

NEW YORK STATE RETIRED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERVISORS

Executive Board Meeting – December 15, 2022

Members Present: Ken Forman, Pat Galaskas, Gene Goldwasser, Mary Louise Haley, Corine Lipset-Huberman, Elliot Kigner, Marvin Kreutzberger, David Long, Marty Mandelker, Stu Mortman, Ned Price, John Wallace, Seth Weitzman

- 1.0 Gene Goldwasser began the meeting at 10:05 AM
- 2.0 Minutes of the September 15, 2022, executive board meeting were reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept by Pat Galaskas, seconded by Corine Loipset-Huberman, passed unanimously.
- 3.0 Treasurer's Report was given by Ned Price. Balance in the checking account is \$3806.88. Total balance including CD is \$10,190.10. Motion to accept by Seth Weitzman, seconded by Ken Forman, passed unanimously.
- 4.0 No announcements
- 5.0 Correspondence: Letter from Gov. Kathy Hochul thanking NYSRSAS for our endorsement of her candidacy for governor. Thank you from Demetria for our sending a gourmet fruit basket to her in remembrance of her brother's passing. Corine arranged for the gift basket to be sent.
- 6.0 Committee Reports
 - 6.1 Education – Mel Haley. Mel reminded us that schools have returned to in-person learning. She discussed high levels of stress and depression students have exhibited and what schools are doing to address stress. She also addressed gaps in knowledge base, shortage of teachers and its impact on staffing, and the need for systemic changes providing access to mental health professionals. Lastly, Mel referred to political pressure teachers, school boards and administrators are facing regarding what is taught and how it's taught.
 - 6.2 Political Action – Stu Mortman. Stu discussed the accomplishments the Biden administration has achieved during the two years Biden has been in office. These include:
 - 6.2.1 Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act
 - 6.2.2 Improved health care for veterans
 - 6.2.3 Passage of the Bipartisan Safe Communities Act
 - 6.2.4 Improved image of the U.S. on the world stage
 - 6.2.5 Ended American participation in the war in Afghanistan
 - 6.2.6 Re-authorized and strengthened the Violence Against Women Act that the previous administration had allowed to expire
 - 6.2.7 Passed the American Rescue Plan which provided \$1.9 trillion to combat Covid and help the economy recover
 - 6.2.8 Job growth gains. Added 6.5 million jobs in 2021
 - 6.2.9 Covid 19 action. Largest free vaccine program in U.S. history
 - 6.2.10 Passed bipartisan Infrastructure Act
 - 6.2.11 Rejoined the Paris Climate Accord

- 6.2.12 Strengthened the Affordable Care Act which expanded health care to millions of Americans
- 6.2.13 Nominated and confirmed first black woman to SCOTUS, Additional judicial nominees were 80% women and 53% people of color
- 6.2.14 Strengthened the supply chain and brought jobs back to America through the Infrastructure Act
- 6.2.15 Passed the Respect for Marriage Act which recognized same sex and interracial marriages in all 50 states
- 6.3 Newsletter – Corine Lipset-Huberman. Corine described the January newsletter as “packed.” She asked exec board members to send in a one-liner responding to the September QQ, “How to encourage voting.” New QQ will be in January newsletter. Deadline for submission of articles is January 4, 2023
- 6.4 Membership – John Wallace. John reported we have 198 paid members, 50 lifetime and 64 unpaid (for 2022). Renewal letters will be going out to the membership in January.
- 6.5 Publicity – Marty Mandelker. Marty discussed responding to Mike Pompeo’s speech. Seth sent a link to a NY Times article.
- 7.0 Old Business
 - 7.1 Pat reminded us about sending Demetria a holiday gift. Ned made a motion that we send a \$200 check. Pat seconded. Passed unanimously. Ned will take care of obtaining a gift card and sending the gift.
 - 7.2 Election results. Our endorsements for governor and U.S. Senator won re-election. None of our endorsed candidates for Congress won and very few of our endorsed candidates for state senate won election. Corine will include details in the January newsletter.
- 8.0 New Business
 - 8.1 NYSRSAS Citizenship Awards
 - 8.1.1 The number of schools to be offered citizenship awards will increase to 20. Moved by Pat, seconded by Corine. Ken to provide names of principals and superintendents as well as school addresses.
 - 8.1.2 The amount of each award will stay at \$100 per student. Currently, the balance in the citizenship award account stands at \$1575.
 - 8.1.3 Letters will go out to the schools and school districts sometime in January with a response deadline of March 1st.
- 9.0 Focus Group Suggestion
 - 9.1 We discussed scheduling a Focus Group to determine our perspective regarding the pressure school boards and school personnel are facing regarding What is Taught, How it’s Taught, and who gets to decide. The Focus Group is scheduled for February 23, 2023, at 10 AM, on Zoom
- 10.0 Next Executive Board Meeting – Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 10 AM, on Zoom
- 11.0 Adjournment at 11:35 AM

Respectfully submitted by Gene Goldwasser