



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, Sandi Guidry, sguidry@unr.edu

WASFAA Highlights for the Month of March 2011 - (Vol. 6, No. 5)

Well it appears we have dodged a bullet and the government keeps running. Friday, April 8, 2011 Congress reached an agreement on a spending package that would fund the government through the rest of FY2011. This agreement includes approximately \$38.5 billion in spending cuts from all areas of government. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will learn the full impact to the financial aid programs.

The WASFAA conference begins this weekend and I fully expect the latest antics in Washington to be a hot topic. With updates from Department of Ed, NASFAA and the NASFAA National Chair – those in attendance should come away with the most current information available.

Ron Lee, Program Chair, has put together a very exciting slate of sessions designed to deal with current issues in the profession. Below are some of the topics from the conference program.

- Direct Loan Reconciliation
- Serving Veterans Students
- New SATP rules
- Net Price Calculator
- Translating Federal Financial Aid Policy
- State Authorization
- Gainful Employment

Keynote Speaker: Frank De Lima is one of Hawaii's most popular and beloved comedians. Comedy is not Frank's only passion. In 1980, Frank founded the [Frank De Lima Student Enrichment Program](#). This non-profit organization is devoted to helping Hawaii's students understand the importance of reading, studying, laughing, and family, and managing major emotional and physical life transitions. Come be inspired and hear how one person can make a difference.

Registration is up for the 2011 Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute. Not only will there be the traditional beginner track but there will also be an intermediate track for those who have a few more years of experience and need that next level of training....great idea! Information can be found at www.wasfaa.org. So mark your calendars for June 5 – 10, 2011. Hope to see you in Spokane, Washington.

NASFAA has explored the feasibility of allowing states and regions to piggyback on NASFAA's investments. NASFAA has had success and stability with their investment strategy and has offered to leverage that, as a

courtesy, to help regions realize better returns. The concept is that regions would need to leave the funds in there for a significant time frame (a year) and during that time there would be no more than 4 transactions. These are long-term investments and would not operate like money market accounts where regions could go in and tweak investments periodically—rather, these funds would be piggybacking on NASFAA’s board-approved investment policy. This policy is recommended by NASFAA’s investment advisors (Lynx), reviewed annually, and set by the Finance Committee and the Subcommittee on Investment. To-date, this strategy has proven a very effective investment strategy for the association, and they have extended that benefit to regions -- as a courtesy. During the February Executive Council meeting WASFAA voted to accept the offer and during 2011 will begin the process of transferring funds to NASFAA to invest.

My WASFAA Presidency is over in a few days – it is amazing how fast the year goes by. I have had a blast. This past year has been like the cherry on top of a 32 year career in financial aid. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve. I have been fortunate to have an awesome Executive Council to work with – the volunteers who have worked nights and weekends to get their work done – I can only say thank you so much! I was able to attend six state conferences and have met so many great people – the travel has been so rewarding. In addition, to the WASFAA commitment I have served on the NASFAA Board of Directors and will continue to do so through my Past Presidency.

On a somber note we lost a true friend to WASFAA and the financial aid profession. On March 30, 2011 Marianna Deeken lost her battle with a two year long illness. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Marianna can be made to the Southwest Indian Foundation (<http://www.southwestindian.com/service/donations.cfm>), an organization which Marianna held in high regard. Renee McCloud a long time WASFAA member from her years of work at Washington State University and University of Nevada, Reno just recently relocated to Akron, Ohio and was able to attend Marianna’s funeral.

Kay Soltis, the 2011-12 WASFAA President will take over at the end of our conference. Kay as been actively involved at so many levels of the WASFAA organization – we are in good hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Guidry
2010-2011 WASFAA President
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