



NORTHEAST REGION REPORT
“Connecting District Employees Together”

January 2019

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Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
Bath, New York

Approximately 1,278 District Employees in Region
5 States with organized Employee Committees

5 States with organized Employee Associations

Officers

President Jeff Parker (NY)
Secretary Alisa Bentley (DE)
Past President Tim Thomas (NJ)

Vice President Sandy Thompson (PA)
Treasurer Ines Zimmerman (NJ)

Purpose

NACDE was officially created in 1988. Its mission is to strengthen and promote the professional development of conservation district employees; provide assistance and information to conservation districts, their governing boards and employees; strengthen the conservation district programs of the northeast and assist any agency, association, organization, municipality, group or individual who supports the conservation districts of the northeast with sound conservation practices and proper land use.

Annual Meeting

The 2018 NACDE Regional meeting will be held on July 15-18 at the Double Tree Resort by Hilton Hotel in Lancaster, PA. The registration link has been forward to all Northeast states then unto their respective Conservation Districts. To the start the regional conference off, NACDE will host a tour at the Longwood Gardens which is one of the world’s premier horticultural display gardens – offering over 11,000 variety of plants from indoor to outdoor on more than 1,000 acres. Monday sessions will include NRCS RCPP; Leadership Development in PA & Beyond; Invasive Species to breakout session of Stormwater Management, PA Gravel & Dirt & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program; Stroud Water Research Center and Conservation and Soil Health in Agricultural. Tuesday will be tours on the breakout session from Monday - Stormwater Management, PA Gravel & Dirt & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program; Stroud Water Research Center.

Capacity Building Pilot project is in a little bit of a holding pattern at the moment. The committee has formed several action teams in Tarrytown to continue to work on projects. However, there has been limited follow-up since then. Eric Hansen, NACD Northeast Region Representative, will be having a conversation with NRCS about this and where we are going from here. A final report entitled *“Unleashing the Power of Conservation Partnership”* was issued and distributed within the region last year of the outcome. Within the report there are eight (8) action plans were identified with goal and timeframe. The eight (8) Action Plan are: Recruitment of Board Supervisor; Effective Board with Strategic Representation; Multi-Level Communications & Collaboration; National Conservation Partnership Day/Week; Northeast Regional Conservation Partnership Website; Training; Empowering the Passion of Conservation Leader; High Functioning Board; and Branding the Northeast Conservation Partnership.

The 2019 NACDE Regional Conference will be held in Connecticut. Denise Savageau, Connecticut Rep/Northeast Chair, will be announcing the location and date at the Northeast Directors meeting this week. A save the date flyer will be sent out to the region on this upcoming Regional Conference.

Fundraising Activities

The primary fundraising activity for NACDE continues to be the sightseeing tour held at the Northeast Regional meeting. NYCDEA is willing to include items provided by the states within the northeast in their silent auction/bucket raffle to help raise funds for NACDE; however, NACDE hasn't taken advantage of this opportunity.

Individual state employee associations have also done various fundraising activities for their state associations. These include:

- Silent Auction/Bucket Raffle (NY)
- Various Training Events (NY)
- Golf Tournaments (NY and DE)

There are other various fundraising activities going on within the region for Envirothon competition locally as well as the State competition. Some of this fundraising includes but limited to Barn Dance (DE); Dominion Gas Transmission (NY); as well other organizations who supports this environmental hands-on education program.

Training and Professional Development Programs

Most states work closely with USDA-NRCS on training and professional development programs available to Conservation District employees or offered through state conservation partners through NASCA.

The New York Employees' Association will hold its annual Water Quality Symposium in early March. This multi-day training includes multiple sessions for managerial, technical and administrative. They sponsor Conservation Skill Workshop which are multi-day event as well for new employees and technical development.

Workshops and training events are held within their respective state/county.

NACDE has developed a travel stipend policy to assist individuals within the northeast region who wish to attend the northeast meeting to help offset travel expense. NACDE encourages other states within the region to attend the Northeast Regional meeting and to apply for the stipend.

Communications

NACDE publishes a periodic newsletter entitled "The Nor'Easter".

NACDE maintains a website located at www.ne.ncdea.org; however, this needs to be updated.

NACDE secretary maintains an email database for communications with state directors, officers, conservation partners, and state employee association/committee presidents. Sharing of information/event/training opportunities is sent through NACDE secretary via the email database.

Three states in the Northeast region have employee association websites:

- New Hampshire at <http://nh.ncdea.org>.
- New Jersey at www.njscdea.ncdea.org
- New York at www.nyscdea.com

Three states have reported to publishing a newsletter: Delaware, New Jersey, and New York.

Awards Program

The NACDE Conservation Awards Program guidelines have been distributed to state delegates for distribution in their individual states. The awards program includes an Employee Award and a District Official award for regional impacts and an employee award for impacts at the local level.

Publication

NACDE has updated their brochure.

NACDE website needs updating and will check with Ines Zimmerman, Freehold Conservation District, on an status update since the webmaster works out of her office now.

States in the Region

Connecticut	Maine	New Hampshire	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Delaware	Maryland	New Jersey	Rhode Island	
District of Columbia	Massachusetts	New York	Vermont	