

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board –September 10, 2020

Zoomville-Nassau/Suffolk, NY

Present: Sherry Alessandro, John Fogliano, Ken Forman, Pat Galaskas, Gene Goldwasser, Mel Haley, Corine Lipset-Huberman, Elliot Kigner, David Long, Ned Price, Lois Small, Marty Mandelker, Stewart Mortman, Joe Quinn, John Wallace, Seth Weitzman

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President-Gene welcomed everyone to the virtual Executive Board Meeting.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 2020 Executive Board Meeting were distributed online before this meeting. Gene asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. The motion to accept them was moved by Pat Galaskas and seconded by Stewart Mortman. It was approved unanimously.

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Ned presented the updated treasurer's report as of 9/1/20. It reflects a paid membership of 196 since January. Account balances as of 9/1/20 were reported as follows:

Checking - \$2,845.80

Savings - \$474.66

Money Market - \$877.42

Certificate of Deposit - \$4,920.80

Total = \$9,141.73

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Corine Lipset-Huberman and seconded by Sherry Alessandro. It carried unanimously.

4.0 Announcements: Gene announced that Ed Bellomo stepped away from the executive board due to personal issues. Gene indicated he hopefully will return in the future. As a result of Ed's departure, volunteers are needed to record minutes for the next few meetings. Mel Haley volunteered for the December meeting, Lois Small for March and Ned Price for June.

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5.0 Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

6.0 Committee Reports:

6.1 Education: Mel reported on the status of school reopening on Long Island. She indicated approximately 30% of families selected remote learning. Most schools are providing in-person opportunities every day for elementary children, High schools and middle schools are predominantly adopting hybrid models. Teachers report that they are prepared to go to remote learning if schools need to close.

6.2 Political Action: Stu noted that NY State provides early voting. There are several voting sites in both Nassau and Suffolk counties. Voters need to check the Board of Elections web sites for specific locations and times. Early voters may cast ballots at any site in the county of residence. Stu also indicated that support for unions is increasing. 65% of Americans support unions according to Gallop surveys.

6.3 Newsletter: The October newsletter will be mailed on 10/10/20. It will include Gene's comments on the importance of voting, a review of absentee and early voting requirements, and the organization's candidate endorsements. Corine will also submit an article regarding social security and Mel will prepare an overview of issues with school opening during the pandemic. All future newsletters will include a disclaimer indicating views expressed in articles do not reflect the position of the organization.

6.4 Membership: John reported that we have 196 paid, 53 life, 49 CAS members totaling 298.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Endorsement of Candidates US House of Representatives

The executive committee evaluated candidates for US House of Representatives based on their positions concerning the following issues. Medicare and Medicaid funding and benefits, Social Security funding and benefits, taxes including restoration of SALT deductions, gun preventing gun violence, institutional racism and police reform, and climate change and environmental concerns.

The executive committee agreed to endorse the following candidates.

District 1 – Nancy Goroff

District 2 – Jackie Gordon

District 3 – Tom Suozzi

District 4 – Kathleen Rice

District 5 – Gregory Meeks

7.2 Endorsement of Candidates NY State Senate

The executive committee evaluated candidates for the NY State Senate based on their positions regarding the following issues. Protecting state employees' pension funds, support of long-term care for senior citizens, funding public education during the pandemic crisis, educational reform issues, tuition costs for state colleges and universities, preventing gun violence in schools, institutional racism and police reform, climate change and environmental issues.

The executive committee reached consensus on endorsing the following candidates.

District 1 – Laura Ahern

District 2 – Michael Siderakis

District 3 - Monica Martinez

District 4 - Christine Pellegrino

District 5 -James Gaughran

District 6 - Kevin Thomas

District 7 - Anna Kaplan

District 8 - John Brooks
District 9 - Todd Kaminsky

7.3 Endorsement of Presidential Candidates

The executive committee unanimously endorsed Joe Biden for the office of President.

7.4 Publicizing Endorsements

Marty, our new publicity chair, recommended preparing a press release regarding the organization's endorsements and provided a list of local media contacts. He also proposed sending a formal letter to each candidate we endorsed. The group agreed to meet again on Monday 9/21 at 10am to review documents to be sent. Pat agreed to prepare drafts and others are encouraged to submit suggestions.

8.0 New Business

Time constraints prevented discussion of proposed future focus group meetings.

9.0 Next Executive Board Meeting: 12/10/20

10.0 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Price

