

**NYS CSJ OSDIA**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY FEB 9 2021**  
**ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7: 35 PM BY CHAIRMAN JOHN FRATTA  
THE PRAYER WAS LED BY KEITH WILSON AND THE PLEDGE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE WERE  
HELD.

THE ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

- **J FRATTA**
- **K WILSON**
- **R FERRITO**
- **G GRAHAM**
- **J GROVE**
- **L GALLO**
- **V MARMORALE**
- **J PARAZZELLI**
- **E BOCHYNSKI**
- **M PRINCE**
- **J FRATTA**
- **T ROTOLI**
- **M RISPOLI**
- **J ALFONSO**
- **M FOCCARAZO**

ALL OTHERS WERE EXCUSED.

THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETING WERE ACCEPTED AS CORRECTED.

- **TREASURY:**

G. GRAHAM REVIEWED THE ATTACHED TREASURERS REPORT.

BALANCES WERE ALL CORRECT AS SHOWN PER GERI.

SHE IS CHECKING ON TWO CHECKS THAT WELLS FARGO SENT AND ONE OF THEM WAS NOT  
RECEIVED BY GERI G.

- **FS REPORT:**

J. GROVE REPORTS ALL IN BALANCE WITH THE BANK. WE HAVE A DEFICIT DUE TO THE 8,100.00  
GIVEN FOR THE GL RENT. THE D/O POLICY PREMIUM MAY BE DUE SOON FOR THE YEAR OF  
APPROX \$700.00. MOTION MADE TO PAY BY J. ALFONSO AND SECONDED BY ED B. PASSED.

- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- **COLUMBUS ISSUE:**

- **BROOKLYN PARKS COMMUNITY BOARD:**

J. FRATTA AND LOU GALLO REPORT THAT A PARKS COMM. MTG. WAS HELD AND VOTED TO  
REMOVE THE STATUE. SOME PEOPLE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE MEETING. THERE WAS  
ANOTHER MEETING HELD AND JOHN WAS ON THERE FOR PRESENTATION PURPOSES. JOHN  
PRESENTED ON ITALIAN AMERICAN DISCRIMINATIONS. RAFAEL ORTIZ SPOKE ON M.L. KING JR.  
AND THIS WAS REJECTED BY THOSE IN ATTENDANCE. THE YOUNG ITALIANS WERE ATTACKING  
COLUMBUS ON THE CALL.

THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE NEGATIVE NARRATIVE ABOUT COLUMBUS AND OUR PROBLEM  
CONTINUES TO BE THE YOUTH OF THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND SOME RESPONSES  
WERE EVIL AND HOW THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE DEFENDING HIM.  
LOU GALLO WILL SEND THE COMMUNITY BOARD AN EMAIL TO CORRECT ALL THE  
MISSTATEMENTS OUT THERE. THE STATUES ARE SYMBOLIC OF THE ITALIANS WANTING TO BE  
PART OF THE AMERICAN MOSAIC AND THAT HISTORY SHOULD BE SHOWN.

R FERRITO FEELS WE NEED TO KEEP THE EDUCATION PIECE AS THE KEY TO OUR PRESENTATION ON COLUMBUS. WE NEED TO GET OUR POINT ACROSS THE WAY THE OTHER SIDE DOES WITH STRONG POSITIONS AND REMARKS.

J PARAZZELLI ASKED WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE ABOUT COLUMBUS BEING SO INCONSIDERATE AND GENOCIDAL TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. JOHN FEELS WE NEED TO GET EXPERTS TO TAKE COLUMBUS WRITINGS AND GET THE WHOLE TRUTH OUT TO THE COUNTRY AT LARGE. THE WRITINGS ARE IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. THIS WOULD COST MANY DOLLARS TO DO PER JONH F. BROOLYN BOROUGH PRES ERIC ADAMS IS RUNNING FOR MAYOR AND MAYBE HE COULD ASSIST US. BROOKLYN HAS THE OLDEST COLUMBUS STATUE IN THE COUNTRY. MAYOR DEBLASIO MAY NOT BE HELPFUL EITHER PER JOHN. THE STATUE WAS MOVED TO BROOKLYN FROM COLUMBUS PARK IN THE 1970'S.

- **PHILADELPHIA ISSUES:**

THE MAYOR OF THE CITY HATES THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. R FERRITO FEELS WE NEED TO FORCEFULLY DEFEND OUR POSITION TO THE MAYOR AS WELL. A COUNCILMAN WANTS TO REACH OUT TO GOV. CUOMO FOR PHILADELPHIA ISSUE. A LETTER WAS SENT FROM NATIONAL CSJ PRESIDENT TO THE MAYOR FIGHTING THIS ISSUE.

L GALLO REPORTS THAT HE SENT AN E MAIL TO THE PHILADELPHIA MAYOR ON THIS ISSUE BEING AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF THE STATUE. SOME FEEL THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON WILL BE FRIENDLY TO TAKING STATUES DOWN. LOU REFERRED TO A LETTER FROM ROBERT PETRONI THAT WAS SENT ON THIS ISSUE.

NATIONAL CSJ PRESIDENT R FERRITO STATED THAT FEB 20 THERE WILL BE 1400 PEOPLE ON CALL FOR THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY THAT WILL BE HELD. ROBERT F WILL BE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE. THE CCF HAS \$ MONEY TO USE FOR THESE FIGHTS AS WELL. EDUCATION IS A MAJOR PIECE AS WELL. JANIS FEELS WE SHOULD PUT FULL PAGE ADS IN PAPERS SUPPORTING COLUMBUS TO GALVANIZE AMERICANS.

VINCE M FEELS THAT THIS IS ALL PART OF A CULTURE WAR. JOHN FEELS WE NEED MONEY AND IT WILL TAKE A LOT MORE THEN WE HAVE TO PLACE ADDS AND TAKE THIS FIGHT ON. ALL AGREED. THE 5 MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO RAISE MONEY TOGETHER TO FIGHT THIS ISSUE. ALL KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THESE ISSUES TO BE FOUGHT.

- **NATIONAL REPORTS:**

ROBERT IS ENCOURAGED BY MASSACHUSETTES HAVING A SYMPOSIUM AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THAT. BUFFALO BILLS ISSUE ON MAFIA WORDS HAS BEEN ADDRESSED AS WELL BY ROEBRT AND M PRINCE ADDRESSING THIS TO THE GOVERNOR. YONKERS MAYOR WILL REACH OUT TO ROBERT IF HE NEEDS INFO ON THESE ISSUES.

- **SYRACUSE:**

JOHN SAYS THE PEOPLE UP THERE ARE DOING A GREAT JOB AND BOB GUARDINO AND C FEDERICO ARE KEEPING JOHN INFORMED. THEY THANKED THE CSJ FOR THE 7500.00 WE GAVE THEM. THEY ARE KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON THE MAYOR AS WELL. WHITE PLAINS STATUE HAS BEEN LANDMARKED AND WILL STAY.

- **SAG HARBOR S/D**

LOU RECEIVED THE SUPERINTENDENTS RESPONSE THAT A CALENDAR DECISION WILL BE MADE BY MAR 1 2021. THE CALENDAR COMMITTEE COULD NOT MAKE A RECOMMENDATIO.

- **SOUTHAMPTON:**

NEXT YEARS SCHOOL CALENDAR HAS NO HOLIDAYS MENTIONED AT ALL.

LOU REPORTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL ALL BILLS NEED TO BE RE-INTRODUCED TO BE ON THE TABLE.

- **RAMOS BILL IN NY STATE:**

NY STATE LEGISLATURE BILL WILL NOT EVEN BE ALLOWED OUT OF COMMITTEE AS PER THE LEADERSHIP IN THE LEGISLATURE RENAMING COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY TO INDIGENOUS DAY.

- **COLUMBUS WEBSITE:**

LOU AND BOB GRAHAM UPDATED THE SITE WITH BOB PETRONI WRITINGS FOR THE COLUMBUS WEBSITE. THE SITE IS NOW #1 ON GOOGLE DIRECTORY. INFO WILL BE SENT TO SOCIAL STUDIES COUNCILS FOR USING THE WEBSITE FOR ACCURATE INFORMATION ON COLUMBUS. WE ASK THE TEACHERS TO DO THIS FOR US AS WELL. THE URL IS **COLUMBUSTHETRUTH.ORG** TEACHERS OF ITALIAN HAS THIS INFO AS WELL. HOWARD ZINN HAS REALLY DESTROYED THE YOUTH ON THIS ISSUE. LOU REMINDS ALL ABOUT KEITH'S RESOLUTION ON ZINN TO THE UNIVERSITIES. KEITH W MOVES TO APPROVE RESOLUTION TO SEND TO THE TWO UNIVERSITIES SECONDED BY L GALLO AND PASSED.

- **DEBUNKING COLUMBUS BOOKS:**

WE CAN USE MAIL MEDIA FOR MAILING OUT THE REST OF THE BOOKS AND GET THEM OUT TO DIST 2 AND THE UPSTATE AREAS. WE NEED TO GET THEM TO ALL THE DISTRICTS AS NEEDED. WE WILL MAIL THEM OUT AS NEEDED. M PRINCE WILL ASSIST WITH THE MAILINGS.

- **OTHER FOUNDATION DONATIONS:**

M PRINCE HAS RESEARCHED 40 OTHER FOUNDATIONS TO DONATE TO US. SOME OF THE OTHER FOUNDATIONS DO NOT FIT OUR CRITERIA WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS. ANDREW MELLON FOUNDATION AND HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION MAY BE HELPFUL FOR US TO ASK FOR A GRANT FOR OUR CSJ. THEY WILL EVALUATE OUR PROPOSAL AND SEE IF WE ARE WORTHWHILE TO BE GIVEN A GRANT. THEY BOTH HAVE PORTALS WHERE WE SUBMIT GENERAL INFO AND WE WILL GET A RESPONSE. WE ARE A 501 C 3 UNDER THE G/L FOUNDATION.

- **CSJ BOARD FUNDRAISER:**

T ROTOLI COMING IN SLOW BUT WE WILL GET MORE SUPPORT AS NEEDED. 35 BOXES SOLD TO DATE.

- **STORAGE UNIT:**

KEITH AND LOU WILL REORGANIZE WHEN PANDEMIC IS OVER.

- **BELLA LINGUA:**

M RISPOLI ASKS ALL DIST. CHAIRS ON CALL HOW THEY ARE DOING WITH THE PROGRAMS. MOST PEOPLE REACH OUT DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOLS FOR RESPONSE.

- **DABBENE ESSAY CONTEST:**

G GRAHAM ALL PRESIDENTS RECEIVED AN EMAIL WITH THE INFORMATION AND SOME RESPONSES HAVE BEEN MADE TO GERI GRAHAM ALREADY.

- **HOLOCAUST:**

V. MARMORALE GAVE A ZOOM PRESENTATION TO A DELAWARE SCHOOL AND IT WENT GREAT AS WELL AS TO CASA BELVEDERE ON STATEN ISLAND. HE THANKED BOB GRAHAM FOR THE HELP WITH WEBSITE WORK ON HOLOCAUST. JOHN WOULD LIKE TO HAVE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ON BOARD WITH US ABOUT COLUMBUS BUT VERY HARD TO DO.

- **DIST CHAIRS REPORTS:**

- G GRAHAM HAD A MEETING WITH LIASONS ON ZOOM.
- K WILSON HAS SENT OUT ALL THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND PLENARY REPORTS AS NEEDED TO ALL LIASONS.
- JOE FRATTA GETTING INFO OUT AS BEST HE CAN.
- J ALFONSO WORKING WITH DIST 4 PRESIDENTS AND GETTING ALL INFO OUT AS NEEDED.
- M FOCCARAZZO GETTING ALL OUT TO TONY DICOSTANZO TO THE TWO LODGES AS NEEDED. SHE FORWARDS ALL EMAILS TO LIASONS AND TO ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS AS WELL. DABBENE AWARD INFO OUT AS WELL.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

V. MARMORALE FEELS THAT WE CANNOT GET ITALIAN BUSINESSES TO UNDERSTAND THE COLUMBUS ISSUE AND IT IS DISCONCERTING FOR ALL OF US. THEY HAVE DIFFERENT AGENDA THEN WE DO.

MINUTES TAKEN BY

KEITH WILSON  
REC SECTY.  
ATTACHMENTS