

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 Sept 2011 - (Vol. 7, No. 4)

Fall has arrived, students have returned, and classes have begun for many campuses in the WASFAA region. Where did the summer go? Here in Washington we are experiencing a bit of "late summer..." Hot weather in the high 70's and mid-80's, with some predicting a record high of 90's over the weekend.

Fall always brings with it a wave of activity and WASFAA is no exception. Registration is now open for the Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute (MLI), and exciting new details have been revealed. MLI Chair Laura Hughes and her committee have put together a wonderful agenda with interesting sessions targeted to new financial aid administrators or up-and-coming associate/assistant director. Perhaps you or someone on your team has recently been promoted and needs ideas about how to get financial aid information and services out into the campus community. Or maybe you are looking for new ideas to train and motivate your staff to be not just be a "good team but a great team." If any of these sounds like you, the MLI instructors have a session for you. Another great benefit, MLI training will be the same price as in 2010-11--a financial bargain sure to leverage your training dollars.

Whatever your reason, come join us at Harvey's Resort from November 9 – 11, 2011 in beautiful and majestic Lake Tahoe, NV. With the lake and the mountains, it is 360 degrees of splendor that should not be missed. Get out of the city and benefit from this great training opportunity with experienced financial aid administrators--all while enjoying the crisp, clean mountain air of Lake Tahoe. You can't go wrong registering for the [Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute](#).

The Training Committee has also been working all summer to develop training opportunities for the 2011-12 year. Co-chairs Nichole Doering and Adam Hatch, with the assistance of their dedicated committee, have come up with a number of training sessions that will assist you as you implement the new SAP requirements and prepare for verification. Fall training information will be forthcoming, so watch your inboxes for the electronic announcement with all the details.

Save the dates of **April 22 -24, 2012** for the annual **WASFAA conference** at the **Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon**. You don't want to miss this conference.

Your representatives to the NASFAA Board of Director this year are Jack Edwards, WASFAA President Elect (Edwards_Jack@gsb.stanford.edu), Sandi Guidry, WASFAA Past President (sguidry@unr.edu), Patricia Hurley, NASFAA Rep-at-Large (phurley@glendale.edu) and Kay W. Soltis, WASFAA President (soltiskw@plu.edu) we welcome your comments and any feedback you would like us to share with the Board. Your input will allow those of us who sit on the Board to voice your issues, suggestions, and comments. The next meeting of the NASFAA Board of Director is scheduled

from November 6 - 7, 2011 at the ARIA Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, NV. The meetings are open to members, so if you're in town, stop by and see the NASFAA Board in action.

We will be hosting the NASFAA Board of Directors, so I would love to hear suggestions from each of the states representing the WASFAA region what we would like the NASFAA BOD to know about our region. At the opening of the meeting the President of the hosting region has the honor of welcoming the Board and sharing information about the region. We represent a wide variety of cultures, diverse geographic territory, as well as a great number of WASFAA colleagues who are happy to share their wealth of knowledge, experience, and collegiate spirit to all that enter our region. A variety of things have been shared in the past such as brief history, funny laws that are still on the books, and famous people from each state. I could do the traditional information sharing, but input from the membership could yield something unique and interesting about our WASFAA region. We're WASFAA members, so let's be proud and share a bit about what makes us special! I'm looking forward to each of your suggestions.

Sandi Guidry, WASFAA Past President and Chair of Nominations and Election, has begun her search for nominations. Interested in becoming a leader in a professional organization? Getting involved will benefit your professional community, enhance your leadership skills, increase your personal and professional network and afford you that next level of volunteerism, so why not take a chance and be a candidate on the slate for next year? You can put in your name, or suggest a colleague you admire and respect by submitting their name. Sometimes all it takes is to ask someone and express confidence in a person's ability or to believe you have the skills to provide a change. Contact Sandi Guidry sguidry@unr.edu and make a nomination.

WASFAA has 523 current members. We have been running over 500 members these past few years, but I bet we can increase our numbers since we just started the year. Last year ended with 553 active members and a record number of new members from the Pacific Islands. In fact, Hawaii has the second largest number of WASFAA members per state, holding strong at 78. California's in the lead with 126. Have you renewed your membership? You don't want to miss any of the terrific information, training opportunities, events, and networking with colleagues. It's easy to [renew your membership](#).

I'd like to conclude this month's highlights by letting you know I have begun scheduling my state conference visits. I have already scheduled my first visit with Jennifer Zimmers (jzimmers@csi.edu), President of IASFAA, and Scott Nielsen (scottn@gwmail.gbcnv.edu), President of NAFAA, who are jointly holding their conference in Boise, ID. What a great opportunity to ensure each state has a conference but to minimize the expense by sharing the cost of hosting a conference. In the middle of the month I'll be traveling to Arizona to see Katharine Baggett (Katharine.Baggett@tucsoncollege.edu), President of AASFAA, and look forward to meeting with many colleagues in Arizona. At the end of October I'll be joining Darcy Keller (darcy@uw.edu), President of WFAA, my own state association, to meet with new colleagues and many I have had know for many years who I am excited to reconnect with. December will take me to California's capital Sacramento to see Lynn Fox (lfox@pacific.edu), President of CASFAA, where the year has begun with some difficult news concerning state-funded financial aid. I look forward to sharing stories with our friends in California. In February I'm off to see Bert Logan (bert.logan@pcc.edu), President of OASFAA, my neighbors to the immediate south and the location of our annual conference in Oregon (Benson Hotel, Portland, Oregon April 22-24, 2012). Then in early April, I'll travel across the pacific to visit with Candice Wong (Candice_wong@heald.edu), President of PACFAA, to visit with our many new members of WASFAA. Finally, I am looking forward to scheduling my visit to Alaska to visit Elizabeth Ziegelbein (Elizabeth@careeracademy.edu), President of AASFAA.

I am looking forward to meeting with you all as I make my way around the WASFAA region. Stay tuned as I share tidbits from my visits in future highlights.

I wish you all a great beginning as the 2011-12 academic year begins.

Kay W. Soltis

WASFAA 2011-12 President