

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – December 21, 2011

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Vince Deland, Gene Goldwasser, Pat Galaskas, David Long, Stewart Mortman, Stan Opas, Joe Quinn, John Wallace, Jack Zamek

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President.

Members were welcomed. Gene reviewed the agenda.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the September 28, 2011 meeting were accepted with a correction to remove the reference to possible savings in the report regarding our tax free number. Moved by Joe Quinn, seconded by Jack Zamek.

3.0 Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Jack Zamek. Account balances as of November 30, 2011:

Regular savings - \$3.20 not interest bearing

Share checking - \$1,101.66

Money Market - \$5,095.25

16 month Certificate of Deposit - \$4,445.15 maturing 2/23/13.

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

Total = \$10,655.26 (\$77.87 net gain from '10 to '11)

The 1 year Certificate of Deposit which matured on 10/27/11 was re-invested as a 16-month CD maturing 2/23/12. This was to increase the yield to 1.09% (up 0.05%).

Recent expenses included \$589.69 for the wine and cheese reception. The newsletter has been costing about \$875 per issue. Jack suggested a new approach for postage using the printer's bulk mailing permit that would result in savings.

Jack reported that our tax free number is 38-3848584 (as of 8/2/11).

Gene noted our appreciation of Jack's careful record-keeping and his efforts to increase our net worth.

4.0 Announcements: none

5.0 Correspondence: A letter was sent to Joe Galante thanking him for his presentation at our June luncheon meeting.

6.0 Committee Reports

- 6.1 Benefits** – Jack Zamek emphasized that members can save as much as \$500 if they use the MVCP benefit when purchasing an auto (MVCP-1-800-345-0990). EDP provides access to discounted dental services for a premium of \$99 for a family (EDP-1-877-327-8376). The Met Life dental insurance is available only to new members. The possibility of a spring golf outing as another member benefit was discussed. Spring Lake in Middle Island was suggested as a venue. This will be considered in greater detail at the next Executive Board meeting.
- 6.2 Legislation** – Stu Mortman noted a need to get information to members in a timely fashion. It was agreed that a database and list serve which would permit rapid transmission of legislative alerts would be helpful. Such alerts would need to be used judiciously. We could pay to have someone set this up for us. Threats to social security and Medicare as well as the danger to our pensions inherent in a NY constitutional convention remain sources of concern. It was agreed that the organization should take a position in opposing a constitutional convention. The impact of the redistricting made necessary by census results remains to be seen.
- 6.3 Membership:** No report from Bill Sigelakis. However, membership renewal notices will be sent out in January.
- 6.4 Newsletter:** Articles are needed for the second issue for 2011-12. Pat Galaskas will work with Gene on the newsletter. John Wallace and Stu Mortman will write articles for the April newsletter. Corine Lipset will also be asked if she can provide another piece for the paper.
- 6.5 Publicity.** No report.

7.0 Old Business

- 7.1 October reception:** The results of the wine and cheese reception in encouraging additional new memberships were disappointing. However, feedback on the speaker was very positive and members of the Board agreed that it was pleasant to have an affair at which we welcomed spouses. The majority of the Board agreed that we should try again. As a “test run” we will try encouraging personal contacts to invite potential members to our June luncheon.
- 7.2 Directory:** Pat is finishing work on the Directory. It will be sent to the printer for distribution in January..
- 7.3 LIARA Meeting:** Stu Mortman prepared an article on the presentation for our newsletter.

8.0 New Business

- 8.1 Legislative Outreach:** The possibility of returning to a schedule of visits to local legislators was discussed. They could highlight our stand opposing a constitutional convention in terms of its cost at a time when the state is experiencing financial pressures that lead to layoffs and cuts in aid last

year. We would also express our opposition to changes that would diminish social security or Medicare benefits.

- 8.2 Public positions:** Letters to the editors of Newsday and other local papers were suggested. Topics would include the fact that public employees' pensions are feeding our local economy. (The overwhelming majority of those receiving public pensions continue to live in NYS.) Our position opposing a constitutional convention needs to be refined with talking points that will address issues the public cares about. (The cost of a convention which could be as much as \$50 million would be one point.)
- 8.3 2012 election:** January 3 is the deadline for circulating petitions to run for office.

9.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office.

10.0 Adjournment: at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas