



National Council
SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS, INC.
P.O. Box 1078
Columbia, MO 65205

October 17, 1989

President
BOB DUNCAN
Columbia, MO

Vice-President
BOB BOCH
Indianapolis, IN

Secretary
DIANE HOOVER
Medford, OR

Treasurer
JIM SACOMAN
Albuquerque, NM

Executive Committee
PETER TOLAND
Boston, MA

WALT HERBST
Elmira, NY

PHIL BETTENDORF
Winchester, VA

DAN SMITH
Augusta, GA

GENE GRETCH
Piqua, OH

JOE HARRISON
Hot Springs, AR

JACK BUTLER
Kansas City, KS

LAYNE HERBER
Billings, MT

GARY TAYLOR
Walnut Creek, CA

VINCE AURORA
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Executive Officer
LINDA JOHNSON
Pasadena, TX

Immediate Past President
ELYSE CONNERY
Trenton, NJ

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Throughout the past year, the National Council has remained true to its purpose of being an effective voice providing the unfiltered views of Field Office management to decision makers within the Social Security Administration and promoting the image and interests of federal employees to those outside of SSA.

This has been a year without parallel in my career with the Social Security Administration. It has been both extremely challenging and exceptionally rewarding. I believe it has also been a productive year for the National Council.

In our communications with Central Office we have stressed three principles:

1. The essential nature of a community based service delivery network of Field Offices to provide quality service to the public;
2. The negative effect that excessive staff reduction has had on SSA's ability to deliver quality service; and,
3. The importance of effective communication and consultation between the National Council and Central Office decision makers.

These three principles formed the basis for our two formal meetings, for our written communications, and for informal contacts by telephone.

Our two formal meetings with Central Office, on March 2 and August 23, featured open and candid discussions on a wide range of topics. Both meetings were valuable and productive. At our second meeting Ruth Pierce, Associate Deputy Commissioner for Regional Operations, announced that in fiscal year 1990 we will be returning to our normal three meetings with Central Office. This increased opportunity for face to face interaction will enable the National Council to be even more effective in presenting the views and positions of Field Office management.

The National Council presented several formal position papers to Central Office this year. We developed a detailed paper on the proposed CSRA Demonstration Project following our March meeting. The proposed project has now been withdrawn. We defended the current field office structure in a paper discussing a proposal to discontinue the use of the names "District" and "Branch" and formally begin using the term "Field Office". We emphasized the importance of personal, community based service to the public as we presented the National Council's vision of the Field Office of the future. In our view, increased automation will equip Field Offices to become even more the focal point of service delivery. The National Council monitored the first year of the Budgetary Incentives/Gainsharing pilot project and provided suggestions and feedback from Field Office management.

Regular telephone conversations with Ruth Pierce and the staff of the Office of Regional Operations Support have encouraged an informal exchange of ideas and positions. These conversations provided opportunities to demonstrate the unique value of Field Office management input through the National Council.

Our primary external focus this year has been on the reform of the Performance Management and Recognition System (PMRS). Through the diligent efforts of Jerry Shaw and Janet Garry we had a real impact on proposed legislation to replace PMRS. On July 18 I testified before Congress in favor of a simplified system to provide increased rewards for meritorious performance. Unfortunately, OPM opposed this proposed legislation but we were successful in preventing the permanent reauthorization of PMRS which they favored. We will continue to be actively involved as the issue is studied and new proposals are developed during the coming year.

In addition, our Legislative Counsel continued to be active on a wide range of federal employee pay and benefit issues. Regular progress reports provided valuable information to our members on general federal employee and specific Social Security issues.

We communicated with members this year through four issues of MASS Media. To increase the frequency and timeliness of communication to members we developed NC NEWS. We did not reach our goal of publishing an issue each month but NC NEWS has proven itself a useful tool for rapid communication.

Our membership remained relatively stable during the past year. We need to increase our efforts to recruit and retain all members of Field Office management.

We have continued to actively support the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund. Past National Council President Steve Bauer is now the Executive Director of FEEA. We have continued to be a member of the Public Employees Roundtable and support their work to improve the image of public employees.

Nineteen resolutions were passed at last year's Annual Meeting. A report on actions taken to implement these resolutions is attached.

I was able to attend six of the seven Annual Meetings held by Regional Associations this past year. Getting to meet and talk with hundreds of members across the nation was one of the highlights of the year.

I have enjoyed working with the Officers and Regional Presidents on this year's Executive Committee. Without exception they were dedicated and hard working. All believe deeply in the goals and objectives of SSMA. Their support has made my job easier and more rewarding.

I particularly want to thank Vice President Bob Boch for his able analysis, advice, and assistance. Without his help, much of what we have done this year could not have been accomplished.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for the honor and privilege it has been for me to serve as President of the National Council of Social Security Management Associations for this past year. Thank you.



Robert S. Duncan
President