

**Minutes of NYSALJA General Membership Meeting held on:
Wednesday, September 25, 2002.**

Prepared by Christine C. Traskos (Secretary)
Location: Washington Tavern, Albany, NY

Meeting called to order at 6:55 p.m.

Copy of previously distributed minutes of July 29, 2002 and Attendee List is attached.

Minutes of board meeting (July 29, 2002) discussed. Motion made by Marc Zylberberg to accept minutes and seconded by Tyrone Butler. Unanimously passed.

The **Treasurer's Report** by Cathy Bennett was received. (See attached). The closing balance as of September 25, 2002 is **\$7, 659.67**. Costs since last meeting include payment of \$1500 to Albany Law School for website, plus costs for mailing out ballots and dues adjustments.

Old Business:

59 Ballots were returned which constitutes a majority of 107 total membership. Results on dues increase were 55 in favor, 4 against. Results on change of business year were 57 in favor, 2 against. The business year will now start July 1 to June 30 commencing in July '03. At that time dues will also be increased to \$45 per year.

Noted that NYSALJA is not a tax registered not-for-profit organization, thus we cannot qualify for a bulk mail rate. Recommended that we consider sending ballots out by e-mail next year to on line to save on expenditures. Regular mail will be used for those who do not have e-mail addresses.

Website Update: Website up and running. Please advise Marc Zylberberg of errors or additions. We are attempting to set up a LIST SERV, but security passes are required. Passwords will be issued by Albany Law School.

NYC Reception: Since O'Hara's is not wheelchair accessible, the location and date will be changed tentatively to November. John Farago to look into getting a place .

New Business:

Impartial Hearing Officers (IHOs) There is a statewide issue involving reimbursement to IHOs. School Districts now allowed to set pay policy which can range from \$40- \$100 per hour. This has created controversy, ex-parte problems and ill will. IHOs now placed in a position to have to negotiate for their salaries. In NYC, Board of Education has been abolished and there may be a proposal to combine IHOs with OATH. There are noted discrepancies between IHO and OATH practices. A letter, dated August 19, 2002 was sent to State Education Department signed by a number of IHOs. Report is being prepared by IHOs to make recommendations now that the City Board of Education has been abolished. IHOs are requesting that all changes be made out in the open and with careful inquiry. Functions for School District and IHOs should clearly identified. Request made for NYSALJA to support this position along with possible creation of executive committee in NYSALJA to cover this area.

Motion made by Tyrone Butler to endorse the IHO August 19th letter to Commissioner Mills. Peter Loomis seconded the motion. Motion passed by majority with 1 against and 1 abstention.

Motion made by Tyrone Butler to amend By-Laws as follows:

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the Association, [the immediate] past presidents who remain members of the Association, and not more than five other active members of the Association, one of whom shall serve as liaison to NAALJ. The Executive Committee shall be elected by majority vote at the annual membership meeting.

Motion seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion passed 12 to 1. It was however suggested that an agenda for the Annual meeting should be provided to the membership so that they would be aware of all proposed motions.

Marc Zylberberg advised that Civil Service has issued a manual for ALJs that is available on the Civil Service website or by calling Civil Service.

No specific date yet for State Bar October '03 event. It was recommended that NYSAJA distribute a flyer to promote the International Conference scheduled for Toronto in June '04.

ELECTION : Report of Nominating Committee: Peter Loomis proposed amendment to Board, i.e. Tyrone Butler to relinquish board position and be replaced by IHO representative, John Farago. Proposed slate for October officers: Cathy Bennett- President Elect; Chris Traskos- V.P. ; Tom Sacca- Treasurer; Anne Murphy- Secretary. Larry Storch to replace Norman Romanick and John Farago to replace Tyrone Butler on Board. Nominations were closed. Slates are unopposed.

Motion to elect slate made by Tyrone Butler and seconded by Peter Loomis. Motion passed 12 to 1.

Treasury documents were amended to conform to change in officers.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled at the time of the NYC reception.

Thanks and acknowledgment given to Jim Horan for his service as President in the past year noting that the membership doubled during his term in office.

Motion to adjourn made by Peter Loomis, seconded by Larry Storch.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM