

INSO CONTACT



Newsletter of the National Staff Organization

February 2003

In Address to NEA Membership Seminar...

NSO Proposes National Organizing Summit

As part of the NEA-NSO Partnership program, NSO President Chuck Agerstrand proposed a “national organizing summit” to help deal with an NEA membership decline in a number of states. The summit could take place later in 2003 or early 2004, according to Agerstrand. “I believe such a summit should aim to set priorities for union organizing in each region of the country and lay the groundwork for training and support,” Agerstrand emphasized to the NEA Membership Advocacy Seminar Staff Networking Day, Feb. 12, in Nashville, TN. “This effort will ensure that we maintain our existing members and work toward organizing new members into NEA. If the NEA and their affiliates are to maintain and increase their market share of members, then we need to pursue drastic measures to meet this goal. I believe there is nothing more important or more urgent to begin with.”

Agerstrand said the nearly two-year old NEA-NSO Partnership agreement can be an important vehicle to deal with NEA membership difficulties. “We need to help educate our colleagues about successful strategies that some unions are now using – such as shifting more resources into organizing, linking bargaining and political action work into organizing goals, building strong coalitions with our friends, and recruiting and training a new generation of organizers from within the ranks of our existing members.”

Agerstrand added that many of the

states experiencing membership decline have limited resources. He said NEA and NSO leadership can help “tackle any challenges.” Competing organizations have launched attacks against NEA affiliates. “Let’s be honest with ourselves, such attacks are working in a number of states largely because we have provided our critics the opportunity to come after us. We have failed to marshal our resources and our organizing talent in a manner to counteract these initiatives,” Agerstrand stressed.

In his review of the NEA-NSO Partnership, Agerstrand outlined their commitments: • conduct a joint needs assessment of all NSO members’ professional



NSO President Chuck Agerstrand (MI) addresses the Harvard Trade Union Program Class of 2003. James Shepard (California Associate Staff) and Len Feldman (California Staff Organization) were this year’s NSO sponsored participants. Agerstrand shared with trade unionists from around the world basic information about NSO’s structure as well as its partnership with the National Education Association. Chuck’s address was Feb. 11.

development training needs; • Promote and expedite communications in areas of mutual interest; • assist NEA and its state affiliates to identify potential new UniServ staff; • share concerns about organizing, membership recruitment, and retention; and, • commitment to collaborate about the impact of staff workload management in a changing work environment.

Check the NSO Web page for the complete text of Chuck's speech: nationalstaff.org.

Don't Forget the National CBC Meeting!



A reminder the 2003 NSO Coordinated Bargaining Council Conference is scheduled to run April 25-26 in the St. Louis Airport Marriott, St. Louis, MO. As

far as we know right now, the room rates are \$75/night, 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. Check the NSO Web page for up-to-date information about the National CBC Conference: nationalstaff.org.

NEAFT Parthnership Reviewed At NEA Board Meeting

During the February NEA Board meeting, three officers briefed the board about the NEA Partnership with the American Federation of Teachers. The three offers were NEA President Reg Weaver, Vice President Dennis Van Roekel, and Secretary-Treasurer Lily Eskelsen. Weaver said the "NEAFT Partnership Joint Council" candidly discussed problems over the last two or three years. "Many of the problems seem to be at the state and local level," he reported. "Trust takes a long time to build and we need to continually work on it." Van Roekel provided a history of the Partnership which was created at the 1998 NEA Representative Assembly. However, the jurisdictional agreement is scheduled to end July 31, 2003 unless renewed at the May 2003 meeting of the NEA Board. For the complete report, check the NSO Web page: nationalstaff.org.

Print Shop Named In Honor of Bullock



The North Carolina Association of Educators has named its Print Shop in honor of Ken Bullock. Ken died January 11. He served in the NCAE Print Shop for 18 years, according to NSO Executive

Committee member and NC Staff Organization member Robert Blackwell. NCAE President Carolyn McKinney paid tribute to Ken at a Martin Luther King banquet in February. "Kenneth Wayne Bullock was a devoted colleague, a perfectionist. He was a devout, religious man, large in heart and stature." The NCAE Board of Directors voted at its January meeting to name the Print Shop in Ken's honor.

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

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