

# IN NSO CONTACT



Newsletter of the National Staff Organization

January 2004

## **Record Turnout for WAR College...**

## **NSO is a Strong 'Union of Unionists'**



NSO President Chuck Agerstrand (MI) described NSO as a “union of unionists” during the 2004 NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat’s general session January 16, 2004, in Sarasota, FL. In addition routine housekeeping announcements for the annual training program,

Agerstrand highlighted the plight of the Pennsylvania State Education Staff Organization (PSEASO) and their ongoing bargaining crisis with PSEA. NSO Vice

President for Program Lynn Adler (IL) notes that for NSO’s associate staff members, the WAR College is often the *only* training available to them. Affiliate presidents heard a special report from Bob Linqvist (CA), a member of the NSO Merger/Organizing Committee, about an updated “A Union for Union Workers” video which was made available to all affiliates attending the WAR College. In addition to VHS copies, the committee also produced a DVD.

Agerstrand also alerted affiliates that virtually every NSO member will likely feel the impact of new rules issued by the U.S. Dept. of Labor concerning “LM” reports. Unions

with incomes over \$250,000 a year will be required to provide more detailed information about expenditures. Currently, the new rules are under a temporary restraining order secured from a Federal judge by the AFL-CIO, but most expect the rules, or some variation of them, to go in place in approximately a year. Only a handful of NSO affiliates are likely to be directly affected by the new rules. NSO Treasurer Evelyn Smith (IL) and Financial Officer Vera Stafford (NSO-R, MI) gave a preview of possible requirements to affiliate presidents. In addition, they emphasized the need for NSO affiliates to send their membership lists with names and home addresses as a requirement directed by the U.S. Department of Labor.



*With 420 people registered for the 2004 Winter Advocacy Retreat, NSO has tallied another record for attendance.*



*NSO's Executive Committee welcomed Evelyn Smith (IL), left, as Treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Vera Stafford (NSO-R, MI) who has become the union's financial officer. Evelyn works in the Illinois Education Association Research Division in its Springfield office.*

## New MA in OD Launched

During his presentation to the general session, Pres. Agerstrand mentioned that the American University-National Training Laboratory has begun work to offer a master's degree in organizational development. NEA, the National Labor College at the George Meany Center and AU-NTL have worked together to create the degree. The course is being finalized and is scheduled to start with a nine day "Residency" at the George Meany Center, May 1-9, 2004. Cost is \$1,900 per three-credit course. NSO has endorsed the program. NSO members can request information from Roxanne Dove, NEA Organizational Development Coordinator at [Rdove@nea.org](mailto:Rdove@nea.org).

## Death Claims Union Members

Five union members' deaths were reported at the WAR College. We were saddened to learn the death of **Ken Campbell**, retired from the Kentucky Education Association. He died Jan. 11. He was a leader in the KEA Staff Organization and negotiated its first contract. The funeral was Jan. 14 in Bowling Green. **Martha Barrett** from Texas died recently. "She was a pioneer leader for her affiliate," says NSO Pres. Agerstrand. "We're going to miss her." **Carl Mamone**, retired from the Ohio Education Association died Jan. 13. He was a long time member of the Ohio Professional Staff Union. A 20-year OEA employee, Carl went on to become mayor of Martins Ferry for eight years. **Mark Jenkins** retired from the Michigan Education Association also died recently.

"Mark was one of the very early staffers to move from the associate to professional staff ranks," says Agerstrand. And, **Frank Martin**, retired from the Arkansas Education Association died. Originally from Massachusetts, Frank had been retired five or six years, according to John Reilly (NSO-R, MA).



*The Southern States Coordinating Bargaining Council (CBC) took the opportunity to meet during the WAR College. CBCs are the heart of NSO bargaining efforts. The new National Mutual Aid Pact has been a topic of all CBC meetings.*

## NSO's EC Meets Before the WAR



*NSO's Executive Committee met two days prior to the WAR College to handle the on-going business of the union.*

**Be sure to check the NSO Web Page for a detailed report about the 2004 NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat.**



*NSO President Agerstrand and Vice President for Program Adler reviewed issues important to NSO affiliate presidents, including plans for a special NSO Leadership Academy program.*

## **Web Takes Lots of Hits**

NSO's Web page usage was distributed during the WAR College. Between Nov. 1, 2003 and Nov. 30, 2003, NSO's Web page was hit 15,340 times! The site now has an average of 511 "successful requests" per day according to the union's service provider. "All totaled, we had a data transfer of 199.205 megabytes, or an average data transfer of 6.643 megabytes per day," says NSO Webmeister Bob Mullins. "That's a lot of stuff!" Traffic is heaviest on Wednesdays at around 3 p.m. The page continues to get hits from around the world. Military inquiries have tapered off a bit – now at 688 requests for November. We have added the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, a small group of islands in the Indian Ocean several hundred miles to the east of Christmas Island.

"From the wide variety of search engines that bring hits to the page, I suspect there are a lot of people searching for something else, but find us," says Mullins. It is also likely many Harvard Trade Union graduates that come from around the world check "www.nationalstaff.org" from time to time.

Mullins also reports that enough state affiliates are using the electronic version of CONTACT to bring the printed number to less than 2,000 copies per issue. NSO has approximately 5,000 members.

## **Health Coverage Covered**

NSO President Agerstrand says a Health Insurance Benefits Committee is to be appointed soon. The committee will be charged with helping affiliates develop strategies to protect and improve benefits for current and retired NSO members.



*Glen Johnson (NJ) - left - and Howard Parish (NJ) look over shoulders to help members learning about how to use MS PowerPoint during the WAR College.*



*Thirty two NSO members participated in the third annual Frank Morrissey Memorial Golf Tournament. The tournament took place on the Bobcat Trail Golf Course in North Port, FL, approximately 40 minutes south of Sarasota. Winners were announced during the NSO Gulf Coast Buffet Friday evening.*

## 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.

*NSO Executive Committee*  
March 25-27, 2004  
Key Largo, FL

*Corridor States Coordinated Bargaining Council*  
April 17, 2004  
Site TBD

*NSO Executive Committee*  
June 8-9, 2004  
Grand Hyatt, New York City, NY

*2004 NSO Representative Assembly*  
June 11-12, 2004  
Grand Hyatt, New York City, NY

## Web-based Research Grows

NSO Regional Director Robert Blackwell (NC) shared with WAR college participants information about NSO's growing Web-based research service. Almost all affiliate contracts are posted. NSO's library of arbitration awards has also been put on the page. Each is completely searchable. The site is password protected and access must be authorized by Blackwell.

## Congratulations to Ohio Newlyweds!



*Congratulations to Carol Wilt and John McGuire who married Jan. 12 in Sea Island Resort, Kissimmee, FL, and had a special reception pool side during the WAR College. Carol is the Ohio Professional Staff Union's vice president for communications.*

## NSO, NEA Help in Pennsylvania Negotiations

The Pennsylvania State Education Association Staff Organization (PSEASO) reports representatives of the union and management met with NSO President Chuck Agerstrand and NEA representative Mel Myler for approximately five hours Jan. 23. The union and management agreed to assistance from NSO and NEA to help facilitate negotiations. Both bargaining teams will meet Feb. 17-19 to work toward an agreement.

PSEASO Crisis Coordinator Don Atkiss reports a very successful day at the NEA Northeast Region Leadership Conference Jan. 23. The union posted its "PWYP" banner ("Practice What You Preach"). "In all, about 37 people joined us in the picketing, including NSO members from New Hampshire, NEA-SO, AFSE, New Jersey, New York, Maine and Connecticut.

Several PSEASO members have received "6.6" letters - notices of disciplinary action for violating the PSEA "gag order" on bargaining. For more information check [www.nationalstaff.org](http://www.nationalstaff.org).

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

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**NSO Web Page**

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