

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – December 21, 2016

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Ed Bellomo, Ken Forman, Gene Goldwasser, Pat Galaskas, Corine Lipset-Huberman, David Long, Marty Mandelker, Stu Mortman, Stan Opas, George Pincus, Ned Price, Joe Quinn, and John Wallace

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the September 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Moved by Ed Bellomo, seconded by Joe Quinn. Passed unanimously..

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Account balances were reported as follows:

Share checking - \$5,709.06

Savings - \$3.20

Money Market - \$1,101.66

Certificate of Deposit - \$4,684.27

Total = \$11,798.19.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Ned Price, seconded by Corine Lipset-Huberman, and passed by acclamation.

Based on the recommendation of the Treasurer, Ken Forman moved that the "life membership" category be eliminated and that regular dues be set at \$25 with no special discounts. The motion was seconded by David Long and passed unanimously. The website will be adjusted to reflect these changes in membership dues and categories.

The traditional holiday gift of \$100 for Demetria was approved.

Member Benefits has added VSP Vision Care, a national not-for-profit vision care company. Members can register online at vsp.com and check the website for participating doctors (or call 877-759-5758). Then simply tell the doctor's office that you have VSP (no ID card is needed).

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Education: Ned Price indicated that educational innovations will most likely emerge at the state (rather than the national) level and that our attentions should probably also be focused at that level. A new NYS Chancellor .and a new Board of Regents leader who is an educator are potentially positive changes. Concerns were expressed about Betsy de Vos, the new federal Secretary of Education, given her past enthusiasm for charter schools and religious affiliations.

- 4.2 Legislation** –Stu shared the shock many experienced at federal election results. It was suggested that greater attention to vocational education might be an appropriate response to voters’ concerns about the economy and jobs At the federal level support for the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) in its fights to protect social security and Medicare was emphasized. At the state level fighting to prevent a Constitutional Convention is critical. Attention to voting laws was also suggested to ease registration and avoid suppression of voters.
- 4.3 Membership:** John Wallace reported a total of 283 paid members. The 92 who had not paid were sent second notices. The January newsletter will include membership renewal forms with a pre-addressed return envelope. A January e-mail blast to remind members to renew will also be sent. Ways to remind members regarding why they should support NYSRSAS are a concern. **Member Directory:** We will probably update the Directory during the summer of 2017. Members will be reminded to update contact information when renewing their membership. It was agreed that a list format for the Directory would be sufficient. This may require fewer pages and reduce printing costs.
- 4.4 .Newsletter:** The deadline for material to be included in the next issue is January 6. We will target having the issue to the printer by January 18. The Quarterly Query will address opinions regarding changing (or discarding) the Electoral College.
- 4.5 Publicity:** The possibility of disbanding the committee was discussed.

5.0 Old Business

- 5.1 Election Results and NYSRAS endorsements** – At the state level, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the candidates we endorsed were elected. At the federal level, two of the five candidates we endorsed were elected. These outcomes will be published in the January newsletter
- 5.2 Value of the NYSRSAS endorsement process:** There was some discussion about how to improve the percentage of candidates’ .who respond to our endorsement survey if we decide to continue with a formal endorsement procedure in the future.

6.0 New Business

6.1 NYSRSAS Themes for 2016-17 –

- 6.1.1 Constitutional Convention:** Advocating for the rejection of the November 2017 ballot proposal to hold a NYS Constitutional Convention will be a major focus of our activities this year.
- 6.1.2 Focus Group:** It was agreed that a Focus Group meeting should be held on February 8 on the topic of strategies to defeat the November ballot proposition regarding convening a NYS Constitutional Convention. June Smith will be invited to participate.

6.1.3 NYSRSAS Elections: A nominating committee was formed. Corine Lipset-Huberman will act as Chair with Marty Mandelker and Ned Price serving as members of the committee. They will present a slate for the June election of officers at our April 19 meeting.

7.0 The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by George Pincus, seconded by Stu Mortman and passed by acclamation.

8.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas