

IN NSO CONTACT



Newsletter of the National Staff Organization

December 2004

'Listen, plan, act and evaluate...'

NSO Leaders to Preview Organizing Handbook

When NSO affiliate leaders come to Sarasota, FL, for the 2005 NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat, they will have an opportunity to learn about the NSO Merger-Organizing Committee's comprehensive Organizing Handbook. "With major attacks on our members' health coverage, retirement benefits, and rights, we must renew our efforts to organize," says NSO President Chuck Agerstrand (MI). "The Merger-Organizing Committee has consolidated resources to produce a reasoned, logical approach to protecting and improving our rights and benefits." NSO's Executive Committee had a firsthand look at the Merger-Organizing Committee's efforts, currently titled *Organizing: A Guide for Staff Unions*. "We have within our membership, a wide range of understanding, skills, and experience when it comes to organizing," says Merger-Organizing Committee Chair John Stephens (CA). The Organizing Guide consists of three "books" - a Nine Chapter Text with an Appendices and Resource Documents (including power points) section, according to Stephens. "This is not a sit-down and read cover-to-cover publication," says Stephens. "Rather, it is a collection of resources aimed at helping affiliates develop organizing plans that work and are appropriate for their members." During the Winter Advocacy Retreat, a focus group of selected presidents will have a chance to review the publication, examine how it can be utilized, and be asked for their

reaction and contributions. "We plan to distribute the Handbook in hard copy and on CD to all affiliates by late Spring 2005 and certainly no later than the RA in June," says Stephens. "NSO has begun initial planning for a NSO Organizing Conference sometime during 2005 of which the handbook would play an important role." In addition to the organizing handbook, the NSO Merger-Organizing Committee also produces the union's general promotion brochure and video/DVD, both of which are revised and updated on a yearly basis and copies of which will be available at the Retreat. Members of the NSO Merger-Organizing Committee are Tom Martin, Butch Santicola, Bonnie LePage, Tom Suhrbur, Jesse Moore, Jo Berry-Segna, Mike Horner, Ginny Ross, Bob Lindquist, David Crim, and Sue Vento.



Sarasota's Oak Ford Golf Club will be the site for the 2005 NSO Golf Tournament.

2004-2005 NSO Calendar

Below is the current calendar for NSO events during the 2004-2005 year. Be sure to check the NSO Web page for calendar updates.

NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat

Jan. 14-15, 2005
Sarasota, FL

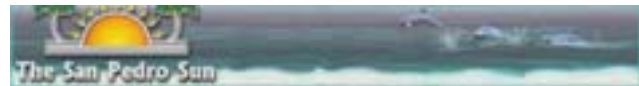
NSO Representative Assembly

June 10-11, 2005
San Diego, CA

You Better Belize It...



Congratulations to NSO Wyoming leader Ron Sniffin. He and his wife, Tamara, are giving a try at the newspaper publishing business - in Ambergris Caye, Belize (just south of Mexico on the Caribbean Sea). They now publish the San Pedro Sun. "I want to thank all the NSO members who have offered encouragement and support," says Ron. He says his brothers and sisters in WEA have encouraged him. Ron adds that he is on a one year leave of absence from the Wyoming Education Association with an option to renew a second year. "After two years, we will know if this is permanent or if we are coming back." Belize is slightly larger than Massachusetts. Its capital of Belmopan has a population of 4,500. The country is known for turquoise waters with multicolored coral formations in the Great Barrier Reef off its coast. Ron and Tamara bought the paper July 4th weekend. Belize had been their vacation spot for many years, according to Ron. You can read the Sniffin San Pedro Sun at www.sanpedrosun.net.



Be Sure to Check
the NSO Web page at
www.nationalstaff.org

Oak Ford Golf Club Tournament's Site



Butch Santicola (PA) reports this year's NSO Golf Tournament just prior to the NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat will be at the Oak Ford Golf Club

in Sarasota. "For those that don't want to lug golf clubs through the airport, the Club has some very good rentals ranging from \$15 to \$25," says Santicola. Tournament participants can call to reserve clubs at Oak Ford at 941-371-3680. For more information about the tournament itself, contact Santicola at 724-457-6377. Additional information and a downloadable registration form is posted on the NSO Web page at www.nationalstaff.org.

Data Collection Progresses Well

NSO At-Large Director Robert Blackwell (NC) reports affiliates are making progress toward sending in membership lists for the national union's database. Required by the U.S. Department of Labor, the lists are confidential and are securely maintained by affiliates on the NSO Research Web site. When ready, each NSO member will receive a special NSO Special Services Membership Card that will provide not only union identification, but also discounts at commercial sites around the country. As head of the Research Committee, Blackwell handles all passwords for members authorized to use NSO Research Web site. Blackwell's email address is: robert76@earthlink.net

NSO Contact is edited by Bob Mullins.



Comments and suggestions are welcome, and should be sent to Mullins at:

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