

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Special Meeting of the Executive Board – March 21, 2013

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Vince Deland, Gene Goldwasser, Pat Galaskas, Jeff Hollander, Elliot Kigner, Corine Lipset-Huberman, David Long, Marty Mandelker, Stu Mortman, Stan Opas, John Wallace

1.0 Website: Gene Goldwasser reported on conversations with potential website designers. Wingman Planning (NJ) emerged as having the best potential to meet our needs. They would charge about \$1,500 to design and setup a website. Maintenance of the site would be about \$200-400 per year. In addition there would be annual costs of \$12 to maintain the domain name and \$50 for the host server. Members were asked to take a look at some of the following websites which were designed by Wingman Planning:

Brickchamber.com

hazletwp.org

bkalegal.com

paramounthi.com

pwscca.com

It would take about 4-6 weeks to build a website in JPEG format. It could include:

a list serve

domain name

administrative user name

contact us – comment section

our webmaster (or Wingman could do this for a fee)

archived newsletters

photo gallery

member listing (accessible by password)

links to other sites

A decision regarding whether we want to contract with Wingman Planning will be made at the April Executive Board meeting.

2.0 Member Survey Results: The attached summary of results from 139 members was reviewed.

2.1 In terms of the newsletter it appeared that articles on current issues in politics affecting retirees and current trends in education would be most important. However, more than half of the respondents indicated interest in travel topics and somewhat fewer said they'd like news about members' activities.

2.2 An important finding related to the number of respondents who are not on Long Island for part (or all) of the year and its impact on decisions about additional events like seminars or focus groups. One respondent expressed interest in reading written reports of such activities since he lived too far away to attend.

2.3 For the June luncheon, most respondents indicated that they would prefer a presentation on the impact of Social Security, Medicare and pension changes. It was agreed that we should seek a speaker (or a panel of speakers) on these topics.

2.4 There was overwhelming agreement that NYSRSAS should take positions on political issues among survey respondents (yes votes from 75.5% of the respondents). The topics of social security and Medicare elicited the highest levels of agreement on the issue of taking a position (ca. 75%), followed by gun control (62%) and federal tax system revision (54%). In discussing these results, it was agreed that:

- NYSRSAS will take positions on issues rather than persons (i.e. candidates)
- the focus will be on issues directly affecting retirees and issues related to education
- when writing about the positions taken, those who disagree will be invited to express themselves
- in elections, NYSRSAS may chart the positions of opposing candidates without formally endorsing either. (NYSRSAS would support “x” candidate on “y” issue as opposed to giving a general endorsement of a candidate’s entire platform or the candidate as a person.)
- NYSRSAS need not be bashful about taking on contentious issues and topics. The organization might want to schedule an event focusing on a controversial topic and inviting speakers with opposing views (from both sides of the issue) to present their positions.

3.0 Next Regular Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 109 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office.

4.0 Adjournment: at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas

NYSRSAS - Membership Survey - January 2013

Total # responses = 139

1. What newsletter topics would be of interest to you? (check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|-----|---|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> current issues in politics that affect retirees | 126 | <input type="checkbox"/> book reviews | 38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> current trends in education | 94 | <input type="checkbox"/> travel topics | 75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> environmental protection | 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> news about members' activities | 50 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

2. Should NYSRSAS take a formal position on political issues? yes 105 no (or undecided) 34

If so, please check any issue on which you think it appropriate for the organization to take a stand:

- | | | | |
|--|-----|--|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security | 103 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun control | 86 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare | 105 | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal tax system revision | 75 |

3. Would you welcome more opportunities to meet with other members? Please check any activity in which you would like to participate:

- | | |
|--|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> late afternoon wine and cheese social get together | 29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seminar on current issues | 36 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> focus groups to share opinions, ideas for NYSRSAS future action | 21 |

4. As we plan for our June 2013 luncheon we are considering topics for a keynote presentation. Please indicate your preference.

- | | |
|--|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investing in the current economic environment | 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impact of Social Security, Medicare and pension changes | 63 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel options for retirees | 29 |

Suggested other topics for newsletter

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. art | 8. part-time jobs |
| 2. benefits | 9. possible medical benefits for applicants who are retired |
| 3. current issues that affect learning (i.e. problems of the day) | 10. reviews of books related to education |
| 4. gun control | 11. names of deceased (ex: Fred Horowitz, Commack) <i>note: name is NOT in NYSRSAS directory</i> |
| 5. inequality gap | |
| 6. investment strategies | |
| 7. opinion and human interest stories | |

Suggestions re: meeting topics, etc.

Live out of state –could plan activities around holidays when visit family may be able to attend-thanks
There were a number of comments from those living out of state re: inability to participate
Would be great to know administrators in my area (Lake Lucerne, NY)
Help members who no longer live in NY connect
Not interested in added meetings
Meetings not necessary
Florida group meeting
Part-time jobs in retirement
Wine and cheese in EARLY afternoon
Please send synopsis of seminars, resumes of mtgs – Do not have computer; would appreciate increased mail conacts re: current happenings

Comments re: taking a position on political issues

I think it's better to try to discuss BOTH sides on issues but OK to show a "leaning"--NO formal position because we don't have way to poll members for their opinions
It helps in making informed decisions
Political issues should be represented without bias
YES lobby as retired educators & for sr. citizens; NO support or \$ for party or candidates. Also, no positions on non-ed or retiree issues (e.g. sex orientation, abortion)
Info needed to make valid judgments
We can be a formidable lobby
I think our position on these topics is important (guns, tax system)
The info should be made available in an objective way. We can think for ourselves in analyzing it.
Only those things that affect retirees.
This is a slippery slope because of individual politics but the position could emphasize effects on retirees of actions in these areas (for example: teachers armed)
Speak out for retirees.
It's helpful to review this position
We have expertise in this area (gun control-basic common sense)
Members don't always have the same position. When you take a formal position, you talk for members—represent all members!
How is formal position of NYSRSAS determined?
I object to the constant liberal views denoted in the front page of the newsletter!
Undecided at this time
It is always important to have our voice heard.
I may not agree with the stands taken.
When appropriate and determined by group.

Depends how you will decide what position to take.

Comments specific to the topics for positions:

Protect retired members
All issues that would affect benefits, lifestyle.
Social Security, Medicare are not entitlements; gun control is necessary; Fed tax system must be revised, loop holes closed.
Seniors with ANY affiliation have a critical interest in all these issues (i.e. the 4 listed)
We should support social issues to ensure quality of life.
Affects retirees & interests of retirees.
Topical issues.
These issues have direct impact on us
Critical issues for retirees & citizens of all ages.
Education.
All of above
All of the above [i.e. the 4 mentioned topics] affect school retirees—for example, I would be interested in the NYSRSAS position on the NRA's notion to put guards (armed) in all our schools.
Improve benefits, limit access to guns
Plans and programs for teachers' and administrator evaluation
Reinstate luxury tax !!
The US budget deficit!!
Need to make (tax) system more equitable and less complex.
Issues which really impact members.
Issues that directly affect retirement.
Pensions-defined benefit vs. defined contribution issue
What would be most beneficial for members.
These issues [i.e. those listed] affect all of us.
Where savings can be made without meat ax approach.
All issues as it affects us and future generations-children and grandchildren.
Social Security is not a Fed benefit payment! It's earned retirement income! Need a flat tax with NO loopholes.

NOTE: While there are some similarities among the various statements listed, each comment is from one individual member's survey return. Many respondents did not elaborate with comments.