

Minutes of NYSALA Annual Membership Meeting  
October 19, 2004

Prepared by Anne W. Murphy, Secretary NYSALJA

Meeting Location: NYS Health Department  
5 Penn Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY

Copy of previously distributed minutes of July 16, 2004, redistributed.

Minutes of July 16, 2004 Meeting of NYALA Board adopted.

### **Treasurer's Report/Membership**

Marc Zylberberg distributed the Treasurer's Report and made a report on the organization's membership. With respect to the Treasurer's Report, he explained the accounts, balances and expenditures of the organization to date. With respect to membership, he noted that there are presently seventy-nine members, including 78 paying persons and one honorary member.

Catherine Bennett noted that our organization keeps only \$10 of the \$45 national dues fee, and that the balance of NYSALJA's income is attributable to speaking engagements by herself and Peter Loomis, and the proceeds of conferences.

The Treasurer's Report was received by motion.

### **The President's Report**

An NAALJ Update was offered, including discussion of recent conference participation and dues issues.

**Conferences:** The Executive Director is to speak at the Department of Motor Vehicles Conference on ALJ Training. The fee for the conference will be collected by NYSALJA.

The **Annual NAALJ Meeting** is being held in Baltimore, November 3-7, 2004. Speakers will include NYSALJA Members. A scholarship was offered to pay for the NAALJ Conference fee, and after a lottery, Chris Traskos was awarded the scholarship. Michael Danziger emphasized that NYSALJA had substantial voting power at this meeting, based on the size of our membership. He discussed the agenda, and emphasized the date and time of the NAALJ general membership meeting (Thursday of the conference week at 4:45 p.m.).

A **Legislation update** was offered. It was noted that there has not been any action on A4274b, and that at the time of the meeting it had not been submitted to the Senate. The membership is being kept up to date on this legislation through e-mails from the Board.

The members were informed that certain **2003 ALJ Institute materials** were available for sale. The meeting manual has been put on a CD and the organization is to receive fifty for sale to members or for promotional use (see below).

Several issues were discussed with respect to **NYSALJA membership**:

(a) There was an initial discussion of the criteria for joining NYSALJA. Membership should be open to individuals who hold hearings and issue decisions, before public agencies. There was discussion of an "associate" category for persons who are for example members of a firm appearing before an agency.

(b) Catherine Bennett suggested that we put together a promotional packet for distribution at meetings and conferences, which would include a disc, a copy of the NAALJ Journal and a membership application.

(c) Judge Bennett also stated that she would investigate whether we could arrange for dues to be paid by credit card and/or through an online payment facility such as PayPal.

(d) The possibility of obtaining a sales tax exemption was again discussed, and it was noted that we would need to amend our bylaws to include relevant language to conform with the statutory requirements.

(e) It was suggested that the organization hold a reception for Independent Hearing Officers (IHOs), which would be geared toward their specific concerns.

### The Website

There was discussion of issues with respect to the NYSALJA website. At this time there is no expense for maintaining the site. We were informed that pictures taken at various events, including the Toronto and Baltimore Conferences, are available on the site. It was noted that the links on the website were problematic; information was apparently not at the linked site or not available. Catherine Bennett mentioned that there was supposed to be coordination with Albany law School and that if there were issues, they should be discussed with Marc Zylberberg.

### Election of Officers

Before the election of officers was held, issues were raised with respect to **annual voting**. There were questions whether it was appropriate to use telecommunications to bring all members together for voting, and whether an amendment was required. Further there was a discussion of the role of the annual meeting. It was suggested that the membership should be canvassed for input into these issues. It was agreed that those members participating in the Annual Meeting by teleconference (Chris Traskos and James Horan) were also permitted to vote. Their votes were communicated to Marc Zylberberg.

The Nominating Committee (Michael Danziger, Chris Traskos, and Marc Zylberberg) then proposed the following:

#### Officer Nominations:

Michael Danziger for President  
John Farago for Vice President  
Anne Murphy and Chris Traskos as Co-Secretaries  
Marc Zylberberg as Treasurer.

#### Executive Committee Nominations:

There are five members of the NYSALJA Executive Committee. Presently James Hinds, Abigail Bernhardt and

Sue Novick Wasko are serving their second/last year of two-year terms. Abigail Bernhardt also serves as the liaison to NAALJ. Catherine Bennett, the association's immediate past-president is the fifth member. There were therefore two Committee positions open for election at the Annual Meeting.

John Farrell, Nancy Lederman, and Joel Ziev were nominated for positions on the Executive Committee. Each nominee gave a brief presentation of his or her background and affiliation with NYSALJA.

A vote was held, which included participation by members who joined in the meeting by teleconference. John Farrell and Joel Ziev were elected as Executive Committee members with terms ending in 2006.

Finally, it was decided that the next NYSALJA meeting would be held during the NYSBA Annual Meetings in conjunction with CAPS on January 26, 2005.

A Motion to Adjourn was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25p.m.