



MARCH 2002

A Yankee's Doodles

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I don't know why I torture myself every day – I read the Editorials. And on Sunday, I get to peruse an entire section of torturous material, often pertaining to schools. In a recent Sunday's Commentary section, a particularly abrasive article written by a gentleman from Detroit (of course I thought of all the typical non-Florida comments) really made me appreciate the Hillsborough County School District. In this article, he criticizes the Department of Education and the "state of public schools in America."

Although we don't get a lot of help from our legislators, I think, under the leadership of our superintendent and board, we do a mighty fine job. As we have heard many times before, we have been asked to do more with less. The number of students educated by our schools has climbed steadily each year and the scores on our FCAT tests have increased each year. Yet, our legislators continue to use smoke and mirrors to give less to education. In this time of real need, we need to be really vocal. Now is the time to let our legislators and elected officials hear our voice.

I get the feeling that our state leadership is doing everything in its power to dismember public education. We all know the governor's stand on vouchers. Our legislators are taking power away from the local school boards. One legislator even proposed that school boards no longer have the power to name new schools. Guess who would – that's right – legislators!

I know that November is a long way away. I also know that folks have short memories, especially in politics. But now is the time to speak up and let your legislators hear you. They may not listen now, but they definitely will in November.

- Just another former Yankee's opinion.

Hillsborough Association of School Administrators Mission Statement

" To promote the general welfare, encourage
unity, establish communications between the
components and exercise leadership

A Message from Miliziano

Dr. John Miliziano, Executive Director

This year, so far, has been a very active and productive year for our professional association. HASA's Board of Directors has undertaken many projects that have been totally or partially achieved. A Tampa Bay Area Coalition has been formed with four charter members pledging to work toward sharing information and building support for legislation that will benefit our profession. Other neighboring county associations will be encouraged to join the coalition. *(Please see related article in this issue.)*

The goal to improve communications and having HASA become the vehicle for greater cooperation among educators and advocates of public education has taken a giant step forward. Our newsletter, thanks to our newsletter editor Donna St. Peter, and a growing number of generous member volunteer who write informative and interesting articles, is receiving many positive comments from our readers.

In recent months, the former Legislative Reception Committee has transformed itself to a new coalition named Hillsborough Advocates for Public Education (HAPE). Thanks to the leadership of Susan King, HAPE has the potential of becoming a viable political force in Hillsborough County. *(For more detailed information on HAPE, please log on to HASA's Web Page.)*

HASA's Web Page (www.hasaonline.com) is now on line and it contains a great deal of useful information. Thanks to our Web Master, Hal Nelson, the web page offers many links to other organizations that we as educators often use. A very comprehensive calendar of events, information about scholarships and awards, and opportunities of group discount services, is found in the web site. We trust that members logging on and using this electronic media will justify the expense of providing this communication instrument to our members.

A subcommittee of the HASA's Legislative Benefits Committee has addressed member survey requests for group discount services. Several dedicated members of this sub-committee conducted a diligent search of provider companies and have selected those that offered the best programs to our members. *(For more information, please read related article in this issue and log on to our web site.)*

The one area that has been the most difficult to make progress in is the political arena. Our effort to get legislation that benefits education and educators has been a dismal failure. It is hard to accept the fact that educators and education supporters, the largest advocacy group of voters in the state, cannot influence legislation in any meaningful way.

HASA, as an organization of school administrators, will rise to whatever level of excellence its members aspire for it to achieve. Members are encouraged to get involved and participate in the many opportunities that are offered.

	Did You Know...	
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John Miliziano, Executive Director

- ❖ **Membership in HASA has climbed to 616.**
- ❖ **Of a possible 184 Elementary, Middle, and Senior High School Principals, 178 or 97.2% are members of HASA.**
- ❖ **63 Retired Administrators have chosen to remain members of HASA.**
- ❖ **HASA has 12 component groups of administrators that are eligible for membership.**
- ❖ **HASA unlike some other Florida school district associations includes both school and district level administrators and managers.**

HASA Board Recommends PAC

The March meeting of HASA, the board of directors recommended the association consider forming a Political Action Committee (PAC). The board also felt it should not proceed with this action without input and support of the membership. Let's consider why as a professional organization we would need to form a PAC. Since the mid 90's HASA has taken an active role to try and influence legislation that was beneficial to education or protected members' benefits. In this process, it has become apparent that our desires have fallen on deaf ears.

The association now feels it has become increasingly more difficult to influence legislation without the ability to influence elected officials. That influence comes in the way of campaign contributions and endorsements of candidates for public office.

What is a PAC and what purpose does it perform? A PAC is a Political Action Committee. PACs are organizations established by private groups to support candidates for public office. Labor unions began forming PACs during the 1940s, but corporations were barred from doing so until the passage of the Federal Campaign Act of 1971. By lifting the prohibition against using corporate money to set up PACs, FECA and its 1974 and 1976 amendments legitimized a new and much larger role of corporations in political campaigns. In the last election PACs contributed over 300 million to congressional candidates, most of whom were incumbents.

Why do private groups and corporations need a PAC? The law prohibits private groups from using dues and corporations from using profits as contribution to political candidates. The PAC's sole purpose is to contribute to political campaigns.

How does HASA plan to fund a PAC if it can't use dues? HASA would have to ask the membership to contribute to the PAC. Example, if dues are \$150 dollars HASA might ask its members to kick in another \$10 for the PAC. The additional \$10 has to be optional. Just \$10 multiplied by 600 members is \$6000. It's not much, but it's a start. It could send a message of support to candidates who are pro public education and school administrator.

Is a PAC's only function to raise money for political campaigns? Not necessarily, we can ask candidates to state their political platform to us to gain our endorsement and subsequent campaign contributions.

It should be stated at this time that HASA has no intention of using the PAC for city, county, or school board elections. The only purpose is to impact state legislative or gubernatorial elections.

Please let us know how you feel about HASA starting a PAC. Contact us at our Web

Page at www.hasaonline.com. Once at the site, click on HASA CONTACT INFORMATION and link with John Miliziano, Mark West, or Mari McBryar.

FEBRUARY 19, 2002
THE TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION IS FORMED

Representatives of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition met on Tuesday, February 19, 2002, from 9:00 to 10:30 AM at Armwood High School. Present at this meeting were: Reid Wallace from Manatee County, Jan Gibbs and Marilyn Highland from Sarasota County, Neriah Roberts from Polk County, and John Miliziano from Hillsborough County.

The following actions were taken by unanimous approval of the four charter members representatives present:

1. Adopted a constitution, by-laws, and elected a temporary board of directors and officers. The temporary board and officers will serve from this date (February 19, 2002) plus one year beginning July 1, 2002. **(Copy of the Coalition's constitution & by-laws is posted in the HASA web site www.hasaonline.com)**
2. Elected officers are as follows: John Miliziano, President; Reid Wallace, Vice President; Neriah Roberts, Treasurer; and Marilyn Highland, Secretary.
3. The Board agreed to establish a separate account within the HASA treasury. The four charter member districts will contribute one dollar for each member of their association, as an initiation fee, to be deposited in the Tampa Bay Area Coalition account.

The Board of Directors established the following goals and program of action for the remainder of this year:

1. Continue sharing legislative information and disseminate said information to all members of the coalition.
2. Promote the establishment of local area education advocacy groups.
3. Become proactive in advancing educational issues.
4. Get involved with the upcoming governor's race.
5. Support the passage of legislation that will enhance retirement benefits for public school educators such as: Calculating FRS retirement on three best years; raising the annual multiplier from 1.6% to at least 2%; and creating a 25 year normal retirement plan.
6. Encourage other neighboring counties to join the coalition.

The Board will send a letter to the FASA Board of Directors, to inform them of the coalition's goals to promote, at the grass roots level, the general welfare of its member associations, encourage unity, establish effective communications, share resources, share information on pending legislation, and advance the needs of public school administrators and public schools.

HASA MEMBER BENEFITS

Baccarella & Baccarella, P.A., the Law Firm that HASA has selected to recommend to its members who need family and related legal services, is providing exclusively to HASA members a free \$150 consultation and a 10% discount. This firm publishes a newsletter entitled “*Legal Update*” that provides the reader interesting and timely legal information. HASA members can receive this newsletter free of charge by telephoning (813) 348-9445 and requesting to be placed on their mailing list. Members can contact Baccarella & Baccarella by e-mailing BaccLaw@aol.com, or by logging on to their Web Page <http://www.baccarella-law.com/>.

Salomon Smith Barney and Karp & Associates are the two firms recommended as financial and retirement planning consultants. When contacting Salomon Smith Barney please ask for Andrew Cappello, Christie Roberts or Frank Leto. They can be reached by telephoning (813) 228-9888 or by getting on line with their web page at <http://www.ssbfc.com/cappello-roberts-letto>. When contacting Karp & Associates, ask for David Karp. Mr. Karp can be reached by telephone at (813) 977-9940 or by e-mail at davidkarp@tampaoffice.com.

Automobile and Homeowners Insurance HASA's Legislative Benefits Subcommittee on Member Benefits has arranged for Insurance and Trust (IAT) to provide our members with the lowest tier of pricing options on homeowner property damage liability coverage and automobile insurance. This is not a solicitation for this company; however, if any HASA member calls for a quote, they should ask for Michael Chernoff directly and identify themselves as a HASA member. IAT is located at 8548 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, 33614. Mr. Chernoff can be reached at (813) 933-7333.

Cellular Telephone Services Provider will be announced in the April Newsletter.

WE TRUST THAT AS HASA MEMBERS USE THE SERVICES OF THE ABOVE PROVIDERS THEY WILL GIVE THEIR HASA BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK ON THE QUALITY OF SERVICE THEY RECEIVE. THE ABOVE FIRMS WILL BE RECOMMENDED AS LONG AS SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS ARE SATISFACTORY.

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LOG ON TO HASA'S WEB PAGE (www.hasonline.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE PROVIDERS.



Health benefits are on the minds of most adults in this country. The quality of those benefits has been discussed in a variety of places from faculty meetings to dinner tables. HASA meets with representatives from the Human Resources Division at least twice a year to share your concerns. We would like to provide them with specific examples of your concerns. Take a moment to submit your concerns to Brenda Kearse via email (brenda.kearse@sdhc.k12.fl.us). Your concerns will be shared at the upcoming meetings. Information from those meetings will be shared in our HASA Newsletter and on our website.

HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS 2001-2002 AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Please check the award category or which you are making this nomination. Use a separate form for each category in which you are making a nomination. This form may be copied.

_____ **HASA LEADERSHIP AWARD** – presented to a HASA member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership ability.

_____ **HASA PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT AWARD** – Presented to a member who has advanced the professional image of the school administrator by action, word, or deed.

_____ **HASA PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD** – Presented to any person or organization whose efforts have resulted in a significant increase in public knowledge of the services or accomplishments of the Hillsborough County Public Schools.

_____ **RAYMOND O. SHELTON AWARD** – Presented to the person who has made contributions to the Hillsborough County Public Schools in an outstanding manner.

NOMINEE: _____

POSITION (if applicable): _____

List the significant accomplishments or outstanding contributions of your nominee that relate directly to the category of your nomination in 250 words or less. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

List positions held and honors received which relate to this nomination:

Cite specific examples to support your nomination as appropriate.

Submitted by: _____ Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received no later than **Friday, April 12, 2002!** Mail nominations to **Brenda Kearsse, Awards Chairman, Staff Development Office, ROSSAC, Rt. 7**

RULES: Only current members of HASA may submit nominations. No current member of the HASA Executive Committee may be nominated.

Retirement Calculations

State	Number of Years for Normal Retirement	Best Average Years	Annual Percentage Multiplier
Florida	30	5	1.6%
Georgia	30	2	2.0%
Alabama	25	3	2.0125%
Mississippi	25	4	2.25%
South Carolina	28	3	1.82%
North Carolina	25	4	1.81%
Virginia	30	3	1.7%
Tennessee	30	5	1.5%
Louisiana	25	3	2.5%
Arkansas	28	3	2.15%

HASA AWARDS 2002

HASA traditionally acknowledges outstanding achievement in four areas by presenting awards at the Spring Social: Professional Involvement Award, Public Relations Award, Leadership Award, Raymond O. Shelton Award.

The Spring Social will be held this year on April 25th. In order for this process to work effectively, we are asking our HASA membership to review the nomination form in this newsletter and to discuss possible nominees with others in their component groups. The "nominee" can be within your component group, an employee of the district, or someone in the Tampa Bay Area that warrants recognition. The nomination process will take time out of someone's busy schedule to complete. The benefits of acknowledging a person or a group's efforts outweigh the time spent on this project.

Submitted by Brenda G. Kearse

2002 Legislative Session = Another Disappointing Year

Dr. John Miliziano, Executive Director

For the second year in a row, Florida legislators have seen fit to either erode or do nothing to improve retirement benefits for educators. Last year the legislature restricted the terminal payout benefits for unused sick leave. This year, two bills that would have improved the state's ability to attract and retain the best and the brightest educators, died for lack of getting committee hearings.

Our legislative delegation last year claimed that because of the Senate President's pressure, they were unable to prevent the passage of the despicable terminal pay bill. This year we are told that the bills that would have decreased the five-year average to three years and increased the yearly multiplier for calculating retirement benefits from 1.6% to 2.1% were killed because they were too costly and would have had a negative impact on a very tight budget year.

It is general knowledge that the above bills, if passed into law, would have had little or no impact on the general budget because the funding would be derived from the Florida Retirement System (FRS) and not from the general budget. It is also important to note that among ten southeastern states, Florida provides the lowest benefits in the area of retirement services. It is also most important to note that the FRS is one of the nation's best-funded retirement systems with over \$30 billion in surplus revenue and a \$90 billion fund balance.

We need to thank Representatives Mark Flanagan from Bradenton and Nancy Detert from Venice for co-sponsoring House Bill 235 that would have reduced the average final compensation to three years. We also need to commend Senator Locke Burt from Ormond Beach and Deland, Florida, for sponsoring a companion bill, Senate Bill 2.

We also need to contact and thank Representative Heather Fiorentino from New Port Richey and Senator Ken Pruitt of Port St. Lucie for sponsoring House Bill 237 and Senate Bill 144 that would have increased the yearly retirement multiplier to 2.1%.

We all need to write, telephone, or e-mail the above five legislators and ask them to re-introduce these bills next year and promise them that we will provide all the support possible. The least that our Hillsborough County Legislators can do is co-sponsor these bills and lend support to those legislators that are willing to do something to support the education profession. (*See more information on the HASA's Web Page www.hasaonline.com*).

HASA's Legislative Benefits Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the organization should consider establishing a Political Actions Committee (PAC). Through a PAC, HASA could begin supporting those legislators that support our legislative agenda. Please consider this recommendation and give your Representative Member on the Board the benefit of your opinion on this important matter.

Supreme Court Considers Voucher Case

Reprint from the Los Angeles Times

Since 1995, Ohio has offered Cleveland parents vouchers, or scholarships, of \$2,500 per child per year if they choose to send their children to private or parochial schools. Supporters say this program gives disadvantaged children a chance to escape Cleveland's failing public schools. Critics say it mostly subsidizes parents who were already sending their children to parochial schools. Nearly 4,000 students are receiving state vouchers in Cleveland. In reality, the Cleveland program has offered parents fewer choices than its backers had envisioned. The suburban schools refused to open their doors to transfers from the city, and exclusive private schools were not interested in taking on students who could pay only \$2,500. As a result, nearly all the Cleveland students who take advantage of the state voucher--99% in the most recent tally--go to religious schools. This week the Supreme Court took up the question of state vouchers that pay for children to attend church-related schools—not to decide whether this is good education policy but to rule on whether this use of tax money violates the Constitution's ban on "an establishment of religion.

Senator Ginny Brown-Waite	850-487-5040	Hernando, Pasco, Polk, Sumter	Senator Al Lawson	850-487-5004	Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, Bay, Jefferson, Leon, Madison
Senator Locke Burt	850-487-5033	Volusia	Senator Tom Lee	850-487-5072	Hillsborough, Polk
Senator Walter "Skip" Campbell	850-487-5094	Broward	Senator John McKay	850-487-5229	DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee, Sarasota
Senator Lisa Carlton	850-487-5081	Charlotte, Lee, Sarasota	Senator Kendrick Meek	850-487-5116	Dade
Senator Charlie Clary	850-487-5009	Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton	Senator Les Miller	850-487-5059	Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas
Senator Lee Constantine	850-487-5050	Orange, Seminole	Senator Richard Mitchell	850-487-5017	Baker, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Nassau, Taylor, Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Jefferson, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Union
Senator Anna Cowin	850-487-5014	Lake, Citrus, Marion, Seminole, Sumter	Senator Durell Peaden	850-487-5000	Holmes, Washington, Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton
Senator Victor Crist	850-487-5068	Hillsborough, Pasco	Senator Bill Posey	850-487-5053	Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie
Senator Mandy Dawson	850-487-5112	Broward, Palm Beach	Senator Ken Pruitt	850-487-5088	Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie
Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla	850-487-5109	Dade	Senator Tom Rossin	850-487-5356	Glades, Charlotte, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach
Senator Buddy Dyer	850-487-5190	Orange, Seminole	Senator Debbie Sanderson	850-487-5100	Broward, Palm Beach
Senator Howard Futch	850-487-5056	Brevard, Osceola	Senator Burt Saunders	850-487-5124	Collier, Lee
Senator Rudy Garcia	850-487-5106	Dade	Senator Jim Sebesta	850-487-5124	Hillsborough, Pinellas
Senator Steven Geller	850-487-4097	Hendry, Broward, Collier, Palm Beach	Senator Ron Silver	850-487-5121	Dade
Senator Betty Holzendorf	850-487-5024	Alachua, Clay, Duval, Putnam, St. Johns	Senator Rod Smith	850-487-5020	Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Suwannee, Union
Senator Daryl Jones	850-487-5127	Monroe, Dade	Senator Don Sullivan	850-487-5065	Pinellas
Senator Jim King	850-487-5030	Flagler, Duval, Marion, St. Johns, Volusia	Senator Alex Villalobos	850-487-5130	Dade
Senator Ron Klein	850-487-5091	Broward, Palm Beach	Senator Debbie Wasserman-Schultz	850-487-5103	Broward, Dade
Senator Jack Latvala	850-487-5062	Pasco, Pinellas	Senator Daniel Webster	850-487-5047	Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Volusia
Senator John Laurent	850-487-5044	Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk	Senator Steve Wise	850-487-5027	Clay, Duval, St. Johns