

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – September 28, 2011

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Gene Goldwasser, Ken Forman, Pat Galaskas, David Long, Stewart Mortman, Stan Opas, John Wallace, Jack Zamek

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President.

Members were welcomed. Gene reviewed the agenda.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the June 22, 2011 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Moved by Stan Opas, seconded by David Long.

3.0 Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Jack Zamek. Account balances as of August 31, 2011:

Regular savings - \$3.20 not interest bearing

Share checking - \$1,059.33

Money Market - \$7,054.30

1 year Certificate of Deposit - \$4,440.20 maturing 10/27/11.

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

Total = \$12,557.03 (\$670.68 net gain from '10 to '11)

Recent expenses included about \$885 for the newsletter, and \$693.82 for the June luncheon.

Jack reported that we now have a tax free number.

Joe Quinn moved, seconded by Stu Mortman, that we give a holiday gift in the amount of \$75 to Demetria. Approved unanimously.

4.0 Announcements:

5.1 Elliot Kigner was hit by a car recently. A bad injury to his right hand makes it impossible for him to drive. For the present he is experiencing difficulty using his arm.

5.2 Mario DiSciullo is suffering from progressive visual impairment and can no longer drive. This vision problem is making it impossible for him to continue as editor of our newsletter. Pat Galaskas volunteered to assist with layout of the January issue. Ken Forman suggested that if nobody steps forward to take over the task, we might seek a college student who could do the job for a small fee. The CAS camera is now with Mario and will be given to the person who takes over as editor.

- 5.3 It was agreed that the organization should send “get well” gifts to Elliot and Mario. Jack Zamek will shop for Mario and David Long for Elliot. The bills will be sent to Jack for reimbursement.

5.0 Committee Reports

- 5.1 **Benefits** – Jack Zamek reported that benefits will continue as in the past.
- 6.2 **Legislation** – Stu Mortman noted that all politicians are in “campaign” mode at present. He suggested a “field trip” to visit legislators who support our concerns, with the emphasis on issues rather than political parties.
- 6.3 **Membership**: It was “unofficially” reported that we have 329 paid members per the Treasurer’s report. In addition Bill Sigelakis lists a number of free members. There are 99 former members who haven’t paid dues for 2011. Our total membership is roughly 465.
- 6.4 **Newsletter**: The first issue for 2011-12 is now at the printer. We publish 4 issues each year (June/July, October, January, and April). The printer is waiting for revised directory information for the mailing list. Pat Galaskas will provide this.
- 6.5 **Publicity**. David Keefe, who represents retired members on the TRS Board, will be our speaker at the October 6 Wine and Cheese event for new members. Stu Mortman agreed to make photos. At present we have only about 15 responses from those who will be attending. Bill Sigelakis will contact the Hilton regarding adjusting our reservation to a smaller room. It was agreed that members would invite spouses to the event.

6.0 Old Business

- 6.1 **Directory**. An initial draft has been proofread. However, it must be updated with information about new members after our October event.
- 6.2 **Long Island Alliance for Retired Americans**: On Friday, October 14, a special event focusing “Social Security and the Future” will be held. The speaker will be Eric Kingson, Professor of Social Work at Syracuse University. Stu Mortman will attend.

7.0 New Business

- 7.1 **Membership issues**: Concerns regarding the need for active members to serve on the Executive Board were discussed. We need 3-4 new members. Several names were suggested. The newsletter is critical to keeping our general membership informed. Finding a new editor is vital.
- 7.2 **Why do people join NYSRSAS?** Some members join in response to a threat (e.g. changes in pensions or social security). Others are interested in social interaction. Many maintain their membership and pay dues every year, but are not otherwise involved.

It was noted that ties between members from different districts tend to be weak and the newsletter is our primary means of involving members.

Ideas to explore further included:

- Providing information about common core standards in math and ELA, APPR and its impact on the evaluation of teachers and administrators.
- Keeping members informed about potential changes in pension and/or social security.
- Opportunities for learning:
 - OLLI at Stony Brook, PEER at Hofstra, etc.
 - Other life-long learning discussion groups.
 - Travel (e.g. Road Scholars, VBT trips, etc.)

8.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office.

9.0 Adjournment: at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas