

FASA Central Florida Regional Coalition/TBAC Meet

September 21, 2011



Jefferson HS culinary arts teacher and students were thanked for putting on a wonderful lunch. Dr. John Miliziano opened the 53rd bimonthly meeting with a round table introduction of members and guests present. John noted that it is important to convey the message to all Florida Administrators that whatever benefits some legislators and the Governor didn't take away from educators this year, they will be back to try and take them away during the next legislative session. Joining FASA will help give our state association the numbers necessary to fight for our cause and protect some of the benefits that we have not yet lost. Last year FASA was able to recruit 500 new members and their goal is to recruit 500 more this year.

Senator Bill Montford and Rep. Will Weatherford are up for re-election. The attendees were urged to support the re-election of both Bill Montford and Will Weatherford. HASA has agreed to donate \$500 to each of their campaigns. John urged the other coalition members present to do the same. Larry stated that FASA is very much in support of these two legislators being re-elected. It was noted by consensus of everyone present that a crucial priority this year is to protect the sick leave pay benefit. Bill Lee also suggested including the subject of rising costs of retiree insurance.



The group wanted to know the status of the Constitutional Amendment to give State Tax Money to Religious Institutions: Larry Wood said that this amendment is still on the priority list of attorney, Ron Myers, and he feels sure we can win this fight. FASA is supporting this initiative but has not been asked to contribute money to the defense. If this amendment passes then it is a done deal. However, the federal government can always step in and challenge it and then that would be the next lawsuit. FASA has elected not to join in the lawsuit for the contribution of 3% from employees' salaries toward the pension fund. FASA is not a union and to join in this lawsuit with firefighters, police and FEA, would categorize our association as a union.

FASA 100 x 100 Program: Larry said that FASA now have 39 organizations or individuals that have contributed \$100 each to the fund thus far. The money in this fund will be used to pay expenses to members who have grant writing skills and are willing to help write grants for FASA. FASA is asking for sponsors to provide contributions to this initiative and noted that VALIC has already provided some money. John noted that HASA has sent in its contribution and other HASA individuals have also done the same. HASA is interested in getting additional funds from state, federal, and foundation grants. Larry would like some of you that have written grants to come to Tallahassee to help FASA perfect our grant writing process and get some available monies for administrators.