

2018 WASFAA President's Update February 2018

Welcome to 2018! I hope all of you enjoyed a little time off over the holidays to rest and recharge your batteries between terms. I don't know how it passed so quickly, but I just enjoyed two whole months between work-related trips. While I truly enjoy traveling for work, it does have an impact on my family and my office, and I'll admit that the logistics of travel can be a bit draining at times.

WASFAA elections concluded recently, and I'm pleased to announce our newly elected 2018-19 Executive Council members for our newsletter readers.

President-Elect: Scott Cline, California College of the Arts

Vice President: John Bender, Lewis-Clark State College

Secretary: David Downing, Washington State University

Ethnic Diversity Representative-at-Large: Shawn Domingo, Chaminade University

Treasurer: Mindy Bergeron, John F. Kennedy University

I will officially pass the presidential gavel to incoming WASFAA President Ashley Munro from the University of Alaska Fairbanks on May 1st, and I know that she and her new Executive Council will do a wonderful job of leading our association for the upcoming year. I would like to thank everyone who ran for an elected position—it takes dedication, humility, and courage to step up in this way, and we deeply value your commitment and willingness to serve your fellow WASFAA colleagues.

Right now, I'm on a plane home from Washington, DC, where I was at NASFAA attending the annual Regional Presidents' Meeting. One of the many wonderful and exciting aspects of serving as your WASFAA president is getting to know some truly stellar financial aid professionals and advocates: NASFAA staff, the presidents from each region, and the current NASFAA board. The regional presidents' meeting was led by NASFAA, with the Chair, Past Chair, and Chair-Elect present. Our two-day meeting was jam-packed—we had an opportunity to chat with Charles Patterson, the new Senior Advisor for Outreach at Federal Student Aid, talked about web platforms for our associations' sites, discussed social media policies, and received an update on NASFAA University on day 1. On the second day, we started off with a media roundtable with higher education reporters from Bloomberg Government, Inside Higher Ed, and Politico. This gave the reporters an opportunity to collect background information and the financial aid office perspective on several relevant financial aid topics, and it gave us an opportunity to share our viewpoint to help inform their reporting. After the media roundtable, we spent time going over several topics that the regional presidents had identified, including setting up regional calls and conference visit exchanges to help us learn from one another, contracts for conference sites, identifying candidates to run for office, the challenges of providing in-person credential training in associations with large and often underserved geographical areas, and the possibility of negotiating better pricing on services needed by each region by collaborating in bid processes. In our off time, we had still more discussions about how best to serve our regions and ensure relevance and

excellence for our members. I left the meeting feeling energized and enthusiastic about our profession and all the wonderful people who do the endlessly complex, challenging, and important work of financial aid administration.

If you'd like to get similarly energized and meet dedicated, talented aid professionals like yourself, please be sure to put the WASFAA Annual Conference on your calendar! The conference will be held from April 22-24, and NASFAA President Justin Draeger and National Chair Billie Jo Hamilton are excited to join us at one of the west's best-kept secrets, the charming and fun city of Boise. Stay up-to-date with all of the details at the conference mini-site:

<https://www.wasfaa.org/docs/conferences/2018/index.html>

Sincerely,
Helen Faith