

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – December 19, 2012

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, 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, John Wallace

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President.

Reactions to the tragic events in Sandy Hook were shared

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the October 3, 2012 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Moved by David Long, seconded by Stu Mortman.

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Jack Zamek was in Florida but sent his report. Account balances as of November 30, 2012:

Regular savings - \$3.20 not interest bearing

Share checking - \$960.36

Money Market - \$3,361.63

16 month Certificate of Deposit - \$4,500.00 maturing 2/23/13.

All accounts are presently held at the Teachers' Federal Credit Union.

Total = \$8,825.19

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Pat Galaskas, seconded by David Long..

4.0 Announcements: Gene reported that a \$100 donation was made to the Mario DiSciullo Memorial Fund at Longwood High School. The fund will provide ascholarship to a graduating senior in 2013 and 2014.

5.0 Correspondence: none. Gene noted that our online address has been used by only 2 people thus far this year. It was suggested that the e-mail address might be added at the end of newsletter articles to invite comments.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Benefits –EDP has developed a custom application form to be included with the 2013 membership mailing. It was noted that the benefits that NYSRSAS lists are approved, but we do not formally “endorse” the providers.

6.2 Education: Marty Mandelker suggested that we need to take a position on school violence and share our point of view with elected officials. There

was a discussion regarding articles on education (and other topics) for our newsletter and how “politically correct” they need to be. There was general agreement that articles could be more pointed. When signed, articles are thought to reflect individual opinions. Also, we invite responses from members who disagree. Much of this discussion revolved around gun control and responses to and approaches for prevention of school violence.

- 6.3 Legislation** – Stu Mortman noted that means of communication are changing and that it is increasingly electronic rather than face to face. He distributed a NY Times piece by Paul Krugman on the deficit and its relation to the need for economic recovery. The Alliance for Retired Americans Friday alerts were recommended as a means of staying current about issues affecting retirees. The role of unions in winning the benefits that we enjoy today and the increasing threats to their existence embodied in Right to Work laws were discussed. Other issues included the preservation of Medicare and Social Security, averting sequestration, the need for adjustments to income limits for the Alternative Tax to reflect inflation, as well as concerns about conservation (specifically fracking in New York State)..
- 6.3 Membership:** Gene noted that current membership is about 370. Jeff Hollander has agreed to serve as Membership Chair and will work with Demetria to prepare the mailing. Dues will remain at \$20. The EDP registration form will be included with the membership mailing. It was agreed that a survey to assess members’ opinions on various issues should also be included with the membership mailing. A sub-committee will meet to prepare the survey instrument.
- 6.4 Newsletter:** Corine Lipset-Huberman expressed her thanks to Ken Forman, Howard Pierson and Don Murphy for the articles they provided for the last newsletter. She indicated that the deadline for articles for the April issue will be March 20, 2013. Contributions will include articles from Stu Mortman on political action, Marty Mandelker writing on guns in schools, and Francesca Ciolino-Volano contributing a book review in addition to pieces written by Corine and Gene. Vince Deland suggested that he might write something on the current state of education and what schools (and administrators) face in today’s world from criticisms about their salaries and benefits to the increasing demands to assume roles abdicated by parents. Gene expressed his thanks to the team preparing the newsletter.
- 6.5 Publicity:** no report.

7.0 Old Business

- 7.1 Survey of Members' Interests:** See above. A sub-committee including Corine, Pat, Ken and Jeff will prepare the instrument to be included with the 2013 membership mailing.
- 7.2 Financial Workshop:** We will assess members' interest in the topic "Where to put your money in this economic environment" as part of the member survey.
- 7.3 LISTSERV Creation:** It was suggested that we meet with Mike Keany regarding the possibility of linking with his School Leadership website. The possibility of creating an independent NYSRSAS web page was also discussed. The website could post our newsletters (as an option in lieu of mailing the newsletter to all members). It could also be used for political action. A sub-committee will investigate options.

8.0 New Business

- 8.1 Letter Writing re: Newtown and gun control:** It was agreed that we would not write to Newsday as an organization although members would, of course, be free to write as individuals. Gene will write to a Newtown news outlet to stand with that community as it grieves for the victims of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Personal letters to President Obama and members of congress in support of more stringent gun control measures were encouraged.
- 8.2 Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) and Presidential/Congressional Negotiations:** tabled

9.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 109 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office.

10.0 Adjournment: at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas