



National Association of FSA Support Employees (NASE)

Weekly Update 12-26-2011

www.nasefsa.org/ and [USDAConnect](#)



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND TO THE REPUBLIC, FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

As we depart into a Christmas weekend, let me leave you with the following.....

A Soldier's Christmas Story

by Michael Connelly AUSA

A soldier nervously fingers his weapon and stares into the darkness watching for any sign of the enemy. He is alone this night because yesterday his best friend, who usually shared this position with him, was killed. He misses him. He was a brave man who left a wife and two small children behind. The soldier hopes that he will survive this war and someday be able to tell the little ones how bravely their father had died defending freedom.

He doesn't know exactly what time it is but his instincts tell him that it is approaching midnight on this Christmas Eve. Soon it will be Christmas morning at home and his own family will be getting up to have breakfast and open presents. His breakfast will consist of some cold sparse rations and a sip of water from his canteen. There will be no hot cider or coffee for him and no turkey dinner later in the day.

He hopes his family enjoys the Christmas celebration and understands why he can't be with them. There are people in the world that would destroy the things he is fighting to defend, and he faces them this night. He would rather be home, but this is his choice and his responsibility. He hopes his countrymen appreciate what he is doing, but sometimes he wonders. Then he tells himself that it doesn't matter, he would be here anyway.

The soldier takes a moment to reach out and gently touch the Christmas tree he and his buddy had set up shortly before he died. It's not really a tree at all, just a branch that had been blown off a real tree by an artillery shell. They had dug a hole in the hard ground and set it up. Of course, they had no tinsel or ornaments so they decorated it with empty cartridge shells and hoped that the Lord would understand. It was the only way they had to honor his birth.

By now, you may be wondering what place this is and who this soldier fights for. He is an American soldier and the name of the place doesn't matter. It could be Valley Forge, Northern Virginia, the Ardennes, the

Chosin Reservoir, the Mekong Delta, or somewhere near Kabul or Baghdad. For over 200 years, there have been American soldiers far away from home every Christmas watching our backs. Today they are of both genders and many races and religions.

On this Christmas Eve, the soldier quietly hums Silent Night and again wonders if anybody really cares. The he hears a voice from the darkness. It is a soothing and pleasant voice and admonishes him gently for his doubts. "I was born on this night to bring my Father's word to the world." says the voice. "My Father is called by many different names and worshiped by many people in different ways, but you are still his protector. You guard the right to believe and you are not alone. WELL DONE AMERICAN SOLDIER!"

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." ~President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

WEAR RED ON FRIDAY TO SUPPORT YOUR UNITES STATES MILITARY.

The mission of redshirtfridays.org is to show support for our servicemen and women. We are not a political organization. We do not care whether or not one supports or does not support the war. We care only about making our support of our servicemen and women known to our fellow Americans our servicemen and women know we support their sacrifice and we will not forget them and we will do this by wearing red on every Friday.



National Association of FSA Support Employees (NASE)

INTRODUCING NASE BENEFITSDIRECT

Membership Really Does Have Its Benefits!

We're proud to announce that we have chosen to partner with JM Marketing due to their continued excellence of providing high quality association benefit platforms to their respective members. JM Marketing has been providing financial and insurance products to members of various associations affiliated with the hard working and dedicated employees of the Farm Service Agency for more than 20 years and is excited to bring to NASE members a dedicated benefit platform called NASE Benefits Direct!

Members of NASE are now able to participate in many of our member-only programs provided such as:

- Life Insurance
- Federal Employee Retirement Planning
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- Cancer/Critical Care/ICU
- Heart/Stroke Insurance

- Dental/Vision/Hearing Insurance

We encourage you to check out these new benefit programs online at TBD or meet with one of our new representatives across the country now dedicated to serving you. By utilizing the size and purchasing power of the group, these programs oftentimes come with easier qualifications and lower premiums to our members. This brings us affordable, “best of class” products and the known reputation of impeccable customer service from JM. You may contact them toll free at 877-523-0176 or by email at info@benefits-direct.com with any questions or help with getting information.

Remember: The unexpected can and often times will happen to even the best laid plans. NASE BenefitsDirect can help you detect what you need to protect with member-only benefits. Thank you for your continued support and if we may help you in any way please don't hesitate to contact either me or your local representative.

Sincerely,

Susan E Long
NASE President

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

2011-2012

COMING SOON: Information for PAYROLL DEDUCTION FOR NASE Membership dues!!!!
FINALLY...NASE members will have the opportunity to request payroll deductions for NASE dues.

I, _____ am applying for membership in the National Association of Support Employees and agree to abide by the Constitution and by-laws of the Association. My check for \$52.00 regular member or \$20.00 for supportive member is attached. I also agree that I will join my State Association at this time or when one is established.

Title: _____

Office Address: _____

Office Telephone: _____ e-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Home e-mail: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

(Please list the person who contacted you about becoming a member)

Check should be made payable to NASE

Please Mail Completed Form with \$52 or \$20 to:

“Open By Addressee Only”

Rhonda Hoffman

107 E Hwy 20, Suite C

O’Neill, NE 68763

allgolf@kmtel.net

402-336-3796, ext 118

Thoughts for the week:

Funny Thought:

Coming up: NASE meetings with National Office officials

USDAConnect:

Don't miss important information on the new NASE USDAConnect site as NASE will be increasing the communication using this site:

https://connections.usda.gov/wikis/home?lang=en_US#/wiki/Wf88a6fad4a1a_4bf5_9c78_8fd47e121e61/person/9d24f6c0-3feb-102e-9dba-f5e6d78895c2/pages

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS IS NOW USING THE USDACONNECT....Check it out!

2012 Zone Meetings NASE/NACS/NACS RD/NASP **MORE INFORMATION TO COME**

Zone A Meeting

Denver, CO

March 1-3, 2012

Zone B Meeting – NASE A/B Business Meeting

Registration Form and hotel information is now on the NASE website www.nasefsa.org

February 2-4, 2012

Grapevine, Texas

This is going to be an exceptional meeting....make your plans and ask others to join.

Zone C Meeting

Madison, WI

March 22-24, 2012

Look for information on www.nasefsa.org

****ATTENTION: This is a date change!!!**

Zone D Meeting – NASE C/D Business Meeting www.nasefsa.org**

Hilton Hotel & Resorts Greenville, SC

February 9 - 11, 2012

More information coming so watch for it!

2012 National Convention NASE/NACS/NACS-RD/NASP

Detroit, Michigan

Marriott—Detroit at the Renaissance Center

June 16-21, 2012

SAVINGS AND BENEFITS:

For anyone with insurance through JM Marketing already and entered through a NASCOE or NACS association and want to transfer it, contact Trevor first. Trevor's email address is tgartner@jminsuredirect.com.

List of Government DISCOUNTS: GIMMEMYDISCOUNT www.govexec.com

BUDGET:

Obama thanks Congress for passing bill, says more work ahead

By Julia Edwards *National Journal* December 23, 2011

After thanking lawmakers for finally reaching agreement on a temporary extension of the payroll-tax cut, President Obama said there was more work to do in the new year.

"When Congress returns I urge them to keep working, without drama, without delay, to reach an agreement that extends this tax cut as well as unemployment insurance through all of 2012," Obama said, speaking to reporters Friday.

"This is some good news, just in the nick of time for the holidays," he said.

On Thursday, House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) bowed to pressure from Democrats and even Senate Republicans to drop his opposition to a short-term deal to extend the measures, as well as a 'doc fix' to prevent a financial blow to physicians who deal with Medicare.

Obama spoke shortly before leaving to join his family in Hawaii for Christmas.

"Aloha," he said, concluding his statement. He didn't take questions.

Tax cut survives: Congress votes holiday approval

Friday - 12/23/2011, 2:07pm ET



President Barack Obama signs the payroll tax cut extension, Friday, Dec. 23, 2011, in the White House Oval Office in Washington. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari) By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Barely beating Santa's sleigh, Congress delivered a last-minute holiday tax-cut extension to 160 million American wage-earners on Friday, just when it looked like they and millions of unemployed workers were going to be left with coal in their stockings.

It was a major yearend political victory for President Barack Obama, a big slice of humble pie for House Republicans and a blow to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who'll have an angry band of tea party lawmakers to deal with when Congress returns to Washington next month.

Back-to-back voice vote approvals of the two-month special measure by the Senate and House came in mere seconds with no debate, just days after House Republican leaders had insisted that reopening negotiations on a full-year bill was the only way to persuade them to prevent a tax increase on Jan. 1.

Obama immediately signed the bill into law.

"I said it was critical for Congress not to go home without preventing a tax increase on 160 million working Americans and I'm pleased to say that they got it done," a buoyant looking Obama said at the White House before dashing off for his delayed holiday vacation to his home state of Hawaii.

Actually most lawmakers were long gone. A token few showed up to make approval official.

The legislation buys time for talks early next year on how to finance the year-long extensions _ negotiations that promise to be contentious, especially if Democrats continue to use Obama's jobs agenda to seek a political edge in the 2012 presidential and congressional campaigns.

The measure will keep in place a 2 percentage point cut in the Social Security payroll tax _ worth about \$20 a week for a typical worker making \$50,000 a year _ and prevent almost 2 million unemployed people from losing jobless benefits averaging \$300 a week. Doctors will win a reprieve from a 27 percent cut in their Medicare payments, the product of a 1997 cut that Congress has been unable to permanently fix. For the rest of the story go to:

www.federalnewsradio.com

Federal workers: 2012 could be as tough as 2011

By Lisa Rein

The Post asked [John Palguta](#), vice president for policy at the [Partnership for Public Service](#), to weigh in on the year for federal workers and what 2012 may bring.

Palguta had a 34-year career in the federal government as a human resources and policy specialist, as a senior official with the [Merit Systems Protection Board](#) and the [Office of Personnel Management](#), among other agencies.

The Partnership is a nonpartisan think tank that promotes the public sector. The Post has a content-sharing arrangement with the Partnership.

Q. Talk about the landscape for federal employees in 2011.

A. It was not a great year for being a federal employee. One reason is economic. It was a tough year for the country economically. A lot of people are still unemployed, and the deficit is an issue. The negative mood influences what people think about government.

There were calls for cutbacks to pay and benefits, increased contributions to the retirement system, an across-the-board 10 percent cut to the size of the workforce, and other proposals.

Also, we were starting a presidential election cycle. People are campaigning against government: Elect me and I'll fix that mess in Washington.

Last March, we were hours away from a government shutdown. People [in Congress] were willing to go to the brink. There was a different mood in town than we've seen in the past.

We have a perception driven by ideological positioning that federal employees have been on the gravy train. It's class warfare.

Q. Will things get better next year?

A. In 2012 we'll be entering the second year of a pay freeze. In recent history we've never before had a two-year pay freeze and calls for a third year.

I see glimmers of hope government-wide, but 2012 is going to be a tough year for federal employees. We might see a recalculation of retirement benefits. We may end up with a two-tier situation where they grandfather current employees under the existing rules but change them for new employees.

Some of these things are going to stick; We don't know which ones.

Q. What about cuts to the budgets of federal agencies?

A. In 2012, many agencies will have to start rolling back the number of employees they have. At the same time, we're seeing increases in actual work for agencies. At the Social Security Administration, people are applying for benefits in record numbers.

The Securities and Exchange Commission got lambasted for not responding to the economic crisis and then got additional responsibilities.

We are going to see some workforce reductions. Some agencies cannot, with what they've been appropriated, maintain the same workforce. Probably the reductions will come with attrition.

Q. Overall, what was the hiring picture last year?

A. Most hiring was replacement hiring. For the first three quarters of fiscal 2011, we had 76,390 people leave. Those were full-time, permanent people. We're on track to have over 100,000 gone through last quarter. In 2010, we had 91,000 people leave, and most were replaced. I'm guessing that not all of the people who left in 2011 will get replaced.

I don't see government growing in 2012.

Q. What were some of the bright spots in 2011?

A. Hiring reform was one. It's still a work in progress, but we are better now than we were three years ago. People realized the system was broken, and [applicants] were complaining. In May 2010, the president wrote a memo to agency heads on the hiring process and it got people's attention. The time to hire has decreased. We've gotten rid of things like [the rule] where you consider just three people for a position. Now you have larger numbers of folks to consider.

Another bright spot is that I hope the beating up on feds has gotten near a peak. It's going to start declining. People remember that they need government. The good stories will eventually get out.



TECHNOLOGY:

Transportation rejects NTSB's suggested cellphone ban for drivers

BY ANDREW LAPIN 12/22/2011

The Transportation Department will not back the National Transportation Safety Board's recommended ban on all cellphones while driving, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Thursday.

In a press conference Wednesday, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that the U.S. government would not enforce the NTSB proposal, which includes a ban on hands-free devices. LaHood, who a year ago floated the possibility of a ban on all cellphones on the road, said that hands-free calling "is not the biggest problem in America," the *Journal* said.

The news will be welcomed by the cellphone industry and automobile industry, which is pushing new hands-free communication technology built into vehicles, including Ford's Sync software.

At its press conference on Dec. 13, NTSB originally stated that it was interested in pursuing state and local bans of mobile devices, rather than federal action. Unlike Transportation, the board lacks the power to enforce auto-safety laws of its own accord.

Nine states and the District of Columbia already ban the use of handheld cellphones while driving, and 35 states and the district have outlawed texting while driving.

HR:

Calculating Pay

By Kellie Lunney

As 2011 draws to a close, the federal pay freeze and potential cuts to government pensions are still very much on the radar screen. Tracking the news is one thing, figuring out exactly how much money you stand to lose is another. Now, feds can punch their own numbers into a new online calculator to see how a two-year -- and possible three-year -- pay freeze affects their compensation.

The calculator, which the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers created, assesses the cumulative impact over time of salary freezes on federal workers' pay. The IFPTE represents engineers, scientists, technicians and mathematicians, so hopefully the math is accurate. According to the union, a federal employee earning an annual salary of \$70,000 will experience up to a \$29,000 pay cut over the next decade and will lose \$66,000 over 20 years under the two-year pay freeze, which currently expires at the end of 2012. A three-year pay freeze would bump the pay cut to \$95,970 over the next two decades. The formula assumes a 2 percent automatic annual pay raise for federal employees, which is about what the boost was before the pay freeze went into effect in January. For the rest of the story go to: www.govexec.com

FSA Grace Period Reminder

Toward the end of the year, many federal employees become concerned about losing money in a health care flexible spending account due to the FSA program's "use or lose" feature. Their reaction in some cases is to attempt to spend down their accounts by making additional reimbursable purchases. In some cases they may not be aware that the program has a grace period, during which reimbursable expenses may be charged to a plan year, running for 2 ½

months beyond the end of the calendar year. Thus, reimbursable expenses incurred until March 15, 2012 still can be charged against 2011 accounts. The use or lose feature is not as much of a factor in dependent care FSAs because those funds come in and go out on a pay as you go basis, whereas health care account money accumulates if unspent.

Changes in FEGLI Premium Rates

If you are a federal employee, you may be enrolled by Option B or C coverage under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance program. If you are a retiree, some of you have retained that coverage. And most retirees still have their Basic insurance. If so, I have some news for you. Some of the premium amounts are changing. For employees, those changes will be reflected in their first pay check earned during January 2012; for retirees, in their February annuity payment.

OPM has completed a study of the FEGLI program. Based on this updated actuarial analysis of actual claims experience, OPM has determined that premium changes need to be made to Option B, Option C and post-retirement Basic. These changes are based on funding and claims experience within the FEGLI program and reflect updated mortality and claims rates from actual program experience within each category.

Some Confusion Continues on Raise

Some federal employees apparently believe that the pay issues under discussion involve the prospects of a raise next month, in January 2012. A law passed this time last year froze federal salary schedules in place at 2010 rates for both 2011 and 2012. Thus, it has long been decided that there will be no basic January 2012 raise. The issue is whether the freeze would also apply to 2013—and, in some proposals, whether it would further continue through 2014 and even 2015. Also, an executive order issued this week titled "adjustments to certain rates of pay," apparently caused some employees to believe that a 2012 raise will be paid after all. That is a routine annual order that typically does finalize a federal pay raise for the upcoming year, but in this case was needed to carry out the 1.6 percent increase going to military personnel in January, as well as to continue a technical change being carried out over three years in pay practices for certain federal employees working in Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. territories. Despite the salary schedule freeze, employees are eligible for within-grade raises (although that doesn't help employees who have topped out in their grades) and on promotion; raises in performance-based pay plans such as the expiring NSPS system at DoD also remain allowed. While proposals have been made to deny such raises as well as basic raises in the future, no such proposals have been on the table lately.

RETIREMENT:

A Few Good Things

By Tammy Flanagan, [National Institute of Transition Planning](#)

It is easy to focus on the bad news coming through the pipeline these days, such as proposed cuts to federal employee benefits and pension processing delays at the Office of Personnel Management. Still, 2011 wasn't all bad, was it? And there are some things to look forward to in 2012.

Payroll Taxes. Congress may be tied up in knots this week debating a payroll tax cut for 2012, but throughout 2011, the FICA tax was cut by 2 percent, giving many federal employees more money in their paychecks despite the ongoing pay freeze. The FICA tax was slated to be applied to the first \$106,800 of wages in 2011 at a rate of 6.2 percent. Instead, the employee share was reduced to 4.2 percent. For the 85 percent of the federal workforce covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System, this added up to a savings of between \$1,000 (for a \$50,000 salary) to more than \$2,100 (for a person earning the maximum taxable wage of \$106,800). The maximum taxable wage for 2012 will increase to \$110,100, so high-wage earners will pay either the 4.2 percent or the 6.2 percent on an additional \$3,300 next year. For the rest of the story go to: www.govexec.com

Rumor of the Day: Interim Retirement Payments to be Canceled by OPM?

By [Ralph Smith](#) Friday, December 23, 2011

New Federal Retirement Rumor In comments from readers on a [FedSmith article](#), several readers wrote comments about a new rumor. Here is one of the comments that highlights the gist of the fear quickly spreading among some readers who were probably planning on retiring in the near future:

"Yesterday I was talking to my Benefits Officer and she very nicely told me that OPM has decided that in order to get packages completed faster they are stopping all new retirement checks of the partial payment for the next 3 to 4 months. She told me that and hoped that I could last that long without any income until at least April or May. One other person that is retiring with me next week was also told the same thing by his Benefits Officer. How can they just decide something like this at the last minute."

With proposed changes to the federal retirement system being considered by Congress throughout 2012, there is fertile ground for new rumors such as this one. This was the first time we had about heard this from any reader. Since several people raised the same issue within a short time, we wanted to find out if it is true and to advise readers.

Good News for Future Retirees As regular readers of this site are well aware, [John Grobe](#) is a regular author of numerous articles on federal sector retirement. He stays on top of retirement issues and conducts [training seminars](#) around the country on this topic so he is often our first source of new information (and often one of the first to hear and confirm or dispel new rumors pertaining to federal retirement).

He indicated he was not aware of any change in OPM policy on issuing interim payments. But, as a thorough person who does not like to dwell on rumors and innuendo, he promptly contacted a retirement expert at the Office of Personnel Management.

Here was the response from OPM:

"Not true. Interim pay will always be an option and remain in use."

So, while we have no idea of the source of the information that a benefits officer reportedly relayed to one or more of our readers, the rumor is, fortunately, apparently not true.

MISCELLANEOUS

It's Not a UFO, Just a Killer Drone for an Aircraft Carrier

Note to the Navy: When trucking a giant flying robot with a rounded fuselage across the country, people are going to think they're looking at an artifact from Area 51.

As the local news coverage above shows, residents of Cowley County, Kansas, were freaked out to see a truck rumbling down U.S. 77 towing what looks a whole lot like a 32-foot spaceship. "[People were calling in saying, 'Oh they think they found a flying saucer.'](#)" Donetta Godsey of the Winfield *Daily Courier* told the ABC News affiliate.

Alas, the cargo wasn't anything otherworldly. Just a trussed-up, wingless version of the Navy's futuristic killer drone, the X-47B, which the Navy hopes will one day be the world's first robot capable of landing on an aircraft carrier. For the past few days, it's hitched a rather terrestrial ride from California's Edwards Air Force Base to Patuxent River, Maryland.

"Oh, you mean the UFO?" Brooks McKinney, a spokesman for X-47B manufacturer Northrop Grumman, told Danger Room.

McKinney's both embarrassed and amused by the UFO confusion. "They effectively shrink-wrapped the rest of the fuselage after taking the wings off the drone for the cross-country trek," he said. "Because it was 32 feet wide, it

could only travel certain hours of the day because we blocked off the road. That led to lots of weird stories, like we had abandoned [the X-47B] on the side of the road.”

More Young People See Room for Them in Ag

More and more people in their 20s and 30s are becoming farmers, according to the [San Francisco Chronicle](#). The publication credits an oppressive corporate world with minimal job security and a growing demand for locally grown and organic food that is making younger people want to leave their careers and start work in agriculture.

While farming has its risks and expensive start-up costs, the sector still did better than other parts of the economy during the past several years. Further, according to the Agriculture Department, farm profits will hit record highs this year.

“People are looking at farm income, especially the increase in asset values, and seeing a really positive story about our economy,” said Mary Clare Ahearn, USDA senior economist. “Young people are viewing agriculture as a great opportunity and saying they want to be a part of it.”

Poll: Majority of Americans Oppose Gas Tax

A majority of Americans believe new transportation projects should be paid for with user-fees instead of tax increases, according to a new national [poll](#). The research, by Reason-Rupe, found that 77 percent of Americans oppose increasing the federal gas tax, while just 19 percent favor raising the tax, which is currently 18.4 cents a gallon. According to the 1,200 people polled, the public thinks the government wastes the gas tax money it already receives, with 65 percent saying the government spends transportation funding ineffectively.

The survey showed Americans believe new roads and highways should be paid for by the people driving on them: 58 percent said new roads and highways should be funded by tolls. Twenty-eight percent said new road capacity should be paid for by tax increases.

In terms of transportation spending priorities, 62 percent of those polled wanted to prioritize funding for road and highway projects, while 30 percent want to prioritize funding for mass transit projects. Further, 55 percent supported using public-private partnerships to build critical infrastructure projects.

America’s Heartland Episode 716 Released

A new episode of [America’s Heartland](#), the show that tells the story of American agriculture to public television viewers across the nation, has been released. Episode 716 includes segments on saving the local grocery store in Walsh, Colo.; restoring historic churches in rural North Dakota; a hearts of palm farm in Hawaii; and a look at a nature preserve in Iowa created from what was once farmland.

America’s Heartland is available on many PBS stations throughout the country. Search by [zip code](#) and find out if it’s airing on your local public television channel. You can also catch the show on RFD-TV on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Eastern and Sundays at 11:30 p.m. Eastern. A complete weekly schedule is available at www.rfdtv.com.

The [American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture](#), Farm Credit and the United Soybean Board make presentation of *America’s Heartland* possible.

Creating a Leaner Gingerbread Man

Gingerbread men and other holiday cookies may be a lot healthier for you in the future. Research currently being carried out by the USDA's Agriculture Research Service is looking at how to test new wheat plant varieties.

In what has been dubbed the "cookie flour study," ARS scientists have conducted research to give food makers an idea of which tests will give an early "in-the-laboratory" indication of how likely a specific type of wheat may be as a source of whole-grain cookie flour. Using 14 different varieties of soft wheat to determine the best screening tests, the researchers found that both a solvent retention capacity test and softness test works for early screening. Later, should the food maker want to measure "only those plants that are uniquely superior sources of whole-grain cookie dough flour, they can invest in the 'wire-cut cookie test,' a more expensive procedure," according to ARS.

Long associated with healthy living, research shows that eating whole grains on a regular basis can actually lower the risks of cardiovascular disease. ARS, Ohio State University and Kraft Foods North America are funding the ARS research. [ARS article](#)

Resolutions-ResolutionResolutions-Resolutions-Resolutions-Resolutions-Resolutions

It is that time again...time to start applying your creative writing skills. You have extraordinary ideas on ways to make your workday flow so much better than it flows now; share those ideas on the **NEW fillable Resolution form. I listen to grumbling as I travel about on the SURE Program worksheets, NAP regulations, the Guaranteed computer applications, the DLS system, the eCORP software, outdated handbooks, etc.... You can make it better; all you have to do is write it down and send it in!!!**

Where do you get the wonderful Resolution forms to write up your creative ideas? On the NASE website, of course. ☺

Do you know where to send your Resolution forms when you get them completed????? To your Zone Rep or Resolution Coordinator.

With NASE's Resolution Process, all of YOUR ideas are given consideration, first at the Zone Meetings, then on to the National Convention where resolutions are voted on by the full membership...those members are YOU. The successful resolutions from the National meeting are sent to the National Office, Farm Credit Applications Office, Finance Office and/or Kansas City for determining feasibility. In the Past, NASE has seen most resolutions put into permanent practice! We are all ordinary people with extraordinary ideas...share them.

NASE BOARDMEMBERS:

(CA, MT, NM, AZ, ID...)Marilyn McMullen, Zone A, contact at marilyn.mcmullen@mt.usda.gov

(ND, TX, MN, MO, KS...)Wanda Pabst, Zone B, contact at wanda.pabst@nd.usda.gov

(WI, KY, PA, IN, IL...)Nancy Reiff, Zone C, contact at nancy.reiff@in.usda.gov

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Rhonda Hoffman, Treasurer contact at rhonda.hoffman@ne.usda.gov

Nancy Fuchs, Past President contact at nancy.fuchs@nd.usda.gov

God Bless America Lyrics by Irving Berlin



**God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above;**

**From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.**