

What's Up WyASFAA?

Wyoming Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Passing the Tomahawk

It is hard to believe that this is the last message I will write for the newsletter in the role of your WyASFAA president. This year has flown by and I continue to be amazed not only by our group but by our state.

The year as president would not have been possible without those around me on my board. Thank you to each of you for your help and support. This past year has been a great experience for me personally and professionally and I hope to encourage others more to consider running. If you are even remotely interested in getting involved with the state or our region, becoming the state president is a great way to get your toe wet! Remember, you don't have to be a voting member or director to be president!

For this past year, I had an idea of items I wanted to continue with from my predecessor, Susan and some others that I wanted to shoot for. While we were able to tackle some, there were others that simply didn't come to fruition. I still count this past year as a success in that we have a new mission statement and we are operating with a sound budget. This is in great part to our wonderful group that helped make these a reality.

I know I leave our state in good hands with Scott as your WyASFAA president for 2019. As I get ready to pass the tomahawk to him at our meeting this month I would just like to say "Welcome to the Neighborhood" (you'll get this reference when you read the reflection at the end of the newsletter).

To all, again, thank you. You have made this experience worthwhile and a highlight and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have led you.

~Shannon

Contest Announcement!!

You may remember that we talked about spring cleaning and sprucing up your workspace in last month's newsletter. This led to one of our members suggesting that we hold a friendly competition during the month of April to see who has the best decorated workspace/office. There are no hard fast rules to this competition and everyone is invited to participate. During the month of April you can choose to redecorate, rearrange, or just spruce up your workspace/office. Be sure to take before and after pictures because we want to see your creativity. We will vote on the best workspace/office during the conference at the end of the month. If you are not planning on attending the conference, you can still participate. You can submit your pictures to Shelby via e-mail or send them with your co-workers who will be attending the conference. The sky is the limit here so have fun with it! I can't wait to see all the different ideas that everyone comes up with!

April 2019

Volume 2, Issue 7

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Special points of interest:

- Passing the torch
- Getting to know Sean McGivney
- What do you Meme? Study Break
- Won't you be my neighbor?

Conference News

The annual conference is just around the corner and boy does the committee have some fun things planned! Festivities will kick off with the annual Hathaway meeting on Wednesday April 24th followed by a director's meeting. We will have a social gathering for dinner that night at 6pm at Racca's Pizza (the location of last year's banquet). Please let the committee know if you are planning on attending the social event when you register for the conference, this is not required and not covered by the registration fees. We will have several special guests joining us for the conference this year. RMAASFAA president Myra Pfannenstiel will be joining us for the conference, as well as presenting; we will meet our new Federal Trainer David Bartlett; Sandra Ennis from ED's OIG office will be returning; and for the first time in recent memory, we will have a vendor at our conference (see more below about Sean)! Thursday night, in keeping with the theme, we will have our banquet at a converted 1950's garage in Downtown Casper— The Yellowstone Garage. If you're interested in the type of fare served, you can browse the menu [here](#); the cost of your meal is included in your registration fees. Don't forget to bring your pictures of your workspace so everyone can vote on their favorite (see the article on page 1). Remember, we will be supporting SAFE Project in Laramie this year for our philanthropy project. Please check out the article on page 3 for more information as well as a list of suggested donations (we can't let CWC show us all up again this year!). Construction is finally complete on the Poplar Street bridge as well as I25 so getting to the Casper campus should be much easier for everyone this year. Please let the committee know if you have any questions.

Registration for the conference closes April 11, so if you haven't registered yet, you have a little more time to do so. We can't wait to see everyone in a few weeks!

Member Spotlight: Sean McGivney KHEAA

Position/Primary FA Duties:

Business Development Advisor for KHEAA. I market KHEAA products & services by contacting colleges & universities nationwide and representing KHEAA at financial aid conferences.

How long have you been in financial aid at your current institution? In total

This is my 4th year with KHEAA, my 27th (!) year in financial aid. I spent over 20 years working in Financial Aid Offices at 3 different state Universities in Vermont, Tennessee, and Colorado.

How did you get into financial aid?

By accident, like most of us, but mostly at my mother's urging to get a "real job".

What is your favorite/least favorite thing about your job?

Favorite is getting to know people from all over. I like meeting people out of the office at conferences where they can be themselves a little bit more, but visiting campuses is also fun. The least favorite thing is travel/shipping misadventures, like a misplaced package, or getting lost myself.

What are your hobbies, talents and/or quirks?

I like to run & work out, and play & watch sports. I had a really healthy 2018, including running several personal bests at various distances, and I changed what I eat pretty drastically. I will travel just about anywhere, and have just 3 more states to check off all 50! I like to watch movies, listen to all sorts of music, and most of all spend time with my family doing just about anything. I have absolutely no talent and far too many quirks to name (we'll run out of font).

What was a favorite thing you had as a kid that isn't around anymore?

What TV channel doesn't exist but should?

2 questions, same answer: MTV. The original Music Television network that plays music videos 24/7.

What is something you like to do "the old-fashioned way" and why?

I really like to use paper maps to travel, and follow signs to get somewhere. I find that if you rely on technology exclusively, you can really get lost, in more ways than one.

Editor's Note: We are excited to have Sean join us at our conference this year as a vendor and welcome him to the upcoming board as an Affiliate Member!



Upcoming Dates

Registration for RMAFSA's Summer Institute is now open! This year you will be taken on a magical adventure in the Wizarding World of Financial Aid. Be sure to pack your trunk, grab your wand, and get to Platform 9 3/4 on time so you are ready to learn June 2-7 in Colorado Springs.

More information can be found on the RMAFSA.org website.

Which house will the sorting hat put you in??

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Applications for RMAFSA's Leadership Pipeline are due by June 30, 2019 in order to be considered for the class of 2020. Materials can be found [here](#). If you've ever wanted to get more involved either at the state or regional level, this is a great way to get your feet wet and start the process. The connections and networking you get during your year in the program are invaluable.

If you know of any upcoming dates that we need to be aware of, please submit them to Shelby or Anna.

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## Philanthropy- SAFE Project

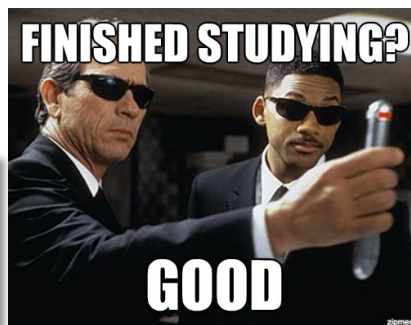
Did you know that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will be victims of severe violence by intimate partners in their lifetimes? Statistics also show that domestic violence is the 3rd leading cause of homelessness among families and 98% of domestic violence cases include a form of financial abuse with the abuser controlling finances so that the victim can't afford to break free. For many, leaving this situation and starting over may feel impossible. SAFE Project in Laramie is there to provide free and confidential resources to clients and children and provide a number of services to those in the community who may find themselves in the aforementioned situations. This year, the conference committee chose SAFE Project as the recipient for our philanthropy project. We have reached out to the director asking for a list of items they would like to have donated and were asked for cleaning products and gift cards. If you plan on donating gift cards, they have requested that they be from the following places only: Walmart, Safeway, Shell, or VISA. You can also visit their website for additional wish list items.

It was amazing to see everyone pull together last year with their donations to Seton House in Casper, let's show the same level of support for another worthwhile organization in our state. If you have questions about SAFE Project, you can visit their website at [www.safeproject.org](http://www.safeproject.org)

## What Do You Meme?

We're on the home stretch of the spring semester, can anyone relate to these?

As a student, the term 'April showers' is actually the tears you cry while desperately trying to raise your grades



**Bonus Meme from Scott:**

FAFSA: We already gave you \$5500! How many more grants do you need?

Me:





Shannon Eskam- President  
Scott McFarland- President-Elect  
Susan Stephenson- Past President  
Shelby Garner- Secretary  
Brenda Haseman- Treasurer

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WyASFAA (Wyoming Association of Financial Aid Administrators) strives to establish meaningful connections among financial aid staff, high school counselors, and affiliated groups, to increase knowledge about the financial aid programs available to our students. WyASFAA encourages member professional development through training, leadership, advocacy, and education.

## Final Thoughts

Recently I was looking for something new to watch and happened upon the documentary “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” about Mr. Rogers. I grew up watching *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* as a child and watching the documentary brought back fond memories of simpler times. It also opened my eyes to what an absolute treasure Fred Rogers was. Here was someone whose mission in life was to make sure that children had a positive role model on television. He took the time to listen to what children had to say, and more than that, he took an actual interest in what they were saying. He was willing to tackle tough issues that most grown-ups wouldn’t imagine discussing with children because he believed that children were just as important as anyone else. He tried to make the world a less scary place to be. Since watching the documentary, I started thinking about how we could incorporate a little bit of Mr. Rogers into our daily lives—more specifically, how can we make our campus “neighborhoods” more welcoming? How do we make our students feel like each of them is more than just their student ID or Social Security Number? Are we actively listening to what they have to say without allowing outside distractions to pull our focus from them? For many of our students, this is their first time away from home—strangers in a strange land; how do we make the world they are entering less scary? Most importantly, how do we let our students know that they are equally as important as anyone else we may have contact with that day? There is no easy answer to any of these questions, and each person’s answer is going to vary. All I know is that we have a unique opportunity in our offices to be like Mr. Rogers and say to our students “Won’t you please? Won’t you please? Please won’t you be my neighbor?”

