



JUNE 2002

Year in Review

As I reviewed the goals for HASA for the 2001-02 school year, I was pleasantly surprised at the accomplishments achieved by our organization. The three goals I proposed dealt with increasing political involvement, membership involvement, and improving communication. I am excited to report to you the following in regards to those goals:

- Politically, HASA has been instrumental in forming a coalition with four neighboring districts
- HASA has also helped form the Hillsborough Advocates for Public Education (HAPE)
- Membership in HASA is at an all time high
- HASA has responded to member request for special rate service providers
- HASA has a Web Page online
- HASA's newsletter has been expanded and sent to all members monthly

We have also continued with all the services that have been provided in the past such as:

- Fall membership social
- Spring social
- Annual School Board dinner
- Legislative reception for local representatives
- HASA lapel pins
- Scholarships awarded to future educators, future administrators, and current administrators to further their education
- Representation with the Superintendent

Although this has been a tough year in many respects with the budget and legislators, I am proud of the progress HASA has made towards these goals. Thank you for support and I have enjoyed serving you this past year.

Mark West
President, HASA, 2001-02

Hillsborough Association of School Administrators Mission Statement

“ To promote the general welfare, encourage unity, establish communications between the components, and exercise leadership forwarding the purpose and need of the membership and of the public schools.”

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Miliziano, Ed. D.
901 East Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 272-4404

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Mark West

President Elect

Nuri Ayres

Past President

Brenda Kearsse

Secretary

Sandy Bunkin

Treasurer

Nelson Luis

REPRESENTATIVE

BOARD

Asst. Supts/Gen. Directors

Ken Otero

Directors/Asst. Directors

Bill Person

Supervisors

Don Sorondo

Senior High Principals

Tom Rao

Middle School Principals

Brenda Nolte

Elementary Principals

Judy Kennedy

Assistant Principals II

William T. Orr, Jr., Ed.D.

Assistant Principals I

Tempress Solomon

Asst. Prin. Elem. Inst.

Peter Russo

Coordinators

Connie Hayden-McPeak

Management

Fred Andrews

Retired

Jean Leone

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

John Miliziano, Ed.D.

Scholarship Chair

Pat Smith

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Donna St. Peter

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charlotte Valenti

Mary Ellen Elia

Hal Nelson

Historian

Janelle Buck

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Mari McBryar

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. John Miliziano

Another school year has gone by and it is now a good time to look back and reflect as to what has been accomplished and to look forward and see what still needs to be done. HASA, a professional organization of current and retired school administrators, can certainly be proud of its long and rich history of professionalism and service to its members and the entire school community. Recent political, social, and economic special interest groups have been pushing for radical reform in America's public schools. These groups are promoting initiatives such as privatization, accountability, and fiscal retrenchment. The problem is that most of these people are not educators, do not support public education, and believe that the private sector can do a better job in educating children. As we look ahead, it becomes increasingly clear that educators must have a more important role to play in protecting the future survival of free public education. Most importantly, educators must register to vote, encourage others to register as well, and get the vote out on Election Day.

The appropriate response for survival from educators, associations of educators, and those friends who support public education should be to become informed of the important issues that effect our profession, become better organized, and speak out with one unified voice that will be heard and reckoned with. Specifically, educators and their friends need to learn to talk with one another, identify issues that unite them rather than divide them, and form strong coalitions that can serve as advocates for public education.

HASA with the support and approval of its 622+ members has started the process of organizing the appropriate response needed to combat the erosion of public education. HASA has applied for certification as a Political Action Committee (PAC). Through the PAC, our association will now be able to endorse and financially support state legislators who will listen to and advance our legislative agenda. HASA has joined a Coalition of Tampa Bay Area Administrative Associations (Sarasota, Manatee, and Polk Counties) whose goal is to collectively advocate for public education. HASA has also supported the establishment of a local coalition called HAPE, Hillsborough Advocates for Public Education. HAPE membership includes, HASA, the CTA, the PTA, and the various Principal Council Organizations. HASA's goal for 2002-2003 will be to strengthen and develop these coalitions and become more politically active.

As we look ahead to the next school term, all HASA members are encouraged to take up the call to do their part in supporting their association by getting involved and participating in the many activities that take place throughout the entire year.

【 Did You Know... 】

- ❖ The 2002 Florida Legislature said that it could not consider the passage of House Bills 235 and 237 and Senate Bills 2 and 144 because of the huge impact they would have on an already strapped budget year. These Bills would have reduced the best average retirement multiplier to three (3) years, and raised the annual percentage multiplier from 1.6% to 2.1%.
- ❖ The irony of the above legislative position is that the Florida Retirement System (FRS) is not funded by the state's general budget. FRS is funded by contributions by the local school districts paid to the state retirement plan as a percentage of the employee's salary.
- ❖ This year, the same legislature passed House Bill 1973 that became law on June 1, 2002. This legislature took out \$164 million from the FRS Fund to help balance the budget. The legislature's rationale for doing this was that the FRS is so actuarially sound; \$100 Billion Fund with a \$35 Billion surplus, that removing \$164 million was not a problem.
- ❖ To add insult to injury, the legislature got the \$164 million by reducing the contribution that local districts must make to FRS from each employee's annual salary from 11.65% to 8%. This reduction allows school district to keep \$164 million that they would otherwise had to send to FRS. In balancing the budget the legislators claimed that they gave the school districts an additional \$164 million of new money.

Legislative Benefits Committee Update

Dr. John Miliziano, Executive Director

The HASA Legislative Benefits Committee, met on May 22, 2002 and took action on the following issues:

- ❖ Voted unanimously to recommend that HASA's Board of Directors file for certification as a Political Action Committee (PAC). The HASA Board at its June 3rd meeting also unanimously approved this recommendation. The appropriate certification papers were filed with the Florida Department of Elections on June 6, 2002. Ratification is expected within the next several days. The Board approved that \$10 of each member's existing annual dues will be used to fund the Political Action committee. HASA members who do not wish to help fund the PAC can do so by written request to the treasurer of HASA.
- ❖ Voted to expand the previous survey of retirement benefits that are provided to school employees by ten South Eastern States. The first survey researched the number of years needed for normal retirement, and the best average years and annual percentage multiplier used for calculating retirement benefits. The three additional areas to be investigated are employee contribution to the retirement plan, and state contributions to retiree health and life insurance premiums. When this survey is complete, HASA members will be provided with the findings, and the information will be shared with the superintendent, school board members, and state legislators. HAPE and the Tampa Bay Area Coalition may also be interested in disseminating this information with their constituents.
- ❖ Voted to support HAPE's recommendation that the previous annual legislative receptions be discontinued and that in its place we support a meet the candidates forum. All candidates for Florida Legislature would be invited to this forum where they will be asked to speak to us about their positions on various educational issues and then respond to questions from the audience. At the June 3rd meeting of HASA's Board of Directors this recommendation was also approved.

FASA Election Results

Bill Orr

The results of the 2002-2003 election are as follows:

President-elect	Charlotte Valenti
Secretary	Kenneth Allen
Supervisors' Representative	Don Sorondo
AP II representative	Maria Singfield
Alternate	Ernest Fernandez
Middle School Principals' Representative	Carmen Aguero
Alternate	Victor Fernandez
AP Elementary Instruction	Mary Cunningham
Alternate	Lois Mautte
Non-instructional Managers	Fred Andrews
Alternate	Mike Phillips
Retired Administrators	Jean Leone