

## NYSRSAS Executive Board Meeting

June 21, 2017

Holiday Inn, Plainview, NY

**Present:** Ed Bellomo, Vince Deland, Diane Druckman, John Fogliano, Ken Forman, Pat Galaskas, Gene Goldwasser, Jeff Hollander, Corine Lipset-Huberman, Elliot Kigner, David Long, Marty Mandelker, Stu Mortman, Stan Opas, George Pincus, Ned Price, Joe Quinn, Francesca Ciolino-Volano, John Wallace, and Jack Zamek

1.0 **Welcome:** Gene Goldwasser, President

2.0 **Minutes:** Minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Moved by Stu Mortman and seconded by Stan Opas.

3.0 **Treasurer's Report:** Account balances as of June 12, 2017:

Regular savings- \$473.20

Checking: \$7,237.42

Money Market: \$876.50

Certificate of Deposit: \$4,707.42

Total=\$13,294.54

Approval of the Treasurer's Report was moved by George Pincus, seconded by David Long and passed unanimously.

4.0 **Announcements:**

Barry Kaufman, President of the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans will be guest speaker for the luncheon. Gene reported attending useful NYSARA meetings in April and May.

5.0 **Correspondence:**

Several e-mails were received via our website. However, there has been no further word from Mort Horowitz regarding organizing a Florida chapter for NYSRSAS.

6.0 **Committee Reports:**

6.1 **Education:** Ned Price noted that the NYS legislature's last scheduled meeting was to be today. As yet there has been no action taken regarding mayoral control of the New York City schools.

6.2 **Newsletter:** Deadline for newsletter submissions will be July 6 Responses are needed for the Quarterly Query on people's awareness of the forthcoming vote on to authorize a Constitutional Convention (ConCon) and their position on same. It was agreed that the next Quarterly Query will ask "should New York State adopt an early voting policy?"

**6.3 Membership:** John Wallace reported 200 paid members and 60 life members. The May mailing elicited one new life member and several regular membership payments.

**6.4 Publicity:** Gene requested new photos for our website. Groups “in action” are preferred rather than “head shots.”

**6.5 Political Action:** Stu Mortman reported that about 200 diverse groups are cooperating in opposition to the ConCon. These range from the Sierra Club to the NRA. It appears that most people still have no clue what the ConCon portends. This includes many who have a lot to lose. Members were advised to google ConCon for lots of information and Gene will forward Stu’s e-mail links for resources to all Executive Board members. Stud stressed the need to “spread the word” with family, friends and former colleagues. Ignorance is dangerous. Talking points will be developed.

## **7.0 Old Business**

**7.1 Member Directory:** Ken Forman noted that the online directory is in process and should be up in about a week. Plans call for an e-mail blast which will direct members to respond in order to create a password. They will use a “button” on our home page to request a password. Tom (our webmaster) will check individuals’ status and provide a single-use password for members which will permit access and allow them to create their own password for future use. Executive Board members were asked to start using the Directory and to e-mail Gene regarding how it worked for them. A notice about the advent of the online Member Directory will be included in the July newsletter.

**7.2 NYSRSAS Elections Committee:** As chair of the committee, Corine Lipset-Huberman will present the slate at our luncheon General Meeting and invite nominations from the floor. If there are none, she will ask the secretary to cast a single ballot for the slate as presented.

**7.3 Plans for Transition:** Elliott Kigner and Jack Zamek will become members-at-large as will Stan Opas and David Long. Francesca Ciolino-Volano will become Education Committee Chair. Stu Mortman’s title will change to Political Action (rather than Legislative Liaison). The Publicity Committee will become part of the function of the website with Ken Forman serving as liaison. A revised Executive Board contact list will be sent to all Board members and new letterhead will be printed to reflect changes.

**7.4 AFL-CIO Meeting Re: ConCon:** Gene and Ned Price were among the 300 or more in attendance. All were strongly opposed to the ConCon proposition. Union members from all areas (not just public employees) were represented. Preventing NYS from becoming a Right to Work state is a big concern for this group. Ryan Delgado of the AFL-CIO has been doing presentations all across the state to mobilize union members.

**7.5 June Luncheon Meeting:** Barry Kaufmann will bring the PowerPoint used at the NYSARA April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to share with our members this afternoon. It includes information on the Republican congress' proposals to repeal/replace Obamacare in addition to data on the ConCon.

## **8.0 New Business:**

### **8.1 Constitutional Convention Strategies:**

**8.1.1 Preparation of Fact Sheet/Talking Points** – Corine shared a preliminary draft of a Fact Sheet with Talking Points. She suggested the possibility of two versions - one for members and another modified for those who would not be inclined to support our positions. It was suggested that a list of other organizations supporting defeat of the ConCon proposition be included with the Fact Sheet. These include: the Sierra Club & the NRA, Planned Parenthood & Right to Life, Working Families & the Conservative Party. (The NYS Bar Association, the Long Island Association and the League of Women's Voters are in support of the ConCon.) The need for accuracy is critical (e.g. supporters, costs, etc.).

Coordination with CAS and perhaps also a link with SANYS will be explored.

Sharing with OLLI was suggested but in a version of the talking points with less emphasis on pensions and perhaps more stress on costs and alternative means to amend the Constitution.

The possibility of using social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) was suggested. Tom (webmaster) will be consulted for advice on this. It would be important to create accounts early enough to develop a following. There was concern about potential negative responses being posted that would undermine our message.

The position of newspapers needs to be determined. (Newsday seems to be "pro" ConCon.)

We also need to try to reach young people, especially those preparing for careers in public service and/or student teaching.

Gene suggested a need for a campaign coordinator. It was agreed that since the newsletter and the website will be key components Corine, Pat and Ken will assist with this.

Our primary goal: to mobilize our constituents with a vested interest to vote their best interests.

### **8.1.2 Timeline of Events** –

Mid-July NYSRSAS Newsletter – focusing on further information but including a Fact Sheet/Talking Points article in format that can be torn out for members to carry with them.

Late July or early August – e-mail blast that includes the Fact Sheet/Talking Points. (These would also be posted on our website in a format that could be printed out for members to carry or distribute.)

August 23 – small group meeting for further strategizing and action  
September – direct mailing to all members with insert POP to carry and share with others.

Early October NYSRSAS Newsletter - screaming “Vote NO” to be received by members by October 15. This would include information regarding the fact that there will be two propositions on the November ballot involving the NYS constitution (the ConCon and a vote on the amendment already proposed by the legislature to deny NYS pensions to those convicted of felonies related to abuse of office).

November (just before the elections) – phone bank

**8.2 2017-180 Executive Board meeting dates:**

Oct. 4, Dec. 6, 2017, April 11, June 20, 2018.

An additional small group meeting was scheduled for August 23 to address ConCon strategies for Sept.-Nov. All are welcome. Gene, Corine, Pat, Ken, Stu, Ned and Marty committed to attend.

**9.0 Adjournment:** at 12:00 noon. Moved by Ken Forman, seconded by Francesca Ciolino-Volano and passed by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas