

Mia Small, Historian

A great deal of hard work and perseverance led to the formation of HASA. For the first time in the early 70's , independent-minded, school based administrators with a vision, had a voice to give members of the Hillsborough Association of School Administrators the means of providing a network and to be heard on proposed legislation of importance to the membership.

The first Executive Director of HASA was Donald Ross Gillette. Following him were Lyle Flagg, Dr. Jack Lamb and currently Dr. John Miliziano, who serves the organization with energy, dedication and determination. Early Presidents included Glenn Barrington, Don Yoho and Dr. John Sessums *and at one point only included school-based administrators*. Currently, the membership spans the *all* administrative groups and has recently included non-instructional managers, supervisors and coordinators. Although Dr. Miliziano's previously mentioned predecessors have all retired, the association is pleased to report that at this time, HASA has over **70** retired administrators who have remained members. As the Executive Director for HASA, Dr. Miliziano provides vision and direction towards HASA's strategic goals and helps to set priorities which includes increasing other benefits to members. Recent presidents include Lou Cerreta, Pat Smith, Dr. Ken Allen, Charlotte Valenti, Mark West, Nuri Ayres, Brenda Kearse, Sylvia Albritton, and Dr. Sandy Bunkin. Linda Dennison, President for the 2010-2011 school year, continues to provide Professional Development for HASA members, communicates legislative updates and of course, strives to increase membership.

As did its counterpart, (CTA) the Classroom Teachers Association in 1976, HASA formed as a non-profit corporation to facilitate its objectives and to limit liability of the dues-paying membership. That was done with the purpose "to promote the general welfare, encourage unity, and establish communication between the components and to exercise leadership forwarding the purposes and needs of the membership and of the public schools."

HASA emphasizes that there is strength in numbers and solidarity of purpose. HASA continues to grow and enjoys success in the improvement of working conditions and benefits for its over **725** members. Although the goals of the association have changed slightly during the past 30 years, HASA is becoming more politically proactive at the local and state levels. Providing members with greater opportunities to be involved in the organization, emphasizing improved communications, and providing many leadership opportunities have become the group's priorities. HASA should be a force in education for many years to come.