

FASA Central Florida Regional COALITION
53rd BIMONTHLY
LUNCHEON MEETING
Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 11:30 a.m.
Jefferson High School
4401 W. Cypress Street
Tampa, FL 33607
(Lunch served from 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon)

Attendees: Larry Wood (FASA); Marjorie Ebersbach (Brevard); Jean Leone, Ernie Fernandez, Ken Allen & John Miliziano (Hillsborough); Aurelia Cole & John Schmidt (Lake); Marty Mesch (Lee); David Underhill & Carl Auckerman (Manatee); Bob Clark (Orange); Peggy Johns, Dennis Griffin & Bonnie Cangelosi (Pinellas); Bill Londeree (Polk); Jean Holstein (Sumter); Dody Sapp (Volusia); Bill Lee (Washington-FASA Regional Director); Chris Brown (VALIC)

Members absent: John Weant (Charlotte); Denise Willis (Citrus); Barbara Kidder (Hernando); Rob Aguis (Pasco); Leona Collesano & Melodie Deeds (Sarasota); Richard Wells (Seminole)

Jefferson High School Culinary Arts teacher and his students were thanked for providing a delicious lunch for the participants.

1. Opening Remarks & Introduction of Guests (Dr. John Miliziano)

John Miliziano opened the meeting with a round table introduction of members and guests present. He further provided a brief summary of the agenda materials.

Larry Wood from FASA noted that bonus points for improving grades can actually hurt you. John noted it is important for us to convey the message that whatever the legislators and Governor didn't take from us this year – they will be back to try and take away those items. Joining FASA will help give them the numbers necessary to fight for our cause and keep our benefits. Last year FASA was able to recruit 500 new members and their goal is to recruit 500 more this year. John is visiting each of the 13 councils in Hillsborough County encouraging membership in FASA and HASA. HASA's goal is to get 50 new HASA members during each year's membership drive.

2. Approval of TBA Coalition Minutes of July 20, 2011 Meeting (John Miliziano for Rob Aguis)

John said that the minutes from the July 20, 2011, meeting was sent in advance electronically to all Coalition members. Members present acknowledged that they had received these minutes. On motion of Peggy Johns second by Dody Sapp, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. Approval of Treasurer's Report (Marjorie Ebersbach)

Marjorie Ebersbach reviewed the treasurer's report. She noted that as of the end of this reporting period ending September 19, 2011, our balance is \$3533.61. John noted that

some members have not paid their dues; therefore, our balance will change once all the dues are received. Jean Holstein asked how the determination is made on the amount of dues paid by each association member and John responded that it is \$1 per member per year.

4. Review Strategic Goals (Member Participation)

- **Goals Addressed at the May 4 meeting (Goals 1, 2, 3 & 7)**
- **Goals to be addressed this meeting (Goals 4, 5, & 6)**

Due to a shortage of time, this item has been deferred to the next meeting.

5. Senator Bill Montford and Rep. Will Weatherford are up for re-election

John is urging support for the re-election of Bill Montford and Will Weatherford. HASA has agreed to donate \$500 to each of their campaigns. Larry Wood stated that FASA is very supportive of these two legislators being re-elected. If your association has a PAC and agrees to contribute, FASA will write a check from the association with the PAC and give it back to the association to personally present to these legislators. Marjorie requested that a bank statement be sent to her periodically showing the balance in her district's PAC account. Bob Clark asked if it would be appropriate to have the PAC checks in hand at the FASA Legislative Days to give to these legislators. Larry Wood said that this would be appropriate. If your organization does not have a PAC, another organization that has a PAC would be willing to help out. Bob asked if we have to wait until FASA develops its list of legislators they will endorse and support before local districts with PACs can endorse their candidates and use their PAC funds. John stated that each local association can come up with its own list of candidates to endorse and support with their own PAC money. FASA also has its own PAC money that is funded by all FASA membership dues. FASA's PAC will endorse and support candidates after they have been vetted. Local district members who have their PAC managed by FASA are invited to participate as to whom FASA will endorse and support. Dody Sapp noted that many people are waiting for the redistricting to be completed before endorsing candidates.

6. FASA 2012 Legislative Priorities

The deadline dates included in the agenda have been modified and extended to submit legislative priorities to FASA. It was noted by consensus of everyone present that a crucial priority this year is to protect the terminal pay benefit. Bill Lee also suggested including the subject of rising costs of retiree insurance.

Chris Brown has offered to set up a conference call for discussion of legislative priorities. John reported that FASA Legislative Days are scheduled for December 4, 5, and 6.

7. Status of Constitutional Amendment to give State Tax Money to Religious Institutions

Larry said that this amendment is still on the priority list of Attorney Ron Myers, and he feels sure he 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 toward the pension fund. FASA is not a union and to join in this lawsuit with firefighters, police and FEA, would categorize us as a union.

8. FASA 100 x 100 Program and PR Initiative

Larry reported that FASA now has 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.

9. FASA Legislative Accomplishments/Membership Drive

Membership to FASA is very important. Chris Brown (VALIC) offered to host a seminar to raise awareness and help recruit members to FASA. He suggested that each organization contact the VALIC rep in their area or contact him and he will let the area rep know of your interest.

The FRS is a big bucket of money; the state collects the money from the school districts; school districts get their funding from FTE; and then send it back to the state for the FRS. When the fund is fat, then the state can cut back on what school districts contribute to FRS. School districts are now funding at 4% with 3% contributions coming from employees. In Florida our retirement system is one of the four best in the country. Politicians are saying the fund is going bankrupt but that is not the case. A way of looking at FRS is that you are buying life insurance policy.

10. Progress of Regional Coalitions Building

Bill Lee is trying to get people involved with his region to get more active members involved and recruiting more members to have a stronger voice.

11. Outreach to 5 districts in our region

John noted that he has made contact with Citrus, Lake, and Sumter Counties. Lake and Sumter Counties are in attendance at this meeting. He has not yet made contact

with Marion and Osceola Counties and asked if anyone present had contacts in those counties, to please encourage them to join our Coalition.

12. HASA 2011 Membership Drive

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

13. Roundtable Comments (Member Participation)

Due to lack of time, there were no roundtable comments

14. Schedule next Meeting

Due to lack of time, the next meeting was not scheduled. At the next meeting we will:

- Address Strategic Goals 4, 5, 6
- Notify all our Coalition members of a telephone conference call that will be arranged very soon by Chris Brown of VALIC so we can all agree on our coalitions 2012 legislative agenda.
- Continue with Roundtable discussion/comments
- Set the date for our next November meeting during the conference call.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.