

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – September 16, 2009

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Gene Goldwasser, Joseph Quinn, Elliott Kigner, Michael Carbone, Mario DiSciullo, Pat Galaskas, Bob Kenney, Stewart Mortman, Stan Opas

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President.

Members were welcomed back and introductions were made. Gene reviewed the agenda.

2.0 Minutes: Joe Quinn moved, seconded by Mike Carbone, that the minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting be accepted. The motion was passed.

3.0 Treasurer's Report:

Account balances as of August 31, 2009:

Regular savings - \$3.20 not interest bearing

Share checking - \$708.42 @ minimal interest rate

Money Market - \$6,661.15 @ 1.2%

6 month Certificate of Deposit - \$4,311.92 @ 1.88% maturing 10/19//09

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

The comfortable account balances were noted.

4.0 Correspondence / Announcements:

4.1 Executive Board vacancies were discussed.

Recording Secretary – the position will rotate among Board members for the present.

Jack Zamek presently serves as Treasurer and Benefits Chair. He has indicated his desire to give up one of these positions for 1 year. A volunteer is sought.

4.2 Correspondence: Gene read a letter from Rod Penny thanking the Board for the plaque recognizing his years of service and promising to keep up with the organization's activities through the newsletter.

4.3 Need for an alternate meeting place: With 19 on the Executive Board, CAS facilities will be too cramped if all members attend. Possible alternative locations were discussed.

Stan Opas will investigate the possibility of meeting at the Half Hollow Hills Library at exit 50-51 off the LIE.

Gene and Mike will check whether it would be feasible to meet at the Paradise Diner on Route 110.

5.0 Committee Reports

5.1 Benefits – see Old Business below.

Associate members of CAS have a Travel Benefit which is available free of charge. Jack Zamek will look into the possibility of making this available to members of our group.

5.2 Legislation – Mike Carbone indicated that health care is still the big issue on both the New York State and federal scenes. The annual renewal of legislation to insure that retirees receive health insurance coverage according to the guidelines applied to in-service employees was passed for this year.

The problems in the NYS Senate and concerns regarding the lack of provision for replaced a Lt. Governor have prompted talk of a NYS constitutional convention. However, it was pointed out that at present the constitution includes a clause protecting the pensions of public employees from being diminished or impaired. A constitutional convention would open the entire document for revision and might endanger this clause. A simple constitutional amendment to address specific problems would be safer for public employees.

Stewart Mortman as legislative liaison will work with Mike this year. He expressed concern regarding our relatively small membership and suggested trying to associate ourselves with other groups to increase our “clout” when dealing with legislators.

Mike and Stu will meet to discuss how we can focus our efforts. Legislative priorities for 2009-10 will be established at our next meeting.

5.3 Membership: The organization has a mailing list of 495, including “free” members. Non-renewals are carried for 2 years. The dues mailing will go out in December. Dues for 2009-10 will remain at \$20. Identifying new retirees to contact them regarding becoming members remains an issue. CAS informs us regarding their retirees but there is no relationship with SANYS to know about their retirees.

5.4 Newsletter: Mario DiSciullo reported that the October issue is at the printer. December 15 is the deadline for copy for the January, 2010, issue. Concerns regarding lengthy contributions and space limitations were discussed. Mario indicated that he is trying to incorporate “fill-ins” (brief notices in available spaces).

5.5 Publicity. No report.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Met Life Dental Plan: September 14 was the deadline for current members to enroll. New members will have a 2-week window for enrollment. A report is expected from Met Life on the number of members who have taken advantage of the offering.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Focus for this year

A wide-ranging discussion regarding the appropriate focus for our organization touched on:

- the needs of retirees in terms of benefits and political action
- continuing concerns regarding the status of education
- entertainment
- interaction

There was consensus that our primary focus should be on the needs of retirees. The discussion will continue at our next meeting to specify precisely which needs should be our focus.

8.0 Summary / Action Items

Meeting place – Stan will inquire with Half Hollow Hills Library.

Stationery – all Board members were invited to take some of our official stationery

Met Life Dental Insurance option for new members

Legislative priorities and action plans – Mike and Stu will meet

December 15 deadline for newsletter

9.0 Next Meeting: Friday, December 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Location to be determined.

10.0 Adjournment: 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas