

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 October 2011 - (Vol. 7, No. 5)

What's happening in WASFAA, take a look, a lot's going on!

Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute – we hope by now you have made your reservation but just in case [register](#) immediately. There are only a few spaces left and you don't want to miss this outstanding opportunity. MLI will be held at Harvey's Resort in beautiful Lake Tahoe, NV, November 9 – 11, 2011. Management and Leadership training is offered to financial aid administrators with five or more years of experience who are looking for a promotion, have recently been promoted or just want a refresher. Some of the sessions being offered this year are budgeting, communicating effectively, A Year in the Life of a Financial Aid Director, managing staff and consumer information. WASFAA provided two scholarships to WASFAA members to attend MLI.

WASFAA Executive Council will meet on November 17 and 18 at Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This location was set due to WASFAA's inability to meet its room block during the 2010 conference. However, our Site Selection Chair Leonard Walker was able to negotiate with the resort to have us return for an EC meeting to avoid monetary penalties. Thank you, Leonard.

We will be working on our association's budget for the next calendar year. All members of the EC have been requested to review the remainder of their current year budgets and determine projects and requests funds for 2012.

WASFAA has experienced some delays in completing our investment partnership with NASFAA but anticipates having everything completed by the end of our EC meeting in November including the transfer of funds. We are anxious and excited to begin this wonderful partnership opportunity.

The Training Committee has scheduled the 2011 Fall Training. The training is on Satisfactory Academic Progress and Verification providing practical information to help meet the challenges of these changes. Training is being offered by two methods, one as a face to face which began in October in Anchorage, Alaska and concludes in Boise, Idaho. The second method of training will be offered by webcast on two separate times and dates during the month of December. This will ensure as many people will be able to receive this valuable training in a method that will serve their training needs. Make sure you secure your spot by [registering now](#).

Membership – Abril Hunt our Membership Chair proudly announced we have 555 current members, exceeding membership enrollment over the last two years, highest since 2008-09 when we were 869. This is even before we have started our training cycle, when we usually have increases due to institutions having staff members attend training opportunities where membership is included in the cost. I cannot wait to see this number continue to grow.

Our greatest concentrations of WASFAA members are located in the states of California (129), Oregon (80), and the Pacific Islands (78). Membership by Gender: males 154, Females 385 and 16 declined to specify – I can remember a time when our professional organization was predominately males.

Nominations and Election Committee is accepting nominates for the five positions we have open this year:

- President Elect
- Vice President
- Treasurer-Elect
- Secretary
- Rep at Large for Ethnic Diversity

The hope is to secure our nominations as quickly as possible so the candidates can be identified and posted for election.

President Elect Jack Edwards has been working hard at securing his Executive Council members but much rides on the results of the election for EC make up and balance. The 2011-12 EC and the 2012-13 EC will come together at a transition meeting to be held in late February early March at a location yet to be selected. The plan is to have the two ECs share part of the day and a meal to gain a better understanding of how WASFAA EC works and start their year with out delay.

WASFAA 2012 Annual Conference has been set for April 22 – 24, 2012 at the Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The conference committee is hard at work on the program and the logistics. The theme for the conference is **“The Yin and Yang of Financial Aid: Reaching Harmony through WASFAA”**. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute is currently seeking a site location. We believe that holding the Institute in Southern California will afford us the greatest number of attendees as well as a desirable location to extend one’s stay. We have been very fortunate in the past when we held the SI in California we had well over 150 attendees. The number of attendees also increased due to the high concentration of schools and opportunity to drive to the training location, reducing the cost of transportation if more than one person attended. We usually schedule the SI in early June. Check the [WASFAA website](#) for further developments.

For those of you keeping track, I had the pleasure to attend the joint conferences of Idaho and Nevada. There were 60+ attendees and 5 of them were from Nevada. It was wonderful to see my colleagues Jennifer Zimmers, President of IASFAA and Scott Nielsen, President of NAFAA. Both associations were delighted to have a conference since they had not had a conference in at least two years. Well they out did themselves this conference was a huge success. We had a very informative keynote speaker on the challenges our veterans are facing upon their return especially those injured. The keynote Capt. Jeff Bacon is a professional cartoonist but also a veteran.

We took some time to gather and eat at a wonderful restaurant named Barbacoa with fantastic food and unique décor. We had a private room where I promptly lost my diamond earring and after everyone crawled around looking it; but good fortune did shine on me I discovered it caught in the folds of my scarf. How much fun can one person have, many suggested I get a lottery ticket since I appeared to be very lucky that day. Thank you IASFAA and NAFAA for a wonderful first trip visiting our states that comprise WASFAA.

Later this week I head to Tucson, Arizona to visit Paula Cady, President of AASFAA and do a presentation with Past President Pat Peppin.

KAY

Kay W. Soltis

WASFAA 2011-12 President