

NASSGAP Historical Tidbits: 1965-1998

by

Chas Treadwell, October 2006

1965

- January: The **FIRST** meeting of the “State Scholarship Administrators” (SSA) is held in Chicago, IL, in conjunction with a meeting of the College Scholarship Service/College Entrance Examination Board.
- September 21: Dr. Joseph Boyd (IL) sends invitation letters for the **SECOND** meeting of the State Scholarship Administrators.
- October 25: the second meeting of the SSA is held at the Commodore Hotel in New York City, again in conjunction with a CSS/CEEB meeting. The guest speaker is Ed Sanders (HEW) and Congresswoman Edith Green (OR) is invited. Dinner cost \$7 [*Such a deal! Thanks to inflation, that dinner would cost about \$150 today!*], and the main topic of discussion is “The ramifications of current federal legislation.” [*Remember, this is the year of THE Higher Education Act being signed into law by President Johnson- a lot to talk about!*]

1966

- October 26: the National Association of State Scholarship Programs (NASSP) holds its **ORGANIZATIONAL** meeting at the Jensen Suite of the Waldorf-Astoria in NYC. Invitations are sent by Ken Reeher (PA). [*NASSGAP certainly cannot afford that venue today! Perhaps a hot dog stand around the corner?*]
- Organizational Committee members include: Arthur Marmaduke (CA), Dr. Joseph Boyd (IL), and Dr. H. Reed Saunders (VT). [*Our founding fathers!*]
- Other attendees at the meeting include: Graham Taylor (CEEB), Leo Gilchrist (CEEB), Richard Warga (CSS-ETS), William Anthony (MD), LaVerne Peterson (IL), Ralph Godzicki (IL), Jo Ferguson (IN), James Nelson (CEEB), William Nester (NJ), R. McDowell (VT), Albert Lindia (RI), William Van Dusen (CSS), Walter Hannahs (NY), Willis Ann Wolff (IA), and Dr. William James (CT).
- **First Officers elected:** Arthur **Marmaduke** (CA) Chairman; Dr. Joseph **Boyd** (IL) Vice-Chairman; Dr. Sherman **Tinkleman** (NY) Member-at-Large; Kenneth **Reeher** (PA) Member-at-Large; and, William **Anthony** (MD) Secretary-Treasurer.

1967 President 1966-67: Arthur Marmaduke (CA)

- January: Ken Reeher (PA) writes to Senator Jacob Javits (NY) expressing the disappointment of NASSP that the congressional conference committee did not approve the Senator's amendment to permit states to distribute part of the Educational Opportunity Grants (EOG), and encourages him to try again next session. *[The start of our congressional information campaigns!]*

1968 President 1967-68: Dr. Joseph D. Boyd (IL)

1969 President 1968-69: Ron Jursa (MI)

- Sunday, October 26, 1969: the National Association of State Scholarship Programs (NASSP) holds its annual meeting in the Jensen Room of the Waldorf Astoria in NYC. *[Hey, our forefathers knew a good thing when they saw it!]*
- Dinner cost \$10.50 per person; 16 states attend.
- Ken Reeher (PA) notes that Joe Boyd (IL) will present the FIRST states' survey report. *[Yes, folks, the annual survey has been around a long time, thanks to Joe Boyd, Jerry Davis, Chas Treadwell & the NY folks, and Mike Solomon!]*
- Joe Boyd also reports on a study of 870 IL grant recipients, comparing their income data with IRS records, and finds that 99% of the incomes reported on the financial aid application matched IRS data. *[Too bad the IRS and ED still cannot do this; but, hey, it's been only 37 years!]*
- Federal education office staff, Dr. Reed Saunders, encourages NASSP to make recommendations to his agency to respond to Ralph Nader's complaints about the "status quo." *[Well, the Corvair wasn't the status quo, but Ralph certainly didn't like that!]*
- President Ron Jursa (MI) suggests that NASSP should have a greater voice in national financial aid circles and recommends that NASSP hold more frequent meetings and have longer sessions. *[Now, we have our very own Bart Astor to give us a voice in national circles, and we hold semi-annual meetings!]*
- Max Barrows (VT) later writes to Ken Reeher that he missed the 1969 annual meeting "...due to NYC traffic." *[Yeah, so what's new?]*
- The NASSP fund balance is \$84.73. *[Which is about where it is today, now that Treasurer Lee Andes (VA) has paid for his new car! (just kidding)]*
- Other state members of NASSP who receive a letter of invitation from Ken Reeher include: William Anthony (MD), Ben Morton (MO), Elizabeth Ehart(NJ), Jeff Lee (OR), Charles Mackey (RI), Kenneth Klidal (KS), Arthur Mamaduke

(CA), Daniel O’Leary (MA), William James (CT), Sherm Tinkelman (NY), Dr. Roy Wellstone (IA), Richard Hawk (MN), Beverly Trenholm (ME), Claude Hughes (IN), J. Douglas MacLeaney (WV), and Richard Johnston (WI). Non-state reps receiving invitations to the annual meeting include: Joe Henry (ACT), Dwight Horch (College Board), and Marjorie Schoepps (ETS).

1970 President 1969-70: Kenneth R. Reeher (PA)

- Annual meeting held October 25, 1970 held again at the Waldorf Astoria in NYC; 22 state members.

1971 President 1970-71: Elizabeth L. Ehart (NJ)

- January: NASSP workshop held in Carlisle, PA.
- 12 states with 22 members (including Bob Long –WV) attend, along with 5 non-member attendees. *[Bob has seen NASSGAP grow from its infancy!]*
- The R&L Deli from Harrisburg serves up a cold-cut platter at one of the meal breaks, for \$2.15 per person. *[Today, that will not even get you a bottle of water, what with all the taxes, tips, and carrying charges!]*
- March: NASSP releases position statement, “Create a Federal/State Partnership in Providing Opportunity Grants for Financially Needy Students”, which is reportedly “received with optimism” by Congresswoman Green and the Education Commission of the States. *[Congresswoman Green worked with Senator Javits (NY) to establish the State Student Incentive Grant program (SSIG), the predecessor of Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP)!]*
- The report notes that 21 states are providing \$229 million in student grants for 1970-71. It states that excessive borrowing is unwise, and that the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program demonstrates that a federal/state partnership is plausible. It notes that colleges are being threatened by fiscal problems. It concludes that federal funds can serve as an incentive for all states “...to initiate, retain, or increase their commitment to student aid funding.” *[Remember folks, though these sound familiar today, this was in 1971!]*
- The report recommends: (1) states starting new programs qualify for federal matching funds as seed money; (2) States with existing grant programs supplement EOG (Pell) and receive a federal subsidy; and, (3) NASSP be actively involved by the federal government to help shape grant aid policy.
- September: annual meeting held in Williamsburg, VA: 71 persons attend, representing 28 states and 10 associate members. Session titles include: “Effective Ways of Communicating State Student Aid Opportunities-Reaching the Target”;

“Scholarships and Grants: A Federal–State Partnership”; “Private Higher Education, A Strong Ally”. *[Aren’t we still singing similar tunes songs?]*

1972 President 1971-72: Jeffrey M. Lee (OR)

- February: Volume I, Number 1 of the NASSP newsletter: co-edited by Joe Boyd (IL), and Michael Cracraft (IN). State updates include: IL agency moves; CA governor vetoes the restoration of \$2.8 million in student grants; NASSP president Jeff Lee (OR) elected vice-chair of SHEEO; NY governor Rockefeller announces Hurd Task Force to study financing higher education.
- May: Volume I, Number 2 of the NASSP newsletter reports that Joe Boyd (IL) is asked by HEW to represent state student aid programs on a national task force reviewing the implementation of a national needs standard. *[Yes! The states get asked to play in the game!]*
- The newsletter cites a new federal “Pell bill”, which has a state scholarship program included *[the start of SSIG/LEAP!]*. It describes the existence of “...an exciting prospect that states may be able to begin packaging aid in order to make the most efficient allocation of student aid funds.” *[Well, getting one out of two ain’t bad!]*
- October 11: annual meeting is held in Washington, DC: Walt Hannahs (NY) is nominated for president. Thirty five (35) members. Dues increase to \$25 for voting members and to \$20 (from \$10) for non-voting members. *[NASSGAP has always been a bargain!]*
- Much discussion at annual meeting regarding the federal SSIG guidelines, as none of the states would be eligible without altering their policies re: part-time students and proprietary school students, which may be fiscally unsound. *[So, where’s the federal/state “partnership”?]*
- Resolution passes at annual meeting calling for the federal government to have states be the administering agents for BEOG (Pell) as part of a viable federal/state partnership. *[Big picture stuff for a \$25 per voting member organization!]*
- Special guest at the 1972 annual meeting: Vincent Maicco, President of the National Association of Higher Education Loan Executives. *[The start of the “NCHELP relationship”?]*
- Joe Boyd reports at the 1972 annual meeting that state comprehensive student grant expenditures grew by 42% from 1970-1972. *[Ah, those were the days!]*

1973 President 1972-73: Walter G. Hannahs (NY)

- December: Ron Iverson (VT) reports to membership that Peter Voigt (Office of Education-HEW) called a meeting in Washington, DC to "... ensure that the entire BEOG budget would be spent for the current year, as there is concern that as much as half won't be spent." *[Ah, to have such problems today!]* Iverson further reports that OE is not opposed to using state agencies more in the administration of BEOG. He emphasizes the need for NASSP members to continue to increase their active role on the national level and work together.

1974 President 1973-74: Richard H. Johnson (WI)

- October: The sixth annual NASSP Survey Report is developed by Dr. Joseph Boyd (IL).

1975 President 1974-75: Ronald J. Iverson (VT)

- January: NASSP committees: Constitution; Federal Data Needs; Annual Survey; Joint NASSP/NCHELP Conferences; Evaluation.
- June: NASSP President Ronald Iverson (VT) testifies before the Senate Subcommittee on Labor and Public Welfare. *[The start of a long tradition of testifying before Congress!]*
- August: NASSP recommends to Congress: (1) \$600 million for SSIG *[Wow!]*; and, (2) changing the SSIG allotment formula to high school graduate shares instead of higher education enrollments, to mitigate the uneven affect for states with heavy out-migration of students.
- Fall: Annual meeting held in Orlando, FL, hosted by Ernie Smith (FL), and coordinated with the NCHELP conference.

1976 President 1975-76: Stan Broadway (NC) & Hugh Voss (MO)

- SSIG OE staff: Richard McVity, Chester Avery, John Fenwick, and Lanora Smith *[Good friends of the states and more program staff than today!]*.
- April: Hugh Voss (MO) resigns presidency of the National Association of State Scholarship and Grant Programs (NASSGP) *[note new name and acronym]* to take position with American College Testing (ACT).

- December: NASSGP recommends allotting SSIG funds to states based on the number of high school graduates, not higher education enrollments, to “equalize the effect of student migration.”

1977 President 1976-77: Stan Broadway (NC):

- April: Ken Reeher (PA) testifies on behalf of NASSGP before the Keppel Task Force. He states that there should be a unit within the U.S. Office of Education which relates to improved and meaningful presence of state programs and has as its primary objective, the development of a formal state/federal partnership.” Reeher further states: **“Policymakers must remember that the federal/state/institutional partnership in student aid is not on a honeymoon; in fact, there has been no marriage, and even the engagement is in trouble if the dating experience does not improve.”**
- October 25: annual meeting of NASSGP held in Denver, CO. Topics include: (1) Increasing dues from \$40 to \$50; (2) proposed relations between NASSGP and the Education Commission on the States(ECS) to help inform DC policymakers while keeping dues low; (3) including all non-profit schools in SSIG; (4) the 9th annual NASSGP survey report; (5) Multiple Data Entry (MDE) for BEOG; (6) new OE organizational plan bringing SSIG and SSFAT together; (7) concern about moving toward a common federal form but not a single financial aid form; (8) PHEAA installing “cathode ray tubes” *[Sounds like a Captain Video adventure!]* on each PA campus to eliminate paperwork; (9) Steve Blair (OE) relaying Leo Kornfeld’s goals to simplify aid application and reduce defaults; (10) CA’s ability to verify aid application income using state tax records; (11) OE reinstating the “Reactor Committee”*[Are we going nuclear here?]*; and (12) Establishing federally-funded Statewide Educational Information Centers.

1978 President 1977-78: Haskell Rhett (NJ)

- February: President Haskell Rhett (NJ) testifies before the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education. He recommends: (1) \$127 million for FY 79 SSIG funding; (2) eliminating the initial year vs. continuing grant distinction in SSIG; and, (3) support for a national Uniform Methodology.
- November 12-15: NASSGP/NCHELP joint national convention held in Hilton Head, SC *[And, weren’t those alligators on the walk paths really “special”?]*.

1979 President 1978-79: Ken Reeher (PA- 2nd time as President)

- February/March: Joe Boyd (IL) writes to NASSGP President Ken Reeher (PA) suggesting that NASSGP explore filing for non-profit status to facilitate charging for copies of the annual survey report. *[It would take another 15 years for incorporation to happen!]*

- May: Joint NASSGP/NCHELP conference held at the Pier 66 Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, with a dinner cruise on the “Jungle Queen.” Expenses include an honorarium for Congressman Bill Ford, and travel reimbursements for four congressional aides, including Tom Wolanin, Rick Jerue, Greg Fusco, and William Clohan. *[Virtually legends on the Hill!]* Financial details are handled by NASSGP Treasurer Lindsay Baldner, and Bill Mackie, NCHELP Treasurer.
- May: President Ken Reeher testifies before House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, accompanied by Hack Rhett (NJ) who makes a presentation for SHEEO. Reeher notes that the financial aid community is opposed to the U.S. Office of Education plan for 1980-81 to move to a single federal aid application form as it will fail to meet state and institutional needs. He suggests tying SSIG funding to Pell Grant funding to ensure adequate funds for both. He also suggests a 3-year maintenance-of-effort for SSIG (to assure retention of state funding during periods of restrictive state budgets), *[So, that’s where MOE came from!]* and that funding above \$100 million be distributed on the basis of state shares of high school graduates *[A 2-tiered program, just like LEAP and SLEAP!]*.
- October: Fall conference convened at the Valley Ho Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. *[And, boy, did the desert get cold at night-thank goodness for the huge bonfires!]* Joe Boyd (IL) presents the 11th annual survey report and Eileen Dickinson (NY) is nominated President-elect.
- Incoming President Ron Jursa (MI) reports that he and NCHELP reps have been meeting with OE’s Tom Butts about: (1) reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; and, (2) establishing a procedure for continuing the annual NASSGP survey.
- Art Marmaduke (CA) and Ken Reeher (PA) are NASSGP’s reps on the Coalition for Coordination of Student Aid *[Which provided input into the annual need analysis formula!]*. Eileen Dickinson (NY) is Chairperson of the Federal Relations Committee.

1980 President 1979-80: Ron Jursa (MI- 2nd time as President)

- April: Joint conference with NCHELP held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA. Speakers include Lanora Smith for SSIG and Floyd Kemske for SSFAT. One session is dedicated to the question of who will take over the NASSGP annual survey report.
- September: President Ron Jursa (MI) reports to the members that the new National Student Aid Coalition has replaced the Coalition for the Coordination of Student Financial Aid, and that Ken Reeher (PA) and Art Marmaduke (CA) are NASSGP’s reps. The annual survey report shifts from Joe Boyd (IL) to Jim McKelvey (PA), after Joe conducts it for 11 years in a row. *[An amazing run for Joe, the father of the annual survey!]* Ron also reports that in the HEA reauthorization bill, the SSIG

maximum grant is raised from \$1,500 to \$2,000, and that graduate students and less-than-half-time students are eligible at the state's option.

- October: Fall conference held in Nashville, TN. At the business meeting, a proposal to have a Washington, DC representative is discussed, but the probable \$125,000 cost is a barrier. *[Our DC rep, Bart Astor, is a bargain!]*

1981 President 1980-81: Eileen D. Dickinson (NY)

- President Eileen Dickinson (NY) reports that a major association purpose for considering a Washington, DC representative is to ensure that the independence of a state is protected, particularly the right to determine its own method for distributing state student aid. *[Recognizing and protecting state diversity!]*

1982 President 1981-82: Ernie Smith (FL)

- October: President Ernie Smith (FL) convenes the fall conference in Colorado Springs, CO. He predicts that the informal nature of the association of the past few years will be replaced by a more formal administrative approach. Incoming President Barry Dorsey (VA) cites increasing the DC visibility of the association as one of his goals.
- Incoming President Dorsey appoints a committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws, chaired by Gary Weeks (OR). The advisory committee for the annual survey is chaired by Dr. Jerry Davis (PA), and includes Brett Lief (NJ).

1983 President 1982-83: Barry M. Dorsey (VA)

- June: spring conference held at the Capitol Holiday Inn in Washington, DC. Dues increased to \$150 for both voting and associate members. Jeff Lee (OR) suggests that a budget be established for the association indicating revenues projected for proposed dues increases. Revisions are proposed for the association's Constitution and Bylaws. Dennis Curry (WA) suggests that administrators of state work-study programs be encouraged to join NASSGP rather than establishing a separate organization.
- November: fall conference held in Albuquerque, NM. It is decided to terminate the conference arranging agreement with the Education Commission of the States (ESC) and retain the service of the Frohlichers (Jean and John) as conference servicers through June 1984, on a trial basis.
- NASSGP spends \$29.85 to purchase the President's gavel. *[Money well spent to keep our sometimes unruly group in order!]*
- A hand-written note on the minutes states that: "Students want greater aggregate loan limits." *[And, that debate continues today!]*

1984 President 1983-84: Gary K. Weeks (OR)

- April: President Gary Weeks convenes the executive committee and notes that the association has sent two newsletters to members recently. A logo is developed by Gary's staff and presented to the membership via the next newsletter. Responding to a question from Council Member Ted Franzeim (VT), past-President Barry Dorsey reports that the Washington-based higher education associations will support SSIG funding, but not if it threatens Pell Grant program funding.
- May: the spring meeting is convened. Lanora Smith (ED SSIG staff) announces her pending retirement. The conference minutes report that "Her presence will be sorely missed." There is controversy over the changed SSIG Performance Report due to the lack of lead-time for system changes. Ms. Smith says that as a result of the concern, she will likely send out the "old style" report for another year to accommodate the member concerns. *[A nice gesture from a real friend of the states!]*
- October: Incoming President H. Kenneth Shook (MD) reports on attending the NASFAA annual conference and reports that its members are quite concerned regarding the future of financial aid, especially federal program funding.

1985 President 1984-85: H. Kenneth Shook (MD)

- June: President H. Kenneth Shook (MD) convenes the spring conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. Shook notes that the annual survey report costs the PA agency \$15,000 to develop, and NASSGP reimburses the agency \$2,000, and thanks the agency for absorbing the costs for this important activity. *[Where would we be without it?]*
- NASSGP agrees to present Lanora Smith (ED's SSIG staffperson) with an award to express the "... admiration and appreciation we all have for her."
- November: fall conference held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, LA. Dennis Curry (WA) is presented with an appreciation award by President-elect John Madigan (RI) for his service and dedication to the association.
- At the fall conference, President-elect Madigan reads a letter from Tom Mortenson (IL), chair of the Research Committee, suggesting that changing the association name be changed to "council" instead of "association" and broadened to reflect all that NASSGP does. The recommendation is added to the election ballot and is rejected by a 15-to-9 vote. *[But, a change of name was coming, 10 years later!]*

1986 President 1985-86: John D. Madigan (RI)

- January: at the executive committee meeting, Barry Dorsey (VA) reports on the impact of the Gramm-Rudman budget control law. [*Congress does the “tighten up”!*]
- May: President John Madigan (RI) convenes the spring conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. Dr. Jerry Davis (PA) briefs the members on the 17th annual survey report and recommends that copies be sent to congressional staff members.
- October: fall conference held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco, CA. Federal Relations Committee chair Barry Dorsey (VA) reports on the HEA reauthorization which includes a new 20 percent community service option in SSIG, and cautions members to brace themselves for college inquiries on that issue. He also reports on the new Robert Byrd Scholarship program. Britta Anderson (VT) suggests a committee be appointed to review the future of joint conferences with NCHELP.

1987 President 1986-87: Debra Wiley (CO)

- February: President Deb Wiley (CO) convenes the executive committee meeting and reports that Scott Freedman (CA) has received a request from the selective service administration to identify male, SSIG recipients for validating selective service registration. CA declines, citing privacy concerns.
- John Madigan (RI) suggests adding a quote from Aristotle to the membership directory: *“To give away money is an easy matter, and in any man’s power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large and when, and for what purpose, and how, is neither in every man’s power – nor an easy matter. Hence it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy, and noble.”*
- May: spring conference held at the Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ. Frank Hynes (NY) is asked to serve as Treasurer as Charlie Souris (MA) resigns the position to accept a full-time faculty position. President Deb Wiley (CO) begins work on a NASSGP Policy and Procedures manual and Jane Caldwell (TX) begins work on a NASSGP newsletter. [*We had newsletters before, in 1972 and 1984, and more were coming!*]
- September: President Deb Wiley (CO) convenes the fall conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, TX. Concerns continue to be expressed re the administration of the Paul Douglas Scholarship program. Incoming President Ross Erbschloe (AZ) names Chas Treadwell (NY) chair of the Federal Relations Committee. [*The start of a 19-year run as chair, raising the question: “Does Chas really have a regular job?!”*]

1988 President 1987-88: R. Ross Erbschloe (AZ)

- March: Deb Wiley (CO) reports at executive committee meeting that NCHELP has “written NASSGP out” of the fall conference plans, which had been joint meetings for several years. Discussion ensues regarding whether NASSGP should hold a fall conference on its own. Discussions also occur re: the difficulties in administering the Paul Douglas Scholarship program, with one member describing it as, “...shackles that look like golden handcuffs.”
- June: President Ross Erbschloe (AZ) convenes the spring conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. A plaque is dedicated to retiring U.S. Senator Robert Stafford (VT) for his support of NASSGP issues. *[Almost as good as having the Stafford Loan program named after him!]*
- October: fall conference convened by President Ross Erbschloe (AZ) in Salt Lake City, UT. *[It was the first time many of us ever heard chirping street crossing indicators!]* Topics discussed include *reducing* membership fees, but the future possibility of holding independent conferences (without NCHELP) overrides that discussion. *[The evening activity of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal was a thing to behold!]*

1989 President 1988-89: Shirley A. Ort (WA)

- January: President Shirley Ort (WA) convenes an executive committee meeting in Seattle, WA. She inquires as to how the NASSGP treasury has grown so fast in a short period of time. Treasurer Frank Hynes (NY) reports that attendance fee payments from the joint NASSGP/NCHELP conferences and dues revenues are the reasons. *[Of course, Frank’s prowess at the Saratoga flat track probably helped out just a little!]*
- May: spring conference held in Phoenix, AZ. Gary Vance (NJ) reports that a NASSGP committee studying state aid application questions has found that there over 110 questions needed beyond those on the federal form and that there is no commonality among the states in regard to adding state-specific questions to the federal MDE form. ED staff (Bill Moran) asked NASSGP to continue the dialogue on this issue. *[But, in 3 short years...see what happened below in 1992!]*

1990 President 1989-90: Gary D. Smith (PA)

- February: NCHELP staff writes to NASSGP recommending that NASSGP pay NCHELP \$8,000 to coordinate joint conferences (up from \$1,000) or hold its conferences separate from NCHELP’s.
- June: President Gary Smith (PA) convenes the spring conference in Arlington, VA.

- Dues increased from \$150 to \$300, the first increase in seven years, to help cover mounting conference costs.
- October: fall conference held at the Sorrento Hotel in Seattle, Washington [*A delightful hotel where comedian Jonathan Winters regularly stays!*]
- President Gary Smith recommends that NASSGP join the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) to help the association's congressional information efforts.

1991 President 1990-91: Francis (Frank) Hynes (NY)

- May: spring conference held at the Doral Ocean Beach Resort in Miami Beach, FL.
- June: President Frank Hynes testifies before the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education and stresses the importance of the federal/state partnership in student aid.
- October: NASSGP celebrates its 25th anniversary at the fall conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Dr. Jerry Davis (PA) is presented with a NASSGP service award plaque for his work on the annual survey report.
- NASSGAP issues HEA reauthorization position paper, calling for: (1) the expansion of SSIG; (2) the ability to transfer defaulted Paul Douglas Scholarships to collection agencies; [*Take my Paul Douglas program, please!!*] (3) changes in need analysis; and, (4) federal incentives to encourage states to reduce the number of unique state application data elements so that "common state questions" can be added to a free federal form.

1992 President 1991-92: Edward Shannon (SC)

- June: President Eddie Shannon (SC) convenes spring conference at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC. NASSGP decides to hold future conferences independent of NCHELP.
- July: Due to a special effort by NASSGP's Federal Relations Committee, the HEA reauthorization law permits inclusion of up to eight "common" non-financial state questions on the FAFSA. NASSGP then successfully convinces the U.S. Education Department to hold up the production of the 1993-94 FAFSA for 2 weeks to allow NASSGP to finalize the common questions. [*Some said that getting all states to agree on common questions couldn't be done; NASSGP did it!*]
- The Federal Relations Committee authors a "National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP)" program bill, and Ted Franzeim (VT) works his Senate contacts to get it included in the HEA reauthorization bill. The 6-year pilot is successful and the program gets folded into the GEAR UP program in 1998,

giving states a role in GEAR UP. *[Another major legislative victory for the association!]*

- President Shannon convenes the fall conference at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, Montana, a site selected by Bill Lannan (MT). *[Arguably, the most beautiful conference site we've ever had!]*

1993 President 1992-93: Doug Collins (OR)

- May: President Doug Collins (OR) convenes the spring conference at the Stouffer Stanford Court Hotel in San Francisco, CA.
- During the May executive committee meeting, President Collins coordinates an “Emergency Response Team” to call members of Congress to try to halt a just-announced rescission of all SSIG funding for the 1993-94 academic year which is about to start. NASSGP establishes a member “telephone tree” to enable quick communication to the entire membership of the association to help the congressional communications. *[Thanks to the Congress, a lot of stress on NASSGP at an otherwise idyllic setting!]*
- President Collins writes to Congressman Bill Ford, responding to the Congressman’s request to find funds to “pay for” SSIG, and suggests that funding for the SSIG program is a higher priority than funding for the Paul Douglas Scholarship program. The House then eliminates Douglas funding AND cuts SSIG funding *[A lesson learned, the hard way!]*
- July: President Collins reports to members that, due to aggressive action by the membership and the Federal Relations Committee, congressional budget conferees agreed to repeal the FY '93 funding rescission for SSIG. *[Whew! That was way too close for comfort!]*
- October: Fall conference held in New Orleans, LA. *[Was this the infamous time when Shiela Joyner (OK) and “churchlady” Jan Hilyer (AL) had to be “rescued” on Bourbon Street by Dennis Obergfell (IN)? And, when Bob Long’s wife Margaret lectured us on Bob’s tree-shimmying abilities?!]*

1994 President 1993-94: Chas Treadwell (NY)

- February: Dr. Jerry Davis (PA) authors landmark report, “The Continuing Incentives in the Federal State Student Incentive Grant Program”, a statistical portrait of the impact of SSIG, which concludes that: “Increasing SSIG allocations has had real and positive effects on state student aid expenditures.” *[This masterful report by Jerry was critical to informing the Congress, as it was about to eliminate the program, again!]*

- NASSGP submits a working paper for ED's "Phase II Reform" calling for the consideration of decentralizing federal student aid through the states. Members of the ED review committee call it "forward-thinking." *[Perhaps a little too forward-thinking as Phase II Reform kind of fades away with no major changes made!]*
- NASSGP passes a resolution, at the request of member Paul Borden (KY), supporting federal legislation to provide favorable tax status for state college savings plans (a federal bill to do so passes in 1995).
- March: The Executive Committee proposes bylaws changes to recognize the expanding scope of NASSGP, and develops a position to request Congress to repeal the "state cost-sharing for defaults" that was contained in the Student Loan Reform Act of 1993. Congress later repeals it.
- October: President Chas Treadwell (NY) convenes the fall conference in Bar Harbor, ME, and the members pass four major changes to the bylaws to reflect the expanded roles of member agencies. However, a motion to change the association name to expand it beyond grants and scholarships, is tabled.
- December: The IRS approves the incorporation of NASSGP as a 501©(3) non-profit corporation, allowing it the protections and advantages therein. Incorporation is in the state of Montana and is coordinated by Bill Lannan and Rose Harmon of the MT agency. *[NASSGP is on the move!]*

1995 President 1994-95: Shiela Joyner (OK)

- The NASSGP Bylaws Committee, chaired by Frank Hynes (NY), recommends changing the association's name to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) to reflect the association's broadening mission. The new name is suggested by committee member Dennis Obergfell (IN). The change is adopted at the spring conference and a subsequent written ballot. *[Several of us scratched our heads trying to think of an appropriate name, but Dennis hit the mark, and the phonetics of the acronym stayed the same!]*
- The House rescinds SSIG funding but the Senate does not concur. *[House staff playfully sends message to the Federal Relations Committee that SSIG is "toast"; the committee responds: Tell the House staff, "Thank God for the Senate!"]*
- NYHESC offers to conduct the annual survey report, after a record 15 years of reports by the PA agency.
- May: **President Shiela Joyner (OK) survives the Oklahoma federal office building bombing** to lead the spring conference. She loses her office to the bomb, announces a new mailing address, and describes the event as **an "...unbelievable and unforgettable experience."** She later transmits the President's notebook to incoming President Ted Franzeim (VT), apologizing for some of the documents having

“bomb damaged” labels. [*Amazing her colleagues, Shiela doesn’t miss a beat in leading the association!*]

- NASSGAP Secretary Winona Kahao (LA) writes the definitive descriptions of the duties for most NASSGAP officer positions. [*Winona was so industrious!*]
- June: Congressman Pat Williams (MT) amends the Career Act to save the SSIG from elimination, the only one of 63 education programs to survive the elimination proposed by the President’s budget. [*SSIG has more lives than a cat!*]
- October: President Shiela Joyner (OK) convenes the fall conference at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama. Bob Long (WV) stuns the crowd with his Halloween party costumed rendition of a sexy woman. [*Great legs, Bob!*]
- Dues are set at \$300. NASSGAP joins the Alliance to Save Student Aid, a group that continues through the years as the Student Aid Alliance and supports funding for SSIG/LEAP.
- NASSGAP writes to ED requesting inclusion in the “Project EASI” committee, which is to re-engineer federal student aid. [*Come on, nothing in federal student aid is ever “easi”!*]

1996 President 1995-96: Edward (Ted) Franzeim (VT)

- President Clinton writes to President Ted Franzeim (VT), thanking him for sending a copy of the NASSGAP annual survey report and praising the fine work of the states; the Administration’s budget request later recommends zeroing out SSIG funding.
- President Franzeim (VT) reports to the national press that the 26th annual NASSGAP survey report shows states spending \$3.2 billion on student aid, up 8% from the prior year.
- Doug Collins (OR) coordinates the fall conference at the Benson Hotel in Portland Oregon. [*A beautiful, old-world hotel!*]
- A survey of members shows high support for additional SSIG funding, and for holding spring conferences in Washington, DC. [*A tradition that continues today!*]

1997 President 1996-97: Scott Freedman (NJ)

- President Scott Freedman (NJ) testifies at Senate HEA reauthorization hearing and reinforces the need for SSIG.

- January: NASSGAP issues a HEA Reauthorization “concept paper”, and in June issues the “Reauthorization Program Recommendations”, through the NASSGAP Reauthorization Committee, chaired by Ted Franzeim (VT).
- July: John Heisner (IA) resigns as Treasurer, citing health issues. NASSGAP passes a resolution honoring John and thanking him for his years of service and friendship. *[John was a prince of a guy who never let adversity slow his enthusiasm for helping students and for nurturing friendships within NASSGAP!]*
- September: Senator Jack Reed (RI) sponsors an appropriations bill amendment to provide \$35 million for SSIG funding, saving it from certain elimination as it was zeroed out in the President’s budget, the House appropriations bill, and the Senate appropriations subcommittee bill. *[An SSIG “angel”, just when we needed one!]*
- October: fall conference held in Nashville, TN, as arranged by Ron Gambill (TN). *[The Grand Ole Opry was the best! Thank you “Reverend Ron”!]*
- Shiela Joyner (OK) announces that her agency will take over hosting the NASSGAP listserv from the Washington agency. NASSGAP thanks John Klacik (WA) for initiating and hosting the listserv. *[What a great service! Can we imagine life without it?!]*
- NASSGAP passes a resolution honoring Senator Jack Reed for helping SSIG-aided students; resolutions are also passed for retiring NASSGAP members Doug Collins (OR) and Jean Maday (MI).

1998 President 1997-98: Bob Long (WV)

- January: President Bob Long (WV) drives 6 hours from home to Washington DC to join Federal Relations Chair Chas Treadwell (NY) in meeting with congressional staff and higher education associations to devise a strategy to include a successor for SSIG in the HEA reauthorization bill. His efforts are successful, especially after Senator Reed learns that Bob drove all the way to save association funds. But, Bob is stranded in his car for 12 hours in a blizzard on the return trip. *[This is the stuff of legends, folks!]*
- February: Senator Jack Reed (RI) introduces S. 1644, a reauthorization bill to replace SSIG with the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) program, including the Special LEAP component necessary to convince congressional appropriators that states will add new money to the program. Congress later passes it as part of the new federal Higher Education Act. *[SSIG/LEAP: it’s alive, it’s alive!]*
- August: President Bob Long works with the Federal Relations Committee to encourage Congress to include a state component in the proposed GEAR UP program, by highlighting the success of the state-piloted National Early Intervention

Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) program. The Senate does so and it is included in the new law. *[A major legislative victory for NASSGAP as the High Hopes proposal (the seed for GEAR UP) initially did not have a state role!]*

- The fall conference is held at the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe, NM, complete with a hot air balloon festival nearby. *[Several hundred colorful balloons as background for breakfast!]*
- ED requests a state to participate in a pilot project for electronic student application linkages. With the support of ED's PBO CEO, Greg Woods, the NY agency (HESC) develops a successful pilot program that integrates state and federal aid applications in one e-session. *[Eight years later, it's still working like a charm to facilitate application, reduce errors, and speed awards to students!]*
- The Federal Relations Committee is thanked by the association for its effective work in Washington, DC, and a special "thank you" is given to Bob Long (WV) for his extraordinary efforts in working with Congress to promote NASSGAP objectives.
