

To: All active and potential members  
 From: Your Executive Secretary

**REGIONAL WORKSHOPS** CSAANYS has begun work on the regional workshops to be conducted in the early spring. The regions are organized for convenience in travel, of course; but administrators will be free to attend workshops in any region. The regions are as follows:

1 - Rockville Centre, Brooklyn, New York; 2 - Albany, Syracuse, Ogdensburg; 3 - Rochester, Buffalo.

Several workshop planning sessions have already been held with administrators in each of the three regions to determine the type of workshop or conference desired in each region; as soon as plans are finalized, all administrators will be notified of the place and date, plus all pertinent information. We will try to hold the fees down to a minimum, and active members will, of course, be charged a lower rate than inactive members. Topics will be different in each of the regions so that the workshops will be tailored to the needs of the particular dioceses.

**NASSP** In our last newsletter we referred to the question of NASSP allegedly joining PEARL in combatting income tax credit legislation for non-public school parents. We have learned on good authority that there is no foundation in fact to this rumor and that rather, NASSP is continuing its tradition of a close working relationship with the NCEA and other non-public educational organizations.

**NEW YORK STATE TAX EXCLUSION** All active members should have received a special synthesized overview of the present New York State Tax Exclusion which all Catholic school parents may avail themselves of on their state tax returns for calendar year 1972. In addition, we have enclosed in this mailing for active members an accountant's projection of what savings there would be for a hypothetical family with three children, gross salary ranging from \$8,000 to \$20,000.

We remind all administrators that this tax exclusion is law and became effective on January 1, since its constitutionality was upheld by the Federal District Court in New York. The U.S. Supreme Court has recently agreed to review the constitutionality question on this provision of the Omnibus Bill (part 3) as well as on parts 1 and 2 (aid to poverty area schools and tuition reimbursement) which were decided unfavorably to us by the federal district court.

**FEDERAL TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION** It appears at the present time that Representative Wilbur Mills will make the non-public school tax credit proposal an integral part of his tax reform bill to be introduced into Congress during the present session. By so doing he will make it extremely difficult for any congressman to exclude the tax credit proposal from consideration, and an eventual favorable vote.

All active members have been sent information on CREDIT and we will represent them at the New York meeting on February 26. We recommend all administrators to get on the mailing list of this Washington based group that is spear-heading the struggle for tax credits for parents who send their children to non-public schools. In the meantime we will pass on to the membership copies of the CREDIT newsletter.

**NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PARENTS** The formation of such a group is now very close to reality. Through a cooperative effort of the State Council of Catholic Superintendents, CSAANYS, and parents from the eight diocese of the state, a federation has emerged from the drawing boards and is at the implementation stage. As soon as plans are finalized, we will send to all member schools the pertinent details of the new organization.

**NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE** This year will be a year for increasing and expanding already existing aid bills, rather than striving for new forms of legislation, for Catholics must wait now for various Supreme Court decisions on Mandated Services, the Omnibus Law, and the Pennsylvania tuition grant law (Sloane).

The New York State Catholic School Superintendents Council has asked CSAANYS to bird-dog legislation that has been submitted by the State Education Department (SED) regarding dual enrollment programs on the secondary level in connection with the various BOCES. Diocesan and other school officials will be watching closely other bills that have been developed dealing with various health and welfare statutes and the expansion of the textbook loan law in several ways, but primarily to cover children in grades 1 thru 6.

Some district officials have convinced some administrators that non-public students are entitled only to \$10 per year for textbooks, which is really not what the law says. We will prepare an analysis of the textbook law and send it to all active members, as well as periodic briefings on the status of the legislative programs. Enclosed with this mailing is the list of recommendations presented to the Board of Regents last fall by Mr. J. Alan Davitt and Mr. Charles Tobin on behalf of the non-public schools.

*STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY* Dr. Thomas Heath, Coordinator of Non-public School Services, has prepared, with some assistance from CSAANYS, a directory for the use of non-public school principals. When principals have a question or a problem about lunch programs, attendance records, curriculum, testing services, etc., this directory should enable them to contact the appropriate person who is responsible in the bureau or division concerned. Copies will be mailed directly to administrators.

*EMERGENCY SCHOOL AID ACT* Passed by Congress in its last session, the ESAA is directed to the problems created by minority group isolation. Although a billion dollars was appropriated for it, presently it is only minimally funded at around seventy million dollars. Catholic school administrators should be aware that proposals are being drawn up presently in most public school districts for sharing in the aid contained in this bill. Administrators of schools that have minority group students should make sure that they are included in the preparation of proposals and the distribution of funds. We at CSAANYS will do our best to keep all administrators informed on this subject and to help individual administrators research and pursue their particular problems.

*\$300,000 FLOOD RELIEF GRANT* A happy note was sounded recently when the Catholic schools of Chemung County and Corning received \$300,000 from the state for current operational expense. Because of the damages caused by the flood around Elmira to the schools themselves and to the financial condition of the families, it was probable that all Catholic elementary and junior high schools in the Southern Tier would have had to shut down on January 1, if aid had not been received. This would have placed an intolerable burden on the public school facilities. The aid received could be a testimony to the fact that Catholic schools do serve the public good, and are worthy of public support.

*COMPUTER SCIENCE SURVEY* Because of the limited time to give to it, and because of the inevitable branching tendency of such a project, completion is still a few weeks away. It will include also a survey of some of the representative companies and their offerings to schools - not only in terminal use, but also in midi and mini computers and the fast expanding field of computing, programmable calculators. It is hoped that this type of ground work will enable administrators to make judgments more quickly and expertly on whether they should consider initiating or maintaining involvement in the teaching of computer science directly itself or indirectly through computer use in other subject areas.

*CSAANYS CONSTITUTION* The final draft has been completed by the committee composed of Bro. Stephen Sweeney (NY), Sr. Mary T. Brown (Br), Bro. J. Angus (Br), and the executive secretary. This has been presented to the executive board members and will be discussed at the Board Meeting in Syracuse on February 5. As soon as this draft is approved by the Executive Board, individual copies will be sent out to all active members along with a proposal for ratification by the membership.

*PERMANENT OFFICES* CSAANYS has now located its offices at Suite 820, 41 State Street, Albany, 12207. Our new telephone number is (518) 434 - 1291. Our new location provides us with the opportunity to work closely with NYS Catholic School Superintendents office, the NYS Catholic Committee, the SED, and the legislature, as well as other professional educational groups. With the help of people such as Mr. J. Alan Davitt, Executive Secretary of the NYS Catholic School Superintendents Council, we are making the necessary contacts, and we feel that we can serve the needs of the administrators more and more effectively as time goes on.

*DUES CHANGED* At its November meeting the Executive Board voted to make membership a full 12 months period from receipt of dues, so that no school would be penalized in joining late. Dues are still based on the previous year's enrollment.

*Our membership is growing steadily but too slowly. Bro. Draney and I have traveled to several areas to speak to groups of administrators, and we will do more of this. But we can not reach the almost 1300 administrators individually ever, nor groups in every area for some time to come. In the meantime, this year of decision - educationally, administratively, financially - keeps moving ahead. We need each others support. In regard to membership, NOW is the acceptable time.*

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