

# THE NCASFAA BEACON



Summer 2015 Edition

## Special points of interest:

- Your new NCASFAA Board met June 15-16 to plan for the 2015-16 year
- Fall Conference is scheduled for November 1-4, 2015.
- Consider volunteering to help NCASFAA become a better organization to serve you!
- It's time to renew your membership for 2015-16!

## Message from the President



Joey Trogdon, 2015-16 NCASFAA President

“Serve with Purpose”

The fall is quickly approaching and I hope that everyone is finding success with their efforts to award every eligible student financial aid. While we all know that not every student will enroll at our respective college or university, it is my personal belief that we should all take a moment to enjoy the fact that each student we award has been given access to education. The inherent goodness that comes with that fete is something that we should take pride in as we have given someone the ticket to pursue their dreams.

All of us know that our jobs are ever-changing due to federal and state regulations. Several of us have been asked to do more with limited resources. We all recognize that there are things we wish we could change. But with that said, we must remember that our purpose is much higher and more important than any of the issues that we may be facing. We are the people giving students of all walks of life permission and assistance to succeed. We are the people that cry with students when they lose a loved one, share in their joy when they find success, wipe their tears when they fail a course, hear their frustration when they cannot find their way, and witness their pride when they walk across the stage at graduation.

We have the absolute privilege to touch lives in a positive way, so we should always... “Serve with Purpose”.

As I mentioned in an email at the beginning of July, the 2015-16 Executive Board is working diligently to create and implement programs that will help every member grow personally and professionally this year. You should know that you have a great group of people serving the Association and they are doing a lot of work on your behalf. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please be sure to complete a volunteer form at [www.ncasfaa.com/docs/forms/memVolunteer.html](http://www.ncasfaa.com/docs/forms/memVolunteer.html).

I am extremely humbled by the trust that has been placed in me to lead this Association during 2015-2016. I look forward to working with each of you to lead NCASFAA this year, and I hope to see all of you at the fall conference in Winston-Salem!

Sincerely,

Joey Trogdon

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## Your 2015-16 NCASF AA Working for You!

The NCASF AA Board was hard at work during the June 15-16 Board meeting in Winston-Salem, NC. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

- The Board discussed the vision and goals for the 2015-16 year.
- Developing a Support Staff Training workshop. A task force was created to explore this idea.
- Ideas to streamline our website to make it more user friendly to membership and be more organized.
- More array of webinar opportunities for membership to utilize during the academic year.

Below are some pictures of your Board working hard to make sure NCASF AA gets off to a great start in 2015-16.



## Save the Date! Fall Conference

The Fall Conference dates are November 1-4, 2015 in Winston-Salem. The Embassy Suites will play host to our event this year. The theme for the conference is still being determined, but we promise to have great sessions and presenters to give you all the financial aid updates and knowledge you'll need!

New Aid Officers plan to come early! There will be a special pre-conference event just for you.

Our Fall Conference charity will be Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen based in Asheboro, NC. More on our great charity in the next section!

We will be releasing more information on the conference soon, including how to reserve your room and all the fun details on the conference sessions and activities.

Mark your calendars now! You will not want to miss this conference!



## Conference Charity



Our Daily Bread opened its' doors more than twenty years ago as a vision of local retired minister, Dora Atlas. Atlas initially planned to finance her mission with her social security income and personal savings but an overwhelming community response soon saw the launching of a ministry that has remained a vital part of the Asheboro community.

Since its inception, Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc. has provided a daily meal to meet the nutritional needs of those less fortunate or who have fallen on hard times. Due to the rise in unemployment and the overall economic climate, the numbers of those being served has taken a sharp increase. In 2010, the number of residents fed daily took on a fifty percent increase. In recent years, the numbers peaked to more than 10,000 meals served annually.

Our Daily Bread has aimed its task at providing at least one nutrition filled meal a day. Our Daily Bread operates Monday through Friday and opens its doors promptly at 11:30 am. Residents are served hot meals and dessert in a large bright dining room.

### Mission

Our Daily Bread exists to provide nutritious meals to needy families and individuals with a wholesome and peaceful environment where community is represented by those served and those who serve them. The mission of Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen encompasses a two-fold charge by enabling a need to be met through the service of willing volunteers from varying socio economic backgrounds who get the opportunity to connect first hand with the lives of people whose paths they would otherwise never cross and to encourage a commitment to unreservedly serve the community in which they live.

## NCASFAA Involvement in SASFAA: Hill Visit



Lisa Koretoff 2014-15 NCASFAA  
Legislative Chair

Fifteen colleagues from the 9 southern states that comprise SASFAA made their way to Washington DC to visit with members of Congress and their representatives on Tuesday, May 12th. I was honored to participate with my fellow North Carolinians, Sharon Oliver of NC Central University, who is this year's SASFAA Legislative Chair, and Wanda White with the NC Community College System Office.

Our first stop of the morning was at the Rayburn Building in the office of Virginia Foxx (R-NC). We met with Whitney Riggs, Policy Advisor, and discussed SASFAA's position on several topics (see below). We also shared information about our schools and organizations that we represented. Congresswoman Foxx is a former educator and community college president and currently serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee and chairs the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

After lunch, we were invited to meet with Bob Moran, a former Department of Education attorney who currently works for Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN). Mr. Moran was extremely knowledgeable about our issues, given his background with ED. Senator Alexander was responsible for the Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency (FAST) Act introduced earlier this year. This was the act that famously introduced the concept of a two-question FAFSA that could fit on a postcard. This Act has not yet been passed and if it doesn't, it's still possible that components of this could end up in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which may happen sometime this year or next.

Sharon, Wanda, and I had to leave this meeting to make our 2pm appointment in the Russell Senate Building with Christopher Toppings, Deputy Legislative Director in the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-NC). Senator Burr serves on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) with Senator Alexander. He has authored or co-sponsored several pieces of higher education legislation over the years, including the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013, the recent amendment to the Repayment Act that passed unanimously in April, and several items related to Veterans benefits. Mr. Toppings had a good grasp of the issues and was able to discuss with us not only the SASFAA recommendations, but NASFAA's draft HEA reauthorization recommendations such as increasing the amount of campus-based funds that can be transferred between programs.

Our last appointment of the day was in the Cannon House Office Building with Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC). The Congresswoman, Sharon, Wanda, and I were joined in this meeting by Stephanie Miller, AASFAA state president, Erin Klarer with the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, and Shaniqua McClendon, Legislative Director for the Congresswoman. Congresswoman Adams is a freshman representative, having been elected to the position this past November. She is a former educator and has a keen understanding of education, which helps her with her committee work. Like Virginia Foxx, she serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee. She was very interested in our briefing document and frequently interrupted our presentation to direct Ms. McClendon to work on amendments to legislation based on our recommendations!

Overall, the day was a success. We were pleased to be welcomed warmly by the staff on the Hill and were grateful for their cordial and careful attention to our concerns and issues.

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**\*\*Note:** Due to length of the briefing document provided by SASFAA for the Hill visit, please contact Jamie Pendergrass at [jfpender@ncsu.edu](mailto:jfpender@ncsu.edu) if you would like a copy and one will be sent to you.\*\*

## Hill Visit Pictures



## Webinar Training Opportunities!



Rose Mary Stelma, 2015-16  
Professional Advancement Training  
Webinars Chair

Looking for some low-cost training? If your answer is “yes,” then check out the webinars NCASFAA has planned for this year!

We’re excited to offer 5 webinars this year – presented by NCASFAA’s Platinum-level Professional Affiliates and your financial aid administrator colleagues.

In September, we’ll start out the year with a presentation by the Great Lakes training team. Watch the NCASFAA listserv for announcements about the specific time and topic. Great Lakes is one of NCASFAA’s Platinum-level sponsors.

Robert Muhammad will be discussing Satisfactory Academic Progress policy requirements in October.

In January, Traci Mitchell will provide a training webinar on the state grant system portal. CFI is also a Platinum-level sponsor for NCASFAA.

We hope to have a webinar discussing NSLDS and Output Reports in March. We’re still securing a presenter at the time of this newsletter publication. If you’d like to volunteer as a presenter, please let me know.

In May, we’ll wrap up the webinar series with Bridget Ellis talking about Return to Title IV.

For NCASFAA members, there is no cost to attend a webinar – it is part of your membership benefits. Pretty good benefit for \$25.00!

If you are not a NCASFAA member, we’ll ask you to pay \$25.00 for the first webinar you attend. For that \$25.00, you’ll have access to all of the webinars AND you’ll get a 2015-16 NCASFAA membership. Good deal!

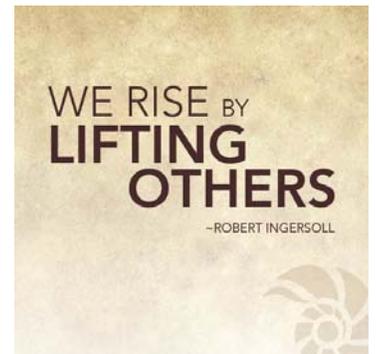
Questions – contact Rose Mary Stelma at [rosemary.stelma@cfi.org](mailto:rosemary.stelma@cfi.org) or 919.835.2402.

## Support Staff Training



Jason Johnson, 2015-16 NCASFAA  
Vice-President

What a great quote for our profession. In the near future, we will have the opportunity to lift up people within our offices who may someday be the next Advisor, Director or FSA trainer. We are planning a series of regional drive-in training sessions for support staff across the state. We encourage you to provide your support staff a day of training off site where they can pick up some valuable information, as well as a much needed respite from the daily grind.



We are currently looking at three separate training sessions across the state. Each session would have four breakout sessions ranging from coaching students to effective time management. There will be a minimal cost for the training, but the cost will include membership in NCASFAA. We all know the great value of our organization. If we are able to add some bright new ideas and faces to the existing brilliance of our organization imagine the impact we can have across this great state, but more importantly the impact we will have on our students.

Please think about your department and other areas that are influenced by the Financial Aid Office at your institution and see who could benefit from this opportunity. There could be a future shining star right under your nose waiting for the opportunity to shine in NCASFAA.

Thanks — Jason Johnson

## Serving our Heroes



Rachel Cavanaugh, 2015-16  
Veterans Task Force Chair

NCASFAA Family,

This year I am serving as the Chair of the Veterans Task Force for NCASFAA. North Carolina is second only to Florida with the number of veterans that we have attending schools in North Carolina. I would love to hear thoughts of things that we can do to broaden the knowledge of financial aid administrators on issues concerning our veteran students.

If there are areas of training that you would like to see or topics please let me know.

Serving our Heroes

Rachel Cavanaugh

## SASFAA New Aid Officer Training: Experience from Dr. Steven E. Brooks Professional Development Scholarship Recipient



Whitney McLaughlin, 2015 Recipient  
of the Dr. Steven E. Brooks Profes-  
sional Development Scholarship

My experience at the SASFAA New Aid Officers Workshop (NAOW) was very memorable. It was an intensive week but it reminded how far I've come in this profession. I met a lot of great people and formed many lifelong friendships. Staying in the residence halls and eating in the dining hall for my meals made me feel like a college student all over again!

The theme of the workshop was Financial Aid is Magical and each group was based on a Disney character. The groups were very competitive with each other especially in the relays and team-building activities.

All of the NAOW instructors were knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful throughout my time there. My favorite session was on professional judgment. The instructors performed as different characters from the Toy Story movie to request reevaluation of their financial aid. It was very entertaining!

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the New Aid Officers Workshop. I want to give a huge thank you to NCASFAA for awarding me the Steven E. Brooks Professional Advancement Scholarship and allowing me to have this experience.





## Volunteer to Help NCASFAA Serve You Better!

### Have an Idea for an Article?

Contact the Publicity and Publications Chair

Jamie Pendergrass  
jamie\_pendergrass@ncsu.edu

Time is perhaps our most precious commodity. Once it's gone, you can't get it back. The question you must ask yourself is what do you want to do with that time?

To volunteer is to freely offer your time, energy, and service to benefit an organization that you enjoy. We hope that you will commit to being a volunteer for NCASFAA. NCASFAA is, after all, a completely volunteer organization. It is through the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers that NCASFAA is able to provide training and professional development opportunities to its members. Please consider volunteering on one of the many committees NCASFAA has to offer. We would love to have your voice to make NCASFAA serve you better and to become the organization you wish to see.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the NCASFAA homepage at <http://www.ncasfaa.com> and, on the right-hand side, click the link to complete the volunteer form.

If you have questions about volunteering, you are welcome to contact the Membership Chair, Kali Brown, at [brownk@vgcc.edu](mailto:brownk@vgcc.edu).



## Renew Your Membership!



It's that time of year again! It's time for you to renew your membership to NCASFAA and be a part of another year collaborating with fellow financial aid professionals and attending conferences to learn all the new information in the world of financial aid.

To renew your membership go to <http://www.ncasfaa.com>, click on "member services" at the top and then "membership/renewal application." If you have questions, you can contact the Membership Chair, Kali Brown, at [brownk@vgcc.edu](mailto:brownk@vgcc.edu).

As a reminder, the membership fee is \$25 and can be paid by credit card, online via PayPal, or via check mailed to the NCASFAA Treasurer, Kyle McMahan, at:

PO Box 509

Pembroke, NC 28372

If you have questions regarding payment, you can contact Kyle at [kyle.mcmahan@uncp.edu](mailto:kyle.mcmahan@uncp.edu).

We look forward to you continuing your valued membership with NCASFAA for 2015-16!