

INSO CONTACT



Newsletter of the National Staff Organization

March 2003

'Successful Bargaining in Difficult Financial Times'

CBC Meeting Examines State Budget Crises



President Chuck Agerstrand.

High on the priority list among topics for the National Coordinated Bargaining Council Conference April 25-26 in St. Louis will be the growing number of NEA state affiliates facing financial crisis. "It has been reported some 23 NEA state affiliates face serious financial difficulties," says NSO President Chuck Agerstrand. "Our members face potential layoffs and

reductions in salary, health insurance coverage, and retirement benefits. We need to seriously examine the challenges our affiliates face and assist them in developing appropriate strategies." Theme for the conference is



CBC Chair Dennis Krueger

"Successful Bargaining in Difficult Financial Times." With a souring economy, NEA state affiliates are facing budget difficulties because of state government revenue shortfalls that impact on school districts and other government agencies. Fallout includes potential layoff of NSO members and intense pressure on NSO affiliate bargaining.

NSO CBC Committee Chair Dennis Krueger (IA) says the two-day conference is designed for affiliate presidents and chief negotiators, but affiliates are welcome to bring any additional NSO members they feel would benefit from the conference. "This

Election of Officers...

The following NSO offices are up for election during the NSO RA June 13-14 in Denver: **Region Directors 1, 3, 5, 7 and At Large A and B.** Any delegate or member wishing to run must file a "Candidate for NSO Office" petition which must have signatures of at least three NSO members. Petition forms will be sent to affiliate presidents by NSO Secretary Mary Henson (MI). A copy of the petition is posted for download on the NSO Web page at www.nationalstaff.org. Officers assume duties immediately upon election.



Members of the NSO Executive Committee met March 13-14, in Key Largo, FL, to examine financial crises among NEA affiliates and to handle the routine business of the union.

meeting takes on great importance, particularly when education associations look at drastic measures to solve their financial difficulties,” says Krueger.

Affiliates are encouraged to bring a copy of their contract and the latest quarterly report from their Pension Plan. Krueger notes that the quarterly report is often included with the annual report to employees covered by the Plan.

Site for the meeting is the **Marriott St. Louis Airport, Missouri**. *Affiliates are to make their room reservations no later than April 4, 2003*, according to NSO Secretary Mary Henson (MI). “Direct calls to the hotel at 800-228-9290. Mention the ‘National Staff Organization’ and guarantee your reservations with a credit card,” says Henson. The conference rate has been set at \$79 per night (not including taxes), single or double.

By policy, NSO will pay for one double occupancy room for the President and Chief Negotiator from each affiliate attending the conference, unless the president and chief negotiator are of the opposite sex. In that case, NSO will pay for two rooms for one night. Registration for the National CBC Conference is to be received no later than April 7, 2003. For additional information, contact Krueger at 515-471-8000 or e-mail Dkrueger4745@mchsi.com, or NSO Region 1 Director Cheryl Singleton (MA) at 508-822-5371 or csingleton@massteacher.org. Registration forms go to Singleton at Massachusetts Teachers Association, 90 New State Highway, Rte. 44, Raynham, MA 02767.

The conference begins with registration at noon April 25. After welcome and introductions, the group will cover “Current Reality – Issues Within NSO Affiliates – Insurance, Pensions and Salaries.” Concurrent Interest Sessions will take place three times over the two-day conference. New to this conference will be use of “smart cards” to help affiliates with difficult bargaining. NSO will sponsor a hospitality hour the 25th. A luncheon buffet will take place Saturday, April 26. CBCs will meet Saturday at 1 p.m. with a “report out” session for everyone at 3:30 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 4:30 p.m., according to Krueger.

Program events are subject to change without advance notice. The program, registration form and letter to affiliate presidents are posted for download on the NSO Web page – www.nationalstaff.org.

MA's LUEA Settles



The Labor Union Employees Association has successfully completed their first bargaining agreement. NSO-R member John Reilly (MA) assisted with the negotiations which resulted in a salary increase of 9 percent over three years, 100 percent employer paid health, dental and vision insurance. All vacation, sick leave and personal days were maintained. In addition, the union gained an unpaid personal leave of up to six months. The 16-member union represents court and other state government employees.

NEA President Weaver to Address NSO RA



Delegates to the 2003 NSO Representative Assembly will gather June 13-14 in the Hyatt Regency, downtown Denver, CO. NEA President Reg Weaver is scheduled to be the featured speaker on Friday, June 13. He is expected to touch on the financial crises facing a large number of NEA affiliates. Arrangements have been made to help affiliates book reservations. A direct reservation Web link is 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.



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