

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

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State-Wide Federation of Parent Organization - CSAANYS is taking an active role, along with the superintendents of the eight dioceses, in attempting to form a state-wide federation of parent organizations. There has already been one meeting and a second one has been called for November 11 at LaGuardia Airport to bring together parent representatives from all across the state to discuss the feasibility and nature of such a diocesan based federation. The primary purpose will be to provide the parents of Catholic school children in each diocese with a voice in determining diocesan policies in education. In addition, such a federation would give the various diocesan associations of parents a stronger voice with regard to the financial future of the schools. Fundamentally, of course, this federation will have as its core parents' organizations in each diocese, and it will be necessary to inaugurate such organizations where they do not already exist. Since your superintendent has been asked to designate representatives from your diocese, it would be good for you to contact him if you have suggestions by way of individuals or ideas for this representative group

In this same vein, both Br. Draney and I would be happy to assist local organizations of principals in setting up or strengthening parents' organizations in your diocese. We would be happy to speak to local groups about the status of Catholic education, prospects of government aid, innovations in education, and so forth.

CHSAA - In the future the executive secretary of our organization will represent the administrators at all meetings of the Catholic High School Athletic Association of NYS. This organization is responsible for over-seeing all athletics for both boys and girls for all Catholic schools across the state. Since the local school principal is legally responsible in administering the total physical education, intra-mural, and inter-scholastic athletic program in each school, it behooves all principals to remain on top of the athletic picture in their school. The authority of the principal in the area of athletics should be complete and final.

Should you have any questions or suggestions regarding athletic programs, please contact your local principal representative to the state CHSAA or the executive secretary of CSAANYS

Annual Meeting of SAANYS -- At the annual meeting of the School Administrators Association of New York State earlier this month, the non-public school committee scored a rather significant breakthrough in obtaining nearly unanimous approval of a resolution which placed that group on record as being in favor of any constitutional aid to the non-public schools. A significant amount of behind-the-scenes discussion led to a smooth passage of the resolution. It is noteworthy that the leadership of SAANYS does not wish to lose the membership of the non-public schools, and we have asked that SAANYS represent the non-public schools in attempting to bring about several changes in New York State Education Law and also to clarify the position of the National Association of Secondary School Principals with regard to their alleged joining with PEARL in combating the tax credit concept for non-public school parents.

We have specifically asked the Board of Directors of SAANYS to initiate a change in education law 3003 and 3004 in that they discriminate against the non-public schools and students in certain areas of certification and in the denial of the assignment of student teachers to non-public schools. At the same time our own organization is setting up a dialogue with the Commissioner of Education in an attempt to get these laws changed and we are also attempting to clarify our own status in the National Association of Secondary and Elementary School Principals. In view of the occurrences at the convention of SAANYS at Lake Kiamesha, it would be well for us to maintain and even to increase our membership in it, at least for the time being.

Administrative Evaluation -- Another service which this organization can perform in the future is the development of an administrative evaluation team and evaluation criteria. It is possible that this idea might eventually blossom into a full fledged evaluation of our schools with an accreditation process by CSAANYS. Here again we would like to hear from members of the organization so that you might share in the input for the development of such a project.

Membership -- At the present time we have a total of 292 member schools out of a possible 1295. As you can see then, this leaves us with many potential members. In order for our organization to provide the kinds of services to its members that we envision, we need the support of all the Catholic school administrators across the state. We are at present locating offices in Albany where we will be in close contact with the State Education Department and with the legislature. This then should serve as a reminder to become a paid-up member. If you need a membership form, please do not hesitate to write for one.

Report from the Field -- Brother Thomas Draney has been actively involved in visiting several dioceses across the state since our last newsletter, and also represented CSAANYS at the preliminary meeting on October 13th to look into the establishment of a state-wide parents' association. Here is his report:

Parents Federation: *The meeting at LaGuardia, although premature in one sense - for it did not have enough broadness and depth in representation, certainly proved the interest that exists in Catholic parents organizing state-wide to do something more than write a letter. The discussion that followed the informal reports from men and women from each area demonstrated that the parents are both willing and able to assist administrators and teachers in evaluating the problems and planning change for the future. I personally rejoiced at their (to me) obvious desire to maintain proven values such as the parental quality of neighborhood or regional schools, the concept of a school principal who is a leader with authority, and the education of the whole person, realizing that the impact of the example of dedicated and consecrated Christians living in community and forming a community of the school is of prime importance*

Instructional Use of Computers: *A few schools are teaching computer science on a large scale, but most, even with data processing in the school, have little instructional use of computers, mostly because of the high cost. In one area it now seems possible to get a terminal and unlimited use of prime time for less than \$1,000 a year, along with the possibility of free workshops to train teachers. If this can be done in one area, why not in all? I think we can perform a valuable service by pooling information from around the state on what is being taught in computer science, what it costs, how is it funded, and how are teachers prepared for it. If you are interested in sharing in this project, please fill out the enclosed form.*

Citizens for Educational Freedom: *I had several meetings with CEF people in Rochester. I am happy to report that the state group has changed its financial structure somewhat and is planning to become more active in the near future. One project we are considering together is the running of a column in the Sunday edition of area papers, which would express the philosophy of all those who believe in educational choice to the general public; it would be somewhat like Shanker's column in the Times, with different ideas!*

Evaluation of Lunch Programs: *Through the cooperation of Mrs. Ann Ederer, Director of Lunch Programs for Buffalo Diocese, I have done a brief over-view of present requirements and advantages of the state lunch and special milk programs. This will be mailed separately to all member schools. Since laws have changed, it might be that some principals would like to review their present policy or mode of operation of the school lunch in their school.*

Finally, then, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have sent in their membership dues and to once again remind all of our potential members that your support is needed soon. Now that the hectic opening days of this school year are history, it is a good time to take care of your membership. At the meeting of the board of directors of CSAANYS on November 6th many things will be discussed which are of interest to you. We hope to be able to finalize our constitution and to take care of such other matters that present themselves to a nascent organization.

You will receive minutes of that meeting and a copy of our final constitution as soon as these items are available. May God continue to bless your efforts in the education of all His children.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary,
Bro. Peter Pontolillo, SM
Executive Secretary