

SDASF AA in Action

- The attached Congressional DRT Email was submitted to all 3 members of the SD Congressional Delegation earlier this week.
- The attached 2017 HSC Email was sent to all SD high school counselors early this month. Thank you Carrie Jordanger for authoring and Tom Cool for sending!
- Two of SDASF AA's brightest and best attended the NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo in Washington, D.C., in February. Beth Vollan, President-Elect, and Katie Nelson, Treasurer, represented SDASF AA while learning, networking, and advocating. They shared some of their takeaways below:

Expectations Vs. Reality By: Beth Vollan and Katie Nelson

Expectation: To Learn about Association Management

Reality: We learned that association management is about more than running meetings and balancing the books.

The Treasurer has a huge role! The learning curve is extensive. Many associations currently pay a bookkeeper or have expensive online software to manage their books. We learned that while those things are timesavers for the large associations, they do come with their challenges. Other associations have started to have a treasurer-elect position to help with the work load and reduce the learning curve.

We learned that association revenues and volunteerism are declining while members' expectations are changing. Associations need to have strategic plans to ensure we are making the best use of scarce resources and providing value to members.

Expectation: To learn how to be a leader

Reality: Whether you are a born leader, or a volun-told leader, you have the opportunity to make a difference in your association. Effective leaders are able to recognize and leverage their own strengths and the strengths of those within their association to make things happen. Good leaders are doers, encouragers, good listeners, and are able to see other people's perspectives.

Expectation: To compare ourselves to other associations

Reality: Associations both large and small have their challenges. Interestingly enough, the challenges were all similar. We are grateful for what SDASF AA's current and previous leadership has done to keep our association strong. We are very fortunate that we did not go to the Conference needing to resolve major issues, nor did we discover any huge underlying issues within our association while we were there.

Expectation: To eat delicious food

Reality: We ate delicious food, both at the conference and around DC. If you are ever near Dupont Circle, you need to try Thaiphoo.

Expectation: To meet people we would never see again

Reality: We spent a lot of time networking, with people not only from our state, but from our region as well. We spent time with the esteemed RMAF AA president-elect, Ken Kocer, and others from Wyoming and Kansas. We were both fortunate to have our Leadership Pipeline mentors at the conference, presenting in the Association Management pathway!

Expectation: To be nervous for the Hill Visits

Reality: We were nervous for the Hill Visits. There was a long line outside the Senate building. We were talking really quickly. We were able to briefly meet all three of SD's representatives at a Constituent Coffee, and have our picture taken with them. Next we met with Senator Thune's office. It was thrilling to make a connection with SD natives, and have them take an interest in financial aid. What a huge relief! During our walk to our meeting with Senator Rounds's office, we were energized and excited. We admired the energy in the building.

Expectation: To be renewed with excitement and vitality

Reality: We were exhausted. You have to walk a lot in DC, unless you are a local, then you run. We also are renewed with excitement and vitality.

Our biggest takeaway – We want to grow up to be Ken Kocer.

We would like to express our extreme gratitude to the SDASFAA for allowing and encouraging us to attend this conference. It was a fantastic forum for learning the-ins-and-outs of running an association, and the names of people who are there to help. We developed a great friendship and working relationship during this time. Thank you for this investment in the future of SDASFAA.



Katie Jarvis,
Mike Ford *John Thune* *Christy Kern*

Thank you for representing us so well and for sharing your thoughts with us, ladies!

Next Up

- RMASFAA Summer Institute: http://www.rmasfaa.org/docs/toc_summerinstitute.html



Welcome to the Financial Aid Jungle!

Have staff new to financial aid?

Looking to increase your own financial aid knowledge?

Then join us this June 11-16 at the 2017 RMASFAA Summer Institute in beautiful Golden, CO!

2017 Summer Institute instructors and committee:

- Have over 635 collective years of financial aid experience!
- Over 100 collective NASFAA U Credentials!
- Include 5 former RMASFAA presidents, one current president, and one president elect!
- Include multiple former and upcoming state presidents!
- Include 3 RMASFAA Hall of Fame winners and 5 RMASFAA Distinguished Service Awardees; plus one NASFAA Leadership award winner!

Where else can you find this much knowledge/experience in one place?!

One of our instructors even owned a 5 ft. iguana... find out who this summer!

- SDASFAA Board Meeting: July 2017
- RMASFAA Annual Conference:



- SDASFAA Fall Decentralized Training: November 14-15, 2017
- SDASFAA Spring Conference: April 30-May 2, 2018

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do to help. Happy Friday!
Becky

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