

# INSSO CONTACT



Newsletter of the National Staff Organization

April 2004

***Business of the union...***

## **New York Site for 2004 NSO Rep. Assembly**

New York City's Grand Hyatt will be the site for the 2004 NSO Representative Assembly. Plans are underway for the union's national business meeting. In a letter to affiliate presidents, NSO Secretary Mary Henson says the meeting will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. with registration to begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, June 11. "To help eliminate the crowds and confusion at the RA registration, we will have an early registration area on Thursday, June 10 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m." The RA will conclude around noon on Saturday, June 12.

**Hotel Reservation:** The Grand Hyatt New York room rates are \$150 single/double occupancy and are available June 8 through June 12, 2004, for NSO. Registrants must be sure to have a credit card to guarantee rooms, which are on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations can be made anytime via the a special page on the Grand Hyatt's Web site. Check the NSO Web site for the link. Registrants can also book by calling toll free 800-233-1234 and ask for the National Staff Organization Room Block. the cut off date for making room reservations is May 21, 2004.

Reservations made after the May 21 cut off date will be based on space availability at the hotel's prevailing rate. If affiliates have room reservations problems, they can contact Wan Yi Tang, Convention Services Manager at 646-213-6884 or wtang@nycghpo.hyatt.com Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the hotel will not accept block reserva-

### **Election Notice**

During the NSO Representative Assembly, an election will take place for the following officers and NSO Executive Committee positions serving a two-year term (June 12, 2004 - June 10, 2006):

President  
Vice President for Defense  
Vice President for Program Secretary  
Treasurer  
Region 2 Director  
Region 4 Director  
Region 6 Director



*New York City is site for the 2004 NSO Representative Assembly*

tions. Names of attendees must be available when making reservations.

Grand Hyatt New York, Park Avenue at Grand Central, New York, NY 10017 212-833-1234 800-233-1234

Special NSO reservation site at the Grand Hyatt is: <http://grandnewyork.hyatt.com/groupbooking/fnat>

NSO Buffet and Prom: The NSO Executive Committee has made the decision to discontinue the NSO Buffet and Prom at the Representative Assembly. However, there will be a reception on Friday for solidarity and networking purposes; afterwards, delegates will be free to enjoy the "Big Apple."

Delegate Entitlement and Listing: The delegate entitlement is based on the membership numbers as provided to the NSO treasurer as of March 25. Those affiliates made up of both professional and associate staff would be entitled to delegates based on the number of members as if those associate and professional members were in separate unions.

Election of 2004 Delegates: The "2004 Delegate Name Form" was sent to affiliate presidents. A copy of that form has been posted on the NSO Web page and can be downloaded here. The form will need to be received by the NSO Secretary no later than Friday, May 15, 2004. Failure to meet the deadline date for submission of entitled delegates will result in the non-credentialing of said delegates. Early notification of delegates, as well as alternates, will speed the way through registration. All information on the delegates and alternates need to be home information - not business. This is in accordance with the LMRDA.

As a reminder, the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1952 (LMRDA or Landrum-Griffin) requires delegates be elected by secret ballot because officers of NSO are elected at the Representative Assembly. Excerpts of the law and the Department of Labor's Electing Union Officials booklet was sent to affiliate presidents. For a complete copy of the law or if there are specific questions regarding the election of delegates, contact can be made with Mary Henson or a representative of the Office of Labor-Management Standards, U.S. Department of Labor.

Additionally, the NSO Constitution requires in Article IX, Section 4, that "Delegates and alternates to the Representative Assembly shall be elected by a majority secret ballot vote of their state association membership casting ballots."

The affiliate president or other appropriate representative must sign the Delegate Name Form certifying that affiliate delegates and alternates are

elected in accordance with the NSO Constitution and the Landrum-Griffin Act. No delegate or alternate will be seated unless elected in accordance with these provisions. Under no circumstances can delegates be appointed.

Seating of Delegates: NSO requires that dues must be paid in full before the affiliate is seated with voting privileges. NSO also requires that Crisis Fund payments be paid in full before being seated with voting privileges. Questions regarding status can go to NSO Financial Officer Vera Stafford at 269-521-4341.

To provide better enforcement of voting delegate seating in compliance with Landrum-Griffin and NSO policies, a section of the RA floor is reserved for voting delegates only. Observers, alternates, and delegates without voting credentials will be provided seating to the rear of the RA floor. The entire floor of the RA is designated as a "no-smoking" area.

Any NSO member is eligible to run for officer or executive committee positions. In accordance with the NSO Constitution and Bylaws, a candidate must submit a petition signed by at least three NSO members and submit such petition to the NSO Secretary no later than June 11, 2004. (Article VIII, Section 1). Interested candidates should see their affiliate president or contact NSO Secretary Mary Henson at [EsthersBaby@msn.com](mailto:EsthersBaby@msn.com), to receive a copy of the Candidate's Petition. A copy of the petition is posted on this NSO Web page ([www.nationalstaff.org](http://www.nationalstaff.org)). Furthermore, any member may be nominated from the floor at the annual Representative Assembly, accompanied by a petition with the signature of three (3) members, for any officer to be so elected, provided the nominees are members in good standing of this Organization. (Article VIII, Section 2)

NSO Campaign and Election Rules: The National Staff Organization Campaign and Election Rules are posted on the NSO Web page and can be downloaded from there. 2004 RA Delegate Handbook: The 2004 NSO Delegate Handbook is being finalized for printing and will be sent in bulk to affiliate presidents. Questions can go to NSO Secretary Henson at [EsthersBaby@msn.com](mailto:EsthersBaby@msn.com).

Western States CBC: The Western States Coordinated Bargaining Council will meet June 10th from 9 a.m. until noon.

**Be sure to check the NSO Web Page for additional information about the 2004 NSO Representative Assembly.**

## ***National Labor-Management Summit Scheduled***

The National Education Association, the 51 state affiliates of the National Council of State Education Associations and the National Staff Organization (NSO) are pleased to announce that they have formed a partnership to jointly sponsor a one-day labor-management summit. The purpose of the summit is to bring labor and management leaders together to explore the critical issues of: membership trends; health insurance; defined benefit plan contributions; and post-retirement health care. You are invited to send a team consisting of an equal number of management leaders (staff and governance) selected by the Executive Director and union leaders (professional and associate) selected by the union to this summit. The NCSEA will reimburse that state affiliate for the purchase of one super-saver airfare for one team member. The guiding principle of the partnership is to ensure fiscal solvency and protection of high quality benefits. Please hold May 12, 2004, for this summit which will be at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel in Chicago. More details on the agenda and location of the summit will be forthcoming.

*Chuck Agerstrand, President*  
National Staff Organization

The National Labor-Management Summit group stresses several key elements to the program...

- \* Only state affiliate teams of management and union leaders are invited to attend the labor-management summit;
- \* NCSEA will fund one person from each state affiliate team, with the state affiliate to determine who that person is;
- \* We have a working lunch in which the state affiliate teams will discuss the principles and procedures that will guide our actions;
- \* We solicit individuals who would be interested in serving on working groups, but the planning committee will make the final decision regarding the make-up of the groups;
- \* We will have someone available to discuss the status of federal legislation regarding defined benefit plan funding; and
- \* We will have a listing of sources of information that is available via Web-sites, etc.

A tentative agenda for the program is posted on the NSO Web site - [www.nationalstaff.org](http://www.nationalstaff.org).



*The NSO Executive Committee will meet just prior to the 2004 NSO Representative Assembly in New York City. They met in late March to review plans for the coming RA as well as attend to regular business of advocating for members.*

## 2003-2004 NSO Calendar

Below is the current calendar for NSO events during the 2003-2004 year. Be sure to check the NSO Web page for calendar updates.

### *Corridor States Coordinated Bargaining Council*

April 17, 2004  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### *Southern States Coordinated Bargaining Council*

April 16-17, 2004  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### *NSO Pension Trustee Program*

April 23-24, 2004  
Las Vegas, NV

### *National Labor-Management Summit*

May 12, 2004  
Chicago, IL

### *NSO Executive Committee*

June 9-10, 2004  
Grand Hyatt, New York City, NY

### *2004 NSO Representative Assembly*

June 11-12, 2004  
Grand Hyatt, New York City, NY

“The Role and Responsibilities of the Pension Plan Fiduciary,” “The Role and Responsibilities of the Pension Professional Advisors,” and more. NSO Pension Attorney Barbara Kraft will also address the workshop. Check the NSO Web site for more details.

## Agreement in Pennsylvania



A tentative agreement in the lengthy bargaining crisis in Pennsylvania has been ratified by the Pennsylvania staff unions March 28. NSO President Chuck Agerstrand and NEA’s Mel Miler assisted bargaining in late February. Additional information about the agreement and the unions’ organizing efforts is on the NSO Web page.



(R-L) Ruth Ivory (FL), Ken Parker (CA-Ret), John Stephens (CA-NSO Reg. 4 Director) and Lee Johannson (MN) met March 6-7 as part of the NSO Health Task Force. The HTF is charged with study and recommendations about health issues for staff and retirees. A report is anticipated during the NSO RA.

## Trustee Training Open

There are still openings for the NSO sponsored Pension Trustee Training program April 23-24, in Las Vegas. The program is designed for new as well as “seasoned” trustees in defined benefits and defined contribution pension plans. Bally’s Las Vegas is the site for the program. To guarantee a slot, contact NSO Executive Committee member Pat Chavez at [cpatrick38@qwest.net](mailto:cpatrick38@qwest.net) or contact your NSO regional representative. Special subsidies are also available for participants. “Remember, there is **no** conference registration fee this year, so take advantage of this great opportunity and make your plans today!” says Chavez. The program includes such topics as “Challenges and Issues Facing NSO in the Pension Arena,”

**Be Sure To Check the NSO Web Page**  
[www.nationalstaff.org](http://www.nationalstaff.org)

**NSO Contact** is edited by Bob Mullins.



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**NSO Web Page**

<http://www.nationalstaff.org>

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**Vice President for Program:** Lynn Adler, (312) 494-0607  
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FAX (secure) (517) 622-1892

**Treasurer:** Evelyn Smith, (217) 968-5348  
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