August 2017 President's Letter

On June 26, I had the honor of introducing the WASFAA region at the NASFAA conference opening session in San Diego, and I have to admit that I’m still grinning about the experience. What fun! I started out by sharing some fun facts about the size of the WASFAA region—by far, the biggest geographic region in NASFAA, with 1,310,045 square miles. WASFAA handily beats out the next biggest region, RMASFAA, by a healthy 568,459 square miles. And WASFAA is 6.65 times the size of EASFAA! To keep the mood light, I then introduced each state in the region by describing some of the wacky laws we have in the WASFAA region (taking a cue from Andrew Hammontree, who introduced SASFAA in New Orleans similarly). Did you know that there are whole websites devoted to this topic? It was great fun. Here’s what I shared about our wacky and wonderful states (of course, the internets have been known to be wrong, so take these with a grain of salt):

- When I think of Alaska, the first animal that comes to mind is moose (though I was a little startled by the shouts of “polar bears” and “grizzlies” from the conference attendees). Well, Alaska has two weird laws about moose. First, moose cannot be viewed from an airplane. Second, it’s illegal to push a living moose out of a moving airplane. So in short, in Alaska, moose can only go sky-diving voluntarily . . . and you’re not allowed to watch!
- In Arizona, in keeping with the animal theme, donkeys may not sleep in bathtubs.
- In California, the land of sixteen-lane freeways and notoriously aggressive drivers, here’s a gem: no vehicle without a driver may exceed 60 miles per hour. California also boasts this goofy animal law: animals are banned from mating publicly within 1,500 feet of a tavern, school, or place of worship. Totally enforceable!
- In Hawaii, it’s illegal to place coins in your ears. It’s also illegal to have more than one alcoholic drink in front of you at a time. Hmm—could these two laws be related?
- In Idaho, it’s illegal to fish from a camel’s back. And in Boise, it’s also illegal to fish from a giraffe’s back. This is a thing?
- Taking a cue from California’s love of the road and Idaho’s special interest in camels, in Nevada, it’s illegal to drive a camel down the highway. Do you suppose they mean that it’s illegal to drive a camel in a vehicle on the highway? Or is it illegal to ride a camel on the highway while pretending to drive it?
- In Oregon, my beloved home of 14 years, it’s illegal to pump your own gas. When I first moved here and would get impatient with the wait at the gas station, I’d just hop out of the car and remove my gas cap. Oh, the panic that would ensue!
- And last but not least, Washington . . . where, when two trains come to a crossing, neither shall go until the other has passed. Think on that one . . . and let me know if you figure it out.
In addition to introducing the region at the conference, I also had the opportunity to sit in as the unofficial WASFAA observer during the NASFAA Board Meeting preceding the conference, along with the other incoming regional presidents. It was a very interesting experience, and I look forward to continuing to observe the meetings each quarter in preparation for my year as the regional board member representing WASFAA. As always, please know that WASFAA’s priority is to serve you, our members, so if you have ideas, preferences, concerns, etc., please don’t hesitate to reach out to me! I can be reached at 541-463-5266 or faith@lanecc.edu.

Stay tuned in the upcoming months for all the great training and development opportunities headed your way, like WASFAA Fall Training and Jerry R. Simms Management and Leadership. And last but not least, be sure to plan on attending the WASFAA conference in beautiful Boise next April!