



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 February, 2007 - (Vol. 2, No. 11)

- Time seems to be passing so fast and on top of that we have the end of a short month and the beginning of March madness. For some that means super busy in the office for others it has to do with something that happens on a basketball court. See your President knows some things of the sports world. In fact you might be surprised to know that she used to keep score for both basketball and baseball for her sons teams. No not pro, just Little League, church and varsity high school.
- We still have the much-delayed reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The measure expired in 2004 and although the House passed a reauthorization bill and the Senate approved reauthorization on the committee level, no measure was enacted. Instead, the HEA has been repeatedly extended on a short-term basis, currently through June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.
- Most of us know that some of the Stafford annual loan limits will increase after July 1, 2007. What you may not know that the changes are only for loans first disbursed on or after July 1 instead of loans certified on or after July 1. We also need to keep in mind that the aggregate loan limits remain the same.
- At the last WASFAA Executive Council meeting in Portland a motion was made to provide an added benefit to our WASFAA Lifetime Members with a 50% discount on the annual conference registration. This was approved and we are happy to show our appreciation and honor those who have given such dedicated service to WASFAA and the financial aid community.
- In other exciting WASFAA news, Training Committee chairs, Bert Logan and Francie Campbell have announced the Spring WASFAA training topic which is "Professional Standards: The Principles Associated With Responsibility". It is very timely to address the ethics and integrity associated with the delivery of federal student aid when our profession has been attacked and regulatory proposals loom to micro manage our practices. You'll learn how to apply valuable tools, use resources and share experiences with your colleagues. Sites have been designated and you can find the dates and locations in your state by going to [http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc\\_training.html](http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc_training.html)
- NASFAA has announced the 2007 slate of candidates for the Chair-Elect and Representatives-at-Large to the Board of Directors. Members on the NASFAA Nominations and Elections Committee are from EASFAA, MASFAA and SWASFAA. The lone candidate from the WASFAA region is Kay Soltis, from Pacific Lutheran University in Washington. She is running for a Representative-at-Large position so when the electronic voting is up, please remember to vote for Kay. She is a deserving candidate and will represent WASFAA well.

- President Bush submitted his FY 2008 proposed budget to Congress on February 5, 2007. It includes a large increase in the maximum Pell-grant award which would be \$4,600 in 2008 and then increase by \$200 annually to \$5,400 in FY 2012. Some of the funding for these increases would come from the elimination of other student-aid programs such as SEOG, LEAP and Perkins loans. The president also proposes a 50% increase in the maximum awards for ACG. To view the summary of the FY 2008 budget go to [www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget08/summary/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget08/summary/index.html)
- Negotiated rulemaking or Neg Reg sessions continued this month with the Student Loan Issues team reviewing issues like entrance counseling for Grad PLUS borrowers, frequency of capitalization for Consolidation loan borrowers currently in in-school deferment, eligible lender trustee relationships and two topics that NASFAA asked members to send comments on: 1) use of preferred lenders; and 2) prohibited inducements. On preferred lender lists limits and conditions on an institution's development and use of a preferred lender would be applied and would require institution's to disclose how lenders on their list were chosen and impose a minimum number. On prohibited inducements there would be guidance surrounding what specific lender and guarantee agency activities would be prohibited to secure FFEL loan volume. This change would also outline permissible activities that are in line with the Direct Loan program. The response time was short but I'm hoping WASFAA members took the time to send in their thoughts to Larry Z. The General Provisions, Accreditation and ACG/SMART Grant teams also met this month. For more information you can visit ED's 2006/2007 Negotiated Rulemaking for Higher Education web page at [www.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2007/nr.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2007/nr.html)
- The 2007/2008 WASFAA Executive Council members will meet for a Transition Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. On March 22-23 they will prepare for the next year with an agenda that includes the Strategic Plan, goal setting, budgets, using our ATAC electronic system and responsibilities. This important meeting also allows the new council member a chance to get to know each other and provides the first meeting of the State Presidents Group.
- The WASFAA Annual Conference Committee has been very active and many parts of this exciting event are in place. Hope you have gone to the WASFAA web site at [www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc\\_conferences.html](http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc_conferences.html) to see the very strong agenda, get hotel information and register for the conference on-line. The process goes very smoothly and you can select the break-out sessions you want to attend and even pay your registration fee and membership fee on-line. The conference logo shows our two WASFAA logo figures all dressed up and kicking up their heels. This will give you a clue to some exciting entertainment planned for the President's Reception. Yes, our conference in Anaheim will fulfill one of the goals of my presidency, to have the WASFAA 2007 Conference be **SUCCESSFUL, MEMORABLE, VALUABLE AND FUN!**
- And the fun part has already begun. Our conference chairs, Kay Soltis and Sun Ow report that winners have been selected from the first one hundred that registered for the WASFAA Annual Conference. The following folks should be checking their mail for their prizes: Chris Steinman, Renee McCloud, John Blaine, Meredith Kelley and Peter Miller. Congratulations winners!