



NACS Pre-Convention Newsletter, June 2018

2017-2018 NACS BOARD ATTENDS JOINT ASSOCIATION MEETING



From Left-Right: Acting FSA Administrator Steve Peterson, Zone B Rep. Kristina Wilcox, Past President John Gehrke, President Theresa Windham, Secretary Cheryl Brooks, Under Secretary Bill Northey, Acting Zone D Rep. Tammy Jones, Treasurer Ryan Lukassen, Vice President Charlean Smith, Zone C Rep. Kimberly Eilerman, Zone A Rep. Casey Toyne

The 2017-18 NACS Board had the honor of meeting with FSA Acting Administrator Steve Peterson, Under Secretary Bill Northey and many other Farm Service Agency and FPAC staff while attending the All-Association meeting held April 2-5 in Washington, D.C.

During joint and NACS-only meetings with leadership of FPAC, FSA and Farm Loan Programs, members of the board had the opportunity to voice concerns felt by many FLP employees. The intimate setting of these meetings allowed an open forum for many topics that, although discussed daily in the field, may not have been communicated to the National Office in other formats.

The opportunity for the NACS Board to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with Agency leaders serves as a compliment to the more formal NACS Resolution Process. The meeting also allows those in the National Office to connect faces with the names they see in NACS communications throughout the year. This personalized relationship opens the door to many NACS members to serve on various task forces and working groups developed to improve the day-to-day operations of Farm Service Agency's Farm Loan Program. When these various groups are being formed, it is a common practice for the National Office to reach out to the NACS board to recruit volunteers from NACS membership!

UNDER SECRETARY BILL NORTHEY SCHEDULED TO ATTEND 2018 NACS CONVENTION

Mark your calendar and make your travel plans! Among other notable FSA, FPAC and NFAOC National Office employees, Under Secretary Bill Northey has committed to attend the 2018 NACS/NASE/NADD convention, which will be held at the historic Menger Hotel in beautiful San Antonio, Texas!

If you have been looking for the opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with FSA/FPAC & NFAOC decision-makers, this is your chance. Not only will you be able to hear what Agency leaders have to say, you will be afforded the rare opportunity to take the floor in Question/Answer sessions to let your voice be heard!

The last day for regular-priced registration (\$115 registration fee) is June 8. After June 8, a late fee of \$15 will be assessed. If you are local, and would like to attend daily, there is a \$25/day registration available.

CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR 2018-2019 NACS BOARD BY KRIS WILCOX, ZONE B REP.

We are currently in desperate need of members to step up and become more active within the association! All members are encouraged to step up and get more involved in NACS.

Not all positions require significant time commitments or travel. Committee members and chairs serve on committees, review resolutions, present resolutions to the national office, and provide feedback to the national office regarding the resolutions. If you have served on a committee before, please consider being a committee chair.

There are different levels of involvement. NACS is also in need of active members who are willing to run for a board position. We will need a new Zone B representative next year, and there will also be Executive board positions open. Remember, a little friendly competition is a good thing!

Getting more involved in NACS is an excellent way to meet coworkers across the country, meet and build relationships with National Office leadership, and serve on task forces.

To attend the 2018 NACS/NASE/NADD Annual Convention in San Antonio, use the following link to register on-line (registration payment available through PayPal):

https://nacfsa.weebly.com/convention_pay.html

If you prefer to mail your registration, please print the registration form found at the following link:

https://nacfsa.weebly.com/uploads/1/5/4/2/15425262/2018_registration.pdf

and mail with payment, as instructed. Please note, forms must be postmarked by June 8, 2018 to avoid \$15 Late Fee.

The final day to book a room was May 24, 2018, but **DO NOT** allow this date to prevent you from attending! There may be rooms still available, and there are people willing to room share! Contact Maureen Mausbach for information on reserving/sharing a room!



204 Alamo Plaza • San Antonio, TX 78205 • 210-223-4361 • www.mengerhotel.com

Rooms: Hotel Features two styles of rooms - Historic and Non-Historic. To specify a room style, book by phone, mentioning the group code. Be aware that the "Historic" rooms have one step up to access the bathroom. Rate will be honored 3 days before and after Convention, but extended stays will need to be booked by phone

• Full-service restaurant, bar and room service • FREE wireless Internet • Poolside fitness center • Large heated pool • Full-service spa • Complete business center • Excellent location in Downtown San Antonio, right next door to the Alamo and entrance to RiverCenter Mall, gateway to the Riverwalk • Visitor center in the hotel

Airport & Transportation

Hotel is an approximate 15-20 minute drive from San Antonio International Airport, depending on traffic. Travel to the hotel via Uber, Lyft, taxi or Super Shuttle San Antonio

Use the *Map Your Way to the Menger* tool on the hotel website for further directions:
<https://www.mengerhotel.com/explore-san-antonio/plan-your-trip>

Shuttle Service

Super Shuttle San Antonio is a great way to get to Menger Hotel as well as around the town of San Antonio. You can book through phone, online or mobile app. Call 1-800-BLUEVAN (1-800-258-3826) or visit www.supershuttle.com. Reservations are required and services are provided 24/7.

Hospitality Open in the evening Sunday—Wednesday

Monday Night—Group outing - GO RIO's San Antonio Riverwalk boat tour connects you to the city's timeless charm! Enthusiastic, knowledgeable boat captains will share fascinating stories about the city's culture, history and architecture during your 35-minute tour along the San Antonio River. Afterwards, the group will be dropped off at Casa Rio - the oldest restaurant on the Riverwalk - for San Antonio- style Mexican food buffet and drinks (including tequila!) The RD associations will join us at Casa Rio!

Banquet will be held on Wednesday. Meal will be buffet-style and cash bar will be open. A reception will be held in the Hospitality room after.

Breakfast will be on your own with options available on-site

Lunch will be included on Tuesday - but will be on your own on Monday and Wednesday - there are numerous restaurants within a short walking distance or at the food court in the Mall

For more information, contact:

Maureen Mausbach: (402) 954-3114; Maureen.Mausbach@ne.usda.gov

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VISIT



SAN ANTONIO

Area Attractions

- Riverwalk
- River cruises
- The Alamo
- Museo Alameda (Market Square)
- Tower of the Americas
- Buckhorn Museum
- San Antonio Convention Center
- RiverCenter Mall
- San Antonio Children's Museum
- Magik Children's Theatre
- Institute of Texan Cultures
- Majestic Theatre
- San Antonio Zoo
- San Antonio Botanical Garden
- Pearl Brewery
- San Antonio Missions
- San Antonio Museum of Art
- Six Flags Fiesta Texas
- Market Square (El Mercado)
- Sea World San Antonio
- Championship Gol

