

President's Update – February 2017

Mike Johnson

Greetings WASFAA members!

The year seems to be flying by lately. I know that things aren't really moving faster than usual; perhaps my skewed sense of time is related to the number of WASFAA-related things that came up in January and will continue into February, and to my realization that the year is winding down and there's still much left to do. So, here's a longer list of highlights than usual, presented roughly chronologically and covering what's been happening lately and what will happen soon.

As you know, voting for WASFAA's 2017-18 elected officers closed on January 13. Thank you to the candidates and voters for participating! Congratulations to **Ashley Munro, President-Elect; Scott Cline, Vice President; Mary McGlothlan, Secretary; and Shawn Domingo, Ethnic Representative-At-Large.**

The **Annual Conference Committee, Awards & Scholarships Committee, Federal Relations Committee,** and **Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute Committee** were all especially busy in January. I greatly appreciate their work putting all of the time-sensitive details that they're responsible for in place.

Registration for the **Annual Conference**, to be held **April 9 – 11 at the Westin Seattle**, is now open at <https://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/memConf17.html>. For more information about the conference, visit the conference mini-site at <https://www.wasfaa.org/docs/conferences/2017/index.html>. You can **register until March 9** at the regular rate, but don't wait! Submit your registration and book your travel and lodging soon for what is sure to be a fantastic conference.

Now is the time to get ready for WASFAA scholarships and awards! The Awards & Scholarships Committee is accepting applications for **Ethnic Diversity Scholarships** and **General Scholarships** to attend the conference. Get your applications in as soon as possible! The application is available at https://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/Scholarship_app_17.html.

The Awards & Scholarships Committee is also accepting nominations for WASFAA's 2016-17 awards. The categories are **Meritorious Achievement, Distinguished Service, Lifetime Membership, Honorary Membership, Outstanding New Professional, and Outstanding New Volunteer**. If you know of WASFAA members who you feel are worthy of recognition, **please submit your nominations by February 14** (see https://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/awards_nom.html for award criteria). We'll present the awards at the annual conference; I'm really looking forward to that part of my responsibilities!

In honor of NASFAA's 50th anniversary last year, NASFAA's Past Presidents and National Chairs contributed to the Dallas Martin Endowment to establish a need-based scholarship for financial aid administrators from each region who are themselves pursuing higher education. WASFAA-region financial aid administrators who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited college or university can apply for a \$2,750 award from this fund for 2017-18. The application is

available on the WASFAA website: click on **tab 5** of the scrolling messages at the top of the WASFAA Home page. **Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 3.**

The Federal Relations Committee is putting together talking points for members to use when contacting their Congressional representatives. Several WASFAA members will be in Washington, DC, for the NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Conference and Expo later this month and will have the opportunity to visit their Senators' and Representatives' offices, so it'll be great to have the talking points available.

The Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute faculty are busy preparing their sessions. Some will be earning NASFAA credentials to get ready to provide the most up to date information on their topics, and some are putting sessions together on non-NASFAA topics. Registration will be available soon; in the meantime, you can visit <https://www.wasfaa.org/docs/training/summerinstitute/2017/index.html> for information. New this year will be an advanced track added to the beginner and intermediate tracks, as well as the return to having some non-NASFAA sessions. Here come the dates and location again: **June 5 – 9 at the University of Nevada-Reno.**

I'll resume my travel to state conferences in February with a trip to a familiar venue – the Salishan Spa & Golf Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon – for the OASFAA Conference February 1 - 3. I'm scheduled to do a couple of sessions and to make some remarks during lunch one day. I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. The conference will have a 1960s theme. Since the HEA became law in 1965, I think it's kind of cool that I'll be there as President Johnson. I'll be just a year older than *the* President Johnson was when he signed the HEA.

Four WASFAA Executive Council members will meet with NASFAA staff and representatives from other regions at the NASFAA offices in Washington, DC, February 6. We'll continue discussions that started in the fall concerning how NASFAA, regional associations, and state associations should align their respective efforts. I'll let you know in my March Highlights what directions those conversations are taking.

The **WASFAA Executive Council Transition Meeting** will be held at the **Eldorado Casino Resort in Reno February 15 – 17**. This meeting will provide the opportunity for the 2017-18 EC to observe the 2016-17 EC in action – which should be especially enlightening this time since we'll be hearing recommendations from the Fiscal Planning Committee and discussing the updated draft strategic plan. The incoming EC will also have an unofficial meeting of their own to get to know each other and begin planning for next year. As always, WASFAA members are invited to attend to see how the Executive Council works on your behalf.

Thanks again for your participation in WASFAA! Our association depends on having engaged and enthusiastic members like you to achieve our goals.