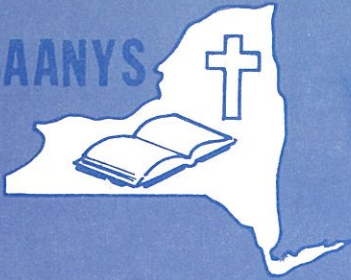


CSAANYS



NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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CSAANYS Plans State Convocation 1978

Spring of 1978 will see an event of historic importance to Catholic education in New York State. We ask you to reserve the dates of April 17 and 18, 1978 so as to be able to participate in the first convocation of all Catholic principals of the state. From its inception, CSAANYS looked forward to the day when it could sponsor a convocation. In the series of conferences sponsored by the Regents throughout the state, the non-public segment was ignored, submerged, or obliterated in any type of meaningful discussion. In order to make the state leaders, as well as the general public, aware of the magnitude, contributions and strength of Catholic education, the Executive Board decided to afford a forum for true interaction through a CSAANYS sponsored convocation.

INVITATIONS SENT

Chancellor Theodore Black was unable to attend, but Regent Harold Newcomb, chairman of the Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education Committee, will speak for the Board of Regents. As incoming Commissioner, Gordon Ambach has been invited to present his views on the overall role of Catholic schools in the state education design. The speaker of the Assembly, Stanley Steingut, and the president of the Senate, Warren Anderson, have also been invited to discuss legislation. These last three have not as yet accepted our invitation. To conclude the day, Robert Stone, chief counsel for legal affairs of the State Education Department, has agreed to discuss pertinent legal questions. Each session will include a limited amount of time wherein the attending administrators may respond, question, and reveal some of the difficulties and frustrations of the Catholic schools. Governor Hugh Carey will welcome the Catholic principals on Tuesday morning.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has been invited to be the keynote speaker Monday evening, April 17, 1978. Senator Moynihan has been an articulate champion in the struggle of the Catholic citizens of this country to secure equal rights and opportunities to public funding for education. Together with Senator Robert Packwood, he introduced into the Senate a tuition tax credit bill. The Senator has our invitation under consideration and if his schedule permits he will accept.

We will keep you informed of further developments.

CONVOCATION

Place: Empire Plaza Convention Center
Albany, N.Y.

Time: April 17, 1978, 8 p.m.
April 18, 1978, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tuition Relief Meeting With Success

It is most certain that the Tuition Tax Credit Act (S. 2142) introduced by Senators Moynihan and Packwood will be approved by the Senate Finance Committee in January. Hearings will be conducted by the committee on January 18, 19 and 20.

Cooperation is still needed to win the necessary votes for a similar bill in the House of Representatives. It is necessary to continue the letter writing campaign. It is also important that you identify bill numbers of legislation which helps all students.

Since representatives may cosponsor more than one bill, urge your representative to support both bill: H.R. 9332 — Tuition Tax Credit Act 1977 by Rep. William Frenzel (R-MN) and Rep. James Burke (D-MA). This bill is identical to S. 2142.

H.R. 9492 Tuition Relief Act by Rep. James Delaney (D-NY). This bill is similar to the above but does not offer refundable credit.

At present there are 100 cosponsors in the Senate and 130 in the House of Representatives.

U.S Supreme Court:

Blind or Biased

The Supreme Court decision of December 6, 1977 barring the second payment to schools for mandated services is another case of discrimination against Catholic schools.

Our opinion is reinforced by the dissenting statement of Justice Byron White. He charged the Court with misconstruing the First Amendment "in a manner that discriminates against religion and is contrary to the fundamental educational needs of the country." The statement would be more accurate if the words Roman Catholic had prefaced religion.

An Inventive Court

Justice is blind, she weighs a case on its merits. However, the esteemed men in our highest Court, called Justices, are blatantly biased. They know not justice. The Court has been quite inventive in devising reasons for refusing financial assistance and/or the extension of student benefits to the elementary and secondary school students when the litigants in the case are Roman Catholic. The Court's phraseology "entanglement," "advancing religion," "politically devious" have been mere subterfuges.

From our country's beginning the state has "entangled" itself with education and even supported schools. This support was challenged when the Roman Catholic Church decided to establish its own school system. Governmental support was such an established fact that in 1876 President Grant had his party include a platform plank which recommended an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, forbidding the application of any public funds or property for the benefit of any school or institution under sectarian control.

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Cease Services

Today the state, through its laws and regulations, continues to "entangle" itself with sectarian schools. The time has come for Catholic schools to cease the cooperative, unenumerated services performed at the request of the state. The time has come for the state to obtain through its own resources and without interfering in the administrative and instructional operation of the schools, the statistical and attendance data that it deems necessary to monitor the education of its young citizenry.

MEMBERSHIP

Think — did you receive a renewal notice and put it aside 'til later? Please call or write if you are uncertain. We would hate to lose any of our valued members.

Energy Conservation

When cold weather arrives, fuel costs become a major concern for school principals. CSAANYS urges the Catholic administrators throughout New York State to keep themselves up-to-date on the progress of a bill now before Congress which would allow grants to schools for energy conservation projects. It is possible that this legislation will be enacted in early 1978.

Should this legislation become law, it will make funds available through grants to schools for the study and implementation of energy saving projects. Such projects include insulation, energy control systems, solar space heating, and heating system modifications which would reduce the amount of fuel consumed by making the system more efficient.

The proposed legislation calls for the creation of a "state energy agency" which would be responsible for creating a state energy plan. In the area of school facilities, the plan would include a survey of the present energy systems in use, an estimate of the energy savings possible through energy conservation measures, and recommendations as to the most appropriate programs for the schools of the state as well as estimates of these programs. The "state energy agency" is also responsible for the equitable distribution for any funds allotted to both public and non-profit schools.

Nine-hundred million dollars in Federal funds will be made available over 3 years for this program, it is estimated. However, this will provide aid to only about one-third of the schools and hospitals in need. It appears that this program will be highly competitive. CSAANYS will provide more information as to the "state energy agency" and other details as they become available.

Michigan Proposes Voucher

Signatures are now being sought that would place a referendum on the 1978 ballot, mandating the following changes:

1. All property taxes previously earmarked for educational operations would be eliminated.

2. A state-wide voucher system would be established allowing each child an allocation of state tax dollars to be applied to educating that child at a school of his or her parent's choice.

3. Restrictions relative to support of children in non-public schools would be removed.

NEWSBRIEFS

Nutrition Education

The National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Amendments, signed into law by President Carter in November, extends the summer food service program and the non-food assistance program and authorizes the creation of a program of grants for nutrition education and training.

The Summer Food Service Program provides funds for nonresidential institutions and residential summer camps which provide food service similar to school year programs during the summer months. The "non-food assistance program" is now the "food assistance" program.

Nutrition education activities include instruction in the nutritional value of foods and the relationship between food and health, training school food service personnel, and developing and using classroom materials and curricula.

The House/Senate Conference Report on this Act states in strong language that the programs are to benefit "all students of the state," in both public and non-public schools.

Copyright Infringement

The music copyright dispute continues between music publishers and the U.S. dioceses.

FEL Publications has initiated an \$8.6 million copyright infringement suit against all the U.S. Bishops.

FEL claims it has sent 350,000 mailings over the last 5 years to educate parishes and notify dioceses of the violations.

The most plagiarized copyright has been, "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" (P. Scholtes, Madison, WI). The suit estimates revenue losses of over \$8.6 million over the past 3 years.

The Copyright Law goes into effect January, 1978. A research report on the law is forthcoming.

This Michigan referendum would revolutionize educational financing since it would eliminate property taxes which are the present basis for a higher percent of local school financing. Through the voucher it would restore a greater measure of parental control without eliminating the present administrative structures.

More important it provides an innovative, non-monopolistic approach for an equitable distribution of tax money to benefit each and every student in the state.

Learning Disabilities

The Regents recently approved changes in the Commissioner's Regulations which include learning disabilities among the handicapping conditions requiring services for which special State aid will be paid to the local school district.

The new regulations define a learning disabled student as one who demonstrates a major discrepancy between his or her expected achievement and actual performance, which is not the result of other factors. Any student performing 50 percent below his expected level is considered learning disabled.

CETA

Recent federal legislation created and funded several new CETA programs for youth employment and training.

The Young Adult Conservation Corps is open to unemployed youths, ages 16 to 23. Members of the Corps will engage in various conservation projects.

The Youth Employment Demonstration Program provides various opportunities for part-time employment and training, particularly to disadvantaged youth.

If you would like more information on these CETA programs, contact your local CETA sponsor.

Vocational Education

The U.S. Department of Education has issued new regulations governing the participation of non-public school students in vocational education programs and special programs for the disadvantaged. These regulations specifically make it the responsibility of the local educational agency receiving funds for such programs to consult with the non-public schools to identify, assess the needs of, and provide the opportunity for participating in such programs to those students who may benefit from the services provided.

If your local district provides such services to its students, and if you have students in your school that you feel are in need of the same services, contact your local district and request that you be given the opportunity for participation that is mandated by law. Such participation may be funded up to 100 percent by Federal funds.