

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1995

Mary Chatel opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates, alternate delegates and members. Mary encouraged full involvement by all attendees. Al Gore sent a letter extending his greetings to the NC. He regretted his inability to attend the meeting and congratulated us on our dedication and work toward improving the efficiency of the Social Security Administration.

The Commissioner called and expressed her regret at not being able to attend due to the furlough situation. A representative from the Social Security Subcommittee indicated to Mary that this may be a furlough that lasts longer than a day or so.

Mary then introduced the head table which included Linda Johnson, Parliamentarian, Don Seatter, VP, Walt Herbst, Treasurer, John Hale, Executive Officer and Ginny Lighthizer, sitting in that day for Steve Korn as Secretary. All Presidents and the TSC Representatives were introduced. Each President then introduced the delegates and alternate delegates representing their regional associations.

All delegates were officially seated.

Linda Johnson, Parliamentarian, reviewed the Annual Meeting Rules covering voting, motions, nominations, resolutions and participation rules. Atlanta moved that the rules be accepted, New England seconded. The rules were passed unanimously. Denver moved that minutes from the last meeting be accepted without a full reading and Atlanta seconded. All voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the last Annual Meeting without a full reading.

President's Report - 1995 MARY CHATEL

Mary Chatel then gave the President's Report. In December of 1993, Mary predicted that we were in for a time of change and that we could choose to be passive observers or active agents of change. During the past year, NCSSMA has been anything but passive! NCSSMA has been active in a proactive way and has actively pursued change. We have dealt with issues too numerous to enumerate. Many have been involved on committees, critiquing IRDs, writing to Congress, writing position papers, etc. All of these efforts have given us the opportunity to make a difference.

Our main accomplishment this year has been to expand our influence, building on past relationships, creating new ones and opening new arenas. The Model Agency Plan has been a focus for many of our proactive efforts this year. The Plan was discussed whenever we could find an audience. We discussed it in CO, with the National Academy of Public Administrators, before Congress, with the NPR, OMB, Dr. Fleming of SOS, GAO, Paul Light, Lou Enoff, and others. Mary was interviewed by the "Government

Executive" and gave the Plan to the members of the new Social Security Board, which came into being with our Independent Agency status. Much work remains to be done. However, the Model has been a tool that shows us to be a player in determining the future of SSA.

Janet Garry has been a key player with the Plan as she has worked with the media, with her contacts on Capitol Hill and with relationships developed through her work with the Coalition for Effective Change.

We have testified on a number of issues and been questioned about our ideas and opinions. Grassroots efforts have also helped our stature as we seek and distribute the truth.

Access to leaders of our Agency has been greater than ever before. In addition to talking to the Commissioner, both at regularly scheduled NC meetings and also on less formal occasions, Mary has talked to Larry Thompson on a regular basis. While not always agreeing, Larry has listened and has made some changes based on NC input.

Communications with Operations have increased. Two full meetings were held in Baltimore. An additional meeting took place with the PC Management Association. Mary was invited to three DCO Executive Staff meetings which include all RCs. We have had more opportunities to get our opinions heard this year than ever before.

With John Dyer, we worked on budget issues, with Carolyn Colvin, we discussed programmatic soft spots, with Ruth Pierce, we had many discussions on upgrades, with Renny Depentima, we talked about systems issues and with Judy Chesser we discussed testimony and legislation. Many other discussions took place with the DCs, with Rhoda Davis on the business plan, with Toni Lenane on the NPR and REGO II and with Chuck Jones on disability reengineering.

While not always successful, we communicated often and expressed our opinions on numerous occasions. Despite the DOJ ruling questioning our right to meet with our leaders, we were called upon by these top level people and asked to meet with them.

We also have begun communications with the 29 other federal groups through the CEC, with the PSC Management Association, with the Union and with others on issues of common interest.

Internal communications continued through email. Mass Media published three sizable issues. While the NC might want to move toward more frequent, smaller editions in the future, Mass Media continues to evolve as a professional newspaper with wide circulation. Janet Garry's information continues to help us be knowledgeable on issues as they arise. Steve Korn distributes minutes as timely as possible. If there were gaps in internal

communications this year, Mary takes full responsibility. Her only excuse is that she was at times too busy "doing" to take the time to write about it.

Nineteen resolutions were passed last year. The NC was guided by those issues and concerns and progress was made on each resolution.

Disability Reengineering has received ongoing attention all year. Mary has been on the Disability Advisory Committee and was able to speak out on behalf of the field office role in the reengineered disability process. Representatives were on sixteen task teams and NC commented on all 18 reports that came out from the DPRT. Mary has been interviewed by GAO, the NC has responded to the Allsup proposal and discussions have been held with Chuck Jones about our perceptions in the field. A disability report is available for additional reading. Thanks to all of those who went into Baltimore on task teams and to Ginny Lighthizer for her work in this area.

Discussions on upgrades took place in person, by phone, by email and by formal letter with our leaders in Baltimore. With the assistance of Gary Fink and Bob Duncan, many classification requests went forward. Some success has been realized. All supervisors and 200 plus field office and TSC management members have been granted upgrades. We believe however that recent upgrades were done arbitrarily and divisively. The decisions on what actions to take in this continuing fight will be made here at this annual meeting.

Complaints from the public and fear of what will happen as more PSC employees go on the phone prompted NC to request a MACADE pilot in field offices. This pilot is going forward.

Walt reports that our membership is holding strong. Membership percentages have increased. We are losing management positions due to downsizing, so we need to continue efforts to recruit new members.

Mary attended many Regional Meetings. She has been impressed with the dedication and commitment which she has encountered in members across the nation.

Mary expressed her appreciation for the honor and privilege of serving as NC President. She thanked her executive committee and the NCSSMA members nationwide who make this an organization of which she is extremely proud.

Mary then passed out her President's Report and a list of the resolutions passed in October of 1994 with a description of the action taken on each resolution. Mary also distributed information on staffing levels just received from Janice Warden. This information gave staffing levels for the different operational components in 10-94 and in 9-95.

Treasurer's Report

Walt Herbst gave the Treasurer's Report. Membership is at 3244, down from 3525 last year. While we lost many to retirement and delayering, the situation is not as bleak as it at first appears. Our membership was at 3385 two years ago, so the difference over two years is less extreme. Members need to continue recruitment efforts.

Expenses increased over the past year, while revenues decreased. The 25th Annual Meeting last year was an expensive one. We incurred legal expenses which were not expected. Lobbying costs increased as Mary testified numerous times. Dan Smith acted as a DC liaison and that was an added cost. Printing went over budget. The final figures: \$151,590 was spent and \$26,567 remained as of 9-30-95 as net assets.

Nomination of Officers

The following nominations have been received:

President: Don Seatter
Vice President: Walter Herbst
Secretary: Steve Korn
Treasurer: Bev Herbst
Joseph Harrison

Resumes for each candidate were made available. No additional nominations were made from the floor for President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Nominations for each office was thus declared ceased.

Janice Warden, Deputy Commissioner for Operations

Janice discussed the furor surrounding preparation for the furlough. The word came early today (November 14th) to close offices by 10 AM. The Deputy Commissioner's offices are down to the Executive Officer and a secretary. The press is very interested in how the Agency plans to handle the furlough issue. The Commissioner indicated to a reporter that COA's and protective filing statements would be taken by those manning the offices during the furlough. Word went out on this as of this morning. CO has been in contact with the President's Chief of Staff and information will be passed along as soon as it is received.