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CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

TRIAD

Affiliated With NYSUT [10-195] & AFT/NEA AFL/CIO-[Local 2991]

News from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another year at Capital Region BOCES. Welcome back to the fun and games of this rewarding, but often very difficult line of work. If you are new to BOCES, "Welcome." I hope your summer was enjoyable, allowing you an opportunity to relax and refresh yourself in preparation for another challenging school year. I am sure most of you have been hard at work doing things that needed to be done, those things that you could not find the time to do during the school year. Or perhaps, working a summer job in an effort to pay the bills.

The summer has been an active one for members of your Executive Board and myself. We have been working on contract negotiations and dealing with a number of other issues. Though many of us are working at a summer job or working at our school jobs, our Association work also continues. Some of this is to be expected, but much this year came as a surprise. It is what it is and we continue to take care of business.

Fortunately staff reductions have slowed and this year member employment has been the most stable that it has been in several years. The financial hard times continue and I do not expect this to be an easier year. The available dollars has not grown, despite what hype you may hear. Though the general economy is doing better, public funding for education has not grown adequately, kept pace with inflation or the needs of our students. Inadequate funding, loss of employment, attacks on public employment, its unions and the working class in general by big money has helped make morale lower than ever. Yet in spite of this, I know that you continue to provide the excellent quality programs and services our districts have come to expect. Why? Because that's who you are, caring staff who want the very best for all the students you work

with. For that I thank you and take much pride in being your Association President.

Now, as we begin another school year I ask you "What does your Association mean to you? What can you do to help make the Association better and stronger?" I know we are all busy with our regular jobs and our lives outside of school, but your help our Association can be even stronger. Consider what you can do for your Association.

We are under attack by big money players, who have dedicated millions of dollars, trying to eliminate union shops, and for profit, privatize public education and public services. These are not people who are looking to help kids and improve public education (as some of their ads may profess). They are folks interested in benefiting themselves and increasing their net worth. They are serious and will continue their attacks.

Many of our members have volunteered to help, but there is still much to be done. Please consider becoming a chapter representative, bringing concerns of your colleagues to the Association. The Representative Council, of which you would then be a member, is the governing body voting on issues and making decisions. If not a leadership position, perhaps you could serve on one or more of the committees that are instrumental in getting Association work done. There have been many changes at BOCES and there will be more. Consider sharing your thoughts, voicing your concerns and offering your help. It is your Association, but it won't run by itself. Your help is needed and welcome.

Your pay stub should say "dues". If you pay stub says "ag fee", contact Gina Hanley, our membership chair, and fill out the necessary forms to become a member. Be proud of what you do and who you are. Be a member of your Association.

Best wishes for the new school year.

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION
BOCES FACULTY
ASSOCIATION.

REP COUNCIL

October 15, 2014

BOCES BOARD

October 20, 2014



**TRIAD Article
Deadline** Sept. 22 for
October Newsletter

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August 25, 2014 BOCES Board Meeting

Notes by Susan Kusalonis

Board meeting opened with discussion of Special Election to replace Sandra Beloncik, who has to resign effective August 31, 2014. The possible election date will be October 6th.

Special Education Report – Carol d’Estienne, Principal

Carol presented a power point on Maywood School and how it has changed and grown over the past year. They have a newsletter called “Bright Spots” A blog that parents can read and follow the schools activities and programs.

Medicaid Compliance - Michele Handzel reported the results of this year’s review of Medicaid. System is still flawed and there are repetitive errors. They have spoken with all the stakeholders. A committee has convened to work across all divisions. They are verifying student attendances with service provided. IEP Direct helping to develop reports to inter act with other data bases and compare data.

Goal – Help districts rely on data entered into system!

Q – If provider is there and student is not, does this allow provider to charge for session? District is charged, Medicaid is not.

The provider has a one week window to schedule a missed session.

Dr. Taromina and Carol agreed that there has been a large turn around and they feel very positive that providers are working very well.

Q – Have we heard from Medicaid on how we are doing?

A – No

Child Care Committee – Laura Combs, Amanda Hooker and Katie Pincher presented

After hearing the presentation it was agreed by the Board that a committee be formed to continue to see if this was feasible.

Break – Cake and card presented to Kevin Herron to congratulate him on his semi-retirement.

Regional Summer School - Lynn Wells will present next month on the official summer school report. The Regional Summer School looks like it will break even financially. Schools were paid an ancillary fee and this helped out our costs. Student attendance was 873 last year and 1271 this year.

Mark Jones reviewed that they are looking at new software for the Portal. More user friendly. Board members were asked to review a demo within the next four weeks to see how they feel.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Important Dates for 2014-15

<i>BOCES Board of Education</i>	<i>Representative Council</i>
September 3, 2014	September 17, 2014 ESS-Schenectady Room
October 20, 2014	October 15, 2014 Albany CTE Dining Room

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

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RETIREES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff—518-356-0137

Greetings to All,

Weren't we blessed with an abundance of warm, sunny, rain free weekends this summer! We were happy for those who only have weekends to rest and enjoy free time. In spite of an all day rain, we did enjoy an all too brief visit in our beautiful Adirondacks.

My spouse and I came through the summer relatively unscathed but several happenings demanded our immediate attention, disrupting our daily scheduled and necessary chores. Some of you in the area, no doubt went through them as well.

After a number of water mains in our township burst, we spent almost two days without a drop of running water. Thankfully, the water we had stored for the potential havoc of Y2K was a welcomed find in our basement storage. The rainwater we caught from the roof, though not drinkable, was useful, nonetheless. When water was finally restored, we spent several more days on a boil water alert. The experience brought a deeper appreciation for having pure water with the turn of a spigot.

Near the end of May, a storm brought baseball size hail with icy spikes that caused a great deal of damage west of the Capital Region. Hundreds of cars lost their windshields and the exteriors were covered with dents. Windows, siding and roofs sustained damage and my old homestead was among them. Only one of my windows was broken, while

my neighbor had eight. The window was an easy fix compared to the damaged roof, snow slides and siding.

We did enjoy almost a week of caring for an adorable little dog named Raven, until one evening when she encountered the wrath of a skunk at the far end of our yard and came charging in, imparting the "fragrance" throughout our home. It was a stressful night for little Raven and for us as well and it took several days of baths, a visit from carpet cleaners and cans of air freshener to rid us of the odor. We know that those of you who have been through it, are chuckling as you recall your own experiences.

In contrast to the world situation, especially in the Middle East, these were just minor bumps in the road, but they are the things of our life and our problems to solve. We worry about the future of the world and feel helpless to stop the atrocities we read of. We hope that those in power will have the wisdom to make the right decisions. What can we do except meet the demands of the life we have?

We close with thoughts of our new retirees who are enjoying the bliss of September - freedom. As life goes, with its new adventures, new people and involvements, the day will come when you may not be able to recall the year you retired, a date often asked for, on forms. So here is a little ditty to help you remember:

Teaching Assistant/Aide Report

Dear Constituents,

Welcome back to the 2014-15 school year. I hope everyone had a well-rested summer and was able to enjoy the beautiful weather with some outdoor activities. For those who worked this summer, I hope you were able to enjoy your few weeks off with family and friends and were able to get away for some fun and relaxation.

The Negotiation team met over the summer with administration and progress is being made. I am hoping at our next meeting we will be able to hammer out our differences and be able to settle. Once this happens, the team will hold an informational meeting for our TA/Aide membership to address the proposed contract changes and field any questions you may have regarding the contract. More information will be forthcoming once we finalize our meeting with administration. Thanks for your patience in this matter, there were too many outside obstacles in our way to get this process moving more quickly.

I have met over the summer with Lynne Wells regarding professional development opportunities for the Teaching Assistants/ Aides for the upcoming school year. If anyone has any preferences they would like to have considered, please let me know and I will facilitate your requests. I was planning on having some professional development opportunities for

the first few days following Opening Day, but unfortunately with the restructuring of Central Administration the PD coaches were not available. I will be meeting with Dr. Peter Taormina and Lynne Wells to set up some workshops for the fall which are relevant to Teaching Assistants/Aides specifically.

The Association currently needs two or three new Reps for the Teaching Assistant/Aide chapter. I want to send out a thank you shout to all my Reps for the outstanding work they do for our members. I try my best to keep everyone informed but I can't do it alone. I depend on my Reps to get the word out and to bring concerns our members may have to me. Communication has always been a major platform for me, without proper communication, misinformation runs rampant. The rumor mill is not a healthy way to get correct information. If anyone has questions, please direct them to me or your Association representative. I heard some doozies this summer coming through the rumor mill. All I could do is shake my head and say "please ask me first before you spread this malarkey around." There is no need for the snowball effect.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a wonderful new school year. For those in new classes, if you feel overwhelmed, please reach out to me or a co-worker for assis-

The TRIAD is published monthly for the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Membership. We appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have.

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Personnel Personals

Get well wishes to **Susan Kusalonis** (Secretary, NERIC) and will be out for a few weeks.

Get well wishes to **Catherine Jakway** (TA, Spec. Ed.) and will be out for a few weeks.

Get well wishes to **Debora Sorvari** (TA, Spec. Ed.).

Get well wishes to **Carol Sweeney**.

Congratulations to **Jeff Knorr** (Teacher, CTE) who is a proud papa.

RETIREE PERSONALS

We grieve the passing of three of our colleagues during the summer; **Sheila Bussell**, **Mary Ann Boord** and **Zebulon Robbins**.

Our condolences to the family of **Sheila Bussell** who passed away on July 25, 2014 at age 79. Sheila was a training specialist at our BOCES, retiring in 1997. Surviving are her husband Harvey, her children Conni, Mitchell, Stuart and six grandchildren. Donations in memory of Sheila may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Albany N.Y.

Mary Ann Boord, who taught Practical Nursing in the Schoharie CSD and later at BOCES in Albany and Linton passed away on August 16, 2014 at age 72. Mary Ann retired in 1990. In spite of many illnesses, Mary Ann was thoughtful and caring of others, active in the community and enjoyed her family and traveling. She was predeceased by her husband Richard and is survived by her sons Francis and Peter Elia, her daughter Kathleen and granddaughter Julianna. Donation may be made in memory of Mary Ann to the N.Y. Chapter Diabetes, Albany or the NE Association of the Blind, Albany.

Our condolences to **Jo Anne Robbins** upon the passing of her husband, Zebulon on August 16, 2014. Zeb was an administrator at our BOCES for over 30 years. He is survived by his sons Zebulon and Geoffrey and three grandchildren. Donations in memory of Zeb may be made to the Clifton Park Library, the Community Hospice of Saratoga or St. George's Church, Clifton Park.

Sunshine Chairperson

If you know of someone who could use a little cheering up, our sympathy, or a get well card, please contact:

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