

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

August, 1972

NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 1

To: All Actual and Potential Members  
From: Your Executive Secretary

The Beginning - - At long last we now have a State organization of Catholic school administrators on both the elementary and secondary school levels. It has been a long time in the making and we hope that this organization will be able to serve all of our Catholic school administrators educationally, informationally, professionally, and politically. At the last meeting of the Executive Board on June 19 at Albany, a rough draft of a constitution was accepted. As soon as this draft is put in final form, a copy will be mailed to all administrators. At that same meeting the Board appointed Brother Thomas Draney, CFC, the former principal of Bishop Gibbons High School in Schenectady, as Field Representative. In this capacity Bro. Draney will aid the Executive Secretary particularly in the area of recruitment of membership and he will act as traveling liaison between the Executive Secretary and the membership in each diocese. At the same meeting a budget was voted in the amount of some \$30,000 in an effort to get the organization rolling into high gear. In addition, the Executive Secretary was appointed. In the future, minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board will be published to the membership along with our periodic Newsletters. The next meeting of the Executive Board will take place toward the end of October. A specific date has not been set because of the annual meeting of SAANYS at Kiamesha Lake, New York.

Organization - - At the present time plans are being laid for the rental of office space in Albany. Until this is completed, the temporary headquarters of our organization will be at Bishop Gibbons Faculty Residence, 2600 Albany Street, Schenectady, N.Y., 12304. Our temporary telephone number will be 370-0877 Hereafter please address all correspondence in care of CSAANYS at this address.

We, of course, will be looking to you, the membership, for ideas as to how we can be of service to you in any ordinary or extraordinary way. We are presently looking into such things as group insurance policies which might benefit the membership in the area of automobiles, health insurance, etc. Since our potential membership would number in excess of 1400 schools and administrators, we could provide ourselves with some excellent opportunities in group purchasing power. This, of course, by way of an added service to the membership. We are also in the process of affiliating with a number of the parent educational organizations in both the country and state, and we are applying for tax exempt status, incorporation and accreditation by the State Education Department.

Other Organizations - - We would like to suggest that you might consider membership in other worthwhile organizations both on the State and National level so that we, as Catholic administrators, could have an effective voice commensurate with our members. Such organizations as the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the NCEA, NEA, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), and the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS), all provide their membership with outstanding publications and services. I would particularly recommend that at least for this present school year, 1972-73, the membership of our organization would retain or become members in SAANYS -- formerly the New York State Association of Secondary School Principals and the New York State Association of Elementary School Principals. As members of this organization we would retain a good working relationship with our public school counterparts. (You will note the distinct similarity between our organization's title and that of SAANYS.)

Membership - - Presently our paid membership numbers slightly over 200 schools and administrators. Remember that our association is open only to all principals and assistant principals of the Catholic schools of New York State. For those of you who have not as yet sent in your dues, we would ask that you use the form enclosed. Needless to say, the sooner we receive membership dues, the better will the organization be able to function.

State Aid - - Things do not look very good at the present time for the Mandated Services Act of 1970. The appeal to lift the injunction against the payment of funds provided by this act was turned down by Supreme Court Justice Blackman. It now looks as if the case will not be heard until next spring - - A very real question is, can and should we wait that long or is it true what our adversaries insist, that is, we don't really need the money? A number of schools have closed throughout the state this summer and yet we have not yet begun to raise a public outcry. What are the administrators in your area doing NOW?

**November Elections** - - Your State Organization will publish as soon as possible a list of all members of the State Assembly and Senate, and a record of how they voted on the issues of State Aid and abortion. September will be the time for local school administrators to begin acquainting their parents and voting constituents with the record of their local representatives. We would appreciate hearing from you with regard to any information on your local representatives and their stand on those issues that most directly affect us as Catholics and as Catholic educators

**From the Field** - - Br. Thomas Draney completed a preliminary tour of some of our upstate dioceses and came back much encouraged and enthused by what he saw and heard. The following items he brought back in his report.

The flood disaster in Elmira and the surrounding area may help all residents of the state realize that our schools are community schools and as such benefit the entire community. Both public and Catholic schools were badly damaged by the flood, and both systems made available those school buildings which were spared heavy damage for distribution and medical centers and even for shelters. Since the public system has been hurt badly, it is imperative now to keep the Catholic schools operating. The cost of repairs to Catholic schools and the financial loss suffered in property damages by Catholic parents are gigantic problems; most citizens of the area are now strongly in favor of giving Catholic schools the same emergency flood relief funds that the public schools will get, and of giving Catholic parents tuition aid for next year to keep their children in the Catholic system.

The Catholic schools around Elmira (the Southern Tier) have been flourishing under a new regional plan, and the public school board is cooperating with its Catholic counterpart in trying to secure aid by means of new federal bills for flood relief, and state aid through legislation enacted at a special session of the legislature. Of course groups such as PEARL have already announced their intention to fight any aid. Isn't it time that we unite our parents across the state to fight back? Do your part now by writing yourself and encouraging all faculty and parents to write to the following men, asking that Catholics be treated as first-class citizens for a change:

Federal Aid	Senator James Buckley, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20013	Att: Mr. Thomas Cole
	Senator Jacob Javits, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20013	Att: Mr. Kelley Costley
State Aid	Governor Nelson Rockefeller, Capitol Building, Albany, N.Y.	

**Public Relations** have never been our strong point, but we seem to be learning. In Watertown the parents of the four elementary schools and the central high school have formed a guild to work for the good of all the schools. One of their projects was a newspaper on the activities of the schools; this was distributed to all the parishioners after Mass. The project seems to have great possibilities, and if you would like to know more about it contact Sr. Doris Lavinthal, St. Anthony's School, Watertown.

Another proof that we have been poor in PR is the article on teacher training and certification in 'Inside Education' for June. The 'new' policies will seem strangely familiar to Catholic teachers, particularly religious. We were foolish enough not to trumpet forth the merits of our system when it was called unprofessional; now someone else has discovered it for us.

**Our Annual Meeting** - - A committee was formed at the Executive Board meeting in June to begin preparations to determine when and how we will hold an annual meeting. As soon as this is finalized, the membership will be informed. Please address any suggestions you may have to any of the committee members. They are: Fr. Charles Eckermann, Mr. Michael Kraemer, Bro. Thomas Draney, Sr. Patricia Collins, and Bro. Peter Pontolillo.

**Executive Board** - - By way of reminder, the members of the executive board are the elementary school representative and the secondary school representative from each diocese. Fr. Charles Eckermann was elected chairman of the board at the June 19th meeting. For your information and convenience we list again the members of the board, giving first the elementary then the secondary representative:

Rockville Centre	Bro. Ronald Moore, OSF	Syracuse	Sr. Patricia Geary, CSJ
	Mr. Michael Kraemer		Rev. Charles Eckermann
Brooklyn	Sr. Mary T. Brown, OP	<b>Rochester</b>	<b>Sr. Edwardine Weaver, RSM</b>
	Bro. J. Angus, FMS		Sr. Margaret Merkel, SSJ
New York	Bro. Stephen Sweeney, FSC	Buffalo	Sr. Ann Soukup, OSF
	Bro. Harold M. Delaney, CFC		Mr. Patrick S. Hughes
Albany	Sr. Patricia Collins, RSM	Ogdeansburg	Sr. Doris Lavinthal, MPS
	Bro. Thomas Draney, CFC		Rev. L. William Gordon

**News Brief** - - Your Executive Secretary will be entering the hospital for an operation early in August. Your prayers would be appreciated.

BRO. PETER PONTOLILLO, S.M.  
Executive Secretary