



February 2011

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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,

Yes, it's still winter, but spring gets closer every day. Truth is I've been looking for spring since November. That gives you an idea of how much I love winter. I love the Northeast, but I tolerate the winter. So far, this has been a real winter, more so than last year. I'm sure many of you probably feel the same way I do, but since we can't change it we'll just have to make the best of it. If you are someone who enjoys winter in the Northeast with all snow related opportunities like skiing, skating, snowmobiling etc., I am happy for you. This is your kind of winter.

Many things are like that. Depending on your likes or needs you either are happy with what you get, or you make the best of a bad situation. Our state economy and the difficult fiscal times we are in are much like that. There is a huge revenue shortfall in this state and across the nation. However, we cannot just make the best of this bad situation.

Though at the time I am writing this, the governor's budget has not yet been released, but we do know it will be the worst we have seen in many, many years. We expect to see up to 15,000 layoffs in the state workforce. Not only will this hurt the individuals being laid off, it will have a major negative effect on the economy of the state, especially upstate New York. There is the proposed cap on property taxes, which will decimate the quality of our state education system by seriously lim-

iting a school district's ability to locally raise the needed revenue to run a district. This will result in more cuts and layoffs in our school districts, which will also adversely affect local economies. And in addition to that we expect the governor to propose a reduction in the state aid for education.

We can not simply try to make the best of it. We will need to act too. We must act. Even if the budget the governor proposes is not quite as bad as predicted, you can be sure it will be bad. Bad enough to change our educational system from a quality one to one that does not effectively meet the needs a many, if any of our students. The long term effect will further reduce our ability to compete nationally, let alone globally.

I love the ideals and spirit that makes us act and not just complain. As Americans, it is what we do. We don't sit back and let other people, especially our politicians, just kick us around. We do not get lost in the complaining. We recognize what we are dealing with and what we need to do to make it right. The best remedy for a bad situation is to move forward in spite of what we face and fix it. We have to be willing to fight, not only for ourselves, but for our kids.

In the next few months you will be asked to send faxes, write letters and maybe much more. You will be asked to increase your financial contributions to VOTE/COPE. I know we will do our part, you and I.

Looking Forward, Doug

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION
BOCES FACULTY AS-
SOCIATION.

EXEC. BOARD

Feb. 2, 2011

BOCES BOARD

Feb. 17, 2011

REP COUNCIL

Feb. 16, 2011

Presidents Day

Feb/ 21, 2011



Winter Recess

Feb. 21-25, 2011

TRIAD Article Deadline:

Feb. 22, 2011

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Rep Council Highlights, January 19, 2011

Submitted by Lois Leonard

Mike Rowan, NYSUT Rep, will be holding New Rep Orientation on Jan. 27th. Doug passed sign up sheet, encouraged attendance.

Chapter Vice President Reports:

TA/EA Chapter - Colleen Condolora

- SRP Workshops are being planned for Superintendents Day
- Anticipated date to start WinCap is in spring. Requested letter go out to employees from Robert Zordan to detail information needed when system is up and running.
- Negotiation meetings progressing
- SRP NYSUT Workshop at Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown, March 12-13, 2011. Six people can attend, contact Colleen.

Special Education Chapter - Flora Fasoldt

- Additional compensation for related service staff Medicaid responsibilities will not be provided at this time (contact Doug or Flora for more detailed information).
- Special Ed Advisory Committee Facilitators, Administration and Steering Committee will meet in February.
- Flora and Colleen meet regularly with Peter Taormina, Deputy Director and Inge Jacobs, Director. Please contact them with any concerning issues.

CTE Teacher Chapter - Jeannine Moran

- Reduction in Force has been discussed with staff involved.
- Looking to expand Tax Shelter Annuity Investment Service Providers. Contact Jeannine with any requests or recommendations.

Service Chapter - Susan Kusalonis

- Peter Taormina is working with secretaries to help attendance become more efficient.
- Offices at Wembley will be moving to Maywood due to the expiration of the lease.

New Business:

- Student Incentive Award deadline April 1st, 2011. For details see TRIAD or Website www.crbfa.org.
- Celebration Bash set for May 19th, 2011 at Mohawk River Country Club, Rexford, NY.

Standing Committees:

- Membership: 645 members, 90 agency fee
- Budget: Committee will meet in early Feb.
- District PDP Committee: Met, discussed Superintendent Staff Development Day and tentative list of offerings. Hope to have collaborative staff development between Sp. Ed. and CTE
- Communication Committee: Mission Statement presented and accepted.
- FYI: Colleen presented information on Celebration of Teaching & Learning held March 18-19, 2011 at the Hilton in New York. Sponsored by NYSUT. Check out Website: thirteencelebration.org.
- Pat Gollub's cosmetology students are contributing to their community by offering free hair cuts to members of the military and their families. See TRIAD and Website www.crbfa.org for more information.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

POSITION	NAME	HOME	WORK	E-Mail Address
President	H. Douglas Harple	899-1044	862-4776	hdharple@msn.com
Vice President	Patricia Gollub	583-1119	862-4716	Gollub02@yahoo.com
CVP TA/EA	Colleen Condolora	393-2244	356-8349	condolora@aol.com
CVP Service	Susan Kusalonis	393-5598	421-2007	maidmnr300@aol.com
CVP Spec. Educ.	Flora Fasoldt	674-0223	377-9018	electflora@aol.com
CVP C T E	Jeannine Moran	587-7662	862-4816	jmmoran@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary	Barbara Burnham	334-1193	862-4720	baburnham@googlemail.com
Corresponding Sec'y.	Sue Davis	427-0459	456-0574	scdavis@nycap.rr.com
Treasurer	Deborah Sorvari	452-8138	334-1296	debmom39@nycap.rr.com
Membership Chair	Lisa Mink	372-7240	464-3979	lmink8@hotmail.com
Grievance Chair	E.J. Hanley	321-0485	356-8342	ehanley1@nycap.rr.com

Capital Region BOCES Board Meeting – Jan 13, 2011

By Susan Kusalonis

The CTE and NERIC divisions presented their **budgets for 2011-12** to the BOARD.

Dr. Katherine Gerbino discussed that **ATE Grant** that BOCES would be applying for. The funding is between \$150,000 and \$175,000. Four new Nano modules will be developed. The Agency that wins the grant will have virtual access to the Kent State Technologies.

China has been granted visas to travel to view our Tech Valley HS. There will be 35 students and 5 administrators. Families of the Tech Valley HS will be hosting their stay here in America. Dr. Dedrick stated he will be hosting four students at his house.

Kevin Harren revealed to the group that the **Appellate Court** has sent down their final decision on the reduction in hours scenario for staff members. Since the word “seniority” is not part of the decision, BOCES prevailed and can reduce hours of a civil service staff member as needed. This decision will be sent out to the 37 BOCES state wide.

Labor Relations: Mark Jones

We are now doing the negotiations for Questar III and WWHES BOCES. They will be sharing the cost of the service. A data person will be hired to read all the contracts and input into a database so that we can have in real time any information needed for negotiations. After the process has been completed, a clerk can maintain the data base. There is a commercial program that can do this. NYSUT has their software which is proprietary. We will not partner with NYSUT on this topic.

DVD on orientation. Board Member John Bergeron sent in a VHS tape that will be converted to DVD for the Board Members to review.

RTT – Responsibility being placed on BOCES. Dr. Dedrick has a power point from SED that he will put on the portal for Board Members to review.

New Tech Network – Tech Valley HS is only school in north eastern U. S. like it. There are talks about partnering with NTN. RFP is coming out soon. Long run will benefit Tech Valley HS.

On Saturday Jan. 8th Mark and Chuck were interviewed by **Talk Radio 1300 AM.** Discussion surrounded recent Times Union articles. NERIC uses over 100 private companies and with school aid, put \$10,000,000 back into the State’s economy this past year. The most important part was that the original TU article had nothing to do with NERIC.

Legislative Committee:

Lynn Lenhardt discussed the State of the State and felt there were no real specifics. She feels that the Budget will be more information. Tax Cap will be tied to what??? The Tax Cap will bury the rural districts. Some members of the board feel that this is our state’s way of consolidating school districts.

AFT Praises Decision To Maintain Pell Grant Levels

The Feb. 1 decision by the U.S. Department of Education to maintain the maximum Pell Grant level for the next academic year will help millions of our neediest students turn the dream of attending college into a reality, AFT president Randi Weingarten says. "In difficult economic times, these grants are a lifesaver for students who want to go to college but are struggling financially," she says. "We're gratified that the U.S. Department of Education—following Congress' strong leadership to make college more accessible and affordable—**maintained the maximum Pell Grant award** at \$5,550 for the next academic year."

Conference Dates 2010-11

2010

Mar. 4-5, 2011

Health & Safety Conference-Saratoga Hilton

Mar. 21-22, 2011

Committee of 100

Mar 24 - 27, 2011

AFT PSRP Conf. & Pre-Conf. Health & Safety Training, Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV

April 7-9, 2011

NYSUT Representative Assembly, in New York City

April 30, 2011

Professional Issues Forum on Health Care, Albany, NY

Capital Region BOCES FA Representative Council Meeting Dates for 2010-2011

Rep Council	Rep. Council Location
Feb. 16, 2011	900 Watervliet Shaker Road Albany/Schoharie Rms.
March 16, 2011	1031 Watervliet Shaker Road
April 16, 2011	900 Watervliet Shaker Road Albany/Schoharie Rms.
May 18, 2011	1031 Watervliet Shaker Road
All Rep Council meetings run from 4:15 to 6 PM unless there is a motion to extend.	

TEACHING ASSISTANTS/EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS/AIDES

By Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

I hope everyone has been able to find some warmth during this very cold winter. I am looking forward to the springtime when everything is renewed and green. I enjoy winter but it feels like it goes on forever. The added expenses, such as heat bills don't help the mood either.

The Negotiation team has met several times with **Mike Rowan**, NYSUT Labor Relation Specialist, to discuss our options. We will meet shortly with administration as soon as we firm up our proposals we have been working on. Hopefully, we will be able to complete the negotiation process by the end of June when our present contract expires. I will keep everyone abreast of our progress. Keep good thoughts during these difficult economic times.

For our Staff Development Day, on March 25th, I was able to procure two workshops that are designed for School Related Professionals (teaching assistants, aides, monitors, note takers, etc...). The workshops are from the NYSUT, Education & Learning Trust. The first workshop, **Disability Awareness**, will be held in the morning and the second workshop, **Effective Communication Skills**, will be held in the early afternoon. Please take advantage of these two workshops which are designed for your professional development needs.

This year, the **Teaching Assistant/Educational Assistant/Aide Showcase** will be held on **Tuesday, May 3rd** from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at School Support Services. As in the past, we will be presenting exemplary special projects that our Chapter has done

for professional growth this school year. Currently principals have been asked to give me names of candidates to be selected for the Showcase. I will be contacting each candidate to discuss their projects so I can make PowerPoint presentations for each project. I always look forward to this endeavor because I am so proud of all the achievements and fine innovative ideas our Chapter accomplishes for their classrooms. Please remember to save the date so you can share in these remarkable projects. The Showcase is a lovely afternoon, celebrating our dedication to our students. The Special Education Steering Committee will be meeting with the facilitators and administration to be updated on the charges and recommendations of each study group on Feb. 2nd. The Committee will be reporting out to the Board in April. More information will be forthcoming from administration in the near future. This was a large undertaking for all the committees and I want to thank each of the Teaching Assistants on the four committees for their dedication to this endeavor.

In closing, I hope everyone is continuing to avail themselves of professional development opportunities and keeping good track of the hours they are accumulating until we have the database up and running for recording. Keep thinking warm thoughts and soon we will be feeling the warmth of the spring sun on our faces. I am ready, how about you!

**In Solidarity,
Colleen Condolora**

SAVE THE DATES

The **Celebration Bash** is Thursday, May 19th at the Mohawk River Country Club. Look for reservation form next month.

The **Capital Region BOCES Very Special Prom**, which will be held on May 20th at the Best Western Sovereign on Western Avenue. More information will be coming.

***The following article is
a reprint from the
BOCES Web Page.***

From District Superintendent Charles Dedrick:

“You are BOCES' best advocate

Governor Cuomo's proposals are troubling, particularly for our neediest districts and students, including the elimination of aid for some BOCES programs and a general cut in funding to schools.

BOCES and school districts are working tirelessly on the state level to help educate law makers about BOCES being the solution to many state problems. As previously mentioned in the Insider, BOCES across the state recently hired an advocate to work to maintain expense-driven aid (including BOCES aid); representatives from Capital Region BOCES and other BOCES across the state will also be meeting with key legislators on February 15 to explain how such cuts would be harmful to schools and students. Cuomo's proposals are just that, proposals, and we are making sure legislators know the impact when they respond with their own budget ideas.

But our best advocate is you. If districts see their BOCES services as indispensable, cuts in state aid — even cuts in BOCES aid — won't matter.

The next few months are critical. I encourage you all to show your schools through your actions how important you are to their students, that you are the solution to their needs. Make sure they are aware of what you do, and how you go above-and-beyond to do the best for students, in a cost-effective way.

I couldn't be more proud to work with such a talented, dedicated group of professionals, and I ask that each of you make sure your districts know that. Ultimately, we will get through this, together.

Thank you as always, for all that you do.

Chuck”

Service Chapter VP

Susan A. Kusalonis

I'm taking a break from this month's article. Thought you would enjoy the piece below. **Susan**

Ten things teens need to know are still valid lessons for today!

This is a reprint from an old Ann Landers Column.

Ten Rules kids won't learn in school:

1. Life is not fair. Get used to it. The average teen-ager uses the phrase “It's not fair” 86 times a day.
2. The real world won't care as much about your self-esteem as your school does. This may come as a shock.
3. Sorry, you won't make \$40,000 a year as soon as you get out of high school. And you won't be a vice president and have a car phone, either. You may even have to wear a uniform that doesn't have a designer label.
4. If you think your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss.
5. Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping. They called it “opportunity.”
6. It's not your parents' fault if you mess up. You're responsible. This is the mirror image of “It's my life” and “You're not my boss.”
7. Before you were born, your parents weren't boring. They got that way by paying bills and listening to you.
8. Life is not divided into semesters. And you don't get summers off. Not even spring break. You are expected to show up every day for eight hours and you don't get a new life every 10 weeks.
9. Smoking does not make you look cool. Watch an 11-year-old with a butt in his mouth. That's what you look like to anyone over 20.
10. Your school may be “outcome-based,” but life isn't. In some schools, you're given as many chances as you want to get the answer right. Standards are set low enough so nearly everyone can meet them. This, of course, bears not the slightest resemblance to anything in real life — as you will soon find out.

Good Luck. You are going to need it. And the harder your work, the luckier you will get.

RETIREES CORNER

Jeanette K. Christoff, Teacher, Retired

Greetings Retirees and All,

This winter has not been kind to us as we recall last year's "open winter" with only one snow day at the end of February. It was a storm of heavy, rain soaked snow and our only chance to use our snow thrower. Currently and with only this first month of winter, we are already at 5 and counting. Our South land has not been spared with snow and cold, nor the West with rain and mud slides. Europe has had one of their coldest, snowiest winters and Australia is trying to recover from floods. Is the world's weather becoming more intense or are we just becoming more aware of it through that magic screen in our living room?

Our once joyful glee of a possible snow day has given way to a feeling of dread as we anticipate potential and real problems: wasted car batteries, ice backups on roofs, snow throwers that won't start and the danger of car accidents and falls on icy walkways. Most dreaded is the possibility of a power outage, which can suddenly halt the comforts of our lives. Thoughts of an automatic generator play in our mind as well as a fantasy that we

would like to be like bears and hibernate for the season awakening to warmth and blossoms. No doubt many of our young readers as well, dread hearing of anticipated storms, knowing they will likely awaken to an ice encrusted, or snow covered car.

For many long retired, this winter has become a time of weather-imposed isolation with opportunities to be with others, very limited. How uplifting it is to receive an e-mail, card, quick visit or phone call offering to pick up some basic necessities from the market. So on behalf of all of the home-bound, thank you for remembering us and keeping in touch. We understand that this is not easy as you too must cope with the chores of winter in addition to your often difficult jobs.

RETIREES WITH MEDICARE

The letter from BOCES dated 1/7/2011 required us to send a copy of our SSA-1099 form to BOCES by 1/28/2011. If you have not done so or have any questions, call Wendy Ashley at BOCES, 518-862-4917.

RETIREE UPDATE

Fred Lohaus, who formerly worked at BOCES, was among those chosen by lottery to greet President Obama at GE where Fred is now employed. Freddie is the son of our **Anita Riccio**.

QUOTE

Resentment is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. (Carrie Fisher, Gazette, 1/21/11)

Healthy Living; Living For Good Health

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

Wet Weather Driving—Are Your On-the-Road Habits Putting You At Risk?

For most of us, that five day a week drive has been the same for years. Every day we drive the same roads, seeing the same things, maybe even seeing the same vehicles going the same way at the same time. It's the same boring routine. Now the long cold winter months are upon us and we've already been hit with blinding snow, icy roads, and freezing rain extending our travel time. Getting from point A to point B and back safely and uneventful can also rattle some nerves and really put our winter weather driving skills to the test especially when road conditions can change in seconds. A longer drive means making more effort to stay focused on the road and being more aware of potential hazards. Taking your eyes off the road for even a second can put you in a ditch or in someone else's backseat. The steering wheels on most new cars have so many conveniences right at your fingertips you don't even have to reach to change the radio stations! Still, it's not going to locate your sunglasses, cell phone, coffee, wallet, lip gloss, and that breakfast you eat with one hand while driving with the other. Keep both hands on the wheel and save looking for missing items for the red lights.

Distractions like daydreaming can also be hazardous. Have you ever caught yourself daydreaming and then realize you have gone for miles and have no idea how you got there? Daydreaming is a result of automatic driving on the same route back and forth, day in and day out. We slip into thinking about everything else except what we should be thinking about. We have all done it and we probably do it more often than we realize. Putting yourself in that trance-like state in bad weather is an invitation for disaster. For your safety and the safety of others stay

focused on the task at hand. Be watching all around you, anticipating and reacting to the mistakes other drivers make.

Do road conditions require you to improve your driving habits in bad weather? Chances are they don't. You may think because you have been driving for so many years it's made you a pretty good defense driver. So, then what is it that you do pay attention to? Of course, it's always the other drivers. The tailgaters, lane changers who weave in and out of traffic, speedy drivers, slow drivers, those who roll through the stop signs, drivers who don't know what signal lights are used for, and the drivers who really aggravate me the most..... driving without their headlights on in wet weather conditions. I have often wondered why people drive without them on. Do they not know? Or, maybe they think if I can see them, they can see me. That is not always true. What is true is that driving with your headlights on in wet weather is the law. Perhaps they don't know that either.

Wet conditions not only affect the road, but they also influence your vehicle and impair your vision while driving.

The Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting snow storms and heavy snow in the northeast through the rest of January and mid to late February. The best way to increase your on the road safety is to make sure your vehicle is winter ready. Give your car the same care you give it on the inside and under the hood. Car maintenance, proper road preparation, and following proper driving habits will lessen your chances of suffering a collision or injury.

So, now do you think you may be in need of some wet weather driving tips?

- If your wipers are old and worn visibility is limited making it very frustrating to be able to see. Snow and ice can build up under the all weather types. Change to winter wiper blades, you'll see the difference and you'll be happy you did.
- Have your tires checked on a regular basis. The deeper the tread, the more traction you will have to work with. You may want to consider using snow tires. They are one more layer of safety that I am never without.
- Make sure headlights, taillights, brake and turn signals are in working condition.
- Use your headlights day and night. They help you to see better as well as alert oncoming drivers to the presence of your vehicle in wet conditions, bright sunlight, and thick fog.
- Leave extra space between yourself and the driver ahead to give you more time to stop. Following too closely or tailgating in bad weather is a sure way for you to swap paint with another vehicle. Don't become a winter weather statistic.
- Allow yourself enough time to get to your intended destination, leave early or call ahead to alert affected parties.
- And the number one main rule for wet and winter driving is..... SLOW DOWN. If you're late getting to work because of wet conditions, chances are, so is everyone else. Drive on the side of caution and get there safely.

Now let's be careful out there!

FIVE MYTHS ABOUT BULLYING

The Tampa Tribune notes that bullying is everywhere—"from schoolyards to workplaces and now in cyberspace." To understand bullying, one must be able to distinguish fact from fiction.

The perception is that most bullying happens online. Bullying can happen online, but that's not where most bullying occurs. Experts agree that at least 25 percent of students across the nation are bullied in traditional ways, such as being hit, pushed, kicked, gossiped about, intimidated or excluded from social groups.

It is also a myth that bullies are bullies and victims are victims. Often, kids who are bullied at home by an older sibling become bullies at school themselves. According to a 2007 study on bullying, 72 percent of children who were physically abused by parents became bullies.

Another myth is that bullying ends when you grow up. It does not. The AFT has built programs around adult bullying, since nearly 50 percent of workers have experienced or witnessed bullying in the workplace.

Another myth is that bullying is the major cause of suicide. Bullied individuals do have an increased risk for self-harm, but it's too simplistic to blame the deaths of victims solely on bullying. Other things like mental illness, depression, drugs and alcohol, and family history of suicide play a significant role.

Now that we have the facts straight, let's do everything we can to stop bullying.

PSRP AFT Electronic Newsletter Sources: Tampa Tribune. Lauren Samet, editor; Jane Feller, copy editor; Valerie Klayman, production assistant.

Locks of Love Campaign 2011

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

*Give me a head with hair, long beautiful hair
Shining, gleaming, streaming, flaxen, waxen
Give me down to there, hair, shoulder length or longer.....hair*

February 2011 Update

The Locks of Love Campaign has begun and I am still seeking volunteers who would like to give up just 10-12 inches of hair to help others. I am getting more and more excited everyday about donating 10 to 12 long, long inches of my own hair. My goal for this Locks of Love campaign is 200 inches of hair. That is just 20 people including myself who would be willing to donate at least 10 inches each. I am asking for your support by donating your own hair to Locks of Love.

What is Locks of Love and why have I started this campaign?

'Locks of Love' is a public non-profit organization that provides hair-pieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21. The mission of Locks of Love is to return a sense of self, confidence and normalcy to children suffering from hair loss by utilizing donated ponytails to provide the highest quality hair prosthetics. The children receive hair prostheses free of charge or on a sliding scale, based on financial need.

I started this campaign to honor and remember family members, friends, and co-workers who are fighting or have fought cancer, and especially in memory of my Aunt Pat (Patricia Rivers) and our own fellow workers who fought a courageous battle but whose lives were lost.

I have been trying to get the word out via our TRIAD Newsletter, Faculty Association website (www.crbfa.org), and by word of mouth. I am seeking ideas and suggestions to extend the invitation that will involve not only our Faculty Association members but all of Capital Region BOCES as well.

I do not have a definite time, date and place for the hair donations, but I am trying for some time in May. I will keep you updated with further information.

Please help me reach my goal of 200 inches. If you, a family member, co-worker, or friend would like to participate in this Locks of Love campaign, I can be reached at (518) 469-7969 or at my personal email address, mssmarty-pants429@nycap.rr.com.

I think we can make this campaign a success. All it will take is a few minutes of your time and 10 to 12 inches of your hair. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you, Catherine Jakway



Dear Gabby:

I'm a Service Chapter member in my third year that has 17 vacation days accrued and I want to know how many days I can carry over into next fiscal year.



Questioning in Colonie

Dear Questioning:

This is really a good question and Gabby has the answer taken from the Service Contract on page 36.

“3. A maximum of ten (10) vacation days may be carried over into a succeeding school year if there is no adverse impact upon the orderly operation of the division or administrative area.

In the event an employee is asked by management to forego a vacation, an additional five (5) days may be approved for carry over.”

If you don't use the extra days, **you can lose them**. So, keep this in mind and don't wait too long. Remember, if management does not ask you to forego using them, you cannot carry any extra days over the last day of the fiscal year.

Gabby

Capital Region Career & Technical School

Free haircuts by appointment for military personnel

Starting Feb. 3 and on the first Thursday of every month until June, senior Cosmetology students at Career & Tech's Albany campus will offer free haircuts, by appointment, to active and retired military personnel. "We are honoring servicemen and servicewomen in all branches of the armed forces," said teacher Ms. Gollub. "They should **call (518) 862-4716 for an appointment** and bring with them military ID." The students cannot take walk-ins due to scheduling, and while haircuts are free, there is a nominal, \$5 fee for any blow drying and styling.

Cosmetology students have a long history of helping military personnel look and feel better. For several years, they have volunteered their time and talent by offering free haircuts at Veterans Stand Down events in the Capital Region community. "Many students' lives are touched by the military, with family members or friends in the armed forces, and there is a growing appreciation in our school community of those who serve," said Gollub.

Reprinted from the Capital Region BOCES Website.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Student Incentive Award

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association is accepting applications for the Student Incentive Awards. Applicants must be dependents of Association members. Awards consist of 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.crbfa.org and due by April 1st. Selections are made by the Student Incentive Committee.

Mail applications to:

Lanny Barsale

PO Box 762

Cobleskill, NY 12043



From the Official Website of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club

By Catherine A. Jakway, TA, Special Education

Happy February everyone! I am hoping Punxsutawney Phil will not see his shadow predicting an early spring! Wouldn't that be great? I found some fun information about Phil and the legend of Groundhog Day that I wanted to share.

1. Punxsutawney Phil is the only true weather forecasting groundhog. The others are just imposters.
2. There has been only one Punxsutawney Phil. Punxsutawney Phil gets his longevity from drinking "groundhog punch" (a secret recipe). One sip, which is administered every summer at the Groundhog Picnic, gives him seven more years of life.
3. On February 2nd, Phil comes out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob, in front of thousands of faithful followers from all over the world, to predict the weather for the rest of the winter.
4. According to legend, if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If he does not see his shadow, there will be an early spring.
5. Punxsutawney Phil's forecasts are not made in advance by the Inner Circle. After Phil emerges from his burrow on February 2nd, he speaks to the Groundhog Club President in Groundhogese. His proclamation is then translated for the world.
6. The celebration of Groundhog Day began with the Germans, Pennsylvania's earliest settlers. They brought with them the legend of Candlemas Day, which states "For as the sun shines on Candlemas day, so far will the snow swirl in May...". The settlers found that groundhogs were plentiful and were the most intelligent and sensible animal to carry on the legend of Candlemas Day.
7. Punxsutawney held its first Groundhog Day in the 1800's. The first official trek to Gobbler's Knob was made on February 2, 1887. In 2011 it will be the 125th prediction.
8. So the story goes, Punxsutawney Phil was named after King Phillip. Prior to being called Phil, he was called Br'er Groundhog.





Communication Committee

Mission Statement

To provide a forum for communicating information, ideas, experiences and events of interest to the Association members via the TRIAD and the Association Website.

Guidelines

1. The deadline for articles / letters in the Newsletter shall be by the Rep Council meeting day. The date is also listed in the Calendar section of the TRIAD and the Website.
2. Letters to the Editor and/or Webmaster shall be edited for clarity, spelling, grammar, and length. Inaccurate or incorrect information will be edited by the committee and author will be notified.
3. Articles are edited by the Communication Committee for length, clarity and content. The general guidelines shall be a maximum of 240 words. The Communication Committee determines when letters appears based on space, topic and timeliness.
4. Letters to the Editor and/or Webmaster must be signed, and have members job title, chapter affiliation, and phone number attached, however it can be printed "Name Withheld by Request". Telephone number will not be printed but shall be used for verification purposes. Only verifiable personals will be printed in the TRIAD.
5. At no time shall personal information about members (such as home address, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses) or any other confidential information be posted on the Website.
6. Opinion pieces will also have a member's job title, chapter affiliation and a phone number attached. **Opinions must be based on fact.** Telephone number will not be printed but shall be used for verification purposes. A disclaimer that they are not the opinion of the Faculty Association, Executive Board or Communication Committee shall follow.
7. The TRIAD or Website will not be a vehicle to denigrate an individual or other chapter.
8. Controversial submissions must be backed with evidence.
9. Information summarized from other sources must name the source and date of information.
10. The TRIAD and Website will include, at the least, the following content area.
 - a) Information regarding Faculty Associations activities, events, opportunities and general updates.
 - b) Information pertaining to membership, forms, retirement and links.
 - c) General information regarding NYSUT Local 10-195 and AFT Local 2991 news.
 - d) Additional welcomed information includes but not limited to conference reports, member recognition for grants and awards, sharing of successful classroom ideas, exchange and requests for classroom materials.
11. No article or letter will be used that pertains to any ongoing negotiations or grievances without the Association President and that Chapter Vice President's approval.

Communication Committee

Every effort will be made to have a member from each chapter and retiree on the committee, one of whom shall be the Chair. The Association Vice President, who is a member by Constitution and has final approval of the content, shall also serve on the Committee as Co-Chair.

The Committee shall meet at least monthly and shall adhere to those guidelines and parameters outlined in the Mission Statement and Guidelines.

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

Helen Schnitzer (Vo-Tec Teacher - Computer Applications) retiree and her husband Peter have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 14th. They had a wonderful party at the West Albany Italian Benevolent Society with 130 family and friends in attendance, including their three sons and four grandchildren.

Our condolences to **Mary Anne Pasquali** (TA, Sp. Ed.) on the loss of her father Edward J. Mahota on January 28th.

Happy Valentine's Day

Please submit information for "Personnel Personals" to the TRIAD editors:

Susan Kusalonis – maidmrn300@aol.com

Lois Leonard – jleonar4@nycap.rr.com
399-5597

Sunshine Chairperson

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

Michelle Angelo
385 Ballston Avenue, Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 370-3468
mangelo1@nycap.rr.com

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. **TRIAD GOING GREEN**—Contact **Lisa Mink** (lmink8@hotmail.com) and give her your personal email.

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

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE AND TRIAD NEWSLETTER STAFF

TRIAD Co-Editors:

Lois Leonard - jleonar4@nycap.rr.com
Susan Kusalonis—maidmrn300@aol.com

Website Editor

Barbara Burnham, baburnham@googlemail.com

Contributing Staff and Committee:

Pat Gollub—Gollub02@yahoo.com
Gretchen McDonough and Vocational Training & Transition Class &
EJ Hanley and her class.
Jeanette Christoff
jankachristo@juno.com
Catherine Jakway
mssmartypants429@nycap.rr.com

Web Site: www.crbfa.org

Capital Region BOCES
Faculty Association
1015 Watervliet Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12205

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