

**NYSFAAA Executive Council Meeting**  
**Monday, February 6, 2012**  
**Hilton Garden Inn, Albany, NY**  
Official minutes

**Attendees:**

- Dan Tramuta, SUNY Fredonia
- Scott Atkinson, SUNY Brockport
- Howard Leslie, Berkeley College
- Steve Dwire, College of Saint Rose
- Pat Johnson, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Lisa Simpson, NYSHESC
- Michele Rizzo, Canisius College
- Lisa Papke, Genesee Community College
- Katrina Delgrosso, Syracuse University
- Christina Delbridge, Empire State College
- Dan Robinson, Pace University
- Lou Palefsky, Bank Street College
- Gene Rogers, Molloy College
- Shalena Duprey, North Country Community College

*Minutes taken by Katrina Delgrosso.*

**Monday, February 6th – Cogswell Room**

**8:00 am                      Breakfast**

**8:30 am                      Call to Order/Welcome/Frame the Next (2) Days – Dan Tramuta**

- Welcome from Dan to the group for spending 1-2 days here for this meeting and Student Advocacy Day
- Legislative appointments for tomorrow—not available to us yet, but times will be provided by the end of today to discuss this in further detail. This event is finished by noon or 1 pm on 2/7/12.
- Introductions around the room
- Meeting called to order

**8:45 am                      Reading & Approval of the October 17th Exec-Council Meeting Minutes – Gina Soliz**

- Motion to waive the reading of the minutes (Shalena); 2<sup>nd</sup> (Howard)
- Motion to approve minutes (Dan); 2<sup>nd</sup> (Lou)

**9:00 am                      Secretary's Report – Gina Soliz (via phone)**

1. **Dollars for Scholars** – she received a phone call from Mark Rosenthal after the October conference. He thought NYSFAAA could partner w/ Dollars for Scholars to award a scholarship to a student in their senior year. She discussed this with him as it relates to our

NYSFAAA Scholarship timing (awarded at the annual conference). We won't know if that high school senior will matriculate in the state of NY ultimately.

- Discussion ensued. Howard mentioned prior involvement with Dollars for Scholars where they used to require matching from schools. Is that still the case with this organization?
- Scott mentioned that schools can be a partner without matching funds. There is a wide variety of services they offer.
- Gina asked if she could connect Debbie Evans with Mark at Dollars for Scholars.
- Pat said that this could help NYSFAAA as well, since they are a good organization.
- Does this seem like a new category of a scholarship for NYSFAAA? Normally, we recommend students from our campuses to the scholarship committee. Does it go against our mission if the student goes to school in another state?
- Michele mentioned that we could require student to attend NY school.
- Shalena mentioned we could nominate student who is coming into our schools.
- Scott recommended to turn this over to the scholarship committee and have them submit an approval to bring to Exec Council. Gina agreed this would be a good plan.
- Lisa mentioned going away from the nomination format we have, since some schools aren't as active in NYSFAAA, but there are still needy kids. We would need to advertise so students know it exists. We could approach scholarship searches to include this in their websites, such as FastWeb. What if there are so many applicants that the scholarship committee couldn't handle the volume (Gina)?
- Give an early deadline (Dan).
- Howard said if we housed this on the NYSFAAA website, it would drive more traffic to the website anyway.

## 2. Web Redesign Up-Date

- Over past 2 years, we've discussed deficiencies in our website.
- Current NYSFAAA web host is ATAC and they have been hosting for many years.
- Ideta Daniels is committee chairperson for our website. All website updates go to Ideta and she sends to Paula at ATAC to complete the updates.
- We've talked with other companies over time and kept coming back to working with ATAC to make some improvements, rather than going outside to another company.
- ATAC was already planning to make improvements: easier to use with Tablets and web apps for SmartPhones. Blogs are important. More use for social media (Twitter, Facebook). Immediate feeds during conferences. Training opportunities on the calendar. Possibly include ads again for sponsorship. News feeds from NASFAA. E-commerce for credit card payments and PayPal.
- Can we remove the multi-layered approach to posting things to our website? Having Ideta in the middle adds a layer, but it is a better approach to make sure we're posting the appropriate material.
- Paula prepared the PowerPoint that we viewed and discussed today at this meeting.
- Paula said we could maintain our own content, but she was against it (Howard). Dan T. asked more about this and suggested we could have 2-3 web content NYSFAAA members to post. Howard said this could cause a problem since the 2-3 web content NYSFAAA members have their primary job and there could be a delay in posting anyway.
- Chairs of all committees are responsible to update the areas of their responsibility on the website to ensure all updates are given to Ideta to make the changes. This is important to keep our website updated consistently.
- QR codes can be created and advertised free of charge
- Some other state financial aid associations have begun the redesign with ATAC. We have a lot of choices to improve colors and layouts. Some have sponsorship on members-only pages. **No charge for the redesign.**

- Samples: Ohio, Texas
- Can include welcome message, message from association President, training updates, NASFAA news feed, sponsorships from guarantors/lenders again (may or may not be appropriate in NY)...
- Think about the visitors to our website (Dan T.)—diversity and content are important.
- 4 main groups who visit our site: NYSFAAA members, regions, students/families and school counselors. Need an up-to-date and useful website to all of these groups (Gina).
- NY BUZZZ section of NYSFAAA website is under-utilized (Gene), but is a good concept. Compare to Missouri (MASFAP) and they have 57 listings of statewide events versus NY with 2 listings. Clearly there is someone/some people in Missouri who are dedicated to updating this consistently.
- Financial literacy could be enhanced and provided on our website (Kristina) and we could possibly have sponsors that are non-bank/lender-related.
- ATAC is willing to do a series of emails at no charge to advertise the website (Howard).
- The website updates are overwhelming to keep up-to-date (for 1 person to handle).
- How will we reach the school counselors (Lisa)? “Start Here, Get There” does the same thing for them. Counselors come into that site and put their email addresses. Should we just link to “Start Here, Get There” (Gina)?
- Gina discussed Expertise Module—add this to the Member Profile (no charge for implementation from ATAC)? This allows NYSFAAA members to list particular expertise on their NYSFAAA membership profile (anywhere from “No Experience” to “Beginner” to “Intermediate” to “Advanced” about topics such as Banner/PeopleSoft/PowerFAIDS, Direct Loans, Financial Literacy, etc.). Create a presenter directory for those interested in presenting at conferences (Howard). Michele mentioned this would be extremely helpful to go to the website and locate other NYSFAAA members who have expertise. This feature is being used in DE, DC and MD.
- NYSFAAA job openings—we posted 108 in 2011, which normally costs \$45 to \$100 for a 30 day posting. Howard said he was against this at first, but asked if there was a drop-off of schools who posted jobs in other states once this charge was implemented, but Paula said “to the contrary”. We will want to charge less than EASFAA and NASFAA (Dan R.). If we start charging for this, it will help with other services we want to provide (Gina).
- Lou suggested to divide the listserv into sectors to send messages only to a group of people (e.g. graduate sector, private schools, etc.).
- Personalization greetings could be sent out (e.g. birthday) with no implementation charge (Gina). It could come from Exec Council, the President, any way we want to set it up.
- Gina: Conference mini-sites—EASFAA is using this. Allows members to see all info about upcoming conferences. There are costs involved to this, but it is not that much more than what we already pay for the conference information to be added to the site (Steve).
  - Can be themes with more animation that will cost a little more than a general theme to be used year after year.
  - Pocket agenda can be provided for attendees to print and bring to the conference (\$25 per pocket agenda to set up—no charge if conference mini-site is in place).
  - Mobile Friendly Agenda is \$25 setup—no charge if a conference mini-site is set up.
  - Conference session planning to submit proposals, which then allows the conference committee to start scheduling the dates/times very easily into a format that allows NYSFAAA members to show their supervisors their plan if able to attend the conference. Lou asked about conference committees trying to plan in different locations—can they both access this set-up form during conference planning? This was an issue with EASFAA program committee planning.
  - Conference check-in/registration allows conference committee to pull up a members’ summary of outstanding payments at conference registration so they can pay their remaining balances at that time (at the beginning of the conference).

- Photo albums can be posted at no additional charge for implementation. Members could sign something indicating they authorize their pictures to be posted to the website (*see later proposals to Policy and Procedures Manual for potential changes to this authorization*). This will bring more people to the website (Howard).
- Archives of documents for the conference contracts, etc.—all documents can be archived and categorized by ATAC.
- Historical timeline can also be added to the site.
- Newsletter mini-site allows a more interactive way to pull up articles (e.g. PASFAA). Initial set-up is \$425; \$325 per issue after that. Dan R. asked if we have to pay if we already use the old newsletter set-up. Gina wasn't sure. They can archive all old newsletters.
- Customizations available
- Dan T. asked how do we get this moving? Howard's committee for web redesign will provide a proposal to Paula to make the next steps for change. There will be additional conference calls to discuss this with ATAC. No charge for basic changes. Website change could be available in June or July 2012, which allows us to agree on changes. We don't want conference registration to be split between the old site and new site, so timing is important. We could promote it right before or after the next conference if we don't want to change in June or July (Gina). Howard said we could do small things by the summer timeframe and then show it to the conference attendees in October for large changes. The TIC committee is in charge of this. Dan T. would like this to happen by the summer of 2012 since we have been discussing this for quite some time.
- Motion by Michele to move ahead with the recommendations, particularly those that are free-of-charge for June/July 2012 changes, as well as the conference mini-site.
- Second by Pat
- Friendly amendment: Howard—to add in re-design of website to make it look nicer
- Michele approved the friendly amendment
- Second by Pat
- All in favor
- None opposed
- Howard asked about graphic designers/artists looking for projects to help with this redesign.
- Pat suggested to reach out to all committee members to come up with updates for their sections for the website. Even a timeline/calendar to provide deadlines for these updates to go to Howard's TIC committee.

**9:30 am                      President-Elect's Report – Scott Atkinson**

- Nominations & Elections Update
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs and Secretary
  - Have your regional nominations by 3/15/12 to Scott Atkinson
  - April elections so we can have everything in place by May
- NYSFAAA Constitution Proposed Changes (attached with proposed changes in red)
  - Article I—no comments
    - Motion by Shalena to add "NYSFAAA"
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve
    - All in favor
    - None opposed
    - No discussion
  - Article VI, Sections 1 and 6
    - "Affiliate member" would be considered high school counselors; provide NYSFAAA membership at no charge; under purview of 1<sup>st</sup> VP to

have limitations on number of these memberships allowed in association

- Lou asked about our prior discussion regarding graduate students?
  - Dan R. asked about possibly charging them a minimal one-time membership amount each year or an amount for training that is nominal (e.g. \$25 a year).
  - Pat brought up the topic of high school counselor workshops that are provided out of the Challenge Grant. If you start charging these counselors, they will not participate. We have a hard enough time getting their participation in the free workshops we provide to them. Jobs are getting cut at the high school counselor level and there a lot of pressures regarding that.
  - Howard said a value-added part of membership would be to give them a “go-to” NYSFAAA member at the college level they could call to ask questions. These would be assigned by NYSFAAA if members volunteer to assist in this effort.
  - Michele said they have done this in Region 1 and provided this level of service (“go-to” college financial aid professionals).
  - Lisa said they won’t come if they are charged a fee.
  - Dan R. asked if the College Access Challenge Grant be used for additional high school counselor training.
  - Howard commented about NetZero that was free of charge. We should offer this free of charge and then see what the interest level is.
  - Scott said this would be a level of membership that is available. Dan T. said we would have to advertise/launch this.
  - Michele said this could be launched after our web redesign.
  - Dan T. asked about the worst time to send a high school counselor a letter to advertise this vs best time? December is the best time for them to get out of their offices (Lisa). If we unveil this via letter, May or June might be best (Pat).
  - Our membership has to vote on this at the conference.
  - Lisa recommended having a Tool Chest for them to use on our website (e.g. Region 2 put together a cheat sheet of dates and deadlines; information on undocumented students, etc.
  - Reach out to middle school counselors (Pat); without having to pay for membership, it will be a nice way for them to get involved.
  - Dan R.—some of their responsibilities are not grade-specific
  - Steve said this is a great idea; high school counselors aren’t going to come to training on things like verification rules
  - Motion by Michele to accept recommendations of committee including addition of affiliate membership (include Section I and VI)
  - All in favor
  - None opposed
  - No discussion
- Article VIII, Section 3:
    - In the past, there have been some issues with this topic where some EC members did not attend frequently enough throughout the year.
    - New text is to require over 50% attendance by the elected EC member
    - President “will” or “may” in the text
    - Motion by Shalena

- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gene
  - None opposed
  - No discussion
  - Section 3 will be renamed Section 4, due to the addition of Section 3
- Article I of the By-Laws, Sections 1 and 2
  - Motion by Steve to approve the recommended text
  - Kristina asked if the “A” in “Active” and “Associate” should be consistently capitalized or not capitalized throughout the Constitution. All agreed this could be updated. This was discussion.
  - Motion by Scott to approve article with this change
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele
  - All approved
  - None opposed
  - No further discussion
- Article II, Section 1
  - Motion by Dan R. to accept text as recommended by committee
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lou
  - All in favor
  - None opposed
  - No further discussion
- Article VII, Sections 1, 2 and 3
  - Motion by Michele to accept Article VII, Sections 1, 2 and 3 as recommended by committee
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shalena
  - All in favor
  - None opposed
  - No discussion
- Article VIII, Section 1
  - What is the logic between 2 meetings (Howard)? To avoid too much time lapse.
  - Dan R.—do we have to specify ballot being electronic? Scott said it didn’t specify.
  - Kristina—why include the 2 meetings? Scott said if we increase the number of our meetings, it may become more practical.
  - Motion by Shalena to approve revisions
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gene
  - All in favor
  - None opposed
  - No further discussion
- Article IX, Section 2
  - Scott brought this up at Governance Committee and no one was aware. The requirement is that it is an elected position. Made it more flexible to say it is “preferable”. Deleted reference about being counted in a quorum.
  - Shalena said this is really important in a small region like Region 8.
  - If you didn’t count proxies before, some votes may not have been legal prior to this (Scott).
  - The committee discussed the 50% attendance text (Scott) and proxy could be sent.
  - Motion by Pat to approve revisions

- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve
  - All in favor
  - None opposed
  - No further discussion
- Secretary has to follow up 30 days prior to the NYSFAAA conference with these changes and they will be voted on at the Business Meeting at the conference.
- Governance – Bylaws and P & P Manual Review
  - See all items in red for proposed changes
  - In the past, it says Executive Committee monitors changes, so they added Governance Committee. Executive Council will take action for these to take place.
  - Made it stand out to require NYSFAAA membership to be on Executive Council.
  - Annual report should be changed to “made available” in case we want to provide electronically.
  - Many formatting changes
  - Used template that Dan gave out at the last meeting
  - Awards committee reports to 1<sup>st</sup> VP
  - Communications website reports to Secretary
  - Took out reference to ATAC to make it more flexible to membership
  - Does it make a difference that an Active member (from a school) could be from an out of state school (Howard)? Or from schools who have branches in both NY and NJ? Discussion with Dan R., Howard, Dan T. and Scott on this topic. Dan T. and Scott felt we should put the requirement about working at a NY school as an Active member. “Active” member affects both the Constitution and the Bylaws. The group suggested to take this back to the Governance committee to review the text on this and then bring to the June Exec Council meeting.
  - Election Committee is not called “Nominations and Election Committee”, Dan T. asked? Scott said no—just called “Election Committee”.
  - Dan T. asked about destruction of ballots. We should have something in place to specify it. Proposed change to add this text? Proposed change is to destroy within 30 days unless contested. Committee will go back and make this requested proposed change.
  - Dan R. asked about Treasurer-Elect and Past-Treasurer on the Finance, Budget and Audit Committee?
  - Governance Committee—separate election
  - Howard asked about 1<sup>st</sup> VP becoming Chair of Membership Committee. Under Membership, Kristina asked if “regional membership coordinator” should have been stricken from text? Scott will revise this in draft for June meeting.
  - Professional Ethics and Standards Committee—this is a meaningful change and will now report to the President
  - Scholarship Committee will report to Treasurer, which makes sense due to the NYSFAAA Scholarship payments
  - Do we need to add the College Goal Sunday Committee and the TIC Committee to the list of committees on this document? Scott will take this back to the Governance Committee to add the TIC Committee. The CGS Committee does not just include Active NYSFAAA members; rather, there are high school counselors on these committees, so we will not add this to the list.
  - Added section on Stale-Dated Checks

- Eliminating alcohol from coverable expenses and NYSFAAA cannot assume liabilities for alcohol-related incidents.
- Discussion about this included Novice and NYSFAAA Conference—but this is only travel-related NYSFAAA
- There is a difference between “NYSFAAA not being responsible” versus “no alcohol allowed” at a NYSFAAA event.
- Judgmental issue
- Are items #5 and #6 on draft mutually exclusive? Scott
- Is this just for submitted expenses (Dan T.)?
- Steve—Clarified that alcohol could not be included on the bill that is submitted to NYSFAAA?
- Shalena—Was there anything that led to this discussion? Scott—Yes, regarding the liability—we never had that in the language previously, but need that in here.
- Does the liability language protect NYSFAAA if an alcohol-related accident occurs due to alcohol that was consumed during a NYSFAAA event?
- Is the intent for NYSFAAA not to supply or reimburse any alcohol; however, alcohol could be served at a cash bar.
- Lisa commented that this would impact Novice due to 6 evenings that sometimes include alcohol
- Kristina—does “liability” mean monetary?
- Dan R. asked about other liabilities due to other items that could be brought to a conference
- In some cases, a collection was taken to contribute towards alcohol consumption (Steve).
- Perception that it is a “perk” to volunteer and benefit from this type of consumption (Michele).
- Steve doesn’t receive itemized bill for reimbursement, so he doesn’t know if alcohol is on there or not.
- Region 6 charges a fee for the holiday party, which includes alcohol (Lou).
- Should we have a per diem for meals (Dan T.)?
- We rarely have events that even serve any alcohol, so are we trying to build a policy for a small percentage of events (Dan T.)?
- Kristina—Perhaps building in the liabilities language
- Lou—In a court of law, if we supplied the alcohol, we would need to be responsible for any liabilities.
- In terms of language regarding “reasonable”, what defines “reasonable”? Burden would be on Treasurer to determine what “reasonable” means for total bill.
- This topic has been discussed numerous times over the years in NYSFAAA Exec Council.
- Shalena leaning towards not changing text since there isn’t any recent abuse.
- Scott—but abuse “could” happen
- NYSFAAA has changed over the years and the climate has changed due to other outside factors, such as SLATE, etc.
- Unintended consequences of changing this text (Lou)
- President’s Reception is a cash bar at the conference
- Scott will need to take this back to Governance Committee to revise the text—nothing will be changed at this time



- EASFAA representation—NYSFAAA President takes care of this currently—recommending immediate Past-President or President-Elect instead
  - Dan T. feels as though the current NYSFAAA President should continue to represent NYSFAAA because there is a lot of credibility when the current President is representing their state. It also helps when the current President brings issues and comments back from the EASFAA meetings. NY is very important to the discussion.
  - President-Elect doesn't necessarily have the EASFAA experience or the current experience as NYSFAAA President to contribute to this discussion at EASFAA level.
  - Howard suggested considering Past-President, but not President-Elect.
  - Dan T. suggested "immediate Past-President or President" serves on EASFAA.
- Notification of the President—moved to another section of the document, so it was removed from its current location in the By Laws.
- Procedures added for the use of photos at NYSFAAA events; candid photos should "require" permission (Howard).
- Opt-out policy?
  - Scott says that by becoming a NYSFAAA member, you are giving permission for photos to be used from formal or informal NYSFAAA events.
  - We may need to allow an opt-out policy for religious reasons, other... (Shalena, Dan T.).
  - Pat suggested including the opt-out policy at the registration for any NYSFAAA event that would preclude NYSFAAA from using their photos.
  - Those who do not wish to have their photos used should let the photographer know this before a photo is taken.
  - Scott can go back to the committee and insert the opt-out language.
- Motion by Michele that we accept all changes above with the exception
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howard
- All in favor
- None opposed
- No further discussion

**10:00 am Vice President's Report – Clair Jacobi (via phone..516.686.1085)**

- Membership – See attachment of membership data compared to 10-11
  - There are about 40 members who still have not paid—they were given an extension until 2/15/12; not all 40 will end up paying, most likely
  - Overall, membership is going good (up 3.2% to 1,208 in 11-12)
  - Other states in EASFAA are seeing a flat or decrease number of members
  - Lou asked about 1,208 total members versus the addition of all regional members totaling 1,347. This is because some members join more than 1 region.
  - Dan T. mentioned the value of state organizations and presenting this to the Presidents of colleges.

- Howard mentioned this is a good idea, but not until the website is redesigned. Clair said it is a good idea, but don't send to institutions who are already heavily represented within NYSFAAA (since Presidents are very busy and they already have representation and support at that college).
- Dan R. commented this would still be good for the President to see why the money is being spent and it reaffirms their participation.
- Howard suggested 2 letters: 1) thank you for your support and 2) please allow your staff to participate.
- Gene mentioned that on a regional level, we could reach out to Financial Aid Directors in each region to promote membership as well.
- Kristina said budget problems prevent ALL staff from participating—those who can participate should report back to the offices.
- Steve mentioned that if a letter is sent out, we should be able to give the Presidents a heads up about the upcoming letter.
- Dan R. mentioned we should stress GoToMeeting technology.
- Dan T. brought this up at EASFAA and stressed that with all federal regulation changes around us, we are in a great spot to promote the training and access of our organization.
- Clair agreed with this comment. She mentioned that some Region 7 members asked if they could swap a regional member to attend a regional meeting, even if they aren't a NYSFAAA member.
- Howard disagreed with letting non-members attend regional meetings—even once. It sets a precedent.
- Kristina said we could charge a nominal fee for non-members to attend.
- Do we leave this to a regional level to make that decision (Dan T.)? What if someone comes to the meeting—do you send them home (Michele)?
- Lou said what if someone wants to come and “try it out”?
- Howard said there is a very fine line to this.
- Dan R. said this will prevent our membership from increasing, because it will set a precedent.
- Michele said they don't have that problem in Region 1—they have a hard enough time getting MEMBERS to attend the meetings.
- The consensus around the room is that most regions don't check to see if someone is a member when they arrive.
- Clair said if non-members keep attending the meetings, then approach that person and tell them they will need to join NYSFAAA.
- Lou asked if these are institution employees? Clair said yes. It is important that the membership is checked.
- ~~Web utilization~~ This did not end up being an agenda item after all with Clair.

**10:30 am                    2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report – Howard Leslie**

- Howard's report will be attached to these minutes
- Vera Senese (co-chair) resigned from statewide training committee due to change in position (changing employers)—effective immediately, but will assist with upcoming event on 2/10/12
- Beth Post-Lundquist (co-chair) also resigned from statewide training committee
- This group would like to thank Vera and Beth for their work on this committee. It is much appreciated by Executive Council. Our membership has come to rely on this committee.
- Are there any recommendations to replace Vera and Beth? This committee is in a good place now after their hard work.

- Statewide Training Update (2/10/12 = **2012-13 Verification Webinar** via Carney McCullough, Jim Briggs, etc.)
  - Verification training on 2/10/12 via Carney McCullough (GoToMeeting webinar will be used).
    - In-person training except Region 8, who will do it at their desks using GoToMeeting technology. Other regions will attend an in-person training on 2/10/12 for this.
    - Dan T. brought this up at meeting last week at EASFAA. They asked if they could partner with NYSFAAA and split the cost.
    - NJ staff at Berkeley are helping to execute this webinar on 2/10/12, due to leadership in Statewide Training unavailable that day.
  - Jim Briggs webinar March 2, 2012 (via GoToMeeting—not an in-person meeting)—Howard asked if he could go over tax transcripts (\$1,500 total for 90 minute webinar for 500 people + 1 presenter = 501 people allowed on webinar).
    - Regarding splitting cost with EASFAA (prior bullet item), Howard felt that would be unfair to Jim Briggs to charge \$1,500, but multiple states would benefit. Dan T. agreed this would be unfair to Jim.
    - Howard would like to offer NJ our webinar capabilities for GoToMeeting to obtain the training. NJ will offer their own date/time, but will use the GoToMeeting technology. We paid for GoToMeeting already (one-time charge of \$3,828).
    - Need approval on \$1,500
    - Need proposal to allow NJ to use GoToMeeting technology
    - Michele mentioned that perhaps in-person training for a larger topic makes more impact so we can discuss it as a group (versus a webinar through GoToMeeting).
    - Motion by Steve to approve Jim Briggs workshop at \$1,500
    - Second by Gene
    - All in favor
    - None opposed
    - No further discussion
    - Motion by Dan R. to utilize GoToMeeting free of charge to NJASFAA for Jim Briggs webinar
    - Jim Briggs not recorded to post to website
    - Shalena asked if we are setting a precedent by allowing them to use for free?
    - Friendly amendment by Michele to allow as a one-time use of GoToMeeting
    - Friendly amendment by Kristina to allow as a one-time use of GoToMeeting for the Jim Briggs webinar specifically
    - All in favor
    - None opposed
    - No further discussion
- “TIC Committee” Update – Lea Nuwer (**via phone..716.878.4902**)
  - IT Survey—they received a lot of feedback after the conference—thank you
  - SGRC Survey (State Government Relations Committee)—Lucy spearheaded through SurveyMonkey
  - Collaboration with SGRC was very successful
  - FGRC (Federal Government Relations Committee) may be interested in a similar survey tool

- Dan T. thanked Lea for working on this survey for the SGRC
- Policy and Procedure manual
  - Revisions in P&P manual will be covered a little later on agenda (President-Elect's Report)
- Novice Training – Planning for Summer 2012 (Lisa Simpson)
  - Looking at June 2-8, 2012—SUNY Brockport
  - Major construction on campus and this is being taken into consideration right now by the co-chairs. There will be some challenges, but they are working with Scott Atkinson to make the best of the situation for summer 2012, which may include alternative housing versus dorms. Consideration for summer 2013 may include signing a contract for another site, since SUNY Brockport will be doing construction for at least 2 years.
  - Price will be the same as 2011
  - Registration by end of March or early April
  - Revising manual—updates are coming in now for chapters
  - Reformatting manual, which will be easier for participants
  - Adding 1 additional small group leader
  - Small number of admissions staff attend
  - No committee is needed for Novice (Lisa Simpson and Lisa Papke are co-chairs and they are working with Scott Atkinson)

**11:00 am                    Treasurer's Report – Steve Dwire**

- 09-10 Audit
  - There were checks for \$33,000 that weren't broken out in our system, but we can't determine what it was for
  - Major audit finding if no documentation
  - We still haven't finished the 09-10 audit and now that tax season is going on, we have to wait for accounting firm to have time to work with us further on this to go through old documentation that Steve does not have access to.
- 10-11 Audit
  - We are delayed on the 10-11 audit as well, because of tax season that is now here, which means we will need to pay more
- 1112 Year-to-Date Report
- Scholarship funding didn't come out of NYSFAAA Scholarship fund this year, but we had profits from the conference, so we used current revenue to pay for those
- See Profit/Loss statement
- Paying credit card bills electronically—Steve is back to writing checks because it is more clear and easier to account for expenses
- Steve is going to work with Pat to transition her over to the Treasurer position, including QuickBooks access.
- Motion from Governance Committee to create an Ad Hoc Committee be established consisting of past-Treasurers and the Treasurer Elect chaired by the Treasurer to review and update all financial sections of the NYSFAAA Policy and Procedures Manual as well as

to develop a NYSFAAA Treasurer's Manual. Motion from Michele to have a committee to handle this. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat. All in favor. None opposed. No further discussion.

- Regional Accounts—didn't discuss this
- P&P Procedures Manual—didn't discuss this

**11:30 am                    HESC Update – Lisa Simpson**

- See attached minutes
- Thank you from Dan T. for Lisa's involvement with planning this meeting's logistics.
- Thank you from Pat for Lisa's help with everything related to high school counselors

**12:00 Noon                Lunch**

**12:30 – 12:45            Conference 2011 Recap (Jan Scheutzow-via phone at 585-389-2313)**

- See attached report
- Largest issue was trying to book Jeff Baker from the Department of Education, which we didn't have resolved until a couple days prior to the conference.
- Lisa asked for discussion regarding: 1) presenters (do they pay for conference or stay for meals) and 2) evaluations/survey (keeping it with the conference committee). This will help assist future committees (Howard).
- In terms of the conference committee paying for other NYSFAAA Committee expenses, is that appropriate? If so, we need to include in the procedures so planners know.
- Thank you to Jan and the committee for all of their hard work.

**12:45 – 1:15              Conference 2012 Update/Budget Review (Lisa Simpson)**

- Saratoga Hilton, 10/9/12-10/11/12
- Room rate is \$155/night due to fall foliage peak (Sunday-Thursday rate availability)
- Lisa got them to reduce parking fee per day from \$10 down to \$5
- Retiree registration will go up from \$200 to \$250
- Vendor fee will go up from \$300 to \$400
- Begin time 10 am on Tuesday, 10/9; ends at noon on Thursday, 10/11
- Planning for 348 attendees (320 + 20 vendors)
- Wireless now
- Looking for speaker that can help show short-term and long-term financial aid conditions (including demographics, federal and state funding implications, etc.)
- Chamber of Commerce is very active in Saratoga Springs and will be providing assistance to provide discounts while in town; possibly ghost tours, haunted hay rides, etc.
- Dan T. asked about Walt Stasinski as a possible speaker
- Dan T. mentioned other states in EASFAA about the cost of vendor tables (e.g. variance in charges if they are speakers or have better placement), but there is no preferred placement in this hotel, Lisa said. Discussion about putting vendor areas in a hallway versus where the breaks are held. Will keep @ \$400 for vendor table.
- Tuesday dinner on your own; Wednesday banquet
- Motion by Steve to accept full registration fee @ \$350, retiree registration @ \$250, 2 day registration @ \$300, 1 day registration @ \$150, Vendor fee @ \$400
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott
- All in favor

- None opposed
- No further discussion

**1:00 – 1:45                    Conference 2013 Update (Gene Rogers)**

- Gene reported on hotel possibilities for Long Island in 2013
- Marriott Uniondale, Hilton Islandia, Marriott Hauppauge, Huntington Hilton (Melville)
- They feel the region can support this conference in 2013 with the Huntington Hilton as the best fit for costs and location. Lou asked about parking at hotel—Lisa S. thinks it is free parking. Local businesses close by for shopping, dining and entertainment. Food prices unknown yet. Budget proposal to be brought at the June meeting by Gene.
- Are we committed to 200 rooms or people, Michele asked (due to some room-sharing)? They will double-check if this means 200 rooms over the course of 3 days.
- Mid-October—dates not chosen yet
- Possibly hold the June Exec Council meeting mid-June (6/14/12 starting in afternoon to 6/15/12—finish by 1 pm on Friday) at this hotel if the room rate is reasonable (Gene will ask them if they can give us the state rate for that meeting). Renovations being done by the end of 2012 at this hotel.
- It is likely we'll have day trippers from Region 6, as well as Region 7.

**1:45 – 2:00                    College Goal Sunday Update**

- ~~CGS Contract Renewal status~~ – This agenda item was not discussed.

**2:00 pm                        Laura Anglin – President, clcu (Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities)**

- Introductions around the room
- Her background was in state government for 20 years prior to clcu
- 112 not-for-profit colleges/universities
- Focus on outreach to students/families
- Host [www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org) for students/families
- Offer annual Latino College Fair (approximately 1000 students attended last year)
- Current climate of enrolled students in NYS:
  - 38% Indep
  - 37% SUNY
  - 21% CUNY
  - 4% Proprietary
- Counties with highest concentration of private education, employment and wages in 2009
- Growth during the great recession—during times of unemployment, people go back to school (drop in total employment), private sector continues to rise
- Private colleges and universities contribute \$5.4B
- Federal funding—legislators who want to go back to 2008 levels—this would be traumatic to our enrollment
- NY's share of Pell (\$1.8B annual—6.1% of national total)
- NY's share of SEOG (\$57.9M annual—7.7% of national total)
- Every state is dealing with budget battles
- State budget—Second Executive Budget Summary—mostly good news
  - He has embraced higher education

- 10 regional economic development councils created
- Level funding—TAP, HEOP, STEP/C-STEP, Liberty Partnerships, Direct Institutional “Bundy” Aid and other programs. Original plan was to increase HEOP, STEP/CSTEP and LPP program, but that did not go through—just level funding.
- Level funding for SUNY and CUNY
- NYHELPS loan not funded for 12-13, but could continue again in 13-14
- Independent sector priorities—TAP (90,000 TAP recipients in NY are from private sector); 49% come from families with incomes less than \$40k.
- Grad TAP eliminated in 2010—still advocating to get this back (\$3M)
- They are requesting restoration of proposed HEOP/STEP/C-STEP/LPP funding in December 2011 (additional funding beyond keeping it level from 11-12 year).
- Sue Meade (co-chair of the State Government Relations Committee) discussed the TAP Reform Survey topics that was sent out to NYSFAAA members this fall.
- Middle class family difficulties
- New initiatives: 1) Greening colleges and universities—promoting energy conservation and economic development at a low cost to the state; 2) community solutions grants—to leverage the capacity of NY’s colleges and universities in addressing the challenges facing NY’s communities—similar to HUD program in 90s
- Co-ops and internships—how to keep our students in NY
- Loan forgiveness—create program to tie to critical need areas to encourage alumni to stay after graduation
- Importance of advocacy—we have about 900 students attending the Student Advocacy Day on 2/7/12 in Albany
- [www.NYStudentAidAlliance.org](http://www.NYStudentAidAlliance.org)
- Don’t be complacent: even though there is a budget out there, it has to go through 2 sides of the legislature; say “thank you”; tell your stories about students and how these programs helped them; make it personal—these stories go a long way
- Obama’s Blueprint announced/discussion with Laura regarding this

**2:30 pm                      President’s Report**

- FGRC & SGRC Report
- No federal report, but Sue Meade was here to give the State Government Relations Committee report (handout provided with the results of the TAP survey in fall).
- 32% response rate
- Significant response regarding keeping TAP for residents of NY only—NYS tax dollars should be kept to NYS residents who go to school in NYS
- Overwhelming results that there should be a limit on the total number of TAP payments a student can receive.
- Overwhelming results to simplify the number of TAP schedules and eliminate having more than 1 schedule?
- 80.6% of people felt dependency status should be aligned with federal conditions—easier to explain/counsel students about this topic.
- Five major points from the survey:
  1. NYSFAAA recommends that the # of TAP schedules be reduced from 1 or 2 schedules as appropriate.
  2. NYSFAAA recommends to bring TAP more in line with the Federal Methodology calculation.
  3. NYSFAAA recommends to simplify all aspects of the academic and economic eligibility processes for TAP.

4. NYSFAAA recommends merging all existing programs that provide tuition assistance to NYS students in to 1 program—the TAP—so accommodations can be made for all education such as part-time students.
5. The NYSFAAA TAP Reform Survey in its entirety will be made available to all. We will post when and where the survey is available shortly and the members of NYSFAAA remain available to discuss TAP reform and the survey.
  - Position paper with Exec Council’s stamp will be something we can share with HESC, clcu, SUNY, CUNY, etc. Sue asked a deadline for SGRC to come up with this? March? Dan T. can send around the document for review. Howard suggested using Review/Track Changes in Word so we can decipher between all the changes.
  - TAP training 3/15/12 (10 am – 2 pm)—Kristina and Shalena volunteered to participate and on our behalf; it will include 60 people (limited seating)
  - Thank you to Sue and the SGRC for putting this TAP Reform Survey out there and compiling these very important results. The TIC Committee was also involved with this effort.

**3:00 pm                    Regional Reports (1-4)—Reports attached**

**3:30 pm                    Regional Reports (5-8)—Reports attached**

Overall, are regions doing ok? Region 8 struggles with volunteerism. Region 4 rep commented about all of the federal changes in regulations—it is bringing us closer together. Regions 1 and 3 commented that the statewide training topics really make membership enticing. Thank you Howard and your committee.

**4:00 – 5:00                    Old/New Business Topics**

- Executive Regional Council Replacement (Dan)
  - Dawn Langdon from Hobart and William Smith Colleges will be the new Region 3 rep since Kat is moving on to the College Board after 2/10/12.
  - NASFAA Leadership Conference in DC (3/4 -3/6)
    - Scott and Pat will be attending this conference
    - Dan R. went to this last year; east coast wasn’t represented as much as Midwest and West regions
  - SED TAP Training Workshop (Dan/Kristina/Shalena)
    - Already discussed previously today
  - Graduate & Professional Concerns Committee (Rebirth??)
    - Lou—there has been a request to reestablish this committee; there were about 15 responses from the email Lou sent to the NYSFAAA listserv with interest
    - Possibly come up with a graduate/professional track for the conference
    - Under whose purview would this fall within NYSFAAA? Dan T. suggested this fall under President.
    - Committee’s mission statement/goals would be needed
    - Student lobby portion of that used to be so active when this committee was active at the time (mid-80s).
  - Shared Services—public schools
    - New concept in SUNY
    - Western NY Alliance (western NY SUNY schools) met to discuss ideas about how to share resources, such as a central processing office that



- will download records from COD, complete verification and send out to schools to package aid.
  - Possibly combine CRM data system to house the FAQs
  - No immediate savings—has to be by attrition of staff
  - Discussed collaborative projects, such as offering forms workshops to families
  - Chancellor is looking for dollar savings
  - If this group creates the ideas, they can be proactive, rather than reactive on potential cuts later.
  - Shared contract to purchase Banner? Many community colleges and SUNY centers are not using that system.
  - This isn't all financial aid-related—financial aid has to coincide with admissions to get the enrollment.
- HS FAFSA Completion/Submission Nights (Michele)
  - When high school counselors reach out to us to assist with high school nights. Some individual schools are asking us for these, but will we be able to keep up with the demand?
  - Scott mentioned that they push many of those students to the SUNY Financial Aid Day.
  - Lisa S. has staff in NYC doing them in conjunction w/ the NY Urban League.
  - General information night in the fall, in addition to forms workshops at night in winter.
  - Seems to be a higher demand for these forms workshops at night.
  - Take back to region to discuss this topic and figure out a method to accommodate all of these requests.
  - Lisa S. said that there is a Train the Trainer event in Region 6, which accompanies a manual/booklet, as well as having a contact person/expert on call to be available for questions.
  - Dan T. said he presents to 6 schools in 1 night who see him on screen and they can ask their questions electronically.
  - Michele said people are more comfortable at their own schools.

**Executive Council Meeting  
February 6, 2012**

**Region 1 Report**

Since our last Executive Council meeting, Region 1 met in December pairing our meeting with the State Wide training on Satisfactory Academic Progress. We also made individual contributions to a local shelter/program for homeless young men (14-19). Our attendance at the meeting was good and the contributions were greatly appreciated by the shelter.

Our region also participated in two School Counselor Workshops in October: one at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center and one at St. Bonaventure University. The attendees were quite appreciative of the event, though attendance was down a bit from previous years. This was probably due to the venue in Buffalo and the fact that the program was one or two months earlier than normal. This was due to some previous contract commitments which will not be in effect next year. Region 1 would like to thank Lisa Simpson of HESC, who did all of the leg work on the events and made them sail smoothly.

We will host a venue for the State Wide training on Verification on February 10<sup>th</sup> and we anticipate a good attendance.

Region 1 is currently preparing for our College Goal programs to be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Buffalo and February 16<sup>th</sup> at Niagara Falls High School. We are a bit concerned about volunteer numbers at the Buffalo site due to the fact that SUNY Financial Aid Days will be held at the same time. Colleagues in Region 3 have volunteered to send a contingent to help us, if needed.

Region 1 will once again participate in the WNY Consortium College Fair in late March. We will staff a table and provide financial aid information to students and their parents who attend the fair.

We are currently working on a Support Staff Workshop which we have not hosted in a few years. Our hope is to provide information and training in a professional capacity to our support staff members, while providing them with a respite from their busy offices.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Rizzo  
Region 1 Executive Council Representative

**NYSFAAA Region 2  
Executive Council Notes for February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting  
Albany, New York**

**November 17th, 2011 Region Meeting** Held at University of Rochester:

**Briefly covered last Council Meeting**

- Balanced Budgets/audits done for 2008-2009
  - Bank Accounts should be all with new bank by Feb, 2012, not sure which bank yet
  - Novice 2012, To be held at The College at Brockport
  - NYSFAAA Conference 44 (Saratoga) and 45 (Long Island possibly),
  - Next Exec Council meeting in Albany in early February, 2012

**Topics/Discussion – encourage volunteers**

- College Goal Sunday-Toni Greenlee 1/29/12 at East High School
- Support Staff Workshops are back.- Jan – Nazareth
- High School Counselor Workshop on 12/8 at the U of R. Nancy Vanzetta
- Many committees to join at the state and regional level.
- Account balance: \$2274.94

**Training Topic:**

Replay of Jeff Baker's Federal Update presentation from NYSFAAA Conference (Nautasha Webb)

New Verification Regulations-group discussion of how new regulations will change current processes.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, High School Counselor Workshop** Held at University of Rochester

**December 15th, 2011 Holiday Meeting** Held at The College at Brockport

**Topics/Discussion:**

- I advised members of the emails that will be coming from the Federal Relations Committee regarding training, quick topics, etc.; such as the one that was just sent on the 2 factor authentication for security purposes.
- As of December, 2011 we have 103 members.
- Account balance: \$2274.94

**Training Topic:**

Enrollment Management Strategies and the Financial Aid Office, "How can the FA Office best contribute to EM goals?" Presented by Mary Piccioli, Enrollment Management Consultant with Scannel & Kurz, Inc.

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 College Goal Sunday** – Rochester, NY.

Region 2 provided lunch for the volunteers. 219 FAFSA's were completed!! The following is a thank you from Toni Greenlee

*"Region 2, thank you funding lunch for the 60 or so volunteers that will work at College Goal Sunday at East High School on January 29. Every year we spend a lot of time and effort to solicit a donor or donors to cover this expense, so it was wonderful to hear that Region 2 is taking care of it, freeing up the committee's time to work on planning the*

*event itself and attending to the many other details that make CGS Rochester possible.  
Your donation will directly contribute to the success of the event - many thanks! "*

**No January Region Meeting**

**Upcoming Events:**

**College Goal Sunday** to be held at Genesee Community College's Warsaw Campus Center (in conjunction with the YMCA), February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Region Meeting/Statewide Training** to be held at Genesee Community College February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

As of today, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 we have 105 members and we have March, April and May meetings scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa E. Papke

NYSFAAA Executive Council Region 2 Representative

February 3, 2012

**Region III Executive Council Report**  
**Monday, February 6, 2012**

**Submitted by:** *Katrina Delgrosso, Region III Executive Council Representative*

1. **Region III held 1 regional meeting since the last Executive Council meeting—12/9/11.** This was our holiday meeting held at Justin’s Grill in East Syracuse, NY. The region contributed to the Toys for Tots program.
  - a. Agenda included: Exec Council Update, Treasurer’s Report, State Update, Committee Reports, Other Regional Activities, New Business, Old Business
  - b. Bank account balance = \$4,316.32
  - c. Discussion/concern in the region about DocTrac at NYSHESC. Schools are not receiving emails or calls afterwards. Customer service issues were also mentioned and schools were concerned.
  - d. Discussion/concern in the region about the NYSFAAA bank account. A Region III member was concerned that prior to the current NYSFAAA Treasurer coming on board, with such a large amount of money in our bank account, there weren’t proper checks and balances. Gina Soliz spoke during this discussion to ensure NYSFAAA’s books are accurate; audits are being caught up.
  - e. Discussion regarding the Consumer Finance Bureau’s “shopping sheet” for the proposed financial aid award letter.
  - f. Discussion that perhaps Tom Dalton (Excelsior College) could be invited to a regional meeting to do the SAP training from 12/8/11 (NASFAA’s materials) for us.
  - g. Discussion about FSA conference
  - h. Our next meeting will be the Verification training on 2/10. Next one in March (date TBD) and the following on 5/4. Exact locations TBD.
  
2. **CSS PROFILE Workshop offered on Saturday, 1/7/12 (9 am – 1 pm).** The event was held at the Say Yes to Education office in Syracuse where they have a bank of computers for families to complete their form online with assistance from financial aid administrators from Region III.
  
3. **College Goal Sunday:** Region III planned 2 CGS events.
  - a. Nottingham High School was held on Sunday, 1/29/12 (9 am – 12 pm). 38 families attended for FAFSA assistance; 8 also received CSS PROFILE assistance to support private school financial aid applications. LaSonya Griggs (SUNY Upstate Medical University) coordinated this event with Chris Walsh (Say Yes to Education).
  - b. Rome Free Academy will be held on Saturday, 2/11/12 (9 am – 1 pm). Rose Hartson (Utica School of Commerce) coordinated this event. This event includes lunch.
  
4. **High School Counselor Workshops:** Binghamton and Syracuse (2 locations)
  - a. 117 in Syracuse signed up to attend; small problem with the name tags—many attendees did not have a name tag at the registration table, so the final count of attendees was not known (as an attendee, judging from the room that day, my thought is that most of these people arrived—the room was very large and crowded)

- b. 53 in Binghamton signed up to attend; almost 90% attended; also had a few walk-ins
- c. Overall response was excellent
- d. State update was great; Joe Gorman has a great rapport with counselors after so many years in the business; suggestion for Joe to also bring speakers for his presentation as well
- e. Federal update good
- f. PJ and Special Circumstance Panel also good at both events—chairperson felt that 3 people would be sufficient versus 4 (private, public and proprietary or grad/professional)
- g. Guest speakers at Binghamton were students who were so inspirational; unfortunately, it was held after lunch, so some people left before hearing them
- h. Suggestion to put the lunch at the end of the program so people will stay; many counselors left before the main speaker(s) at both locations
- i. Suggestion to keep any guest speakers to 1 hour or less (Syracuse location guest speaker was longer than that)
- j. Chairperson was well on her way into planning before she was informed by HESC that it would be an all-day event, not a half day event.
- k. Suggestion to consider having a Novice Training at the event (offered every other year or every 3 years).
- l. Shelley Lee from Syracuse University College of Law did a great job organizing the 2 events. Suggestion was to have a co-chair next time. Comprehensive workbook was used to organize all planning, which was helpful to keep everything in 1 place for the committee to have as a reference.

#### NYSFAA Region 4

Our last meetings were on October 7 and December 16. Our most recent meeting on December 16 was held at the Saratoga Hilton which is where the NYSFAA 2012 conference will be held. This was both a meeting and our Holiday luncheon. We each brought a toy for donation. This was a great opportunity to see the facilities first hand. Two of the main topics of interest discussed were the proposed NASFAA By-Law change and the Verification process. Much of our focus and energy right now is toward the 2012 Conference and trying to ensure it is successful.

Our next official meeting will be for the review of Verification held by Carney McCullough. We will have an opportunity to view this together at Excelsior College. Individual Schools have their own events to kick off the new financial aid year but we also partner with HESC and assist with their College Goal Sunday Events. Albany High School has an event on February 2 and on February 12, Troy High School will be holding an event. We feel that these opportunities are extremely important and appreciate HESC's willingness to coordinate these.

Kristina Delbridge from our region continues to serve on the Interagency Task Force on Financial Assistance/TAP as a NYSFAA representative. Training will be held on March 15 from 10-2. Though the space is limited, this will allow SED, OSC, HESC and NYSFAA to provide information specifically about the TAP program. We expect this to be repeated further in the year and are encouraged by the cooperativeness of all of the agencies working together to ensure compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Delbridge

Executive Councilperson for Region IV

### **REGION VI REPORT – 2/2/2012**

- December 8, 2011 – Teachers College hosted the Satisfactory Academic Progress webinar training.
- December 14, 2011 – Region VI held Regional Meeting/Holiday Party – this was my first Region VI meeting as Executive Council Representative. The agenda covered such items as encouraging all members to vote in all future elections (since turn out for elections has not been as strong as in the past), Novice Training to be held June 2-8, 2012 at SUNY Brockport, promoting the message from the Federal Government Relations Committee regarding periodic emails from them to the membership via the NYSFAAA listserv about what is going on at the federal level.
- January 11, 2012 – HESC College Access and Financial Aid Training for School Counselors Workshop was held at Teachers College. 150 Counselors registered for the Region VI site. There were 22 walk –in registrations. Of the 150 registered 66 were from schools where the percentage of students with free or reduced lunch is over 150%.
- January 29, 2012 – kickoff of New York City’s College Goal Sunday events started in the Bronx at Herbert H. Lehman High School. The event was co-sponsored by NYC Councilman James Vacca of the Bronx. Attendance was not as high as expected. Thirty five student families out of an expected two to three hundred were assisted by 10 NYSFAAA volunteers. Lehman High School will hold the Bronx’s second College Goal Sunday event on February 5, 2012 where attendance is expected to be 400 or more.  
Manhattan held their College Goal Sunday event on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at A. Phillip Randolph High School at CUNY City College. Eight region members volunteered to help 63 students and families file their FASFA and TAP applications. More College Goal Sunday events are coming up across the five boroughs with Staten Island’s event commencing on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- January 10, 2012 – Region VI representatives sent an email to all Region VI members regarding the NYSFAAA Volunteer Opportunities Available with NYSFAAA Committees.
- January 10, 2012 – Region VI representatives sent a 15 question survey to Region VI members requesting their feedback on how we can best serve them. The questions reflected such issues as activities and meeting content and how we (Region VI representatives) can improve our planning as representatives for them.
- Upcoming events-  
Tentative scheduling of a Support Staff Training Workshop for March 2 (details being worked out).  
Tri-Regional Meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2012 at Hunter College, New York City.  
Regional VI Meeting following by Summer Event tentatively scheduled for June 22, 2012 (details being worked out).



## NYSFAAA Region 7 report

Our last meeting was held Dec 16<sup>th</sup> @ the Beach tree Restaurant in East Islip. We did not get the attendance we had hoped for (just about 20 folks attended). This was a combination meeting and Holiday party. Tanya had presented on some ideas of how to create a Verification worksheet for the 2012-2013 year. Gail made a plea for more actively from the region..come to meetings, get involved, etc.

An exploratory committee was formed to reach out to local hotels to get some information on Conference 2013 prior to the Dec 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tanya, Michele Siskin, Vince Davis and myself visited 4 hotels over the past couple of months gathering info. We ended up deciding on the Huntington Hilton as our choice and I presented on some preliminary findings during Exec Council.

Region 7 has two meetings upcoming. Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at Dowling college.. Topics will include: Verification, Policies and Procedures and Satisfactory Academic Progress. We have already received over 40 registrations to attend. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ Molloy College and we will be offering a HESC update along with an Ask the Feds program.

Region 7 will also be involved with the Tri-regional meeting (5,6 and 7) which will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> @ Hunter college in NYC

We also hope to have a June outing (which will be more social in nature. )