

NATIONAL OFFICERS MEETING

AREA I SASPS

JANUARY , 2003

MINUTES

PRESENT: NASASP National Officers, NASASP Executive Director, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Randy Main, GSA Region I, GSA Region II, GSA Region III

AGENDA

1. Federal Asset Disposal System (FAS) – A briefing was held on FAS, as it is commonly known. FAS is a revision of a similar idea proposed by OMB a little more than a year ago. It is basically an idea to commercialize the entire Federal asset disposal system. There have been several meetings held within the Federal community and task forces have been set up from a number of Federal agencies to work on the method of implementation. GSA is the lead agency considering FAS.

NASASP has been actively involved since last October when the idea was again presented to us. We are on the task force headed by GSA and have already attended a couple of meetings on the topic. If the Federal government adopts this plan, it will mean a major change in the way we can do business. There are positives and negatives that must be explored with this issue, as there are with most issues, and we are exploring those issues through a series of meetings before we present final thoughts to the members. Next, we will be meeting with the Officer of Government wide Policy and finally OMB to provide input and gather information. After we have gathered all of the facts, we will be reporting back to the membership and recommending a course of action.

2. IFT Lawsuit against NASASP - As part of the process of securing a new vendor for the Overseas Contract during last fiscal year, bids were sought. Two vendors bid on the contract, RAM, Inc and IFT, Inc. The contract was awarded to RAM, Inc and IFT, Inc protested. Subsequently, IFT, Inc filed suit against NASASP in early December 2002 in court in Arlington, Virginia.

When it became known to us that IFT, Inc intended to file suit, we sought the advice and employment of our own legal counsel, in order to protect the rights of the Association. Retaining legal counsel for the Association was something that we had entertained for some time previously; IFT's lawsuit only caused us to

accelerate the action. Our legal counsel is Leo S. Fisher, who is with the firm Bean, Kinney, and Korman, P.C., in Arlington, Virginia, located with the assistance of the NASASP Executive Director.

Our legal counsel responded to IFT's lawsuit by filing a motion on our behalf to have the court dismiss the case. That motion is pending and should be heard by the court within the next several weeks. We will be working with our legal counsel until this matter is resolved for NASASP. We will also consider keeping them on a retainer for advice, as needed, in the future.

3. Small Business Administration – Last September, the Officers met with the Small Business Administration (SBA) and GSA to talk about standardizing the procedures used by 8(a) contractors. SBA would like to standardize the procedures, documentation, and responsibilities nationwide so that their contractors would be less confused about using the system. In order to do this, they are proposing using a Memorandum of Agreement between their Regional Offices and the SASPs. GSA proposed the possibility of using the SF-123, as opposed to the current procedure of using the SF-122. This is a proposal that would take some time to study and make recommendations.

Currently, NASASP is studying the proposal Memorandum of Agreement issued by SBA and making comments. Subsequent meetings will be held with SBA as needed. We hope to review this proposed documentation with the membership at the March Annual Meeting and make final recommendations to SBA after that meeting. By making the program uniform nationwide, it is hoped that we may be able to open up new donee bases to many more SASPs.

4. GSA Legislation - The GSA Legislation, proposed during the past Congress, did not pass. While the Bill made it out of the House, it was held up in committee, in the Senate. GSA has indicated to us that they intend to reintroduce the Bill in the newly formed Congress as soon as they find someone to be the champion and introduce it. The majority of the Bill has to do with real property, but there is personal property issues involved. NASASP remains strongly opposed to some of the recommended personal property issues, notably the expansion of exchange sale, but not all of the language. NASASP has now sent several letters to the House and Senate members notifying them of our concern. The recipients include Congressman Tom Davis, Chairman, Government Reform Committee, Subcommittee on Information, Technology, and Procurement, also Senator Joseph Lieberman, Chairman, Governmental Affairs Committee, and Senator Robert Byrd, Chairman, Appropriations Committee. With the new leadership in the Senate, we will be meeting with the new staff and sending the letters to the new Chairman at the appropriate time this year.
5. Firefighter Legislation – During the last Congress, the 107th, legislation was attached to the Defense Authorization Act to allow firefighters, both career and

volunteer, to receive excess government property from DOD. This bill, although passed, was never put into effect because DOD had no agency to administer the Program. NASASP suggested a plan over 18 months ago, to allow the SASPs to administer the program, but it was ignored. Instead DOD focused on allowing USDA, the Bureau of Forestry to administer the program. Several problems arose with the Forestry plans and consequently, no one ended up with the Program, and tragically, the firefighters ended up with no property.

NASASP will again submit plans to administer this program, should legislation be introduced to again allow firefighters to acquire excess Property. As part of our strategy we have submitted a letter to the Congressional Fire Services Institute to be included as an Agency on the National Fire Advisory Board. Right now, our request looks very favorable and it should put us in a good position to remain a possibility in administering any future program.

6. 3040 Revisions – For the last couple of years, NASASP has been talking about revision the format of the current 3040 report, along with GSA. We now have a letter drafted to address those concerns from our members. The letter should go to GSA later in January 2003 for their input and action, as necessary. A copy of the letter will be posted on the NASASP website later this month as well.
7. Department of Energy – For several years now, the Department of Energy has made it a practice of selling property directly to the public under the Atomic Energy Act. This is a practice that NASASP disagrees is allowable under the Federal Property Act and the Atomic Energy Act. We have asked GSA legal counsel and DOE IG to investigate and both have said DOE has the authority to sell their property. We believe that there is a strong case against DOE's actions and clearly they continue to violate the Property Act with this and other actions. NASASP will be exploring future legal action with our attorney to seek advice and actions, as deemed necessary.
8. DRMS Task Force and Meeting – The NASASP National Officers have formed together with the Executive Director to meet and talk directly with the R/T/D Business Unit leaders at DRMS in Battlecreek, Michigan. We recently held a face-to-face meeting with this Unit to discuss several issues.

The first issues we discussed was communications and how to improve communications between NASASP and DRMS at the local level, the regional level, and the national level. We also discussed the ramifications of the one-week accumulation under Xcess Xpress, coupled with the 14-day pick up requirement. DRMS made a commitment to issue correspondence to DLA and ask for either a return to a two (2) week accumulation, or go from 14 days for pick up to 21 days for pick up. The National Officers will follow-up with DRMS to insure that this is accomplished in a timely manner.

We also discussed the possibility of shipping property for NASASP, both in CONUS and Overseas. DRMS is open to both possibilities of helping by shipping property from such locations as Forward Receiving Areas (FRAs), now called Received in Place Location (RIPLs) and Overseas locations. One of the first ventures we may try is to built joint containers of property with DRMS and ship them by to the States at a faster rate and perhaps more cheaply.

Finally, we discussed the DOD Computers for Learning Program, which DRMS is assuming by April 1st, 2003. DRMS would like to partner with SASPs to network and distribute their Pentium III and IV computers to schools and non-profit educational organizations around the country. We will be conducting a pilot with them to understand how this could work for the states in the future and then rolling out the plan to all interested SASPs.

Overall, the National Officers felt that the meeting was a huge success and we plan to continue more meetings with DRMS on a face to face basis, perhaps several times per year in Battlecreek to discuss important issues concerning both parties.

9. Homeland Security – The National Officers have been working in Washington, DC, along with the Executive Director, to offer our SASPs as resources throughout the country in the name of Homeland Security. We have been attending meetings since last October in Washington, DC, sponsored by major national vendors on the subject. These meetings are attended by not just vendors, but legislators and many local governments looking for resources. We are also attending a national meeting on Homeland Security being held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in January 2003. The National Officers will also again meet with representatives of Senator Joseph Lieberman’s Office to confirm that we want to pursue this offer and perhaps we can use this request to push for our administration of any future fire program.
10. Constitution and By-Laws Revisions – The President put together a Task Force to study and recommend revisions to our NASASP Constitution and By-Laws. The Task Force has finished their work and passed it on to the Rules and Resolutions Committee. Very shortly every Director will see these very important changes coming to your state to vote upon. Please take the time to review them carefully and to cast your vote. We need everyone’s input in this important effort. These amendments will not only serve to update our documents, but give us a better backing to complete the work we need to complete during these sometimes difficult and important days of the program.
11. Annual Meeting – Our Annual Meeting Agenda and Registration is out to all members. I would ask you that if you can only go to one meeting this year, you make it to this meeting. It will be vitally important to have as much representation there as possible. We will have training from GSA, speakers from the White House and Homeland Security have been invited, along with Governors, Senators

and Congressmen. We have some other important events scheduled as well, all of which will make your time there extremely informative and valuable. Please watch for an updated Agenda at any time and please call any of the National Officers if you have any questions concerning the meeting, or need any further information.

12. Overseas Program Briefing - Randy Main, of RAM Inc., our Overseas Vendor briefing the SASPs on new developments overseas. Included in the briefing was information on new screeners overseas, his work on combining containers for shipments, new shipping vendors, the beginning of Xcess Xpress overseas. Randy will be invited back on future calls to give updates as needed.

The next National Officers update conference call will occur in mid-February. We hope that all of the states in Area II will be able to join us.

Thank you.