

WASFAA

Highlights

Western Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators



WASFAA Highlights is an 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, Kay W. Soltis, soltiskw@plu.edu

WASFAA Highlights for the Month of June 2011 - (Vol. 7, No. 2)

Summer has finally made it to the Pacific Northwest. I hope you are all enjoying some wonderful summer time weather. Well, it has been very busy since I last wrote. The WASFAA EC met in Spokane, Washington at the Wingate Hotel June 9 - 10. (Minutes of all Executive Council meeting may be reviewed on http://wasfaa.org/docs/committees/ExecutiveCouncil/minutes_index.html) Be sure and read the summer WASFAA Newsletter for more on the EC meeting.

Conference news: this past week, the Executive Council made the decision to go to the Benson Hotel in beautiful Portland, Oregon for our annual conference April 22 – 24, 2012. More details to follow from our co-chairs Mary San Agustin and Tracey Lehman. Mark your calendars and save the dates.

Abril Hunt, chair of the Membership committee, has been reminding members to renew their membership. I know a few of you have been waiting for your new budget year to renew your WASFAA membership. You don't want to miss out on all of latest news and happenings in WASFAA, so renew now.

While renewing your membership, don't forget to volunteer. WASFAA needs outstanding volunteers like yourself in any time capacity you can offer. Volunteering will enhance your skill set, allow you to grow professionally and personally and afford you the opportunity to try something new. Believe me, you will never regret having volunteered as your life will be enriched by the experience. Contact Tami Sato, Volunteer Development chair, if you have any questions tsato@scco.edu.

Our Federal Issues Committee, chaired by Kevin Jensen and Neil Woolf, did a great job of reminding us of the Gainful Employment requirements effective July 1. Thank you both, as well as your committee, for keeping these issues front and center. The volume of financial aid issues can easily be forgotten or ignored in the day to day operations of a busy financial aid office. Just another reminder that financial aid administrators do not get summers off, first question usually asked by non-school affiliated people. This is usually our busiest time of the year as we gear up for all the changes in financial aid administration and the start of a new academic year.

Your NASFAA representatives Mindy Bergeron, Sandi Guidry, Patricia Hurley and I are preparing to attend the NASFAA Board of Directors meeting and annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Joining us this year will be your President Elect Jack Edwards as he begins his year as an observer at the NASFAA Board of Directors. Hope to see other WASFAA members in Boston.

Speaking of NASFAA, have you joined the “Save Student Aid” (facebook.com/savestudentaid) campaign? We need to “take action” and contact our representative and explain the importance of student aid programs and how even small cuts affect our students. We need to encourage our students to do the same. Your students’ compelling stories let lawmakers understand the impact of the actions they are debating. Questions, contact Federal Issues co-chairs Kevin Jensen kevinjensen@cwidaho.cc and Neil Woolf neil.woolf@nsc.nevada.edu for further information concerning this important issue.

Wishing you all a great summer filled with rest, relaxation and new adventures.

Kay W. Soltis
WASFAA 2011-12 President