



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, Doug Severs at sevedoug@isu.edu.

WASFAA Highlights for the Months of, July/August 2007 - (Vol. 3, No.3)

- If you had not heard (since you may have been vacationing on the other side of the moon) a certain Senator from Idaho got into trouble at an airport in Minnesota. This incident has and will have a great negative impact on the State of Idaho (and I am not even speaking of all the humorous comments and re-enactments.) With Larry Craig's seniority and position on critical committees such Appropriations, Idaho stands to lose a lot of clout and funding. We in the Idaho financial aid community will also lose out as we had worked with Larry and his staff and felt that he grasped the importance of student financial aid and had influence. Now we will be back to having a Senator where we are not sure where they stand on student financial aid with very lowly committee assignments. I will be long retired before we have a Senator with the position that Larry lost. It is stunning on how in a split moment things can radically change for person, state and our financial aid community.
- It is the season to think about training. The WASFAA Training Committee is gearing up for fall NASFAA/WASFAA training. The training topic will be Counseling Students and Families: Tackling Financial Issues. We will soon have information out on the various state sites and dates. As a parent tackling the tuition of my two sons I really see the need for this training! Information is now out on the Sims Management and Leadership Institute being held in Hawaii this November. You can learn about the Sims MLI at the WASFAA web site www.wasfaa.org.
- I have been working to schedule visits to all the state meetings in WASFAA. It has been a challenge to book all the flights and coordinate it with my work schedule. At this time I have six days where I will be in my office during the month of October. Including with the visits to state meetings, I will be attending the MASFAA meeting in St. Louis and the NASFAA Finance Committee meeting. The MASFAA meeting is part of the NASFAA Regional Exchange program. We will also have visitors from other regions at our Seattle Conference. My wife has threatened to buy a dog while I am out traveling! We still haven't replaced the trouble making beagle that I use to write about.
- WASFAA was able to send in comments in regard to the NPRM on student loans. I would like to thank Tami Sato and Vicki Shipley for their drafting of the response. What I find odd about the Department of Education's timing for this NPRM is that we have Reauthorization and Reconciliation looming that would change what the Department is proposing in the NPRM. Well as I write this the Reconciliation Bill is on it's way to passage and we will then have NPRMs for this! And lots of training needs . . . there is a new grant program for teachers.