President Report – Beth Sisk

NeASFAA March 2017 Annual Association Business Meeting

As president, I attended the NASFAA Conference in July 2016 in Washington, DC. At the Presidents’ breakfast, NASFAA chair gave the following updates. NASFAA usually chooses about six members for each of their task forces and have about 30 volunteers to select from. They try to pick a diverse group from each region, type of school, etc. I encourage anyone who is interested to volunteer for a task force. It is a good way to get involved. At the time, NASFAA began looking at how national/regional/state associations can work together in initiatives rather than compete for volunteers and other resources where overlapping services are being provided. Since then, they created “thought forces” from each region to work on this question. Art Young, Mary Sommers, Vicki Kucera, and Brenda Hicks are the thought force for the RMASFAA region.

In October 2016, I attended the RMASFAA conference in Rapid City, SD and the transitional board meeting as I transitioned onto the board as the Nebraska state delegate on the RMASFAA board. Vicki gave information on the newly formed “thought forces” and their initial plan to put together a white paper to share at the national meeting in January 2017. RMASFAA is giving more exposure to Leadership Pipeline to generate more interest and contacts. It is one of the three big offerings RMASFAA has, but hasn’t been as prominent as the fall conference or summer institute. Past NASFAA Chairs pooled personal funds to create a one-time Dallas Martin Scholarship to be given by each regional board.

I attended the spring RMASFAA board meeting in March 2017 in Denver, CO. The following information is important to pass along. The meeting of the regional “thought forces” for combining national, regional, and state volunteers and other resources determined that they are beneficial and will keep working together. NASFAA Dallas Martin Scholarship selection was made and will be announced at the winner’s state spring conference. RMASFAA membership application deadline was extended from March 15 to March 31. The RMASFAA conference in October 2017 will include a business officer track.

Earlier this year, the board decided at the request of NeASFAA members to write two letters on behalf of the board and the membership asking our elected representatives to take action. In February, I sent a letter to the Nebraska Appropriations Committee chair and cc’d committee members asking to maintain level funding for NOG for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 biennium budget. In March, I sent a letter to Nebraska’s US Senators and Representatives asking them to work to restore the IRS DRT as soon as possible.

This year, the board worked on closing out the past three-year strategic directions document. We went through each initiative in the document. We determined if it was accomplished, should the practice continue, and how to best institutionalize the practice. Some were added to the NeASFAA Policies and Procedures and some were added to board position and committee best practices documents. If something was not accomplished, we worked on that or decided not to go forward with it for a specific reason. Board and committee chairs reviewed their section of the P & P for any updates that need to be made. Going forward, each board will annually review the organizational structure and overall performance in meeting the responsibility to carry out the mission and purpose of the association.

I truly appreciate all of the opportunities I have been given as president of NeASFAA, such as attending the NASFAA and RMASFAA conferences. I have enjoyed working with each individual on the board and want to thank each member for their hard work this past year.