



January 2014

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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,

I hope your holidays were wonderful. Getting ready is always a lot of work. Fortunately for me my wife does the majority of the shopping and decorating. And she does a lot of it. She enjoys doing it and I am grateful. My job is to make sure I shop well for her, help where I can and I thank her (many times) for all she does. I admit that I am very lucky to be married to an amazing woman and a good friend.

Once the worst of the preparations are done, we take some time to enjoy everything and everyone, friends and family. I find this time of year amazing and my spirits generally good despite what is going on. Even with the economy as off as it is, the holiday cheer still comes through. I think that is much of the miracle to this time of year.

So happy New Year! I have great hope that this year will be better than last, but recognize that may not be the case. New York's financial woes have a ways to go, and education funding is not on the top of the governor's list. Though we may fair no better this year, I have every confidence we will get through this and be okay.

So what did you think of the governor's State of the State message. I think it was a heck of a campaign speech. When you read it, you see that he really said very little about increasing educational funding. No, he talks about more tax cuts. He did allude to performance based bonuses (merit pay). As is always with this governor, I am afraid it will be more of a shell game and devil will be in the details. We'll see.

As for New Year resolutions: I resolve to try to be the best teacher I can. Not because of some ridiculous evaluation system, but because that's what I want for my students. I believe every student deserves the best teacher(s) he or she can have. I truly believe that teacher quality will **not** be borne out in some tests. No, teacher quality is what helps students get through tough times, leads them to try harder and gets them to smile more, no matter how difficult they find the work. I also resolve to enjoy and appreciate my friends and family and make sure they know it.

For all of you I wish the very best of everything.

Looking forward, Doug

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION
BOCES FACULTY
ASSOCIATION.

REP COUNCIL

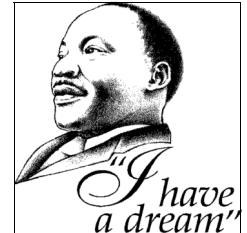
Jan. 22, 2014

BOCES BOARD

Jan. 23, 2014

Martin L King, Jr

1/20/14



January 31

Chinese New Year

**TRIAD Article
Deadline** 1/28/14 for
February Newsletter

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Celebration Bash

May 15th
Mohawk Country Club
5:00 - hor d'oevres
6:00 - dinner

If you are retiring, please let Brent Pierce know (bmp4sw@gmail.com).

So far - these two are out of here - Lanny Barsale, Alan Clarke and Cindy Jennings.

A great generation takes shape

This is the year the last Boomers will reach 50. We're celebrating because we're in the process of redeeming our youthful legacy as we reinvent live-styles and find new ways to stay productive and give back. I think we'll be known as the innovation generation.

Jane Pauley, former talk show host and author of *Your Life Calling: Reimagining the Rest of Your Life*.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Important Dates for 2013-14

<i>BOCES Board of Education</i>	<i>Executive Board</i>	<i>Representative Council</i>
January 23, 2014	January 8, 2014	January 22, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road
February 27, 2014	February 5, 2014	February 26, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road
March 17, 2014	March 5, 2014	March 19, 2014 Albany CTE Dining Room

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

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Membership Chair	Lisa Mink	372-7240	464-3979	lmink8@hotmail.com
Grievance Chair	Kristen Lashway	421-3446		Kris10Lashway@gmail.com

Highlights of Rep Council – December 18, 2013

Agenda as seen by Rep Council Members.
We note discussion or decisions as they occur.

Roll call – [5]

Approval of minutes from last meeting – [5]

Treasurers Report – [5] - No Report

Appointments – [3] None

Chapter Vice Presidents Reports – [20]

TA/Aide Chapter—Colleen Condolora

- TA PDP Sub-Committee will be chaired
By Lynn Wells, Assistant Director, ESS
- Thanks to TA's that were at Maywood
Faculty Meeting

Teacher, Special Ed—Flora Fasoldt

- Erin Conklin will return full time
- Melissa Kiss—sub list
- Teacher on Leave, will retire
- Schenectady SD has requested class of
15 to open, we are using sub list until
staff are hired to fill the positions
- Schenectady wants us to open two IMN
classes at Lincoln Elementary

CTE—Jeannine Moran

- Adult Ed Guidance Position, Civil Ser-
vice, 12 months at half of what they
made before
- Equitable distribution of teaching load

Service—Sandy Smith

- We will be starting the negotiations
process again

Budget: - [5] – No Report

New Business – [10]

There was much discussion regarding the
Special Education Principal Cabinets and
whether or not they were functioning as orig-
inally designed.

Standing Committees:

Membership –[5]

Special Ed	154	-	8 Agency Fee
CTE	60	-	25 Agency Fee
TA-Aide	198	-	24 Agency Fee
Service	84	-	8 Agency Fee

Negotiations: Update – [5] *Health Insurance
update*

Audit: - [5] - No Report

Nominating: - [3] - No Report

Election: - [3] - No Report

Grievance: - [3] - No Report

District PDP Committee: - [3]

Colleen and Shelly reported

Select Committees: - [10]

TRIAD—January 7th next meeting

Social Committee—Xmas Party went
well, Committee was congratulated on another
job well done.

FYI TOPICS: - [5]

Board meeting— See TRIAD for report.

Dates to remember:

January 26, 2014 – Grammy Awards

February 2, 2014 – Groundhog Day

April 1, 2014—Faculty Association Scholarship Deadline

April 25, 2014—Lobby Day

May 15, 2014—Celebration Bash

May 16, 2014 - BOCES Prom



Teaching Assistants/Aides

Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Happy New Year everyone. I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday break and were able to enjoy some good food and spending special time with your loved ones.

On the negotiation front, I submitted dates to our NYSUT Labor Relation Specialist before we went on holiday break. Each Chapter is waiting for administration to give us some dates in order to begin the negotiation process. I should have more information to share once the team gets some definitive dates.

It is that time of the year when I will be asking the principals for input into selections for the TA Showcase. If anyone is interested in displaying their Special Project, please let me know and I will add you to the list. Last year was a huge success and everyone involved enjoyed the Art Gallery format. It was a very special afternoon for the Teaching Assistant Chapter.

I am in the process of setting up a date in February for Empire College to give an informational session for Teaching Assistants/Aides. A representative from the undergraduate outreach division at Empire State College would provide information for those staff mem-

bers looking to earn an Associate or Bachelors' degree. SUNY Empire State College offers unlimited undergraduate degree programs tailored to fit the needs of working adults, flexible scheduling allowing in-person and online options, and affordable SUNY tuition rates. Our generous credit transfer policy and opportunities to earn college credit for knowledge acquired through life and work experience can save your staff members valuable time and money. More information such as date, time and location will be sent out to all Teaching Assistants and Aides in the near future.

Thank you everyone for all you do to make our classrooms run smoothly and professionally. If you are not aware, or do not hear it enough, each of you is an intrinsic part in the lives of our students' educational success. Continue keeping up the good work, I am very proud to be a part of this special Chapter.

In Solidarity,
Colleen Condolora

January Checklist

Plan for Social Security increases: On January 1, benefits rise 1.5% to a top monthly benefit of \$2,642. Current workers: Maximum taxable earnings increase from @113,700 to \$117,000.

Fire-Proof your clothes dryer: January is peak time for dryer related fires. Self-defense: Clean lint traps after each load. Remove lint from the back of the dryer. Replace plastic or vinyl ducting with metal. Don't use the dryer for items that have come in contact with gasoline or other flammable substances. If clothes are taking longer and longer to dry, have the dryer serviced.

Set weight-control strategies during Diet Resolution Week: January 1 to 7. *Examples:* Resolve to write down everything you eat...earn extra fruit or vegetable serving every day...eat only while sitting at a table...don't eat after a certain time at night.

Make resolutions that matter: Think not only of money- and health-related goals but also about strengthening relationships, creating new experiences and helping other. *Ideal generators:* Bembu.com/100-new-years-resolutons... Managing-change.net/top-new-years-resolutions.html



Nov. and Dec. 2013 AFT Electronic Newsletter

Keeping Newtown forever in the nation's heart

AFT President Randi Weingarten honored Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, the one-year anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. "The pain and tragedy of what happened last year on Dec. 14 at Sandy Hook Elementary School will never be forgotten," Weingarten said. "But in that tragedy, we saw angels—educators who dedicated their lives to helping our children reach for the stars—give their lives in the service of our children." The AFT represents the educators and school staff in Newtown.

Don't turn CTE into the next 'Race to the Top'

The Obama administration is right to pledge new federal support for career and technical education, but the White House needs to go about it in the right way. That was the message AFT President Randi Weingarten delivered this month after the administration announced Youth CareerConnect, a \$100 million career and technical education program.

"Youth CareerConnect appears to promote programs similar to the kinds of cutting-edge, successful career-technical public schools that we would like to see more widely available," Weingarten said. However, it is "wrong and counterproductive for the federal government to make its funding competitive, like the Race to the Top program, creating winners and losers."

PSRP Electronic Newsletter December 2013

National Day of Action to reclaim the promise of public education

AFT affiliates and their community partners rallied in a Dec. 9 National Day of Action to Reclaim the Promise of Public Education. In cities across the country, parents, students, school employees, faith leaders and community activists came together to push for reforms designed to reclaim the promise of public education. Thousands participated in more than 100 events, and hundreds of thousands more showed their support online. They took part because they know that the market-based ideologies of privatization, austerity and competition are failing our children. They want to reclaim our schools and improve education for all.



The National Day of Action showcased public actions ranging from rallies with school marching bands to free book distributions for children in need. Together, those actions demonstrated "The Principles that Unite Us" as a common vision for public education. The National Day of Action was the first step in amplifying our voices, to be followed by more campaigns and larger actions in the spring.

Student Incentive Award

The form is on the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association
webpage www.crbfa.org

Applications due - April 1st.

Send to: Lanny Barsale, 123 Donats Brow, Unit #4, Cobleskill, NY 12043

RETIREEES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff

Happy New Year to All,

The Holiday Season is but a memory as we pack away decorations, reread Christmas letters, write thank you notes and enjoy our gifts. Our visits with family and friends, the photo cards and letters bring a reality check to the passage of time. The once little babies for whom we were godparents, who were inconsolably colicky and whose first steps we witnessed have grown up. Some are in high school or college. Some have moved away, some are married and have started a new generation. We update our address book to help us remember the many new names and locations.

As we review our book, we are touched with pangs of sadness upon seeing the names of those who have departed this world. We see also names of those who once shared our life at another times and in another place. We wonder why some have not responded to our card. We looked forward to their annual communication updating us on the twists and turns their lives have taken. Will our cards be

returned marked “Unable to deliver”? As older folks often do, we recalled times spent with them and the milestones of life shared. We are still hoping for after-Christmas letters from them.

We recall also, those who came to our rescue when we were helpless and alone. The memory of their presence and deeds remains, but who were they? There was a cleaning lady at the hospital who hugged me and gave comfort when I sat alone in tears after receiving less than good news from the doctor.

There was the fellow who tapped on my car window and offered to drive my car out of the icy parking spot where it had been wedged. Could it have been an angel sent from Above who cleared my driveway that winters’ night when it was filled with wet heavy snow and would have become a mass of ice? Their identities remain a mystery but one day when all will be revealed, we will know and understand. It will be a joyous day. Until then they will be remembered with wishes that someone will come to their rescue as they came to mine.

PERSONALS

Our heart felt sympathy to **Brian Bayly**, (VOTEC Retiree) on the passing of his wife, Margaret on 12/27/2013. Peg was a teachers’ aide at the Saratoga BOCES for many years until retiring. She and Brian had been married for 50 years. Peg is survived by her children Kelly, Brian, Casey, Shannon, and Megan and was predeceased by one son, Colin. She is also survived by 9 grandchildren.

Board Meeting Notes – December 16, 2013

Mark Jones Presented the 2014-15 Administrative Budget starting at 5:30 PM

Q. Can we put money into reserve from for retiree health insurance?

A. No legal way to do this. We can only have designated reserves, cannot just put anywhere.

Operational Budget

- Staff who are shared across budgets help keep costs lower
- Central Function up \$14,000 – expense necessary
- Admin Budget - up 1.34%
- Component Districts – up 2.35%

District Superintendent Comments

BOCES superintendent joins local officials in launching Literacy Zone

Joint venture between the Trinity Alliance of Albany and Capital Region BOCES will help adult learners increase academic and employment skills, obtain high school equivalency diplomas

Capital Region BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Charles Dedrick joined Trinity Alliance CEO Harris Oberlander, Sen. Neil D. Breslin, Assembly members John McDonald and Patricia Fahy, and a host of other local officials and community members to celebrate the creation of the Albany Literacy Zone Family Welcome Center in downtown Albany at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 16.

The Literacy Zone is a joint venture between the Trinity Alliance of Albany and Capital Region BOCES Adult Education that provides free resources for adult learners to increase academic and employment skills, obtain a high school diploma, and improve their knowledge and use of the English language.

Through the outreach of the Trinity Alliance, the Literacy Zone will serve adult learners throughout Albany County.

Dedrick commended the work of the Trinity Alliance, as well as Director of BOCES Career & Technical School Terry Swett, and Adult Education Coordinator Ray Paglieri.

“The Albany Literacy Zone is an incredible example of many diverse groups of people working together for the betterment of a community,” said Dedrick. “So many people have devoted their time and effort to take the Albany Literacy Zone from its conception to where we are today. It truly shows that BOCES, Trinity and the members of this community are de-

voted to adult learners.” This will enable adult students to be able to look at possible partners. Supported by Department of Labor, City SD, etc. Will help raise salary level of adult students. Brochure was handed out. Ceremony was well attended.

- Schenectady County Community College will be offering courses at the South Campus Conference Center in Albany.

NERIC Awareness Day – Well attended (500) 13 school districts and their students presented

- The event’s keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Matyi, a scientist and professor of nanoscience with the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE). Matyi spoke about the work CNSE is doing to help prepare students for the nanotech industries in the Capital Region and beyond. He emphasized the importance of preparing all students—regardless of their future goals—in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and with a curiosity to be “lifelong learners.”

- “This,” Matyi said, “is what will prepare students to take advantage of the global industries and economy they’ll find out in the world.”

Q. Can BOCES Sell Property they own

A. Must be authorized by voters of component school district allowing anyone who lives within the supervisor district and we would be bound by that one vote.

Q. Could we have a voting place at every component district to spread out the voting area?

A. Not sure

State Auditors – Per Bruce Bonaquist their stay was only supposed to be a few weeks and at this time it has been seven months. Risk assessment is still not concluded.

Tech Valley HS – (TV Foundation Board) has received a multi-million dollar grant to move into the CNSE college. They will have a 20 year lease. The Foundation board try’s to level the playing field for all kids. A lot of students are on free or reduced lunches. They helped fund students for the China trip that would not have been able to afford to go otherwise.

7 PM - Meeting broke into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

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

Congratulations to **Pat Gollub** on the birth of her first grand daughter. Harper was born on Dec. 4, 2013.



Resource Guide: Buy American, Buy Union-Made

<http://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/2013/november/resource-guide-buy-american-buy-union-made>

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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Please contact **Lisa Mink**, Membership Chair, with any change in mailing address or to give her your personal email. You can reach her at lmink8@hotmail.com. In doing so, you will be assured of receiving all that correspondence that the Association will send you including your newsletter, the TRIAD.