison County with 29 years of MASCOE membership. Marilyn retired on December 31st. Thank you for your many years of service Marilyn.



Cindy Baker retired from Cass County on October 31st! Thank you Cindy for your many years of service to the Missouri FSA and MASCOE. Enjoy retirement.



## Dennis Ray Retirement



Dennis Ray retired from Perry County in December of 2019. Dennis worked for the agency for 30+ years. Over the course of those years he was very active in MASCOE and NASCOE and even served as our NASCOE president in recent years. He was a great asset to the agency and the association and we wish him luck in retirement.

Thank you Dennis for your years of service and support of the agencies employees.

