



AASFAA Newsletter

Winter 2000 Edition, December 15, 2000

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dee Talley

Hello AASFAA colleagues. The past several months have flown by! I cannot believe that we will be celebrating Christmas in a couple of weeks! Time sure flies when you are having fun, and I have truly been having a fun time these past several months. I have been extremely busy with various activities, but I have been enjoying every minute of it.

Congratulations to Dot Wilkinson and her program conference for providing us with an excellent fall conference! The program was very high quality; the speakers were fantastic, and the sessions were full of good information. I received many positive comments about the conference, and I appreciate all the hard work everyone did to make the conference a success. Cindy Massey and her Local Arrangements committee did an outstanding job with the hotel and entertainment. The Cedars Club was a big hit; the band was awesome! Everyone had a great time, and had many positive comments to share with me.

AASFAA's fall NASFAA decentralized training was held on November 6th at Auburn University. Our Vice-President, Mike Reynolds, and his staff did an excellent job presenting the topic of Professional Judgment. There were fifty-one participants, and the evaluations were very good.

On November 13th, I attended the tree dedication ceremony held at the University of South Alabama in memory of Theresa Duke. Even though the weather was rainy, we had good attendance for the dedication. Jim Bradsher from Auburn University Montgomery spoke on behalf of AASFAA. He did an outstanding job, and I would like to thank him for his willingness to represent the association in this capacity.

Dorenda Adams, Past President, is still soliciting nominations for AASFAA offices and awards. I want to encourage each of you to be involved in this process, either by nominating a candidate for the various offices, or agreeing to run for an office yourself. AASFAA is a wonderful association because of the involvement of its members, and their willingness to

dedicate time and effort to the association. Please get involved; you will learn so much from the experience.

The Executive Board approved Auburn University as the site for our fall 2001 conference. The contract was signed on November 10th. Andy Weaver, Site Selection Chair, is still looking at potential sites for the fall 2002 conference. Some sites being considered include Montgomery, Guntersville, Huntsville and Birmingham.

Buddy Jackson, Treasurer, is in the process of obtaining information about bonding certain officers in the association. We want to secure bonding for the President, President-elect, and Treasurer. We hope to have this accomplished before our spring meeting.

Plans are underway to develop statewide activities for Financial Aid Awareness Month. I have contacted the PBS in my area, and am currently working on preparing some public service announcements to be run during the month of February. Also, the Governor's office has been contacted in order to have Governor Siegelman declare the month of February Financial Aid Awareness Month. Other activities for the month of February are being considered, but have not been finalized. If anyone has any suggestions for activities during the month of February, please let me know.

On November 9-10th, I attended the SASFAA Executive Board meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. There were many issues discussed at the meeting, which I will share at a later date. However, I do want to report at this time that Thelma Ross, Site Selection Chair for SASFAA did recommend that the 2004 SASFAA conference be held here in Alabama at the Sheraton.

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The Board unanimously approved her recommendation; therefore, SASFAA will be coming to Birmingham in 2004! This is good news for our state, and I know we will do an excellent job welcoming our SASFAA colleagues to our state.

AASF AA currently has twenty-four members that are members of SASFAA. I do want to encourage everyone to join our regional association. The membership fee is \$25, and the services and benefits you receive are well worth the money. Also, SASFAA's annual conference will be held February 11-14, 2001 at the Hyatt Regency in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Please make your plans to attend this conference.

AASF AA's spring 2001 conference will be held at the Holiday Inn-White Sands Resort in beautiful Gulf Shores, Alabama. The dates for the conference are May 8-11, 2001. Dot and her committee will meet sometime in January to start planning for the spring conference. Local Arrangements Chair will be Jonna Moses of Regions Bank. I know Dot, Jonna and their committees will do an outstanding job for the spring conference!

In closing, I would like to wish each of you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dorenda Adams

The SASFAA Executive Board has approved the following slate of nominees for the 2001 election:

President-Elect:	Karen Koonce William Spiers, Jr.
Vice-President:	Ron Day Ellen Green
Treasurer:	Terry Bland Sonja McMullen

Voting for the candidates will be held at the annual conference in Hilton Head on February 12-13, 2001. If you will be unable to attend the conference, please exercise your right to vote by submitting an absentee ballot.

The AASF AA Nominations and Elections Committee is still soliciting nominations for the office of President-Elect, Vice-President, Treasure-Elect, and Secretary. Please help us select a good slate of candidates.

Have a good break!!!!

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

by Dot Wilkinson

Happy Holidays. I cannot think of a more appropriate time than the Christmas holidays to say thank you to all my colleagues in AASF AA. I sincerely appreciate you and the jobs that you do at your respective campuses as you work with students and parents to make sure each student receives the maximum aid available to attend college. Our jobs are so important. Always remember that you may be the one who makes the difference in a student's life. Without your assistance, many students would never go to college.

The fall AASF AA conference in Birmingham was a great success. Thank you everyone who helped with the many chores that made the conference possible. I will be appointing committee chairs for 2001-2002 soon. If you did not volunteer earlier, but would like to serve on a committee next year, please let me know. The more participation we have; the stronger our organization.

The program committee will be meeting in January to start planning for our next conference. The spring conference will be in Gulf Shores, May 9-11. If you have ideas, or specific types of training that you want, please share your suggestions with me for planning purposes. AASF AA's purposes is to provide professional training for all financial aid administrators in the State of Alabama, and our goal is to make sure that you receive the training you need to manage your offices successfully.

May the joys of Christmas brighten your life during the HOLIDAY SEASON.

Dot Wilkinson
256-395-2211
dwilkinson@suscc.cc.al.us

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Buddy Jackson

I want to thank every member for a very successful fall conference. This was my first conference as treasurer, and I felt that through the help and support of the membership it made my job a little easier.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve the registration process please let me know. Thank you again!!

LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS REPORT

by Jim Bradsher

For the past several days, NASFAA has urged you to contact Congress with this simple message: approve the FY 2001 appropriations bill before the Congress adjourns. The situation remains critical! Your calls and e-mail are still needed! Similar messages have been sent to college presidents and other affected parties.

Your action is needed now! The situation is now even more urgent because the Republican leadership wants the bipartisan deal severely cut back and President Clinton has floated the idea of cutting \$2 billion! Education advocates on both sides of the aisle are furious. They tell us that the only way to salvage the deal negotiated before Election Day is to flood Congress with calls. That will convince members that their constituents care about this issue and want the original deal. Then the rank-and-file members will convey this message to the leadership of both parties. Most members want to go home, and their eagerness to be done has allowed the few who oppose education increases to make inroads.

Key Republican staff say that the fate of the whole bill depends on the actions of those in higher education, because we are the only ones with bipartisan credibility. The items at risk for us are the \$500 increase in Pell Grants, and the substantial increases in SEOG, Work-Study, LEAP, TRIO, and Perkins Loan forgiveness. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 to contact Congress. Tell your Republican representatives and senators that the American public wants more spending on education. Tell them their first post-election action should not be education cuts. Ask them to tell their leadership to stick with the bipartisan deal.

Tell your Democratic representatives and senators to stand by the negotiated education funding deal and oppose President Clinton's plan to cut \$2 billion.

If you can activate students and others on campus, please urge them to use the toll-free Student Aid Alliance hotline, 800-574-4AID, to contact their members of Congress. This fast-moving issue has not allowed us to update the message on the hotline, but callers will still be patched through to their members of Congress.

Call now if you want to preserve the proposed funding levels for Student Financial Aid.

Copy for this article was borrowed from NASFAA.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

by Mike Reynolds

The NASFAA Fall Workshop was held on the campus of Auburn University on November 6, 2000. The workshop

focused on Professional Judgment. Presenters included Mike Reynolds, Addine Woods, Charles Markle, and Tommy Wilson, all from Auburn University. Samantha Johnson and Stan Fuller from the Auburn University Financial Aid Office served in hospitality and registration capacities. There were approximately 60 AASFAA members that participated, and the responses from the participants were favorable in regards to the usefulness of the workshop and the handouts.

I appreciate the support given to me in regards to providing the workshop, and also to the participation of AASFAA members who attended. It is always beneficial to have financial aid professionals together to discuss the interpretations and processes that we incorporate in our own offices.

SITE SELECTION REPORT

by Andy Weaver

The fall 2001 conference will be held at the Auburn Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Auburn University. Thanks to everyone for their input and suggestions for conference locations.

It was suggested that the fall 2002 conference be held in Mobile. However, after querying the membership, it was decided that this would place an undue hardship on those located in the northern part of the state since the spring conference will be in Gulf Shores as usual.

Please submit suggestions for the fall 2002 conference site to me directly at weavera@email.uah.edu. I will post the most feasible suggestions to the listserv and follow up with those sites as soon as possible.

AASFAA NEWS

by Dee Talley, Brandon Fee, and Larry Smith

Promotions

Tara Phillips has been promoted to Director of Finance, ITT Technical Institute in Richmond, Virginia. She previously served as a Financial Aid Administrator at the Birmingham ITT Tech campus.

Diane Price was named Associate Director of Financial Aid at Jacksonville State University (JSU) on December 1. Diane has been employed in the JSU Financial Aid Office for the past five years. She holds a master's degree from JSU.

Congratulations

David Long (USA Group) and his wife Drew gave birth to their daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, on October 9, 2000.

Melinda Calhoun (Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA) was united in holy matrimony to Tim Thomas on December 8, 2000.

Welcome

Clara Parker, the new Regional Account Executive for Nellie Mae Student Loans.

2000-2001 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ACHE Liaison _____ Bill Wall
Awards & Recognition _____ Dorenda Adams
Bylaws _____ Vanessa Kyles
Legislative Relations _____ Jim Bradsher
Lender Liaison _____ Linna Alcoser
Local Arrangements (Fall) _____ Cindy Massey
(Spring) _____ Jonna Moses
Membership _____ Joan Waters
Nominations _____ Dorenda Adams
Policies & Procedures _____ Bill Wall
Professional Development _____ Mike Reynolds
Program _____ Dot Wilkinson
Publications & PR _____ Anthony Richey
_____ Eric Dossey
Site Selection _____ Andy Weaver
Two Year College Concerns _____ Wanda Emfinger
Vendors & Sponsors _____ Lora Kiser

SASFAA NEWS

by Linda Reinstadtler

Are you ready to head for the beach? Not only is the 2001 annual SASFAA conference going to be in a great location, it will also be an outstanding conference filled with informative sessions, federal updates, quality time with colleagues and even some fun.

Rooms have been blocked for Friday, February 9 through Wednesday, February 14, 2001. Room rates are \$107 for single and double occupancy, \$127 for triple occupancy and \$147 for quadruple occupancy. These rates will apply two days before and two days after the conference for anyone wishing to come early or stay late. We are asking that you only reserve rooms that you plan to use.

To make your reservations you can either call the hotel direct at (803) 785-1234 or call Omaha Reservations Center at 1-800-233-1234. Be sure to mention that you are attending the SASFAA conference. Reservations made by phone must be guaranteed with one night's deposit either via a credit card or a check, which must be received within seven (7) days of verbal confirmation. The deposit will not be refunded if the

reservation is changed or canceled less than seven (7) days prior to arrival. The cut off date is **January 8, 2001**.

For your convenience, the conference information will be located on the SASFAA website. This will enable you to go in and check on the latest information on the conference as details fall into place. We will also be sending out periodic announcements to the SASFAA listserv. If you are not a member of SASFAA and would like to join, contact Melissa Ellyson, SASFAA Membership Chair, at (804) 290-8833 or Melissa.ellyson@wellsfargoefs.com.

Conference fees are \$185 for early registration and \$235 for registrations postmarked after January 29, 2001. If you have not paid your membership dues be sure to include an additional \$25. The registration form will be included on the website.

Mark your calendar now and start making plans to attend the 38th annual conference because you're not going to want to miss SASFAA 2001...A Beach Odyssey.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SASFAA Conference	Feb. 11-14
AASFAA Spring Conference	May 8-11
NASFAA Conference	July 22-25

**2000-2001
Application for Membership**

General Information (please print):

Name _____

Title _____

Institution/Agency Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____

*E-mail Address _____

*Your e-mail address will automatically be added to the AASFAA List Serve. If you do not wish to be included on List Serve, please circle: **NO**

Institution/Agency Type (check one):

_____ Less-than-two-year _____ Vocational/Technical

_____ Two-year _____ Lending Agency

_____ Four-year _____ Other

Control Type (check one):

_____ Public _____ Private Career School

_____ Private _____ Other

Membership dues for 2000-2001 are \$15.00. Please make check payable to AASFAA.
Mail check to:

Buddy Jackson
Director of Financial Aid
5345 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109

2001-2002 SASFAA VOLUNTEER FORM

The success that SASFAA has enjoyed over the years is due, in large measure, to efforts of our volunteer workers. I urge you to lend your energies to our Association by volunteering to serve in some capacity for the 2001-2002 year. *Please complete this form and return it to the address below by February 1, 2001.*

Name _____

Title _____

Institution _____ Institution Type _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail Address _____

List previous volunteer experience in state, regional, or national student financial aid associations: _____

Please rank your preferences: 1) first choice, 2) second choice, 3) third choice, etc...

_____ Association Governance

_____ Newsletter

_____ Finance and Audit

_____ Conference

_____ Communications

_____ Site Selection

_____ Professional Advancement

_____ Sponsorship Coordination

_____ New Aid Summer Workshop

_____ Membership

_____ Conference New Aid Workshop

_____ Legislative Relations

_____ De-centralized Training

_____ Archive

_____ Diversity

_____ Other

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