

A little bit about me.
Dan Smeal, NEA Exec

Hello and Thank you to Delegates of the NEA for selecting me to represent them on the NASCOE executive committee. I can rest assure you this responsibility will not be taken lightly. I understand that I am the voice of the northeast when it comes to NASCOE issues and I look forward to servicing you. I have found out very quickly that this is not the easiest thing in the world to do. But I will give it my all to ensure that each and every association member's voice is heard and is accounted for!!

I was told I needed to give you folks a little background on myself. Well here goes. I was a student at the Pennsylvania State University until December 2005. While I was there I was involved in many extracurricular activities. I was involved in the Penn State Block and Bridle Club, was a student worker at the Penn State Meat Lab and worked at the university beef barns throughout the summer. This particular background allowed me to acquire an internship with the United States Department of Agriculture, in the Meat Grading and Certification branch. That was my first exposure to government working, pay, and benefits. I then had to return for one more semester of school once I completed my internship. That semester I was a member of the Livestock Judging team as well as maintained my duties at the meats lab. Once I graduated from Penn State I had to find a job. The Job that I wanted with meat grading only had a vacancy in Cincinnati, Ohio and that was a bit too far away. There was a job with Genex Cooperative CRI, that allowed me to live at home and earn the same pay. After about a year I found out that the pay was a lie and it was time to start looking for jobs elsewhere. Then a good friend called and informed me that the State of Pennsylvania has two vacancy announcements for County Operations Trainee with FSA. Long story-short, we both applied and got the job.

As we started into our training we had been told by our trainers about this wonderful organization and all the wonderful things they have done for the employees. Some of the trainers even decided to host a small party to show us what typical PACOE functions look like or what happens at them. After attending one of the best social gatherings I had attended in quite some time, I decided to sign up as an Associate member. After being selected to be a CED in my home county I became a full dues paid member to PACOE and NASCOE. I spent a year taking in everything that goes on. I was told that the VP seat would be up for election soon. I was asked if I would be willing to serve as VP and I thought, "Why not??" So sure enough after the ballots were cast, I was Pennsylvania's Vice President. I was then asked to serve as delegate to the national convention in Corpus Christi, Texas. At a meeting on the second day there was a nomination from the floor to elect me as Executive for the northeast area. I accepted, not thinking I had a chance of winning, but when the votes were tallied I was the NEA exec.

The next day I went to the Executive committee meeting and it's been a whirlwind ever since. My advice to you in recruiting non members who have not seen what the executive committee or NASCOE does is to encourage them to get involved. They will be blown away by the hard work that is put in by the committee and all the active members. Its non-stop!!!! You are always working or gathering information. The great part about all of the hard work is that by the exec committee doing all this hard work, all FSA employees will live to see another paycheck and have some darn good benefits in the process.