



CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

TRIAD

February 2010

Vol. XXXIV No. 6

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

News from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Spring is coming. I know this has not been a hard winter, weather wise, but I really do look forward to spring. Notice how the sun rises earlier and sets later. I do. We're past the middle and headed to better, warmer weather. Spring is great. Not only are the days longer, but the warmer sunshine brings new life to so many things.

Speaking of new life, I have a new, beautiful granddaughter. I never knew a person could be this lucky, but I am so happy to have four grandchildren. Man, are they cool. Being a parent is an amazing and rewarding experience, but a ton of work. Being a grandparent is twice as good. You get to spoil them, never really having to be the bad guy. Then you can send them home and their mom and dad have to do the hard parts. It really is cool.

Though I admit, I have never stopped being a parent to my kids. I believe that is a responsibility we keep forever. Last year my mom passed away. In all her 93+ years, she never stopped being my mom. I miss her and think about her almost every day. I think about my dad too. Sometimes I think about friends who are gone. I guess the older you get the more that happens. I do admit that I have been and continue to be very fortunate in so many ways. Ways that really matter, like friends, family and

health. I am thankful for that.

When I think about these very important and fulfilling parts of our life, the day to day business of working and making a living seem in comparison, somewhat insignificant. Though necessary and worthwhile, I do not find work nearly as important or as deeply rewarding as my family and friends.

Speaking of work and employment, this economy does not seem to be getting much better. I admit, I did not think we would have a quick recovery, but as this "recession" continues, I wonder just how long it will take for the economic "spring sun" to shine. Well, it took a lot of years of mismanagement on the part of our government to allow this mess to happen. Our present elected officials may know what they are doing, but it seems many people are starting to lose faith in these leaders abilities. It may take a long time for the economy to work its way back to a healthy and humming. Since there is so much of we don't control about this, I'm not going to dwell further on it.

As I have said before, bad economy or not I am very lucky. I have my health (pretty much), I am working, I have a great wife and wonderful family (especially my little ones) and I enjoy my job(s). I hope you are every bit as lucky as I am in those things that really matter.

**Looking forward,
Doug**

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION
BOCES FACULTY ASSOC.

EXEC. BOARD MEETING

2/3/10

BOCES BOARD MTG.

2/15/10

REP COUNCIL MTG.

Maywood School

2/24/10

Winter Recess

Feb. 15-19

Lobby Day

2/23/10

Chinese New Year—Tiger

2/14/10

Newsletter Committee

TRIAD Article Deadline:

3/2/10

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Rep Council Highlights, Jan. 20, 2010

By Lois Leonard

Old Business: Committee List was distributed by Doug and corrections were noted.

New Business:

Executive Board will discuss putting together information on Retirement for our members.

The Teaching Assistant Recognition Showcase will be held May 18, 3:00-5:00 at School Support.

Flora Fasoldt reported on the Special Education Advisory Consultant group.

Doug Harple encouraged reps to promote receiving the TRIAD via email because it is more efficient and less expensive for the Association.

The 2010 Opening Day will be Tuesday, September 7th, the day after Labor Day. There will be a Food Drive for all Opening Day sessions.

Membership: A letter will be mailed to all agency fee personnel to encourage joining the Association to support upcoming elections and negotiations.

Negotiations: Initial meetings continue.

Nominations: Form will be in the February TRIAD.

Budget: Requests for the new or revised budget line items are due at the Feb. meeting.

Select Committees:

Student Incentive applications are due April 1st. Applications can be found on the website: <http://www.capregboocesfa.com>

Website: A counter was placed on our Faculty Association website recording 700 visits.

Opening Day Committee

By Colleen Condolora

The Opening Day committee has selected the following dates for the summer sessions. Although these sessions are designated for 12 month employees, a few spots will be available for 10 month employees. The summer dates scheduled are July 27th and August 18th. The fall Opening Day will be held on Tuesday, September 7th at Union College. Again the Faculty Association will be holding a food drive for the Regional Food Bank. A reminder regarding the food drive will be included in the paychecks for summer school staff and 12 month employees. In addition a notice will be placed in the TRIAD and on the Faculty Association website www.capregboocesfa.com. Our goal is to surpass the 500 plus pounds we donated this school year. As you are all well aware, more and more families are going to the food bank for assistance. Our donations can make a difference in several families' lives.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	E-Mail Address
President	Doug Harple	862-4776	hdharple@msn.com
Vice President	Patricia Gollub	862-4716	Gollub02@yahoo.com
CVP TA/EA	Colleen Condolora	356-8349	condolora@aol.com
CVP Service	Susan Kusalonis	393-5598	maidmrn300@aol.com
CVP Spec. Educ.	Flora Fasoldt	466-1703	electflora@aol.com
CVP C T E	Jeannine Moran	862-4816	jmmoran@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary	Christine McDonough	273-1512	camcd9@yahoo.com
Corresponding Sec'y.	Sue Davis	456-0574	scdavis@nycap.rr.com
Treasurer	Deborah Sorvari	334-1296	debmom39@nycap.rr.com
Membership Chair	Lisa Mink	464-3979	lmink8@hotmail.com
Grievance Chair	E.J. Hanley	321-0485	ehanley1@nycap.rr.com
EAP	Kevin Eglit	454-9650	Employee Assistance Program

Capital Region BOCES Board Meeting – 01/14/10

By Kathy Collins

Presentation of the **NERIC and SSS budgets** for next year. No big issues-both divisions are trying to keep costs down, add new incentives, programs and continue to deliver their services. Money has been saved by the new restructuring within divisions, internal changes and cost savings.

NERIC continues to grow and **SSS** management is now offering Labor Relations, TPA Services and Energy management Consortium for 7 schools. Instructional services will be offering Tech Valley HS Dissemination, New EAP service, more intervention, inquiry based learning and information literacy skills, supplemental ELA and Math and comprehensive services for instruction and curricular planning. Both divisions are diversifying services, searching out new opportunities and building new relationships.

Tech Valley High is to offer more options for component schools and others for training of staff and become more of a resource for the region.

Different groups are using the **BOCES Communication Service** due to its fast and professional services.

There was a discussion on the **Cyber Crime within our BOCES**. Meetings have been held with District's Superintendents and BOCES is tapping into Cyber fraud units and the State Police to assist the districts to prevent any further crimes and protect themselves, as is BOCES, itself.

There are seven **Superintendent openings** within our BOCES and most will be using our BOCES consultant search process.

Next meeting: The Career/Tech and Special Education Budgets. It is being held at the BOCES Board Room, 900 Watervliet Shaker Road, beginning at 5:30 PM for Budgets and 6:30 PM for regular meeting.

Capital Region BOCES FA Representative Council Meeting Dates for 2009-2010	
Rep Council Dates	Rep. Council Location
Feb. 24, 2010	Maywood School
March 17, 2010	School Support Ser.
April 21, 2010	School Support Ser.
May 19, 2010	Maywood School
June 9, 2010	School Support Ser.
All Rep Council meetings run from 4:15-6 PM unless there is a motion to extend.	

Conference Dates 2009-2010

2010

March 20-21

Regional SRP Leadership / The Otesaga Hotel Conference - Cooperstown, NY

March 22-23

Committee of 100 / The Desmond Hotel - Albany, NY

April 28-29

NYSUT Local Presidents Conference / Marriott Wardman - Washington, DC

April 29-May 1

Representative Assembly / Marriott Wardman Hotel - Washington, DC

July 7-11

AFT Convention Washington State Conv & Trade Center, Seattle, WA

TEACHING ASSISTANTS/EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS/AIDES

By Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituents:

I can hardly believe we are heading into February break already. Time seems to be flying by so quickly this school year. Perhaps it is because we are all so busy and we don't have the time to think about the days passing by.

This year the Teaching Assistant/Educational Assistant/Aides Recognition Showcase will be held on May 18th at School Support from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Please note that this year the reception will be hosted at a different location than in the past. Invitations will be sent in mid April to each TA/EA with an RSVP to Marcia Siver. I will be contacting several TA's to ask them to showcase their special projects and writings. If you are interested in displaying the terrific projects you have developed please contact me. Our Chapter has done some remarkable projects this year. Please take the time to come and celebrate your co-workers and fellow Chapter member's accomplishments by attending the showcase reception in May.

Recently, I had a few members asking questions and raising concerns regarding professional development opportunities being denied during the school day. If you have had problems getting approval to attend workshops during the school day,

please contact me at 393-2244 or email me at condolora@aol.com. Contractually, workshops must be offered during the workday for our unit. I understand that not everyone has the opportunity to attend after hour workshops due to second jobs, family commitments or other obligations. I will address this issue should it become problematic for our Chapter.

Lastly, I was in contact with NYSUT Legislative representative, Peter Savage, for an update on the 55/25 incentive being offered for this school year. [This would allow certain individuals age 55 and older with at least 25 years of service to retire with no reductions, if retirement occurs within an established window.] Peter reported that the bill has been formalized and will be presented to the Legislative for enactment by (Feb. 1-6). He reported the legislation for this bill should be in effect by the end of March. NYSUT, however will be pushing to have this bill passed as quickly as possible due to the short window of time until the end of the school year. I also asked if the 55/25 would be extended for the next school year but unfortunately this initiative is a one-time proposition. I will keep you updated as soon as I have more information. In the meantime, please check out NYSUT's website at www.nysut.org for all legislative information and updates.

**In Solidarity,
Colleen Condolora**

TELL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING

PSRPs Education is a team effort. School bus drivers transport students to school, field trips, athletic events, after school programs and back home. Food service workers prepare meals that nourish the bodies and minds of students. Custodians clean school buildings so that students have a healthy learning environment, office employees help parents, staff and students with information, supplies and a host of other things. There are other PSRPs who are part of the educational team that make valuable contributions to the education of our students in early education, K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. The dedication and work of PSRPs often goes unrecognized.

U.S. Reps. Dina Titus (D-Nev.) and Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.) have introduced H.R. 2377, to establish National Classified School Employees of the Year awards. These awards will reward exemplary employees and recognize the important contributions made by paraprofessionals and school-related personnel to our nation's public schools and institutions of higher education.

Send a letter to your representatives urging them to support and co-sponsor this legislation to acknowledge the important role PSRPs play in the education of our students.

Service Chapter VP

Susan A. Kusalonis

Dear Colleagues,

As you may remember at the Opening Day meeting we discussed the contract ending in June 2010. At that time, I stated that a survey would be going out on negotiations in the fall. As you can see this has not happened. With today's economic climate we may not open the contract at all, just look for a percentage increase in salary and extend the contract. As information comes to me, I will pass it on to you.

Many of you have mentioned noticing that there were a lot of Service Chapter changes done on the Board Agendas recently. This is HR's attempt to clean up our personnel files and bring our records into compliance. These corrections are being made in case Civil Service does an audit of our payroll.

Please congratulate **Darlene Anapolis** (Sp. Ed.) on her new title of Supervising School Nurse. Also, **Carol Sheeran** (NERIC) on her new title of Data Entry Supervisor.

Another new title has joined our Chapter. Building Energy Specialist and **Henry (Thomas) Schweizer** has been appointed at the January Board meeting. This is a new service that BOCES will be selling to Districts.

Remember, you can always contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

In solidarity, Susan

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Student Incentive Award

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association will again offer the Student Incentive Awards. Applicants must be dependents of Association members. Awards are two scholarships for \$1000 each to be used for post-secondary education. One award will be given based on need and the other based on scholarship. Applications are available on the Association Website www.capregbocesfa.com and **due by April 1st 2010. Selections are made by the Student Incentive Committee.**

Mail applications to:

Lanny Barsale

PO Box 762

Cobleskill, NY 12043

VOTE-COPE COMING YOUR WAY SOON!

By Catherine A. Jakway, TA, Spec. Ed.,

VOTE-COPE Coordinator

Dear Colleagues,

Governor Patterson's proposed plan is to cut \$1.1 billion in school aid, the largest education cuts in history! Now is the time to "Speak Up, Speak Out" by contributing to VOTE-COPE! We need your support and we need it NOW! In these hard times, our most important priorities are vulnerable and can be targeted for reductions. Issues like state aid for education and health care, decent working conditions, a secure retirement, prescription drugs, and affordable health care coverage are big issues that are at risk.

About VOTE-COPE Your statewide union has a fundraising arm called VOTE-COPE. VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan political action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public education and pro-labor. The single largest category of VOTE-COPE expenditures is in the form of rebates to local unions to be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of school budgets.

Members play a vital role in VOTE-COPE'S success. In order to continue VOTE-COPE'S important work, increased contributions are needed. Contributions can be made by check (made out to "VOTE-COPE") or through payroll deduction. Retirees can contribute through automatic pension deduction. Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible.

Your contribution helps to ensure that school districts and colleges receive the state aid necessary to provide quality educational services to our youth and it gives our profession the political power we need to protect education, health care and workers' rights. The primary goal of VOTE-COPE is to support the goals of public education and protect all of NYSUT's constituents, from our newest members to our retirees.

For good or for bad, the future of quality public education, as well as the future of your profession, your retirement and your health care is bound to decisions coming out of Albany and Washington.

We have a VOTE-COPE contribution to fit all budgets:

Amount per check Yearly Contribution

\$1.00 = \$22.00; \$2.00 = \$44.00; \$3.00 = \$66.00, and up.

When you get your VOTE-COPE packet in the mail, please help by making a contribution today. **We need your support. We have a lot depending on it.**

RETIREES CORNER

Jeanette K. Christoff, Teacher, Retired

Hello Retirees,

As we have read in the New York Teacher and the January TRIAD, health insurance benefits (HIBs) for retirees are permanent. For the past 15 years, it has been an annual struggle by the public employees unions to convince our legislators to pass the moratorium to prevent any changes in retiree benefits and the possibility of them being reduced, revoked or negotiated away. This had occurred in some districts in western New York. The new legislation guarantees that HIBs cannot be revoked, however they could be diminished in the future. The legislation states only that they cannot be reduced to less than those received by the work force.

According to our Association contracts, new employees hired after June 30, 1984, will pay 20% of their health insurance premium. This leaves the door open for the possibility of retirees having to pay 20% of the premium as well, if it were to be negotiated in the future. Retirees cannot participate in negotiations since the Association only represents those in the work force. Currently, health insurance benefits are fully paid upon retiring. Both dental and optical coverage are terminated upon retiring. However, COBRA allows new retirees to continue this coverage for 18 months if they pay the premiums in full.

The possibility of having to pay a portion of our premium is a concern for those who retired long ago and have seen their savings

diminish through the years.

The premium cost of 20% to employees, ranges between \$73 and \$89 per pay, or \$1,453 to \$1,778 annually, at this time and depending on the specific plan. This may be seemingly a small amount considering that, the salary for a first year teacher with a B.S. degree on Step I is \$40,841. In contrast, those long retired have a much lower annual income.

In the October 2009 issue of the TRIAD, we reported on the income of those who have been retired for 20 and 25 years. TAs who retired in 1985 and rely only on their pension and Social Security, receive an average annual income of \$22,851. Teachers who retired in 1985 receive \$28,516 annually, a pension of \$14,500 and Social Security of \$13,836. Having to pay 20% of the HIB premium would be an additional hardship for those who are already living close to the edge.

The contracts for Teacher and Service will expire on June 30, 2010, and preparations for negotiations have begun. We are placing our confidence and trust in those who negotiate, that they will work to keep our HIBs as they are, fully paid.

In the future, when they retire, they will know what a wonderful benefit this is and appreciate the work of those who came before us in obtaining and maintaining it through the years.

Retiree Updates

Hooray, **Nancy Martin** has been found and is living in Menlo Park, California.

“It arrived!!!! Thanks so much for contacting me and updating the mailing records so I can receive the TRIAD. I see you are one of the faithful contributors! Did any one tell you that you are a very hard worker!!!!!!

May the Peace and Beauty of the Season remain in your heart all through the New Year. Nancy”

Candy Keis writes “I am loving retirement though my children keep telling me this is not retirement. I am working part time at St Gregory's School in Loudonville as their Director of Student Services. I oversee all of the students with IEPS and coordinate their services. It is a perfect fit as I choose my hours and the people are wonderful.”

Reprint from the Gazette, Dec.15, 2009

“Obama’s bow and ‘Date which will live in infamy

I do wish Mr. Obama had planned his trip to Japan so that he could have bowed to the emperor on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day.

Since they partially own us I’m assuming many Americans would have little or no problem with that except the World War II vets still living, who probably would have an instant heart attack.

My, how times have changed.” **WOODY HERMAN**

We note the passing of **Marlene Hession**, Special Education Teacher, on January 3, 2010. During her 30-year teaching career, Marlene worked in the Schenectady Public School and Capital Region BOCES. Among the many schools at which Marlene taught, were Paige, Central Park, Brandywine and Maywood..

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARNED INCOME CREDIT?

The earned income credit (EIC) is a refundable tax credit designed for low-income families and individuals. The EIC varies depending on your level of income and how many dependents you support. There is even the possibility that the tax credit can generate a tax refund larger than the amount of federal taxes you paid had withheld. If you qualify for the EIC, you can opt to receive part of the credit in your paycheck during the year through the Advanced Earned Income Credit (AEIC) instead of waiting until tax time to receive the entire amount.

To be eligible for the EIC, a worker must meet flowing criteria: Must have a valid Social Security number; must be U.S. citizen or resident alien for the entire year; cannot use the married filing separately filing separate; cannot be claimed as a qualifying child by someone else; cannot claim the foreign earned income exclusion (relates to wages earned while living abroad); you and your spouse (if married) are between the ages of 25 and 64.

The rules for qualifying children for the purpose of claiming the EIC are slightly different from the rules for dependents, which means that it may be possible that your child qualifies as a your dependent, but not EIC; or would qualify you for EIC even though the non-custodial parent claims the dependent. Qualifying children must meet the relationship test (birth, marriage, adoption and foster arrangement); the age test (18 or younger at year’s end or 23 or younger full-time student) and residency test (child must live with you for more than 6 months and live in the U.S.). All children must have valid Social Security numbers.

Go to the **IRS web site** to see if you should file for the EIC.

Special Education Teacher Chapter meeting minutes—Jan. 20, 2010

By Susan V Stewart

We had a small turn out for the teacher meeting this month. Consequently, we did not cover many topics. However, the topic of technology was raised. What will technology support look like in the future for Special Education. There is such a wide variety of needs among the many classes even within each strand. How are we going to stay current in technology? How will we keep up with hardware, software and adaptive materials necessary to provide the best possible programs for our students?

We will continue this discussion as things unfold. Please come to the next meeting and bring your thoughts and ideas!

Special Ed. Teacher's Chapter Meeting

Mark Your Calendar We Need you!

Feb. 24, 2010	Maywood School
March 17, 2010	School Support
April 21, 2010	School Support
May 19, 2010	Maywood School
June 9, 2010	School Support

(Before Rep Council)

3:30-4:00 PM



Walk for Mental Health Research

In partnership with New York Presbyterian Hospital, I am organizing a fund raising walk in the Spring to raise money for Depression/Bipolar Research. I've been planning this since August, 2009. After meeting recently with Niskayuna Town Supervisor, Joe Landry and Coordinator of Community Programs, Lori Peretti, the date has been set for **Saturday, April 17th, 10:00 am to 12, at Lions Park, Rosendale Rd., Niskayuna, New York.** Everyone can walk at their own pace and there is no set distance. Donations (\$5.00) will be made at the registration table where you will receive your ribbon. This event will be held rain or shine, but in the event of rain, we will have use of the old train station for sign in. Please spread the word.

I think everyone knows someone who has some form of mental illness. This is a devastating illness which not only affects the individual suffering with it but also their family and friends. Some experience changes in sleep patterns, loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy. Others will be plagued by fatigue, feelings of worthlessness, guilt, and hopelessness. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

New York-Presbyterian's psychiatry program is ranked 4th in the nation. The Hospital has one of the largest psychiatric programs available, offering specialized treatment in nearly every area of psychiatric care, including leading experts in depression and bipolar disorder.

I hope I can count on your support in this endeavor, and look forward to seeing you in April. If you would like more information or if you would like to make a donation, you may contact me by email rippolit@nycap.rr.com or phone me at 518-356-3179.

Please note: 100% of the proceeds will go towards research for Depression/Bipolar Disorder.

Please save the date for this important event.

Thanks, **Diana Ippolito** (TA, Sp. Ed.)

Healthy Living; Living For Good Health

By Catherine A. Jakway, TA, Spec. Ed.

And You Thought Only Adults Made New Year's Resolutions?

New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want or need to make and resolve to follow through on those changes. The top resolutions for 2010 always seem to be the usual--get out of debt and save more, lose weight and exercise. Learn something new, help others, get organized and spend more time with family also top the list. But New Year's resolutions aren't just for adults.

The following New Year tips are from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) from December, 2009.

Preschoolers

- I will clean up my toys.
- I will brush my teeth twice a day, and wash my hands after going to the bathroom and before eating.
- I won't tease dogs – even friendly ones. I will avoid being bitten by keeping my fingers and face away from their mouths.

Kids, 5- to 12-years-old

- I will drink milk and water, and limit soda and fruit drinks.
- I will apply sunscreen before I go outdoors. I will try to stay in the shade whenever possible and wear a hat and sunglasses, especially when I'm playing sports.
- I will try to find a sport (like bas-

ketball or soccer) or an activity (like playing tag, jumping rope, dancing or riding my bike) that I like and do it at least three times a week!

- I will always wear a helmet when bicycling.
- I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car. I'll sit in the back seat and use a booster seat until I am tall enough to use a lap/shoulder seat belt.
- I'll be nice to other kids. I'll be friendly to kids who need friends – like someone who is shy, or is new to my school
- I'll never give out personal information such as my name, home address, school name or telephone number on the Internet. Also, I'll never send a picture of myself to someone I chat with on the computer without my parent's permission.

Kids, 13-years-old and up

- I will eat at least one fruit and one vegetable every day, and I will limit the amount of soda I drink.
- I will take care of my body through physical activity and nutrition.
- I will choose non-violent television shows and video games, and I will spend only one to two hours each day – at the most – on these activities.
- I will help out in my community –

through volunteering, working with community groups or by joining a group that helps people in need.

- I will wipe negative “self talk” (i.e. “I can't do it” or “I'm so dumb”) out of my vocabulary,
- When I feel angry or stressed out, I will take a break and find constructive ways to deal with the stress, such as exercising, reading, writing in a journal or discussing my problem with a parent or friend.
- When faced with a difficult decision, I will talk with an adult about my choices.
- When I notice my friends are struggling or engaging in risky behaviors, I will talk with a trusted adult and attempt to find a way that I can help them.
- I will be careful about whom I choose to date, and always treat the other person with respect and without coercion or violence.
- I will resist peer pressure to try drugs and alcohol.
- I agree not to use a cell phone or text message while driving and to always use a seat belt.

Share these with family, friends, and coworkers. Would they agree? Would our students agree? Do a lesson on these and compare it to the national average. I would be very interested to hear back from you.

NYSUT Legislative Representative, Peter Savage –55/25 Initiative

By Colleen Condolora, TA/EA/Aide, Chapter VP

An update on the 55/25 incentive is being offered for this school year. [This would allow certain individuals age 55 and older with at least 25 years of service to retire with no reductions, if retirement occurs within an established window.] Peter reported that the bill has been formalized and will be presented to the Legislature for enactment by Feb. 1-6. He reported the legislation for this bill should be in effect by the end of March. NYSUT, however will be pushing to have this bill passed as quickly as possible due to the short window of time until the end of the school year. When asked if the 55/25 would be extended for the next school year we were told that unfortunately this initiative is a one-time proposition. Please check out NYSUT's website at www.nysut.org for all legislative information and updates.

Dear Gabby

Dear Gabby,

As a newly retired BOCES teacher I have a quick question for you. Do we still get membership cards? Are we still officially part of the union? Do I or should I be paying retirement dues to the union? There are some financial benefits associated with the membership in the community and I wonder how I should go about getting a card if eligible. Shall I just call NYSRS?

Rhonda Retiree

Dear Rhonda,

Unfortunately, you are no longer a member of the Association once you retire. Membership is open only to those in the work force. Retirees cannot be a member of the Rep Council, cannot vote in elections or on any issues. However, you are always welcome to attend Rep Council meetings and offer your knowledge on past situations and their resolution.

You became a member of NYSUT, our state affiliate, when you joined the Association and your membership continues. When you retired, the Association submitted your name to NYSUT and you became a member of the ED10 Retirees Council. You will receive a newsletter and can become actively involved by attending meetings at the NYSUT headquarters in Latham. Your membership card continues to be valid and you are entitled to the many services NYSUT offers.



For more information, call 783-7977 or visit

www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Gabby is not familiar with “NYSRS”. Our affiliations are with NYSUT, New York State United Teachers, our union and NYSTRS, the New York State Teachers Retirement System, which manages and distributes our pensions. They are two separate agencies.

Gabby wishes you well in your retirement.

Dear Gabby,

Recently I changed my name and I am having trouble getting the right name on my BOCES GroupWise account. Can you help?

Change in Charlton

Dear Change,

Hmm, Gabby’s best advice is to bring it to the attention of your Principal. For Special Education Division staff there is a form on the wembley.neric.org website. You send this form to Jean Usher and she will forward on to Central Admin and GroupWise. The problem with not giving it to Jean first, is that she may not be contacted with the update. It goes without saying that if you have any changes in name or address, you should let the Membership Chairperson, Lisa Mink know lmink8@hotmail.com so that there is no interruption in the delivery of your TRIAD!! The Chapter VP is given an updated

list monthly at each Executive Board Meeting.

One more thing! **Sub Call in** — if you have changed your name you need to go back in (using the directions you were given when you first received training). They cannot change your voice message that a substitute gets via the computer system. Only you can do this.

Gabby

Dear Gabby,

I was very excited to hear about the proposed legislation that would allow New York State Teachers Retirement System members who were 55 and had 25 years of service to retire penalty free during a brief window of time in 2010. I had understood that there would be specific information in January yet now I don’t see anything about it. What’s up?

Anxious in Albany

Dear Anxious,

Gabby was under the same impression when she first heard about this a few months ago. Now, while the new Tier 5 has been instituted, the 25/55 seems to have disappeared! If you are a teacher or TA who is waiting to hear more about this topic, Gabby recommends that you check the legislative issues section on the NYSTRS website or call the retirement system directly with your questions. Information should be coming from NYSUT also, so watch the NY Teacher, as well.

Let’s all keep our fingers crossed!

Gabby

CAPITAL REGION BOCIES FACULTY ASSOCIATION - NOMINATIONS FORM

It is important to be involved in your Faculty Association election. This is the time to look to yourself and your colleagues for new faces to add to those who have been providing strong leadership for our organization. Make your recommendations and return to the address below. **Deadline is February 28, 2009.**

	NAME	PHONE #
President		
Vice President		
Recording Secretary		
Corresponding Secretary		
Treasurer		

Choose 6 ED10 Delegates: H. Douglas Harple, (President is automatically a delegate)

Name	Phone#	Name	Phone
1. _____		2. _____	
3. _____		4. _____	
5. _____		6. _____	

Nominate in your unit only:

	NAME	PHONE
Special Education Chapter VP		
CTE Chapter VP		
TA/EA Chapter VP		
Service Chapter VP		

RETURN TO:

**Catherine Jakway
311 E. Campbell Road
Schenectady, NY 12303-3284**

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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TRIAD GOING GREEN

If you want to opt out of receiving a hard copy, please email **Lisa Mink** (lmink8@hotmail.com). Please give her your name and Chapter you belong to and your home email address.

Please contact **Lisa Mink**, Membership Chair with any change in address that you have. 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.

If you know a member or retiree who should be getting the TRIAD, give them this information.

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

Our Condolences to **Ellen Childs** (Sr. Acct. Clerk-Sp. Ed.) on the passing of her father, Burt Bruno on January 17th, after a short illness.

Condolences to **Eileen Duell**, (PTA, Service) on the loss of her father Robert F. Butler, Sr. who died on January 10th at the age of 83.

Condolences to **Melissa Eberhardt**, (Teacher, Sp. Ed.) on the loss her grandmother, Myrna Kiss, age 74.

Wishing **Kristina Drago** (TA, Sp. Ed.) a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

Happy 50th—**Kathy Collen**, (OT, Sp. Ed.) you young wipper snapper.

Congratulations to **Danielle** (Bruno) **Gurecki**, (Consultant Teacher, Sp. Ed.) on your recent marriage.

Sunshine Chair

Please remember to contact the Sunshine Chair when one of our members is ill, has experienced a death in the immediate family, or has had an addition to the family. It is extremely helpful if you also give the Chair YOUR telephone number so the information may be verified. If you have the current address of the person to whom you want a card/note sent, that, too is helpful. Cards are often returned because of changes in address.

Sunshine Chairperson

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

Theresa Bennett

23 Harriet Street, Albany, NY 12205
869-2367