

President's Highlights

Hello from the Land of the Midnight Sun! We've reached the longest days of the year and in my hometown of Fairbanks, Alaska, we celebrate in style. The sun doesn't set today, but dips below the horizon about 1:00 AM tomorrow morning and pops back up about two hours later. It won't get dark, just dusk. It's a fun, but busy time of year. The extra sunlight gives us some extra energy to take care of all the things we put off over the winter.

WASFAA has spent those extra hours of daylight well over the last month. During the first week in June, over 125 financial aid administrators attended the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute in Reno, Nevada. With tracks for beginners, intermediate and advanced folks, our WASFAA members were well trained, having an opportunity to earn over 900 NASFAA credentials!

That same week, the Training Committee met to write content for the Fall Training series. I love the topic! I've had a month to practice what I learned in the sneak peek, and my negotiation skills have improved already. Keep reading this newsletter for more information.

Also in Reno that week (see, I told you it was a busy month!), the Executive Council met. We discussed our goals and strategies for meeting our Strategic Plan, set dates and locations for our upcoming events (hint: you'll be visiting the wettest and greenest desert in North America) and started preparations for ways to celebrate the milestone of WASFAA's 50th anniversary.

Since we had such a productive meeting this quarter, the volunteer I'd like to highlight for A Year in the Life of a WASFAA Volunteer is David Downing. David is our Secretary. Before the meeting, he made sure that everyone had access to committee reports and minutes. During the meeting, he kept track of discussion and recorded names of who made and seconded motions as well as the outcome of the vote. He did this for Strategic Planning Committee, Fiscal Planning Committee and Executive Council over the course of a day and a half. After the meeting, he reminds us of what we signed up to do and helps us follow through. He is the one person on council that can never take a mental break and will always remember who said what during this year. If you would be interested in learning more about WASFAA business than anyone else, consider running for Secretary this year. Nominations will open this fall.

Enjoy the sunshine!