



WASFAA Highlights is a monthly electronic news update provided by the WASFAA President for the benefit of the WASFAA membership. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to WASFAA activities and newsworthy items of interest to the WASFAA community. Past issues are archived on the WASFAA website at <http://www.wasfaa.org>. Additional information regarding any given issue may be obtained by emailing the current WASFAA President, Tami Sato, at [tsato@scco.edu](mailto:tsato@scco.edu).

### **WASFAA Highlights for the Month of April, 2007 - (Vol. 2, No. 13)**

Thought I would try to get this out early because our conference is fast approaching and there are some quick messages that need to get out.

- First of all, congratulations are in order for Kay Soltis who has come out a winner in the NASFAA elections and will be a new Representative-at-Large on the NASFAA Board of Directors. Yeah Kay!
- The NASFAA board met April 21-23 in Charlotte, NC. Didn't see much of this beautiful city but did participate in the executive session portion of the meetings that covered the issues and concerns that have received so much media attention. The Representatives-at-Larges requested input from members for their report. I am proud to say that 11 of the 33 comments received came from members of the WASFAA region. That's a very strong voice. You were also represented by the WASFAA members attending that meeting including Doug Severs, Catherine King-Todd, Heidi Granger and Steve Herndon. Since it was an executive session we are allowed to only say that there was legal counsel present and that we developed a resolution that was sent out in list serve messages yesterday. We also worked on a NASFAA Code of Conduct that would add to the NASFAA Statement of Ethical Principles.
- Don't you wish the media would quit calling us a "trade group"? Reporters from the Chronicle of Higher Education contacted many of the NASFAA board members and an article was published stating that student-loan companies would be banned from sponsoring meals and advertising at the NASFAA Annual Conference. This issue was discussed and should have not been reported as being part of the final code since that document will be released within a few weeks.
- If you are attending the WASFAA Conference, don't forget Rosie's Garage. We'll want to support this good project that started with after-school tutoring in Rose Espinoza's garage. She will be at our conference. Let's donate what we can in supplies and items from your college including pennants. You can even donate your conference bag if you don't need to add another to your collection.
- Finally, I just want to say that the WASFAA conference is going to happen. WASFAA members will be there and so will the vendors. They just may not be able to take us out for a meal. But we cannot let the negative media attention stop us from continuing what we, just like other professionals, accomplish in conferences like this. We gather for the exchange of ideas and viewpoints and to receive training and information that allows us to administer effectively the financial aid programs that ultimately help students succeed. We meet with our colleagues and partners who through collaboration have done so much for students. Friends we have been through a lot these past months and we really, really need a gathering where we can have a big group hug.