



# KASCOE e-News

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President's Monthly e-News

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## 2012 Award and Scholarship Deadlines

**February 1st:** Deadline for Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) nominations to be turned in to the state Awards Chair. This is your opportunity to say thank you and good job to your fellow co-workers. DSA's come in three categories; 1) Service to NASCOE, 2) Service to FSA-Agriculture, and 3) Service to Community. Nomination forms are on the NASCOE web page under the Awards Tab. Nominations should be brief and factual. Please nominate someone today!

**Ongoing:** Deadline for Sick Leave Awards for members who accumulate 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, or 3,000 hours of sick leave. Leave awards should be submitted to Rachel Roberts in Osage County. This is the only way she will know to order them, there are no reports available to tell her when to order them. There are lots of other awards available. Please check out the NASCOE awards page!

**February 20th:** Deadline to submit Scholarship Award applications to the State Scholarship Chairperson. *Special Note: The scholarship applicant will need to only file one application when applying for the \$1500, \$500, \$300 & \$200 scholarships.*

KASCOE and NASCOE South West Area (SWA) Scholarships Available to KASCOE Members and their Children					
	\$1500 College Scholarship	\$500 College Scholarship	\$300 College Scholarship	\$200 College Scholarship	\$200 Adult Continuing Education
KASCOE Scholarships		Yes	Yes	Yes	
NASCOE SWA Scholarships	Yes				Yes

You can find more information about all of the NASCOE Awards at the following link : <http://nascoe.org/>. Questions about the awards or award submissions may be directed to:

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Questions/Comments?  
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## White House to Propose Pay Increase for Feds

*Article taken from Government Executive— January 6, 2012*

Federal employee groups had mixed reactions to the news Friday that President Obama will propose a pay increase for federal employees in his fiscal 2013 budget.

Advocates for federal workers were pleased with the news, [first reported](#) by *The Washington Post*, that the Obama administration is [backing a 0.5 percent pay boost](#) for civilian employees next year. Even so, some said they had hoped for a more generous pay raise in light of the current two-year federal salary freeze that began in January 2011.

A [1.6 percent pay raise](#) for military service members recently went into effect, and recipients of [Social Security](#) benefits received a [3.6 percent cost-of-living allowance](#) this year.

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers President Gregory Junemann praised Obama for ending the two-year federal pay freeze. "Even though the deficit and economic turmoil our nation continues to face is not the fault of federal workers, they have patriotically stepped up to the plate by accepting the two-year pay freeze, which, at the end of the day, resulted in \$60 billion in savings to the federal budget over 10 years," Junemann said.

An Office of Management and Budget official confirmed the accuracy of the *Post* report, but would not offer any more details on a proposed pay raise.

At least one lawmaker was less enthusiastic about the news. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Fla., called Obama's reported decision to lift the federal pay freeze "pure politics" leading up to the 2012 election season. "Federal employees are paid better, receive better benefits and enjoy unparalleled job security, compared to their private sector counterparts," Ross said. "The day after he weakens our national defense, he gives government unions a raise. Astounding." Ross is the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, [Postal Service](#) and Labor Policy.

It's unclear whether Congress will support an end to the two-year federal pay freeze regardless of Obama's proposal. Many congressional Republicans share Ross' view that federal employees receive generous compensation packages and should contribute more to deficit reduction. In December 2011, the House passed a bill that would have extended the current payroll tax cut for a year and partly financed it through a longer [salary freeze](#) for federal employees and lawmakers, along with a requirement that both groups contribute more to their government pensions. The Senate's version of the legislation did not include those spending offsets. At that time, Congress opted only to extend the payroll tax cut for two months without including any measures that would affect federal workers.

But House and Senate conferees the week of Jan. 16 will begin hammering out the details of extending the payroll tax holiday for a year. A prolonged federal pay freeze or other provisions to reduce government workers' pay and benefits could very well end up in a final deal to finance the yearlong payroll tax cut extension. One encouraging sign for feds: Rep. Chris Van Hollen and Sen. Ben Cardin, both Maryland Democrats, are conferees on the payroll tax cut extension discussion. The lawmakers represent many federal employees and are strong supporters of government workers.