

New York State Administrative Law Judges Association (NYSALJA)

To: **NYSALJA Members**

From: **Jim Horan, President**

Date: **August 21, 2002**

Re: **Proposed Dues Increase, Change in the Budget Year, Annual Meeting
and Elections and Web Site**

At meetings in Albany and New York City throughout the past year, we have discussed the possible impact on NYSALJA from an increase in dues to belong as members to the National Association of Administrative Law Judges (NAALJ) and from a decision by NAALJ to change the NAALJ budget year. Through this memo to the membership, the NYSALJA Board proposes a dues increase and a change in the budget year to address the changes by NAALJ. This memo will also serve as the Notice for the Annual Meeting and Elections and will provide the membership information on the new NYSALJA Web Site.

Dues and Business Year: The dues we pay provide us membership in both NYSALJA and NAALJ. As a state affiliate, we receive a 30% discount on the dues to belong to NAALJ. Our membership in NAALJ provides us twice a year with the NAALJ Journal, the NAALJ Newsletter and discounts on continuing education programs that NAALJ conducts. From our current \$35.00 annual dues, NYSALJA retains \$14.00 and we remit \$21.00 for membership in NAALJ. At the NAALJ Annual Meeting last November, that organization voted to raise annual dues to \$ 50.00 and retain the 30% membership discount for members in the state affiliate organizations such as NYSALJA. This increase means that NYSALJA must now remit \$35.00 to NAALJ for each of our members to obtain NAALJ membership. The increase becomes effective for dues for the 2002-2003 budget year. This increase means that NYSALJA must increase our dues in order to produce annual dues income for our organization.

The Board has decided to request no increase in our \$35.00 dues payment from the members for NYSALJA dues for the 2002-2003 business year. All current members who must renew this fall will pay the same \$35.00 dues as in past years. Then NYSALJA will remit that entire amount to NAALJ for our memberships in that organization and NYSALJA will meet our expenses in the upcoming year from our treasury. Our expenses now include \$1,500.00 annually for the NYSALJA Web Site (see below), so NYSALJA will be unable to continue to operate solely off the treasury for very long. Our overall assets on July 29, 2002 totaled \$9, 251.13.

The Board proposes a \$10.00 per member dues increase for the 2003-2004 budget year. We plan on requesting a further \$5.00 increase next year for the 2004-2005 business year, so that NYSALJA would return to our prior income level. The financial reports from the NAALJ mid-year meeting indicated that NAALJ has stabilized their finances

and that no further dues increases appear likely from NAALJ. Under our by-laws, a majority of the NYSALJA Membership must approve the dues increase. This memo appends the ballot on the dues increase and a return envelope.

At the November NAALJ Meeting, NAALJ also voted to change its budget year from October 1-September 30 to July 1-June 30. The NYSALJA Board proposes the same change for our budget year, so that we can retain the same year for memberships in the two organizations. We propose that the next budget year run from October 1, 2002-June 30, 2003 and that the following budget year run from July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004. If the membership adopts that change, then members renewing for the 2002-2003 budget year would pay \$35.00 in dues for a nine-month membership. For that reason, the Board is submitting that change as well for a vote by a majority of the full membership. If I have failed to explain with sufficient clarity the reasons behind and the need for the proposed changes, then please contact me at 518-402-0748 or jfh01@health.state.ny.us.

We have over twenty new members who have joined NYSALJA and NAALJ since January. NAALJ and NYSALJA have agreed to consider the new members as paid through the end of the 2002-2003 budget year. The vast majority of the new members come from Impartial Hearing Officers who conduct Special Education Hearings. We welcome all our new members and look forward to our future efforts together.

Annual Meeting and Board Election: We will conduct the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sligo Room at the Washington Tavern, 250 Washington Avenue, Albany (the same location as last year's meeting). There will be a buffet dinner available in the Sligo Room for \$13.00 per person beginning at 5:30 p.m. To reserve a place for the buffet, please contact me at the above phone or e-mail by September 20th.

For the Annual Election, the Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate: Hon. Catherine M. Bennett, President Elect, Hon. Christine C. Traskos, Vice-President, Hon. Thomas Sacca, Treasurer, Hon. Anne Murphy, Secretary, Hon. Larry G. Storch, Board Member, Hon. John Farago, Board Member. Marc Zylberberg becomes President automatically on October 1, 2002.

Web Site: The NYSALJA Web Site came on line at www.nysalja.org on August 1st. We have contracted with the Government Law Center at Albany Law School to design and operate the site for \$1,500.00 annually. The NYSALJA Board will act as the Editorial Board for the Site for the near future. As an immediate goal, we will establish a listserv and discussion groups. The Web Masters from the Maryland and Kentucky NAALJ Affiliates have already contacted us to compliment the Site.

E-Mail: Please make sure that we have your current e-mail address. Using e-mail for notices to the membership reduces our mailing costs. Send the e-mail addresses to Marc Zylberberg at mpz01@health.state.ny.us.

Ballot I

Resolved, the annual dues for membership in NYALSA will increase to \$45.00 beginning with the 2003-2004 budget year.

_____ Yes

_____ No

Ballot II

Resolved, the budget year for NYSALJA shall be October 1-June 30 for the 2002-2003 budget year and shall become July 1- June 30, beginning with the 2003-2004 budget year and continuing thereafter.

_____ Yes

_____ No

Please return the ballots in the attached SASE envelope only, by September 25, 2002.