The NASBE story began in 1958, when eight state board of education members from around the country met on the evening of April 18 at the Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach during the annual convention of the National School Boards Association (NSBA). These NASBE founders felt that since the role of the state board is considerably different from that of local boards, it would be beneficial to form a separate organization just for state board members. During those early years, they called the organization the Associated State Boards of Education.

At first the group met annually in conjunction with NSBA meetings, but NASBE began meeting as a separate entity in the early 1960s. Despite minimal dues and no paid staff, the fledgling organization began to flourish through the extraordinary efforts of a few dedicated individuals. The first official headquarters was in Denver and the only staffer worked half-time for NASBE and half-time for the Colorado Department of Education.

In 1979 the Association moved to the Hall of States in Washington, DC, and a few years after that across the river to Alexandria, Virginia, where it remains. With a staff of 20 and a budget over $3 million, NASBE is able to provide targeted analysis of today’s complex education issues to state and territorial boards of education. Member states remain committed to activities that promote excellence in the education of all students; strengthen state leadership in education policymaking; and help assure responsible public governance of public education.
NASBE’s First Presidents
1959 – 1961

Anna Petteys – Colorado
Charles Rochelle – Indiana

NASBE Planning Committee - 1958
(Group meeting at National School Boards Association conferences to plan an organization just for state board members)

Steven Brogoitti (chair) -- Oregon
Charles Rochelle – Indiana
Robert Manchester – Ohio
Francis Smith – Oregon
Stuart McLaughlin – Colorado
Mrs. Henry Kramer – Minnesota
George Whitman -- Georgia

Anna Petteys was the first woman to be elected to the Colorado Board of Education. She chaired the board three times, advocating schools for migrant children and those needing special education. In 1950, she was appointed to the U.S. Committee on Education for Migrant Children and later to the Committee for Special Education. She was appointed to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Speakers’ Bureau. In these capacities she visited and spoke to women’s groups on six continents, urging women everywhere to assume leadership and to promote education in their countries. Her message across the world was that education and freedom are intertwined.

Dr. Charles E. Rochelle, who graduated in 1917 from Indiana State Normal School, was the first African American to receive the doctor of education degree from the University of California at Berkley in 1942. Dr. Rochelle was dedicated to education and service to community, state, and nation, and served as secretary-treasurer of the Commission on General Education, Indiana State Board of Education. He was for many years a principal at Lincoln High School in Evansville, Indiana.
Group of NASBE Officers Plan an Early Annual Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLANS COMPLETE
St. Paul, Minnesota, April 20th to 23rd

Here is the hard-working group which met in Chicago on December 2nd to formulate plans for the N.A.S.B.E. Annual Conference. Starting with our President, Francis L. Smith of Portland, Oregon, at the right side of the picture and proceeding clockwise, they are: President Elect Bernice S. Frieder, Colorado; Director at Large C. W. Antes, Iowa; Central Area Vice President Emil A. Koch, Iowa; Host Committee Chairman Dr. C. F. McGillic, Minnesota; Secretary-Treasurer Frederic G. Comstock, New Mexico; Vice President Mrs. Will Miller, Texas; and Chairman of the Board Edward L. Jennings, Tennessee.

YOUR INVITATION TO ST. PAUL

We welcome you to the North Star State of Minnesota and its capital, St. Paul, for the annual National Association of State Boards of Education convention. This promises to be a full and exciting meeting with much increased emphasis being placed on State board members. We can assure you good accommodations and an educational program worthy of your attendance. Advance registration and promotional literature should be of assistance in encouraging your attendance.

Please return registration card at your earliest possible convenience so we may better plan the details of your anticipated stay.
NASBE President Bernice Frieder (1966-67) Meets with President Johnson

According to a later NASBE president, “No person has done more to put the NASBE kite in the air than Bernice Frieder. As a member of the Colorado State Board, she went to her superintendent and requested a place for this Association. State board staff cleaned out a broom closet somewhere in the state office building and said, ‘Here it is.’ Bernice moved in and declared it to be the national headquarters of the Associated State Boards of Education.”
NASBE President Richard Bye meets with Richard Nixon. Mr. Bye (MN), is second from right. In those days, the “Big Six” education groups included NASBE, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the NEA, the National School Boards Association, the National PTA, and the American Assn. of School Administrators.
“Roots” Author Keynotes NASBE Annual Conference in 1977

Other conference topics included workshops on urban education, economic and consumer education, gifted and talented education, “How to Hear What Your Public Is Saying,” and development of a national policy on children and youth.
Left. Mr. Rogers and Bob Keeshan (Captain Kangaroo) television – shown here with past NASBE President Emil Koehn (SD) – met with state board members as part of Annual Conference sessions on educational. In addition to his television work for children, Keeshan spent five years on the West Islip, NY Board of Education. Right. Fred Rogers with NASBE President Emlyn Griffith (NY).
Ubiquitous Flip Chart Action at NASBE Conferences from the 1970s (left) and 1980s (right).

Note: Presenter on the right is then-NASBE staffer and current president of Achieve, Mike Cohen.
Mondale speaks to state board members, chiefs

Joint legislative conference
a big success

Over 100 chairpersons and members of state boards of education, and chief state school officers or their designees convened in Washington, D.C. for an historic legislative conference jointly sponsored by NASBE and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Participants were honored by a visit from Vice President Walter F. Mondale, who delivered a major address to the group on “The Carter Administration’s View of Education.” Mondale’s arrival at the conference site, Washington’s International Inn, was eagerly anticipated and his speech received an enthusiastic response from the state level educators (please see p. 3).

The February 24-28 conference was the first in what is hoped will be an annual meeting of state board members and chief state school officers, who joined

NASBE’s first Legislative Conference (held jointly with the Council of Chief State School Officers) featured a “major address” from Vice President Mondale (top that, Dave Griffith!).

Vice President Walter F. Mondale taking the podium following introduction by NASBE President Adrienne Bailey, to his left, and enjoying the enthusiastic applause of participants, foreground, and CCSSO President Craig Phillips, right.
President Reagan Meets with Education Leaders (1983)
To Mr. Reagan’s right is NASBE President Jolly Ann Davidson (IA) and NASBE Executive Director Phyllis Blaunstein.
“Passing the Gavel” to the next NASBE leader has long been a President’s Banquet tradition. Here, Joanne Goldsmith (MD) Passes the Gavel to Incoming NASBE President Jolly Ann Davidson (IA) at the 1983 Annual Conference.
New NASBE Director of Governmental Affairs
Brenda Welburn, in her office in 1984

According to NASBE’s newsletter at the time, “Brenda will join us March 19 – just in time for the NASBE/CCSSO Legislative Conference. Brenda has been legislative assistant to Senator Paul Tsongas since January 1981. She has also worked on Capitol Hill as a research analyst for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, as a research consultant for James H. Lowry & Associates, and as a social worker for the Women’s Christian Alliance. We’re happy to have her with us!”
Education Secretary William Bennett’s Remarks Highlight NASBE’s 1985 Legislative Conference

Other speakers that year included Congressmen Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Jim Jeffords (R-VT) and Governor Michael Castle (R-DE).

“Reactions to the costs involved are leading us to the beginning of the half-life of education reform at the state level,” said Castle. “The perception is that we have done enough for education, and governors and legislators are unwilling to pay any more until we see results.”
As always, NASBE looks to the future to discuss cutting-edge issues.

What Will the World Be Like in 2000?

Some members of the graduating class of 2000 are already enrolled in pre-school programs. The year 2000 is not in the distant future. How will this graduating class differ from those now graduating? What will the teaching force be like? What knowledge will we have about teaching and learning? What will be the role of federal, state and local governments at that time?

Outstanding speakers and state board of education members from across the country will share their views on these educational issues at NASBE’s Annual Meeting, “Scenario 2000,” October 16-18 in Baltimore.

Ernest Boyer, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teachers, will speak to us about the school’s curriculum and instructional modes in the 21st century. Dr. Boyer is a former U.S. Commissioner of Education and noted author on education issues.

We will explore the school of the future and the potential impact of technology on it. What if every child had access to a database as large as the Library of Congress? Already systems have been designed to allow students to inexpensively access computerized “textbooks” and other learning aids through electronic transmissions.

See Scenario 2000, page 8
Former Carter Press Secretary Jody Powell headlines dinner meeting at NASBE’s first New State Board Member Institute, held in 1987.
Helping Youth Say No Debuts on Today Show

Former NASBE President Jolly Ann Davidson appeared on the NBC Today Show April 10, introducing “Helping Youth Say No” the latest publication in the Helping Youth Decide project. Interviewed by host Jane Pauley, Ms. Davidson commented on the need for better communication between parents and teen-agers. “It’s never too late to start,” she noted in the telecast which reaches both national and international audiences.

NASBE’s publications division is off to a good start, with a sales force in the field contacting local and state level educators with information on the K-9 drug education curriculum, Discover: Skills For Life. The books, which will soon be available, have already sparked interest within the National Association of Elementary School Principals. A recent survey by that organization revealed that 89% of the elementary school principals polled felt drug education should begin as early as third grade. Other organizations that have shown interest in commenting on or reviewing the series include the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Senator Rockefeller, Secretary Brock, Address Legislative Conference on “Competitiveness”
Kansas Board member and future NASBE President Connie Hubbell testifies on behalf of NASBE before the Republican National Platform Committee on “education issues for the next President” and before Congress on AIDS education.
In 1988, President Dick Owens (GA), shown with Board member Karen Goodenow (IA), presided over the official opening of the NASBE headquarters building at 1012 Cameron Street in Alexandria.
NASBE Past Presidents gather at 1988 Annual Conference in Chicago. Front row: Jolly Ann Davidson (IA), Rosemary Clark (NV), Carl Pforzheimer, Jr. (NY), Verla Krotz (CA), Joanne Goldsmith (MD), Emlyn Griffith (NY). Back row: Grant Anderson (WA), Wayne Shaffer (OH), Emil Koehn (SD), Francis Smith (OR), Clifford Freeman (OR), Robert McBride (DE), Henry Pogue (KY).
Gene Wilhoit, NASBE Executive Director, joined a group of education organization leaders who met in June with Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos and his newly named Under Secretary Ted Sanders. The occasion afforded the Secretary the opportunity to discuss the Administration’s education priorities and review it in light of the education agenda of the various leadership groups.
NASBE President Roseann Bentley (MO) meets with President George H.W. Bush prior to the historic 1989 National Education Summit, at which the nation’s education goals for the year 2000 were developed.
Bill Clinton speaking at the release of NASBE’s landmark early childhood report, Caring Communities, in December 1991. He is flanked by NASBE President Pat Hamner (WV) and Executive Director Gene Wilhoit.
NASBE honors Senate’s “Friends of Education”

Above left: Senator Nancy Kassebaum, flanked by Kansas Board members Kevin Gilmore and Kathleen White. Above right: Senator Clabourne Pell with Rhode Island Board member Patricia Houlihan.
NASBE leaders have met with every Secretary of Education from Shirley Hufstedler to Margaret Spellings – often multiple times.

Secretary Alexander with NASBE President Walter Esdaile (CT) in 1990.

Secretary Riley with Oregon Board members Susan Massey and Judy Stiegler (1998)

Secretary Paige with NASBE President Alma Allen (TX) in 2003.

Secretary Spellings with NASBE President Brad Bryant (GA) in 2007.
NASBE Publications through the years have been recognized for their balanced, concise, useful – and frequently groundbreaking – presentation of education issues for state policymakers.
2008 Distinguished Service Award Winner
Kim Burningham (Utah)

At top, as a new member taking part in the New State Board Member Institute. At bottom, as NASBE President discussing NCLB with Secretary Spelling’s chief of staff.
2008 Distinguished Service Award Winner Kathleen Straus (Michigan).

Top right: Reporting out at a NASBE conference. Bottom right: With Michigan Congressman John Conyers (center) and NASBE President Rene Nunez. Below: With Superintendent Rudy Crew after a NASBE session.
2008 Distinguished Service Award Winner Tom Davis (Missouri)