



March 2014

Vol. XXXVIII No. 7

# CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

## TRIAD

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

### News from the President

Dear Colleagues,

How do you like this weather? Here it is March 6<sup>th</sup> and last night it was six below zero. I would like to believe spring is on its way, but this morning there was not a lot of indication of it. I did hear a male cardinal singing. He was probably singing, trying to keep warm.

The weather seems to resemble the economic outlook. You think it is going to get better, but little happens to confirm that. Am I pessimistic? No I am not? Pragmatic or perhaps realistic would be better terms defining how I look at this and other things. The economy has not shown nearly enough improvement to fix all the reduced aid that schools have had and all the pain that school employees have suffered. Add to that a political agenda of a governor who really has no compassion for those in need and you really have a recipe for disaster and pain.

Thank goodness, the political climate may be starting to turn. This bully governor of ours, like his father, has let his arrogance cloud his judgment. It was his father's arrogance that elected George Pataki, because people had had enough. This governor has stuck with very bad policies, policies that have hurt kids and educators, thinking he was invincible.

That may no longer be true. His popularity has started to fade. Even better, our legislators have seen their own constituencies start to walk away. They no

longer are letting the fear of this governor's popularity rule their decisions. They have more to fear, if they hope to be re-elected, than the local bully. They now have to fear all the hard working, decent people whom they have been elected to represent and who have had enough of this nonsense. In our political system that seems to be, what it takes to stop stupidity!

I had the pleasure of noting, during our recent lobbying efforts in Albany, that our legislators have signed on to the moratorium on the testing and the common core implementation. They are waking up to the fact that this testing is hurting, not helping. A moratorium is an opportunity to re-evaluate, plan, and then, as makes sense, develop educational programs which will help kids to learn, but not hurt them. A moratorium is an opportunity to rethink what an APPR process for educators should be. Hopefully a process which will recognize all the amazing work educators do to help the students in their charge and give support as needed to only make it better. It's time to stop the pain and actually start a process that will help.

Perhaps spring is starting to show, not only in our weather, but also in our politics. I certainly hope so.

**Looking Forward**

**Doug**

### CALENDAR

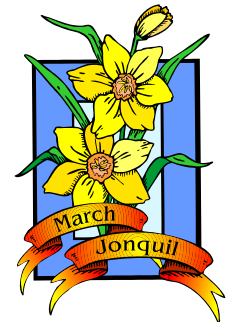
CAPITAL REGION  
BOCES FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION.

#### REP COUNCIL

March 19, 2014

#### BOCES BOARD

March 17, 2014



**Woman's History  
Month**

**TRIAD Article  
Deadline 3/25/14 for  
April 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](mailto:bmp4sw@gmail.com)).

So far - some retirees are - Lanny Barsale, Alan Clarke, Cindy Jennings and Lisa Mink.

## Student Incentive Award

2 awards at \$1,500 each  
 The form is on the Capital Region  
 BOCES Faculty Association  
 webpage [www.crbfa.org](http://www.crbfa.org)  
**Applications due - April 1st.**

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

## Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Important Dates for 2013-14

<i><b>BOCES Board of Education</b></i>	<i><b>Representative Council</b></i>	<i><b>TRIAD Committee Meeting</b></i>
March 17, 2014	March 19, 2014 Albany CTE Dining Room	March 25, 2014
April 9, 2014	April 23, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road	April 29, 2014
May 19, 2014	May 21, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road	May 27, 2014

## 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	Sandy Smith	869-7421	229-1403	shortmom02@yahoo.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@gmail.com
Treasurer	Deborah Sorvari	452-8138	334-1296	debmom39@nycap.rr.com
Membership Chair	Gina Hanley			ghanley97@gmail.com
Grievance Chair	Kristen Lashway	421-3446		Kris10Lashway@gmail.com

# Highlights of Rep Council – January 22, 2014

Submitted by Lanny Barsale

## Appointments:

Doug appointed **Erica Dow** as co-chair of Student Incentive Committee. Application is on the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association website. Applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. Two \$1500 awards – one for scholarship, one for need. Other members on committee are **Adam Mainville, Laura Cooper,** and **Natalie Powell**. Still need a member from the Service Chapter. **Gina Hanley** – new membership chair taking **Lisa Mink's** place. Lisa is retiring.

## Chapter Vice-Presidents' reports:

TA/aides: Colleen Condolora –

Reported on new SED required six hour DASA training for anyone getting new certification. Training is on discrimination, bullying and harassment. It is given by BOCES. There is a \$75 fee. Colleen will check about reimbursement and conference day.

There has been a problem with people transporting students. There is a Board policy against this which has been effect since 2004. There is enough concern that administration is going to get tough about this.

Negotiation meeting March 4. Will see health insurance proposal.

Special Education Teachers : Flora Fasoldt

There have been many personnel issues and classroom issues as well as RIF and seniority issues. There are questions about retirement. She will be at meeting March 4<sup>th</sup> about health insurance.

Service: Sandy Smith – nothing to report. She will be at March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting..

## Select Committees:

Budget committee – will meet second week in March

Question about summer school pay and time frame – we won that grievance many years ago on salary issue. It went to PERB. They have to pay us at our rate. However, they do not have to hire us.

Flora Fasoldt brought two motions to the floor.

1. Move to give Executive Board the authority to appropriate, due to time constraints, additional money for confer-

ences. This is mainly because they would like to send all RA delegates to upcoming RA in New York City. Move and Seconded – Motion Carried

2. In 2013 due to charter changes, we eliminated the corresponding secretary position. Since then additional duties have been given to treasurer, secretary, membership, and grievance chair. Using the money budgeted for the Corresponding secretary position, the motion was made to use money to the other stipends of \$450 each. M/S/Carried. There were questions about the new duties. Executive Board will come back with a list of duties not listed in the Constitution. Also clarification on this as a onetime deal due to money budgeted for the eliminated position.

Negotiations – they have not traded packets. Insurance meeting March 4<sup>th</sup>. Questions were raised about getting the budget for Special Education and CTE to see what we should get according to the budgets. Nothing has been done yet.

Audit – completed

Nominating – Catherine Jakway – gave out forms.

Grievance – There have been some situations that could become grievances.

TRIAD – meeting March 4<sup>th</sup>. There were questions about some of the articles in the TRIAD. We will be checking the guidelines and putting in a disclaimer. (editor's note – in review, the articles were within the guideline limits. People with other opinions should feel free to send letters, articles, etc. to the TRIAD. One guideline that has not been followed is that all articles are due at Rep Council. We need to be more attentive to this one.)

Social Committee – Celebration Bash – May 15<sup>th</sup>.

FYI – This year there is a challenge for NYSUT officers. We will either get new leadership or let them know that we're upset. Our delegates need to know how people want them to vote. It has turned into an all-out fight with posting untruths, photo-shopping, etc. Go on NYSUT website to review candidates.

## Dates to remember:

### March

March 31 – End of open enrollment in Health Insurance Marketplaces (After that, you can enroll for 2014 only if you have a major life event, such as losing your job, having a child or getting divorced.)

### April 1, 2014—Faculty Association Scholarship Deadline

April – 4-6 NYSUT Representative Assembly, New York City

April 10-13—AFT National Higher Education Issues Conference, Baltimore

April 26—NYSUT Professional Issues Forum on Health Care

Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY



# Teaching Assistants/Aides

Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a nice Feb. break and were able to stay warm. This has been a long, bitter cold and snowy winter. I am looking forward to the winter ending and will be welcoming the spring and all its warmth and newness it brings with open arms. I am ready, how about you?

On the negotiation front, all the Chapters met with administration this week and were presented with the Health Insurance piece they are proposing for all Chapters. Each Chapter will be meeting collectively with our NYSUT representative to discuss the proposal. That meeting will be held shortly, so we can begin meeting at the table to negotiate our proposals. Since the Teachers have been without a contract for nearly two years, they will most likely take the lead and we will be able to see how everything falls. Once we sit down, the process should move quickly, since we don't have any major changes proposed. We will keep you abreast of our progress without breaking confidentiality of the negotiations. I know our team will negotiate with good faith and determination for fairness.

On January 1, 2014 the State Education Department initiated a new DASA training requirement for anyone applying for a new certification. I sent out an email to affected Teaching Assistants, but unfortunately the list I received this past fall is not completely accurate for Level I and Level II Teaching Assistants. New hires are not on the list and some Teaching Assistants have already applied for Level III certification before the Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> implementation. If I missed you, please sign up

for the trainings being offered through the BO-CES, Educational Support Services. You can access the dates and trainings through MyLearningPlan. There is a \$75 fee for the workshop, but following discussions with administration, the fee will be waived and the Division will pick up the tab for the cost of the training. Special Education Teaching Assistants will need to notify Peter Taormina, so a voucher can be submitted to Educational Support Services in your name. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me with your concerns.

Preparations for the Teaching Assistant/Aide Showcase are underway. I have been contacting prospective candidates and it appears we will have a plethora of wonderful Special Projects to display at the Showcase. I will have more information and all the names of the candidates in the April TRIAD article. Please come out and support your coworkers and friends. It is a great afternoon celebrating Teaching Assistants accomplishments. To RSVP for the May 20<sup>th</sup> Showcase, please contact Marcia Siver at [marcia.siver@neric.org](mailto:marcia.siver@neric.org).

In closing, please keep up the good work, I have been getting back positive feedback on so many staff. I am proud of our Chapter and the fine work we do to better serve our students and teams. Stay positive and think warm thoughts as spring is just around the corner.

**In Solidarity, Colleen Condolora**

## Millions of girls around world still denied schooling



International Women's Day (March 8) offers a heartbreaking reminder that millions of girls throughout the world still are denied the opportunity to complete their schooling, AFT President Randi Weingarten says. "Sadly, the world will not meet one of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals—that, by 2015, every child would be able to complete a basic education. Poverty, child labor, child marriage, human trafficking and gender discrimination are keeping nearly 57 million children from obtaining the very thing that will help them improve their lives and thrive. To reclaim the promise of a better life for all girls, every nation on earth must dedicate itself to equality and educational opportunity and heed the urging of the wise and courageous Malala Yousafzai for an education for all."

An electronic newsletter for AFT Members—March 7, 2014

# **NYSED / State Aid / Attendance Information**

## **What happens when a district experiences weather- or disaster-related closures of many days?**

Due to unusual weather, or natural or manmade disasters, districts may use up their scheduled snow emergency days in the first part of the school year. The following is a reminder regarding the 180 days of session requirement in Education Law section 3604 (7) as it relates to State Aid:

1. Districts need to provide 180 days of session to receive full Foundation Aid. Foundation Aid will be reduced by 1/180th for each day below 180 days. Absent special legislation, this aid deduction cannot be waived, except per item #6 below.
2. Included in the 180 days are days on which attendance is taken, days on which Regents examinations (including "rating" days), State Assessments or local examinations are given and up to four days on which superintendent's conference days are held.
3. Since superintendent's conference days already count toward the 180 days, changing a scheduled superintendent's conference day to a day of instruction does not increase the number of session days.
4. If a district falls below 180 days of session, upcoming scheduled vacation days must be used to make up the shortfall.
5. Session days, including superintendent's conference days, should not be scheduled on Saturdays, legal holidays or after the June Regents Examination period.

Note: For the 2013-14 school year, one superintendent's conference day held after the June Regents Examination period may count toward the 180 days provided the content relates to the Common Core implementation efforts. Instruction days scheduled after the Regents Examination Period may not be counted toward the 180 days.

6. If a district falls below 180 days of session after all available scheduled vacation days have been used as session days, the district may apply to the State Aid Office via SAMS Schedule A8 to have the Foundation Aid penalty waived for up to five days. Click below to view more information and the application: [https://stateaid.nysed.gov/attendance/additional\\_info\\_extraordinary\\_conditions.htm](https://stateaid.nysed.gov/attendance/additional_info_extraordinary_conditions.htm)
7. If a district falls below 180 days of session, and cannot obtain a waiver, the district must report the actual session day information on the SAMS Form A Schedules A1 through A5 the following fall. The State Aid Office will then make the required deduction from General Aid during that State Aid claim year. This aid deduction will be displayed on the General Aids (GEN) output report.

State Aid Contact: Bruce Jesiolowski  
Phone # (518) 474-2977 E-mail [bjesiolo@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:bjesiolo@mail.nysed.gov)

## **CTE Aviation Program to host open house on March 20**

### **Principals, guidance counselors, prospective seniors invited**

On Thursday, **March 20**, Capital Region BOCES in cooperation with Questar III BOCES will be holding an open house at Richmor Aviation Flight Center at Schenectady County Airport.

This all-day event is to familiarize students with the Aviation Program that is running for the second year at Schenectady County Airport. This program is for seniors only. Read more about the program by downloading Questar's CTE Aviation Program Fact Sheet [PDF] from the website: <http://www.capregboces.org/CareerTech/news/2013-14/140220aviationopenhouse.cfm>.

Students will fly in an airplane at the open house.

### **Early Childhood Education teacher spent nearly 28 years with CTE**

When **Cindy Jennings** was hired in September of 1986, she started out as a baking instructor in the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School's culinary program. But a year-and-a-half later, an opportunity presented itself that would lead Cindy to her calling of more than 26 years.

"As these things happen, there was a position open and I became part of our Early Childhood Education program," said Jennings. "I loved it." Jennings, who retired on Friday, Jan. 24, said it has been the students and staff at Career & Tech that have kept her smiling for the better part of three decades.

"The children are always first in my heart," she said. "I really enjoyed pushing them to achieve and I'm most proud of the alumni we've had that have gone on to make such a difference in other students' lives."

*Reprinted from CTE Website.*

# RETIREES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff

Greetings to All,

Those of us who were, or are in the field of education are aware of the Common Core Curriculum which has been imposed on students and staff. It was written, not by those who would be teaching it, but by two college professors. Neither had taught grades K-12. (**Gazette** 2/9/14, pg. D-1). Their purpose was to prepare students for college and the Bill Gates Foundation funded their project. As a retiree with no access to this document my questions about its contents remained unanswered.

That was remedied, to a very small degree, by an article in **NYSUT UNITED**, (2/14, pgs. 12-13). It stated that our governor spent \$28 million for modules to help teachers to implement it. According to the article, the following “state suggestion” is made for 1<sup>st</sup> graders:

“By the end of the unit, first graders should be able to locate Mesopotamia on a world map or globe and identify it as part of Asia, and to explain the importance of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and the use of canals to support farming and the development of the city of Babylon.”

Can you believe it? Are 1<sup>st</sup> graders even aware of their own state history and the role of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers and how their connection to the Atlantic contributed to the development of New York State?

Since colonial times, each state was in control of their educational system. That freedom has been relinquished by the 45 states that adopted Common Core. Many, including New York, did so before it was written. With school districts in financial difficulties, they accepted the government’s offer of Race to the Top funds, which were contin-

gent on adopting Common Core. With all students’ learning being based on the same curriculum, doesn’t it seem that all students will learn the Core’s version of history since all will be tested on the same information?

My own recollection of history tells us that regimes of the past controlled the education of their children; Nazi Germany, Red China, the Soviet Union. Are we headed in the same direction? Another of our freedoms is ebbing away as decisions are made for us by those in power. It seems that so many have been made in so short a time. Although the president repeatedly said that those who liked their insurance could keep it, millions found out they couldn’t and must now use a government approved plan. They will be fined if they choose not to. Gun owners were shocked to hear that the NY Safe Act was passed hurriedly during the night, without citizen input. Citizens in Saratoga County are protesting yet another Roundabout. And to further disillusion us about the direction our state is going, our governor told us in words to the effect, that we can leave, if we don’t like it.

Having lived for nearly three quarters of a century and witnessed phenomenal changes in our country since the 1940’s, we may be overreacting to these recent, rapidly- changing events. For most of our adult life, our history seemed to evolve more slowly giving us time to assimilate and adapt to the changes. We felt we had control over our life and freedom to choose our destiny. There was time to think about and consider options before making a decision. Currently, we feel the loss of that control, that freedom, as decisions are foisted upon us that we must try to accept and abide by. We know the past is gone forever and the pace of change will continue to escalate. It is we who must adapt as well as we can. As Walter Cronkite always said at the end of his news report, “and that’s the way it is.”

# From the Editor's Desk

By Lanny Barsale, Co-Editor

It seemed like I'd been away from Rep Council for a long time (and 3 months is a lot). However, not much has changed. There's still a few comedy teams, people who don't stay within the agenda, and the need for a parliamentarian is still there. Negotiations and all that goes with it moves slowly as it does in many other school districts. And the frustration of that is still a big issue.

However, for me anyway, there are big changes. When we got to the discussion about the Student Incentive, Doug appointed a co-chair for that committee that I've run for many years. Something came up that was happening next year and I could turn it down without batting an eye. I won't be going to AFT this summer, even though I was elected a delegate last year. It was also interesting to hear someone else discuss the Celebration Bash. Plus, I only have four meetings left before I turn over the Robert's Rules books to Brent and stop worrying about the order of our discussions. And why is all of this important? Well, maybe only to me but the end is near.

I have very mixed feelings about this change. I have been involved in the Association for over 27 years! When I started we didn't have agency fee and we didn't have anywhere near the membership. The entire Rep Council could fit in a classroom. We actually had elections for reps and someone might actually lose. Now, we have to work hard for the coverage that we need. But the one thing that remains the same is the importance of a strong Association. I do believe that we have that.

It doesn't mean that we always agree. It doesn't mean that the members of the Executive Board always do what we would like

them to do. And we don't always get what we want. That's just not realistic.

I've had opportunities to talk to people from other districts, counties, states and countries. Sometimes I think we don't know how good we have it. There are some states that don't recognize collective bargaining and the union is powerless. People can walk into work one morning and then leave without a job. We have a lot of protection through the contracts that the Association has negotiated over the years. I went through two different times where I could have found myself in trouble for something that I did not do. The feeling of security of going into a meeting with an administrator and my Association Chapter Vice-President is hard to describe. I've never felt like I had to do it alone. I'm not saying that I like all of the things in our contracts either. In fact, I was very unhappy with the change to the Empire Plan which was tied to negotiations. But this time, while things are moving very slowly, I feel like the Association is listening to all sides and working hard to come up with something that we not only can live with, but something that will greatly benefit us.

So as I wind down my time with BOCES and my participation in union activities I can look back at what was and know that this is better. I worked under difficult Presidents who actually drove away many of our good members. I've also seen the ones that worked wonders where many thought it would never change. I will miss the chance to participate in many aspects of the Association but also know that it's someone else's turn. Good luck to those people and know how important your work is. My wish is that more and more will get involved and continue the good work that was started many years ago in secret and with the fear of losing one's job for even thinking about starting an Association.

# Board Meeting Notes – February 27, 2014

Attending: Susan Kusalonis and James Reed

Mark Jones and Bruce Bonaquist gave a brief budget report on **administrative budget**.

- Some concerns were the Tax Cap, the non-existence of funding for mandated reforms, legislative restructuring, etc.
- Leadership: Diversification of services, building relations with schools, municipalities, private sector, and search out new opportunities. Customer view of quality of relationship across the board is very important.
- Mark asked Board to remember that budgets are our best guess at the time of development.
- 2014-2015 - \$9,000,000 – “increasing at decreasing rate”
- 80% of this is salary/benefits
- Thanks to Adam Hotaling and Wendy Ashley on their role of Budget Analysis. One of the things that is helping them play a larger role in this is the hiring of Financial Clerks with business backgrounds which lets them take a larger role
- New Model – Co-resourcing – Administration serves their BOCES globally and not by division or department.

## Special Education Budget for 2014-2015 - \$31,535,116

(Mark and Bruce gave this report as Peter arrived late.)

There are two types of budgets:

Classroom Programs - \$18,000,000 which includes Related Service at \$11,000,000 [Classroom Rental and Maywood School included]

Itinerant – \$1,800,000 [Serve students in district operated programs] Grants - \$478,563

- 2014-15 Students numbers are 541 full time and 131 itinerant students

In 2003-04 student number was 825

In 2014-15 student number is 541

[This is a 34% decrease over nine years.]

Recommendations:

- Increase Total BOCES operating budget across the board,
- Tuition rate of each pupil should reflect actual program costs,
- Ancillary cost agreement (which includes bonuses to district with multiple classrooms) are excessive,
- Fiscal Issues: [93% costs – salaries and benefits,
- Unbalanced tuition structure – cost and expense not equal,
- Tuition increases are not fully accurate for expense increases,
- Tuition rates between program with identical student

staff ratios are inconsistent

If not addressed the tuition cost would increase by 12%.

### Expenses:

Teacher – Classrooms – TA’s – 1:1’s

Related Service – rate/billed per hour for each type of service

1:1 rate per FTE based on total cost and FTE

Itinerant rate per FTE for each type of service

### Revenue:

Implement tuition rate restructuring over 5 year period

Approximate annual increase of 7.25% over 5 years

Q – Is this aid able? A – No

Assign finance staff to track division expensed and revenues

Uniform Tuition rates

Tuition Rate methodology

Important to align tuition, related service, 1:1 aide and itinerant rates with actual costs.

- There are challenges in 2014-15
- Since 2011-12 the Special Ed Division is down 65 FTE.
- Example: if 10 students left and the average cost was \$50,000 with tuition, RS, T, TA, 1:1 that would be a \$500,000 hit to budget.

Regular Board meeting started at 6:30 PM

Dr. Dedrick reported that he had given a note to the Board members that BOCES staff (which seem to be younger with children) wanted to see if a childcare program could be started. Dr. Dedrick asked the Board if he could be authorized to start a committee to take a look and run the numbers to see if it is feasible.

Yes, Board approved him to appoint an Ad Hoc committee to look into it.

School Attorney – Michelle H

Recommends to the Board that we dissolve the NYS Municipal Benefit Corporation (MBC). There are too many regulatory and statutory impediments. Massive amount of confusion

2014 Goal is to finish taking down the silos and administrative structure

Lobby Day: number 1 priority was to increase the \$30,000 cap in Teachers in CTE. Today Dr. Dedrick received a call asking what the actual cost is.

7 PM – Executive Session

7:30 PM – Back to meeting with a motion to settle with a former BOCES Staff member.

7:35 PM – meeting ended.



# Tree-Tapping, Maple Syrup-Sipping Spring Festival Planned for March in New York's Adirondacks

Discover the Sweet Spring Tradition of Maple Syrup Making During Maple Weekends in March

March marks the unofficial beginning of spring in the Adirondacks of Northern New York. As the sun warms the landscape, sugar maples begin producing the sap that will become premium Adirondack maple syrup

(<http://visitadirondacks.com/attractions/maple-sugaring-the-adirondacks>). A tradition dating back centuries, celebrate this spring rite of passage during Adirondack Maple Weekends, slated for March 22-23 and 29-30 at maple farms and sugar bushes across the Adirondack Region.

Ski and sample maple goods slope side at Titus Mountain's Moon Valley Maple in Malone, or explore the history of maple sugaring techniques at the American Maple Museum in Croghan before enjoying a sumptuous feast of pancakes and maple syrup.

Check out the line-up of maple events planned for this March in New York's Adirondack Region.

<http://visitadirondacks.com/press-releases/2014/02/tree-to-table-festival-planned->

[across-the-adirondacks-during-the-month-of-March.](#)

New Interactive Trip Planning Portal Launches on VisitAdirondacks.com

The Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, in partnership with several organizations in the Adirondacks, recently launched a new trip planning portal on VisitAdirondacks.com, the official tourism website for the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council.

The portal's database allows users to access information relevant to their travel needs – from exploring the Adirondack Park's opportunities for outdoor adventure, including handicap accessible nature trails, to pet-friendly lodging properties and boat launches located along their route of travel. Start planning your getaway with the portal at: [visitadirondacks.com](http://visitadirondacks.com).

Learn More -

[http://visitadirondacks.com/recreation#search\\_form](http://visitadirondacks.com/recreation#search_form)

## Disclaimer for Articles in the TRIAD

The articles contained in the TRIAD are proofed by the Communication Committee and the individual's opinion and do not reflect the opinion of the Executive Board of Rep Council or the Communication Committee of the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association. They are strictly for your information and enjoyment.



Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association

**Celebration Bash  
And Retirement Party**

**May 15, 2014**

**Mohawk River Country Club and Chateau**

847 Riverview Road, Rexford, NY

5:00 – 6:00 Cocktail Hour and hot and cold hors d’oeuvres

6:00 – Dinner

Rainbow mesclun salad with cranberries and walnuts; “Turf and turf:” Chateaubriand (filet mignon) and Poulet Francaise (chicken). Vegetarian dinner available upon request with your check. Vegetables: Julienne vegetable purse and twice baked potatoes.

Dessert: Make your own sundae

Book a table of co-workers and bring your spouse/significant other for a wonderful evening. Entertainment, great food, camaraderie and send off for retirees.

All for: \$35.00 per person

Deadline: **May 6th**

Are you retiring? Know someone who is retiring? Contact Brent Pierce so we can be sure that everyone eligible is included in the celebration. 928-3017 or email [bmp4sw@gmail.com](mailto:bmp4sw@gmail.com)

Please make checks payable to:

**Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association**

**Please mail check and registration form to:**

Brent Pierce, 1247 Trinity Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12306

Requesting Vegetarian? If registering for more than one, please list names of each person having vegetarian dinner. Seating requests: Maximum of 12 per table .

Contact Name:

Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_

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So far those retiring this year: Lanny Barsale; Alan Clarke; Cindy Jennings and Lisa Mink.



*Coming Soon:*  
**New endorsed shopping program**

**NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the endorsement of the member shopping program powered by PayCheck Direct for roll-out this spring 2014.**

This program – part of the national retail powerhouse Bluestem Brands, Inc. family, which also includes Fingerhut and *Gettington.com* – allows individuals to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months.

Through PayCheck Direct, NYSUT members & their families will have access to more than 7,000 name-brand products such as appliances, televisions, computers, electronics, furniture, and much more.

Members would have the option of paying for any items they purchase interest-free over a 12-month period; bi-weekly payments would be made via automatic checking account withdrawals.

PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or

finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

As part of this endorsement, PayCheck Direct will mail merchandise catalogs to the NYSUT membership four times per year.

NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card.

We are excited to be launching this new program in spring 2014! Join our MAP (Member Alert Program) Alert email service to be among the first to learn more about this program (visit the Member Benefits website for sign-up instructions).

You can also visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) in the coming weeks for details on how to use this service or call **800-626-8101** with any questions.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

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

The Special Education Division recently lost a former secretary **Betty Ann Frampton**. She had retired two years ago to North Carolina with her husband James.

While she was with us she made many friends and a large number of those attended her wake held on Monday, March 3rd. Our condolences to her family.

Our condolences to **Sharon Berberich** (TA, Sp. Ed.) on the loss of her mother Bernice on January 24th.

### 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 **Gina Hanley**, Membership Chair, with any change in mailing address or to give her your personal email. You can reach her at [gahanley97@gmail.com](mailto:gahanley97@gmail.com). In doing so, you will be assured of receiving all that correspondence that the Association will send you including your newsletter, the TRIAD.