

IN CONTACT



Newsletter of the National Staff Organization

January 2003

Heavy on Advocacy Sessions...

Record Turnout for 2003 Winter Retreat



In his remarks to the general session of the 2003 Winter Advocacy Retreat, President Chuck Agerstrand (MI) acknowledged the record breaking turnout of over 400 participants from across the country. "For many of our people, this is the only significant training of its kind available."

He said, "Attendance at the WAR College speaks volumes to your commitment to advocate for NSO members." Approximately one-third of participants attended the WAR College for the first time. "The large number of staff retirements means we have increasing numbers of people new to union advocacy work," says Agerstrand. NSO Vice President for Program Lynn Adler (IL) noted that registration for advocacy-oriented sessions was high this year. She also praised the over 40 NSO members who were trainers during the WAR College. "These people give of their own time and talents to help their brothers and sisters." President Agerstrand attributed the increased advocacy registration to an increased number of NEA state affiliates in financial distress. Agerstrand also placed emphasis on the National

Coordinated Bargaining Council meeting April 25-26 in St. Louis. "We think it is important for people to gather together to talk about issues we face in protecting our members. We can use this conference as a good time to address these problems and come up with appropriate strategies," says Agerstrand. Affiliates are to send at least two representatives – the president and chief negotiator. The day before work sessions began, President Agerstrand met with 36 affiliate presidents. They related the growing problem of employers who seek to balance budgets

WAR College Cruise Views Sarasota Moonrise



Ninety-two NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat participants watched the moon rise over Sarasota on their way back from a two-hour cruise aboard the Hyatt Sarasota's new "Lady Sarasota" dinner boat. The "sunset cruise" came after Saturday's WAR College sessions.

through staff layoffs and cutbacks in health insurance coverage. President Agerstrand reported the Michigan Education Association is contemplating 48 staff layoffs; most would come through bargaining unit members.

As she has in the past, Vice President Adler encouraged presidents to provide early notice to NSO if faced with a crisis. "All of the people we send are staff members like you," she told the WAR College. "They have to work around their own schedules." NSO Vice President for Defense Marius Ambrose (MD) echoed the same call for early notice. "If you see a grievance likely to go to arbitration, please let me know," Marius told affiliate presidents. Any NSO affiliate automatically is reimbursed for one-half of its costs up to \$2,500 for the arbitrator's fee and expenses as well as appropriate filing fees upon NSO's receipt of a copy of the bills and arbitrator's award. Expenses beyond \$2,500 require prior approval by the NSO Executive Committee. Reimbursement for attorney fees is not made without prior approval of the NSO Executive Committee. "We do not encourage affiliates to go the route of hiring an attorney," Ambrose told presidents. "We have far better expertise among our own colleagues."

Executive Committee Approves Expanded Web Resources



During its meeting prior to the NSO WAR College, the NSO Executive Committee approved expansion of research materials on NSO's research website. In addition to affiliate contracts, work begins to add over 400 arbitration awards that will be fully searchable. Efforts also begin to develop a membership database to be included on the research website. Affiliates can use and maintain their own membership lists. More information about the new program will be covered at the NSO Coordinated Bargaining Council National Conference in April.

Golfers 'Scramble' Before Work



Forty-three NSO golfers participated in the NSO Gulf Coast Golf Tournament just prior to the WAR College. The "scramble" tournament winners were recognized during the Gulf Coast Buffet January 17. Fifteen of the holes were sponsored for prizes and had special markers. Ohio PSU and OASU retirees Sharon and Ray Sutherland and John and Margaret Wardell sponsored a 19th hole at the Sutherland home.

National CBC Conference to Meet in St.-Louis



St. Louis is the site for the 2003 NSO Coordinated Bargaining Council Conference. Scheduled to run April 25-26, the conference will be in the St. Louis Airport Marriott. Rooms are \$75/night (and we're working on that rate!), single or double. Reservations can be made under a "National Staff Organization" block. However, reservations must be guaranteed by credit card. Deadline for reservations is April 4, 2003. Marriott's toll free number is: 800-228-9290.

WAR College 'Boutique' Opens



(L-R) John Reilly (MA-NSO-R), Butch Santicola (PA) and Emmitt Jimmar (AL) assist handing out WAR College tee-shirts.

Adler Briefs WAR Trainers



NSO Vice President for Program Lynn Adler (IL) briefs trainers for the NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat in Sarasota, FL.

Electronic CONTACT Grows

NSO CONTACT editor Bob Mullins reports the number of affiliates going with the electronic version of the newsletter continues to grow. “Before the PDF version, our print run was about 5,000,” Bob says. “We’re now down to 4,000 and expect to hit about 3,500 midyear.” The electronic version (in Adobe PDF) goes to all affiliate presidents who have e-mail addresses. Each affiliate can decide whether it wants

to use the electronic version for primary distribution or stick with the hard copy. “All affiliates receive at least a few printed copies for those who do not have e-mail or cannot open the file,” Bob says. The electronic version – in **color** – is posted on the NSO Web page at www.nationalstaff.org.

Presidents Prepare for ‘College’



Thirty six NSO affiliate presidents attended an orientation meeting the day before WAR College sessions began. Presidents also received a sample new member orientation packet.

Winter Retreaters Hear about Growing Number of Employers in Financial Crisis



A record 402 NSO members and guests attended the 2003 NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat. The “WAR College” began with a general session the first of the two-day training program.

NSO Executive Committee Acts to Support NEA Call for CEDAW Treaty Ratification

NSO's Executive Committee voted to support the following statement by NEA on the elimination of discrimination against women worldwide.

The NEA believes all nations must respect and protect the human and civil rights of every individual – regardless of gender. The majority of our 2.7 million members are women, sensitive to the difference education plays in building a strong, tolerant society. They are disturbed by the fact that 2/3rds of the 125 million children worldwide who have never attended primary school are female, and that women and girls who don't get an education have little chance of escaping the pervasive cycle of poverty and oppression. That's why the NEA supports the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This treaty, more popularly known as the Treaty for the Rights of Women, requires each nation that ratifies it to end discrimination and make significant inroads in improving access to education for women and girls.

Nearly 170 nations have ratified the Treaty for the Rights of Women, making it the law of their land. CEDAW has played a significant role in Slovenia, where school admission policies were changed, and in Pakistan, which introduced co-education in primary schools. Girls now account for half of all pre-school age students in India. These are only a few examples of this treaty's impact worldwide. Yet, we here in the United States are dismayed that our country, a longtime advocate of human and civil rights worldwide, is not among the 169 nations that have ratified this significant treaty. NEA members feel the United States' continued failure to ratify this treaty jeopardizes our foreign policy objectives. And, it casts a hypocritical shadow over our government's record in upholding human rights worldwide.

It's time for the U.S. to take action. We urge the Senate to ratify the Treaty for the Rights of Women and uphold our country's ideal of equal opportunity for all.



NCSO Marks Untimely Death



The North Carolina Staff Organization sadly reports the passing of Kenneth Bullock on

January 11, 2003. Ken ran the North Carolina Association of Educators Print Shop and was a long-time member of the union. He died from a massive heart attack. "Ken was involved in an accident in mid December and was never the same," says NSO Regional Director and NCSO member Bob Blackwell. "Ken was a great union soldier – one who will be greatly missed." Ken's funeral was January 15. Cards and expressions of sympathy or donations can go to Mrs. Ken Bullock, 2613 Sheffield Street, Apex, NC 27502.

Delegate Prepare for RA

Delegates to the 2003 NSO Representative Assembly will gather June 13-14 in the Hyatt Regency, downtown Denver, CO. Arrangements have been made to help affiliates book reservations. A direct reservation Web link will be posted on the NSO Website (www.nationalstaff.org). The Hyatt link is: www.denverregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/staf.

Be Sure To Check the NSO Web Page
www.nationalstaff.org

NSO Contact is edited by Bob Mullins.



Comments and suggestions are welcome, and should be sent to Mullins at:
525 Meadoway Park,
Worthington, OH 43085

Phone: 614-436-3398

NSO Contact FAX: 614-436-3570.

Internet: RobertM109@aol.com.

NSO Web Page

<http://www.nationalstaff.org>

President: Chuck Agerstrand, (517) 332-6551

Vice President for Defense: Marius Ambrose, (410) 997-3440

Vice President for Program: Lynn Adler, (312) 407-0098

Secretary: Mary Henson, (800) 292-1934 x 6215 (O), (517) 622-1985 (H), FAX (secure) (517) 622-1892

Treasurer: Vera Stafford, (269) 628-6300

Region 1: Cheryl Singleton, (617) 878-8657

Region 2: Butch Santicola (724) 457-0670

Region 3: Emmitt Jimmar, (205) 446-8117

Region 4: John Stephens, (209) 478-6091

Region 5: Barry Tusin (630) 369-1555 x17

Region 6: Dennis Krueger, (515) 471-8000

Region 7: Rosemary Wolf, (253) 765-7082

At-Large (Temp): Diane Thompson, (402) 475-7611

At-Large: Robert Blackwell, (910) 347-7623