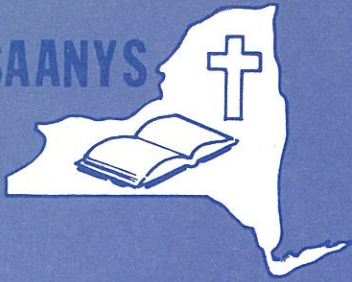


CSAANYS



NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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Federal Tuition Deduction Bill Gains Broad Support

The Buckley-Delaney bill which would permit a tax deduction up to \$1000 per student for tuition expenses for all students, public and nonpublic, in elementary, secondary, and higher education, has received significant endorsement in recent months.

Phyllis Schlafly, a nationally known author, lecturer, and syndicated columnist called for strong support of the measure. In her monthly **Phyllis Schlafly Report** she pointed out that present IRS policy under the Tax Act of 1975, allows for a deduction up to \$4,800 for sending a child to a day-care center or nursery school. (And this to a working couple with income up to \$44,600 a year.) Yet the IRS permits no deduction for tuition at a private school.

The need for parental choice was steadily growing, she said, because of the growing involvement of government and other agencies in the development of curriculum related to belief and values.

"By a censored selection of textbooks, supplementary reading and visiting lecturers, grade schools, high schools and colleges have deprived our young people of knowledge and familiarity with the great books that have stood the test of time, and replaced them with books and ideas preaching profanity, obscenities, and a calculated attack on the moral values of most Americans, their family orientation, and their patriotism. MACOS is only one example of alien and unacceptable tax-financed programs forced on pupils despite parental objections."

She pointed also to the decline in learning, the rising crime rate in schools, and the immorality and soaring VD rate among youngsters as other reasons why parents must have real freedom of choice.

NCEE, New National Group Also Endorses B-D

The National Congress for Educational Excellence, a coalition or umbrella formed in February from many local educational groups, has also endorsed the Buckley-Delaney bill. The NCEE, which represents groups fighting to reform "public" education as well as many groups dedicated to a resurgence of Protestant parochial education, has dedicated itself to political action.

Joanne McAuley from Dallas, Texas, their first president, said: "We are demanding our rights as parents."

"We are not a passive organization; we are activists. In this election year we hope

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Membership Short of Goal

Present statistics show CSAANYS to be 54 principals short of its projected goal of 900 principals for 1975-76. While our present number as of May 19th stands at 846, a significant gain from the 782 of June last, the sad fact is that we lost 24 principals from membership through their failure to renew.

We have lost also some 58 members from the ranks of assistant principals and associate members.

In terms of money, our fall-short means several thousands of dollars which will not be realized. Translated into program it means reconsidering plans for

- retaining a lawyer to represent schools and/or parents in some test cases over textbooks and transportation.
- running demonstrations projects to show the various authorities what savings can be realized in utilities' costs by investing in new fixtures, insulation, etc.
- reprinting important articles such as the Schlafly Report.

• sending principals with special expertise to some national conventions and workshops, and through them enrich our own regional programs.

It is not too late, of course, to reach our goal. As a matter of fact, the vast majority of members have joined at the end of the year. Now that the second payment on Required Services has probably been received, our missing 24 and many new members may come forward.

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Required Services Money Sent

The second and last payment on 74-75 Required Services was sent out on April 30th. Since 75% of the total was sent in January, this payment was for only 25%, or \$2,126,169.66

A decision on the challenge to the constitutionality of the law is expected shortly. Initially the case was expected to involve only the presentation of the written briefs, but oral argument was presented on March 31, and a request for an injunction was denied.

There is little doubt that no matter which way the decision goes, it will be taken to the Supreme Court.

The election of all secondary representatives, as well as several elementary representatives is in progress. The screening of candidates for executive director likewise continues. The results of both processes will be sent to members as soon as possible.

Membership as of May 19, 1976

	Elementary Principals		Secondary Principals	
	Schools	Members	Schools	Members
RC	90	61	19	14
Brk	188	109	28	28
NY	295	188	75	65
Alb	73	64	16	15
Syr	68	59	15	15
Roch	80	67	9	9
Buf	165	97	31	22
Og	29	29	4	4
TOTAL:	988	674	197	172
GRAND TOTAL:	Schools — 1185		Members — 846	

Tuition Deduction Bill from Page 1
to obtain from every candidate his views on these basic issues — and I don't know a politician who cannot support parents' rights. There are infinitely more parent votes than educators' votes."

No Official Catholic Backing of B-D

The USCC (U.S. Catholic Conference), the administrative arm of the bishops' conference, is not lending strong support to the bill. Whatever the reasons, the effect is that it will be up to the administrators and the parents' groups to make the Catholic people both knowledgeable and responsive. And this is undoubtedly a positive note; we have said so often that the Church can not represent the people in politics.

Some people have minimized the importance of the measure on the grounds that the majority of our parents don't make enough money to itemize their deductions. Our office did an analysis of 1974 tax returns in New York State and it showed that itemized returns outweighed standard deductions almost 10-1 in adjusted gross income from 8 to 15 thousand dollars.

According to the CEF News Notes, May 1976, the latest Census Bureau report indicates that only 20% of families with children in nonpublic schools make less than \$10,000 a year.

Others have argued that Buckley-Delaney has no chance because the New York State tax exclusion law was ruled unconstitutional in 1972. The obvious response is that B-D is a Federal law, which the Supreme Court takes more seriously because it is dealing with an equal partner in the government of the land. Also, it is a tax deduction, not an exclusion or credit. And lastly, the Court has undergone some changes in 1972; Justice Douglas has been replaced, and the demand for freedom of choice is being heard much louder from non-Catholic groups.

While specific figures are impossible to generate because of variables, experts have said that many parents between \$10 and \$20,000 income would benefit at around 20% of the deduction: a \$500 deduction would save them \$100 in actual taxes paid. We feel that such a benefit is indeed worth fighting for.

CSAANYS, SED Meet on Mandates

Curriculum mandates and minimum requirements were the focus of a recent meeting with staff from the Bureau of Curriculum. Arranged for by Mr. Hartmuller, Chief of Bureau of NPS Services, it was to give scope to the viewpoint of our administrators on this topic.

The state is concerned with reviewing the whole area of mandates so that meaningless mandates are not automatically renewed. The danger of

Third Annual Cardinal Hayes Award To Brother Peter Pontolillo, S.M.

The Patrick Cardinal Hayes Memorial Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Christian Education will be awarded to Bro. Peter by La Salle Academy, Manhattan, at its 127th Commencement Exercises on June 3rd. Cardinal Cooke was the first recipient, and Bro. Gregory Nugent, past president of Manhattan College, was the second.

In announcing the distinction, Bro.

Kevin Gilhooly, FSC, Principal, said that the Board of Directors had selected Br. Peter from a group of distinguished nominees because they considered the work of CSAANYS to be both unique and outstanding. They felt that the accomplishments of CSAANYS were in no small measure due to the personal contribution of Bro. Peter as its first executive director.

NEWSBRIEFS

Mandated Services, 1971-72

The Court of Appeals, the highest tribunal in the state, is scheduled to hear the case involving our claim to the second payment for 71-72, up to the time the law was declared unconstitutional. The decision would not be rendered, of course, until a later date.

CSAANYS invited to NCEA Symposium

Bro. Peter has been invited to participate in a national gathering of educators to discuss Catholic education and the future in the light of Andrew Greeley's recent research work, "Catholic Schools in a Declining Church."

The symposium will be on June 7-9 in San Francisco. The plan is to have the results, conclusions, and general directions published and disseminated in the fall.

Confused Over Federal Regulations?

Title VI of Civil Rights Act provides for no racial discrimination.

Title IX HEW deals with discrimination.

IRS has a proposed regulation coming from a recent amendment to the law. It would require some church related organizations to file income tax report Form 990.

The dioceses have developed policy, responses, and directions for all of the above.

If administrators have any questions about the above areas, they should check first with their own diocesan office.

control of belief through mandates was discussed. How can the state say that sex education, generally or particularly, must be taught when it may not, according to Supreme Court, even command a child to pledge allegiance. Bureaucratic mandates were also covered: no note for absence is required, but if collected by the school, must be kept for three years.

We were pleased to find that many of our concerns were shared by educators from other groups in the state.

Membership from Page 1

What Can You Do To Help?

First of all, renew your own membership promptly. Our procedures are printed in the box, so that everyone knows them. There is no way we can carry membership past the one month of grace. It just isn't fair, and experience has taught us it isn't even fruitful.

You may also, if you are an "out-going" administrator, renew now for your successor. The membership is only for one year, and if the new person is left to make his or her own decision, it usually isn't fair to the person; they have so many other pressing matters, and they have no personal experience to go on. It isn't quite fair to us, either, for we have to take the time for a new selling campaign.

Also, if you feel obliged to share information with non-members, then you might take the time and trouble to explain all that CSAANYS has accomplished and encourage the non-member to shoulder part of the burden of support.

Quite frankly, we find it unrealistic for administrators to say they can't afford the minimal dues we charge when we have delivered to them many times over the amount of their dues. Nor can we see the justice to the membership in giving away free the fruits of what they have generated in paying their dues.

Membership Renewal Procedures:

1. Notice sent approximately one month before expiration date.
2. Reminder sent during month of expiration.
3. Final notice sent near end of month of grace.

CSAANYS is a unique organization. Its strength is in being independent and dues supported. Its weakness is the same, for it can not run any programs which the membership can not pay for.