

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – April 19, 2017

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

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

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the December 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed and accepted as corrected. Moved by Ed Bellomo, seconded by Corine Lipset-Huberman. Passed unanimously.

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

Share checking - \$7,905.92

Savings - \$3.20

Money Market - \$842.09

Certificate of Deposit - \$4,707.42

Total = \$13,458.36.

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

4.0 Announcements: LI Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans [LI-ARA] will meet Friday, April 28 in Hauppauge. Topics to be addressed include Medicare and Medicaid as well as the NYS Constitutional Convention referendum.

5.0 Correspondence:

Bernie Shulman's wife wrote to inform us that he passed away February 20, 2017. She sent a membership check and said she will continue support because she enjoys our newsletter.

Mort Horowitz wrote from Florida expressing concerns and suggesting a NYSRSAS chapter for members who live in southern Florida. Apparently we did have a Florida chapter in the past and Gene offered to assist in efforts to determine whether there is sufficient interest to re-establish one. Once a chapter is formed, it was suggested that meeting information be included in our newsletter. Establishing a Skype joint conference was also suggested.

Barry Kaufman, President of the NYS Alliance for Retired Americans sent our official charter of affiliation.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Education: Ned Price indicated that the Trump budget reduces funding for the Dep't of Education by 13% and noted that careful monitoring of the federal budget will be necessary. A DeVos favored program would allocate an increase of \$1.4 million for school choice. Also proposed: \$1 billion increase in Title 1 with funds following students to schools of their choice and an increase of \$169 million in grants for charter schools.

6.2 Legislation –Stu will maintain contact with June Smith and ARA and will assist in publicizing their efforts with respect to defeat of the Constitutional Convention referendum in November.

6.3 Membership:

6.3.1 Gene reported that when he was discussing joint action with CAS in connection with defeat of the Con Con proposition, some tentative exploration of possible coordination with CAS (which has 200 “Associate” members who continue their CAS membership to maintain insurance coverage, etc.) through which we might become the “retirement arm” of CAS which could potentially increase our membership. CAS Associate members pay CAS \$20, so there would be some conflict with our \$25 dues. Also, we would incur some additional costs (e.g. printing and mailing newsletters to more people). However, an automatic link would make transition for new retirees smoother. Concerns about governance and maintaining our independence were raised. We would not want to be subject to CAS restrictions. Perhaps a DUAL membership could be explored. In any event, we hope to send future letters to identify and invite new retirees to CAS Unit Presidents rather than to Superintendents of Schools. SANYS-CAS differences according to school district would require attention.

The consensus was to cooperate with CAS on Con Con efforts and to pursue the possibility of some kind of link with CAS retirees.

6.3.2 John Wallace reported a total of 182 paid members and 59 life members for a total of 241. A total of 131 individuals have not renewed their membership (some were new retirees who did not pay dues for 2016). Demetria noted that individual renewal letters seemed to prompt a better response rate than the inclusion of the membership renewal in our newsletter. A third mailing will go out in May to the 77 individuals who did pay 2016 but have not paid for 2017.

6.4 .Newsletter: The deadline for material to be included in the next issue is May 8. The primary focus for the next issue will be providing information on the Constitutional Convention proposition to appear on the November 2017 ballot for the general election. This issue will include information regarding our annual luncheon and will be distributed in mid-May. Additional responses to the Quarterly Query on the Electoral College were sought. Instead of a “query”

for the next issue, we will ask members to talk with others to inform them about the upcoming Con Con and its potential for negative impact on our pensions, etc.

6.5 Publicity: No report.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Member Directory: Ken Forman reported that it would cost \$350 to post a password protected version of our (updated) Membership Directory on our website. This could be updated periodically and cost far less than printing a new Directory. An e-mail would go out to all members explaining how to create a password to access the online Directory. Information on the number of people actually using the website will be sought and distributed to Board members. After further discussion Ken Forman moved that the Board authorize the creation of an online password-protected Membership Directory at an anticipated cost of \$350. The motion was seconded by Ned Price and passed unanimously.

7.2 NYSRSAS Election Committee: Corine thanked her committee members, Ned Price and Marty Mandelker and those who agreed to run for office. The proposed slate includes: President: Gene Goldwasser; 1st Vice-President: Joe Quinn, 2nd Vice-President: Pat Galaskas, Secretary: Ed Bellomo, and Treasurer: Ned Price. Jack Zamek has agreed to continue to coordinate our annual luncheons. Ken Forman moved that the slate be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by David Long and passed unanimously. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting on June 21. Committee chairs will be determined after the election.

7.3 Report on February 8 Focus Group: After a very productive discussion with June Smith, the group brainstormed approaches to inform and mobilize our membership to defeat the Con Con proposition.

7.4 June Luncheon Meeting: After discussion it was decided to hold the cost for those attending the luncheon to \$21 per person. Motion made by Pat Galaskas, seconded by David Long and passed unanimously.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Constitutional Convention

8.1.1 Skip Voornevald, CAS President, and Tony Laurino, Past President joined the meeting for a discussion of strategies for defeating the Con Con proposition and ways in which our two organizations might assist each other and coordinate efforts.

8.1.2 . Joint CAS-NYSRSAS efforts might include:

- targeted mailings,
- survey of members to determine where they stand (after send out some preliminary information),
- Twitter and/or Facebook feeds;

- targeted phone banks (possibly linking CAS and NYSRSAS databases); possibly partnering with local units that have robocall systems;
- e-mail blasts to members with links to U-Tube videos on the topic;
- developing TALKING POINTS and getting them to those potentially affected negatively by Con Con so they can use them with family, neighbors, etc.;
- identifying top supporters of Con Con and their motives;

8.1.3 .Specific NYSRSAS plans include:

- May newsletter to provide initial information re: Con Con and the inherent dangers;
- September newsletter with a hard-hitting VOTE **NO** message;
- finding resources for newspaper articles, ads, letters to the editor, etc.
- providing a facsimile of the actual November ballot so members will recognize the two constitution propositions (one to authorize a Constitutional Convention, the other to approve the legislature's proposed amendment to the Constitution require pension forfeiture for public officials who use their office for personal gain)—possibly in newsletter or sent as e-mail blast (or both).

9.0 The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bellomo, seconded by David Long and passed by acclamation.

10.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Plainview. Followed by the Annual Luncheon and Annual Meeting and Election of Officers beginning at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas