

# Statewide SEFA Council

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, **June 11, 2007** Time: 11:00 A.M.  
 Via Conference Call  
 Approved July 23, 2007

**Present: Council Members**

George Goldsmith, Region 4;  
 John Wolf, Region 1;  
 Tarla (Teri) Arnold, Region 3;  
 Fran Bealo, Region 3;  
 Angela Decker, Region 2  
 Timothy Doolittle, Region 1;  
 Nick LaMorte, Region 6  
 John Mansfield, Region 6  
 Wayne Rabideau, Region 4;  
 Roger Rascoe, Region 5

**Guests:**

Amina Anderson – Independent Charities of America  
 Tom DeCoursey – Global Impact  
 Pat Forbes, SEFA Director,  
 Bill Galvin – Community Health Charities of NY,  
 Joe Guastella – SEFA Capital Region,  
 Susan Hager – UWNYS,  
 Regina Hendrix, – America’s Charities  
 Debra Hutchins – Earth Share  
 Anna Knox – SEFA Delaware/Otsego  
 Millie Lucas, – SEFA, Long Island  
 Lois Parker – SEFA, Westchester/Putnam

Participants identified themselves as they joined the conference call. Minutes were taken by Pat Forbes, SEFA Director.

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	DISCUSSION NOTES
Welcome and Agenda Review - <i>George Goldsmith</i>	Approved with additions	Welcomed the Council members and guests. He reviewed the planned agenda items (names in parenthesis – Council member/staff requesting agenda item) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Approval of the Agenda</li> <li>▪ Approval / corrections of the May 14, 2007 draft Minutes</li> <li>▪ Follow up of items from previous meeting               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Poster for 2007 Campaign</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Report on meeting with the Governor’s staff (June 1)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Management Co-Chairs</li> <li>◇ Loaned Associates</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Report on meeting with OGS (June 11)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regulatory issues                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Undesignated Funds</li> <li>◇ Statewide Criteria</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	DISCUSSION NOTES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Appeal Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Personal Liability of Local SEFA Coordinators</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Agenda items added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set date/time for next meeting</li> </ul>
May 14, 2007 Minutes	Approved as corrected	<p><i>(Italicized material that follows is the correction to be made.)</i></p> <p>In the Next Steps section, the Letter from Al Lewis item, it should read “George will send a copy of Mr. Lewis’ <i>letter</i> to Gov. Spitzer with a follow-up.” (Add the word “letter.”</p>
Poster for 2007 Campaign		<p>Discussion of draft posters submitted by Tim Doolittle, through the courtesy of the I Love NY staff, and by Lawrence Samuels. Points made: keeping a theme from year to year; include people on poster, perhaps a collage of pictures; a collage of different state agencies for a border; theme phrase should reference assistance to people; keep in mind the need for the poster to look good when reproduced in black &amp; white; a Thank You on the back of the poster.</p> <p>A motion was made to “incorporate people in the poster, and carry the same theme for several years to foster branding, with an option to change every year.” Motion carried.</p>
Report on meeting with the Governor’s staff (June 1)		<p>On June 1, 2007, George Goldsmith, Council Chair; Susan Hager, UWNYS; Barbara Zaron, President of OMCE and previously Labor Co-Chair for SEFA; and Pat Forbes met with Terryl Brown Clemons, First Assistant Counsel to the Governor; Sylvia Hamer, Deputy Secretary for Government Operations and Labor Relations; Peter Drago, Director of Executive Chamber Operations; and Tim Lennon, Assistant Counsel to the Governor, to discuss the SEFA program with them, to request the appointment of management co-chairs, and authorization to recruit Loaned Associates and Employee Campaign Managers. In a previous phone call (4-27-2007) George had submitted the names of three commissioners with previous SEFA experience as potential management leaders</p> <p>The Governor’s staff had many questions about SEFA, the program and its organization, how it came to be, and how it works. Their single biggest issue involved whether it is an appropriate use of taxpayer resources to release state employees from regular duties to work as Loaned Associates on state time, especially those who become full time LA’s.</p> <p>George disappointed there was no commitment to get back to us within a specific time frame.</p> <p>There was a feeling that the Governor will probably support SEFA this year, but in the future may require volunteers to charge time against accruals (a preliminary position) or to take time off to work on the SEFA campaign. The issue of Council members hasn’t</p>

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		been raised yet. The suggestion was made for unions to put in their contracts that SEFA volunteers may charge time to EOL (Employee Organization Leave). Comments made by Council members: we need guidelines as to how much time for SEFA will be approved; EOL time is an option to consider.
Report on meeting with OGS (June 11, prior to Council Conference call)		George Goldsmith asked Joe Guastella to report on the meeting held earlier in the day at the New York State Office of General Services. On June 11, 2007, George, Susan, Joe and Pat met with Commissioner John C. Egan of the Office of General Services, and Howard Zwickel and Bill Mayer from OGS Counsel's Office. Commissioner Egan was asked to consider changes to the current regulations dealing with the distribution of undesignated funds, to expand the eligibility criteria for statewide and international charities, and to incorporate an appeals process into the regulations for charities whose application for participation in SEFA was denied. Commissioner Egan was also asked to clarify what personal liability Council members, local SEFA committee members, and volunteers (state retirees, United Way and Federation personnel) face, and to authorize OGS to print and distribute this year's SEFA poster No decisions were made during the meeting. Commissioner Egan understood the issues, is sympathetic to them, and promised to get back to the Council quickly

<b>Questions / Other Discussion</b>		
Non-participation of Council members		George expressed the concern that in the new Administration, the size of government will shrink; they are looking at all their options to see what can be deleted to save taxpayer money. Roger Rascoe expressed the need to keep regions represented, and SEFA needs a process to get people involved, perhaps having alternate members to participate and keep things going. He is concerned because there is a possibility he may be moving on and would be working in another region entirely.

<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
Agenda accepted May 14, 2007 Minutes accepted Poster	George & Pat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accepted with addition of setting date &amp; time for next meeting</li> <li>▪ Approved as accepted</li> <li>▪ George will approach PEF art department to put poster together George and Pat will choose theme</li> </ul>
Report on meeting with Governor's	Pat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Write report and distribute to Council members</li> </ul>

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staff Report on 6-11-2007 meeting with OGS Pledge Card Workgroup	Pat  John Mansfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Write report and distribute to Council members</li> <li>▪ John Mansfield joined the Pledge Card workgroup</li> </ul>
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<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
Follow up on meeting with Governor's Staff	Pat, George, Susan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to the questions raised by the Governor's staff and stress the importance of timely appointment of SEFA leaders and recruitment of loaned associates; Keep Council members informed.</li> </ul>
Follow up on meeting with OGS Washington Post article	Pat, George Fran Bealo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize meeting; keep Council members informed as decisions made.</li> <li>• Fran will distribute by e-mail a May 31 Washington Post article by Stephen Barr on (federal;) CFC concerns about loss of donations after a major renumbering project</li> </ul>
Management Chair/Co-Chairs	George, Pat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____ has heard that the Commissioner for OTDA has been approached and is agreeing to be a co-chair. George &amp; Pat will follow up.</li> </ul>

<i>Agenda Items for the Next Meeting</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
None determined in advance		

<i>Next Meetings</i>	<i>Next Meetings</i>	<i>Next Meetings</i>
		Monday, July 23, 2007 @ 11:00 a.m. Monday, August 20, 2007 @ 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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