

## President's Highlights: June

I usually like the month of May: the snow melts, the trees turn green and a new class of graduates walk towards the stage. May was also my first official month as your WASFAA President. My duties were fairly light this month and mostly involved preparation for our future meetings and events.

As you read this (most likely), over 125 financial aid administrators from the region are dedicating one week to learning more about various aid programs at the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute in Reno, Nevada. This week-long training is intense, but completely worth it! On Thursday June 7th, these bonded folks will receive their certificates and celebrate what they have learned over the week in the beginning, intermediate and advanced tracks.

During this same week, the 2018-2019 Executive Council will meet in Reno to discuss the goals of the association and review our plans for the year. Important items on our agenda include setting final dates and location for the Management & Leadership Institute (Phoenix in November!), planning for the 2019 Annual Conference and 50th anniversary celebration (Phoenix in May!) and starting our implementation plan for the institutional pricing structure for membership. We also be joining the summer institute graduates on Thursday night, so we can celebrate their hard work.

Since a new membership year is upon us, I'd like to remind you to renew your membership and resubmit your volunteer interests. If you're not sure what you'd like to do, I'll be highlighting some examples in A Year in the Life of a WASFAA Volunteer:

For May, I'd like to introduce Ashley and Ashley: Ashley Coleman and Ashley Salisbury. Yes, we have three Ashleys on our WASFAA Executive Council, and yes, it can be confusing. We get emails for each other all the time.

Ashley Coleman has been volunteer for WASFAA since 2014 and has served on the communication committee, volunteer development committee, secretary and is now the Membership Chair. Over the next year, she will be working with the Executive Council to solidify all the details for the new membership structure. She admits that as a young professional, she was intimidated to join the group that has been in the business much longer than she has. But she had nothing to worry about. WASFAA's membership is very welcoming and now she loves meeting up with her colleagues at the quarterly EC meetings and annual conference. She says, "You'll find that once you volunteer, you'll be hooked. There are a multitude of ways to get involved, and we appreciate any time you give to our organization". Her committee is looking for help with implementation planning and reaching out to potential members.

Ashley Salisbury has been volunteering as the Historical Archives Chair and Electronic

Services Chair for several years. She has spent the last month in WASFAA's storage unit gathering items for the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute. She has also been busy updating the website to reflect the 2018-2019 WASFAA Officers and Committee Chairs and working with the various event chairs to get registration information posted online. She says, "The biggest thing I get out of volunteering is the sense of responsibility and doing my part to help the association carry forward its mission. My responsibilities keep me busy, but I find it all to be rewarding".

So, to all the other Ashleys out there- join us!

Sincerely,

Ashley Munro

2018-2019 WASFAA President