

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – September 29, 2010

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Gene Goldwasser, Mario DiSciullo, Pat Galaskas, Bob Kenney, Elliott Kigner, David Long, Stewart Mortman, Stan Opas, George Pincus, 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 18, 2010 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Moved by David Long, seconded by Elliott Kigner.

3.0 Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Jack Zamek. Account balances as of August 31, 2010:

Regular savings - \$3.20 not interest bearing

Share checking - \$365.03

Money Market - \$7,126.46 @ 1.01%

1 year Certificate of Deposit - \$4,391.70 @ 1.85% maturing 10/27/10

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

Total = \$11,886.35 (\$201.66 net gain from '09 to '10)

Recent expenses included \$882.99 for the newsletter, \$865.62 for the June luncheon and \$270.45 for the plaque honoring Mike Carbone.

It was agreed the Jack should have the authority to review available rates and reinvest the funds of the CD maturing in October. The report was accepted unanimously.

4.0 Correspondence:

Letter from Magill Shipman expressing thanks for the tributes to Mike Carbone and sharing his memories of Mike's contributions. Magill is now living in Southbury, CT.

5.0 Announcements:

5.1 Bernie Schulman is recovering from a broken hip and expressed some concern about whether he would be able to make it to meetings. Joe Quinn was unable to attend because of a conflicting meeting. Lorraine Schottenfeld had hoped to be able to fit our meeting in between her

obligations at Southampton and Hofstra. Myrna Lieblich was in New York City.

5.2 Memorial Plaque for Mike Carbone: Gene thanked Stan Opas for his assistance in arranging for the plaque to honor Mike at the Art League of Long Island. It reads: "In Memory of Mike Carbone, Artist and Educator, Who Enriched our Lives." A letter was sent to Mike's wife, Georgette with a copy of the plaque. Another copy of the plaque was sent to Howard Pierson, a close friend of Mike's.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Benefits – Jack Zamek indicated that he hopes to feature one member benefit in each issue of our newsletter. The first issue highlighted Habberstad which offers discounts on Nissan and VW. The SmartSavings Member Discount Marketplace (<http://www.motivano.com>) which permits shopping for various brand names, clothing, etc. as well as offering vacation deals and event tickets is also available. Interested members were advised to register and try out the site. Jack also inquired regarding use of the Met Life Dental Plan. Apparently nobody joined when offered last year. Jack reported positive experiences with Eastern Dental in Hauppauge which costs \$99 per person per year (or \$126 for 2 years) and charges only \$29 for a cleaning.

6.2 Legislation – There was general agreement that the pre-election political scene does not look good. Attacks on education at all levels are a concern as is the re-emerging issue of merging school districts.

6.3 Membership: Bill Sigelakis reported via e-mail that we have 451 active members (including last year's free members). Twenty-six new retirees will have free memberships for 2011. The membership renewal campaign will start in mid-November for the 2011 membership year. Membership dues will be \$20 and it was agreed to continue offering a life membership @ \$150 for the time being. As of September 2010 we had 25 life members with 6 new this year. Bill renewed his request that members actively recruit additional members and requested help to devise an e-mail mailing to solicit new free members with enrollment forms that can be completed and returned via e-mail.

6.4 Newsletter: Mario DiSciullo discussed changes in layout and the need for articles from the Executive Board. Howard Pierson stepped in to cover legislation in the last issue but this is a pressing need for the next issue. The deadline for articles for the January issue will be December 15.

6.5 Publicity. No report.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Investment Opportunities for RSAS: Rates everywhere are low and it was agreed that to maintain the current approach using the credit union.

7.2 What does NYSRSAS do for you? It was noted that members do maintain their membership. However, we would like to help people become more involved. Ideas to explore further included: benefits package included with membership information; including a logo/mission statement in our newsletter; keeping in touch with members' interests (join to support those working to advance your needs); staying in touch with legislators by visiting their local offices, etc. (members can be active "doers" or "interested spectators"); planning activities like luncheons with a social component; possibly sponsoring a charity walk. This topic will be discussed further at the December meeting.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Focus for this year:

8.1.1 Activities/Service: volunteer to mentor new administrators, read to and/or tutor kids, volunteer for the Empire State Games, sponsor a charity walk. The idea of partnering with CAS to do a pre-retirement workshop ("are you ready to retire?") as part of their series of workshops was discussed. This would need to be distinct from the NYSTRS workshops. Another idea was a workshop for newly retired administrators, perhaps with a free lunch.

8.1.2 "Battle Plan" for Legislation: It was felt that this could be better addressed after we know the results of the elections. However, membership in the Alliance for Retired Americans was suggested as a way to keep current regarding issues facing retirees, including potential threats to Social Security and Medicare from the President's Deficit Reduction Commission.

9.0 Issues for Discussion

9.1 Mid-term Elections: Some reasons for the lack of NYSUT endorsement in the Governor's race were noted. NYSUT is endorsing Tom DiNapoli for Comptroller.

9.2 How Public Sector Retirees Contribute to the New York Economy: Gene distributed an analysis from DiNapoli's office outlining the many ways in which those receiving New York State and Local Retirement System pensions return a significant portion of those funds back into NY's economy.

10.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office.

11.0 Adjournment: at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas