

# **New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors**

Meeting of the Executive Board – June 19, 2013

Holiday Inn – Plainview, NY

**Present:** Vince Deland, Ken Forman, Gene Goldwasser, Pat Galaskas, Jeff Hollander, Elliot Kigner, Corine Lipset-Huberman, David Long, Marty Mandelker, Stu Mortman, Stan Opas, Joe Quinn, Bill Sigelakis, Francesca Ciolino Volano, John Wallace, Jack Zamek

**1.0 Welcome:** Gene Goldwasser, President.

**2.0 Minutes:** The minutes of the April 10, 2013 meetings were reviewed and accepted. Moved by Joe Quinn, seconded by David Long.

**3.0 Treasurer's Report:** Jack Zamek reported June 13, 2013 account balances as follows:

Share checking - \$4,620.65

Money Market - \$2,372.36

16 month Certificate of Deposit - \$4,524.67.

Total Balance of all accounts: \$11,520.88

The CD will mature 6/23/13. Movement of the funds to Gold Coast Bank is anticipated in order to obtain a higher interest rate.

Expenses totaling approximately \$1,700 are anticipated (\$850 for the June newsletter, \$1,100 to Wingman Planning in 2 payments, approximately \$350 balance due for June luncheon. The latter is partially offset by fees paid by attendees.)

The Treasurer's report was accepted with thanks to Jack..

**4.0 Announcements:** None.

**5.0 Correspondence:** None.

**6.0 Committee Reports**

**6.1 Benefits** –The distinction was made between “benefits” and information offered to permit savings. Because the Motivano benefit is proving difficult to use, it was decided that it should be eliminated. MVCP was again noted as a way to find the lowest possible price for auto purchases. At the awareness level, [truecar.com](http://truecar.com) is another possibility that anyone can use. It was noted that if a member finds that Sterling Optical employees don't recognize NYSRSAS as a group eligible for discounts, they should have

the office of the store call the 800 number for confirmation. EDP will continue to waive the initial fee for joining for NYSRSAS members. EDP also has programs for vision and hearing as well as pet care. When using the United Health Program, members should ask for Hugh. It was agreed that benefits would be listed in the newsletter but “hints for discounts” would appear only on our website.

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of doing on of the Bridgeport Ferry tours with a baseball game in Connecticut and a moonlight cruise back to Port Jefferson. Another alternative would be arranging a NYSRSAS night at a Long Island Ducks game.

- 6.2 Education:** Marty Mandelker initiated discussion of the ongoing controversies regarding charter schools and the current concerns regarding testing/evaluation. It was suggested that we might try to set up a program focusing on a debate on charter schools
- 6.3 Legislation** – Stu Mortman stressed that attacks on Social Security and Medicare are ongoing with a focus on shifting more of the costs of the programs to participants, raising co-pays, reducing COLA adjustments, etc. Stu noted that the ARA Friday Alerts are now available through our website. We may initiate a “flash” on the website to permit members to click and take action (e.g. in opposition to the chained CPI). A focus group on health care was suggested as a possibility for the future.
- 6.4 Membership:** Current membership is 357. This includes 303 paid members, 33 life members, and 21 new members (first year membership free of charge. Jeff Hollander will be working with Demetria to try to “tighten” our membership roster to follow-up on those who do not renew (or join as dues-paying members after their first year). Membership has been steady but does not seem to be increasing. It is hoped that the website can be used to retain and increase membership. Calls to find out why people do not renew were suggested. Also, sending letters to the Presidents of local administrative associations (rather than just to school superintendents) to identify new retirees is a possibility.
- 6.5 Newsletter:** Corine Lipset-Huberman expressed her thanks to those who provided articles for the last newsletter. Articles are need for the October issue. Corine asked anyone planning to write for the next issue to be in touch with her by the end of August.
- 6.6 Publicity:** no report.

## 7.0 Old Business

- 7.1 Website Decision:** The website is “live” and functional at <http://nysrsas.org>. We will be publicizing it in the July newsletter. Ken Forman gave a “tour” of the website for those in attendance. Suggestions for additional features included: a “flash” button to take action on important issues, more about the Executive Board (perhaps including members e-

mails); adding “Hints for Savings” to the benefits section; adding a flashing box to the home page that would highlight a “Benefit of the Month.” Gene invited members who have published to send us the information so that it can be added to the “Member Publications” section of the website. We now have a new e-mail address: [info@nysrsas.org](mailto:info@nysrsas.org). This will provide secure access. Gene suggested that members add our home page to their “favorites” and/or bookmarks. The cost for website development has been \$1,500 to this point. In the future there will be a \$12-15 fee for our domain name and \$200-\$400 per year paid to Tom Mirabella to maintain the site.

**7.2 LISTSERV Creation:** Tom Mirabella (Wingman Planning) is working with Dana Kirkpatrick of [godaddy.com](http://godaddy.com). As noted previously, the listserv will include all members for whom we have an e-mail address. There will be an “opt out” option members can use if they do not want to receive bulletins via the listserv.

## **8.0 New Business**

- 8.1 End of Year Luncheon Meeting:** It was agreed that we would hold our Executive Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 19, followed by our annual luncheon at 12:00 noon. Pat Galaskas moved, seconded by Joe Quinn, to authorize Gene Goldwasser to contract with the Holiday Inn, Plainview/Old Bethpage for continental breakfast for the Executive Board and a hot buffet luncheon on June 19, 2013, and to subsidize the luncheon cost to members by \$5-7 per person. Non-members attending for the first time will be the guests of NYSRSAS. The motion was passed by acclamation.
- 8.2 Luncheon Meeting:** This is our one (only) General Membership meeting of every year.
- 8.3 Executive Board Meeting Schedule for 2013-14:** Meetings are scheduled for the following Wednesday mornings: September 18, December 18, March 26, and June 18. They will start at 10:00 a.m. and are currently scheduled to be held in the CAS office. It was suggested that if we encourage members to attend Executive Board meetings it would be helpful to know, in advance, how many plan to do so. The possibility that we might need a larger meeting space was mentioned.
- 8.4 State of the Association:** Questions were raised about how much clout we have as an organization and how we use it. The mission statement on the website is brief. We need to agree on our core values. Do we volunteer in schools? Do we mentor new supervisors and administrators? It was agreed that our group’s focus is more political and professional than social. “Continuing to lead in education” was suggested as recurring element of our newsletter (perhaps as part of the heading).
- 8.5 Focus Groups for 2013-14:** Possible topics include: teacher evaluation, charter schools, adaptive ed (using technology), Medicare/Social Security,

Schools of Education and the quality of the preparation they provide. We will return to this topic in the fall.

**9.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office.**

**10.0 Adjournment:** at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas