CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

TRIAD

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The Daily 202: Koch network laying groundwork to fundamentally transform America's education system

By James Hohmann January 30 Email the author
Charles Koch: 'Unite with anybody to do right'
Charles Koch spoke about collaboration at a seminar of conservative donors in Indian Wells, Calif., on Jan. 27. (The Seminar Network)
With Breanne Deppisch and Joanie Greve.

THE BIG IDEA:
INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — The Koch network will spend around $400 million on politics and policy this election cycle, but that's only part of a grander effort to fundamentally transform America.

Making a long-term play, the billionaire industrialist Charles Koch and his like-minded friends on the right are increasingly focused on melding the minds of the next generation by making massive, targeted investments in both K-12 and higher education.

Changing the education system as we know it was a central focus of a three-day donor seminar that wrapped up late last night at a resort here in the desert outside Palm Springs.

"We've made more progress in the last five years than I had in the last 50," Koch told donors during a cocktail reception. "The capabilities we have now can take us to a whole new level. … We want to increase the effectiveness of the network … by an order of magnitude. If we do that, we can change the trajectory of the country."

Leaders of the network dreamed of disrupting the status quo, customizing learning and breaking the teacher unions. One initial priority is expanding educational saving accounts and developing technologies that would let parents pick and choose private classes or tutors for their kids the same way people shop on Amazon. They envision making it easy for families to join together to start their own "micro-schools" as a new alternative to the public system.

The Charles Koch Institute distributed roughly $100 million to 350 colleges and universities last year, up sevenfold over the past five years. What's newer is the emphasis on elementary and secondary education. The network declined to offer exact figures but said it will double investment in K-12 this year, with much more planned down the road.

There are about 700 people who each contribute a minimum of $100,000 per year to the constellation of organizations that comprise the Koch network. For years, many of these mega donors have urged Koch to wade into the battles over what they call school choice. Charles resisted, believing that his network had no special comparative advantage to move the needle in this area.

Then he commissioned Meredith Olson, a vice president at Koch Industries, to interview members of his network about what they are doing in their home states to explore whether there is a way to scale their education efforts nationally. She developed a three-prong strategy: "reform, supplement, innovate."

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Important Dates for 2017-2018

Exec Board NYSUT	Rep Council 900 bldg. (unless noted otherwise)	TRIAD Meeting Maywood	BOCES BOARD Meeting
March 7, 2018	March 21, 2018 900 Bldg.-NERIC Side **4 PM start**	March 27, 2018	March 19
April 11, 2018	April 18, 2018 **CTE Dining Room**	April 24, 2018	April 11 – Annual Mtg. April 16 - Board
May 2, 2018	May 16, 2018 **CTE Dining Room**	May 22, 2018	May 21
June 6, 2018	June 20, 2018 900 Bldg.-NERIC Side	NONE	June 18 Schoharie
	04:15-6:00 PM	*4:10 PM*	

Save the Date's

Capital Region BOCES Spring Prom

May 18, 2018

TA Showcase

May 24, 2018

Celebration Bash

May 31st at the Mohawk River Country Club

SRP Recognition Dates

National Administrative Professionals Day:
April 25 2018

National School Lunch Hero Day:
May 4 2018

National Nurses Week:
May 6-12 2018

National School Nurse Day:
May 9 2018

Spring Break

April 2 -6, 2018

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www.crbfa.org

Continued from front page

"The lowest hanging fruit for policy change in the United States today is K-12," said Stacy Hock, a major Koch donor who has co-founded a group called Texans for Educational Opportunity. "I think this is the area that is most glaringly obvious."

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R) speaks last week in Phoenix. (Matt York/AP)

-- In 2018, Koch donors see Arizona as ground zero in their push. Doug Ducey, the former chief executive of Cold Stone Creamery, became a member of the Koch network in 2011. Since 2015, he's attended the seminars as governor of Arizona. Last year, he signed legislation to dramatically expand the state's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts program so that students can use taxpayer dollars that would be spent on them in public schools to cover private-school tuition or other educational expenses.

Teacher unions, worried that this will undermine the public system, collected enough signatures to put the law on hold and create a ballot proposition to let voters decide in November whether to expand vouchers.

Addressing the seminar yesterday, Ducey touted the measure as further reaching than anything that's been tried in other states. He warned that, under Arizona law, if advocates lose at the ballot box, they will not be able to legislate on the topic in the future. "This is a very real fight in my state," Ducey said. "I didn't run for governor to play small ball. I think this is an important idea."

The Koch network is likely to spend heavily to support the voucher law, setting up a battle royal with the labor movement.

Ducey introduced Steve Perry, the headmaster of Capital Prep Charter Schools, who has been traveling Arizona to speak in support of the law. "The teacher unions are unencumbered by the truth," he told the Koch donors. "It is a distant relative that is never invited to dinner."

Tim Phillips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, highlighted field operations that the network has built in 36 states to advance its agenda, including on education. "We have more grass-roots members in

Wisconsin than the Wisconsin teachers' union has members," he said. "That's how you change a state!"

Many of the richest people in America listened intently as Koch donors and officials outlined their theory of the case. The Washington Post was invited inside the strategy session on the condition that the donors in attendance not be named without their permission. At the end of what was essentially a sales pitch, members of the Seminar Network, as it is officially known, were asked to check a box on a piece of paper in front of them if they were interested in contributing to the education efforts.

"We all need to be fully committed to a society in which everyone has an opportunity to make a better life for themselves," Charles Koch said. "To succeed, each of us has to be all-in. What I mean by that is that we have to make these kinds of efforts a central part of our lives. You don't need to be as obsessed as I am … although that wouldn't hurt … but you can't just make it a sideline."

Student Incentive Award Information

Application, transcripts, and any other pertinent information should be mailed to:

Erica Kane
94 East State Street
Gloversville, New York 12078

Application can be found on the CRBFA.ORG website or contact Erica directly.

Erica Kane at ericalynnkane@gmail.com

Teaching Assistant/Aide Report

Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituents:

Speaking only for myself, this winter has felt like it has gone on for a lifetime. In the month of March, we should be seeing warmer weather, more sunlight and noticing a few signs of spring. Being hit with 3 major snow storms in two weeks just simply knocks the wind out of you. People who suffer from seasonal affect disorder are really struggling with this darn unpredictable weather. I enjoy the winter but I have had enough. We are all longing to see green grass, beautiful colorful flowers and feel the warm sun on our face. Give a shout out if you agree, enough old man winter go to the other side of the world now!

Natalie Powell, Gina Hanley and myself attended the NYSUT, Capital District Regional Office Leadership Conference at the Sagamore Hotel in Lake George on March 10th and 11th. The conference was well received and offered excellent workshops. The theme for the weekend was **Union Values and Union Voice.** New York State United Teachers, our union, message to their members is to **Stay Strong** (strong unions protect our jobs, salaries, health care and pensions, **Know Your Rights** (members sometimes feel they don't need protection until they do need it) and **Stay Engaged** (lend your voice and activism to insure public education is preserved from privateers.) In New York we do not want to become a Right to Work state. States like Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana, three former collective bargaining states are now Right to Work states. Salaries went down, benefits evaporated and jobs disappeared which stagnated their local economies. **We cannot allow this to happen in New York.** If you are asked for a small bit of your time to volunteer and work at a phone bank to speak to our members, please commit to keeping our union strong. Much is at stake right now, big business would like nothing better than to break our unity and union. Also, please beware of false advertisement these outside forces want you to believe you will be better off not belonging to the Association. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Remember the Association is only as strong as those who join; elected officials cannot ignore NYSUT because we represent the voices of **600,000** united professionals in the state of NY. Our Association is counting on you to stay engaged and be informed. Our future depends on your participation now to preserve what has been so hard fought for through collective bargaining over the years. **Let's not slip backwards!**

Questions keep cropping up regarding summer school. Many people are nervous and the rumor mill is running amok again. Please do not hit the panic button yet, details are being worked out with the Association and our Superintendent, Anita Murphy. There were a few clarifications that needed to be addressed such as the interpretation of the State Education 80% rule regarding regression rate. The Association is staying abreast of all the concerns and is working collaboratively with administration. More information will be coming shortly regarding summer school. In the meantime, please be patient and wait until you hear definitively what summer school will look like this school year.

The Teaching Assistant/Aide Showcase will be on May 24th, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM at Central Administration. I have a few new ideas I have put out to administration with the hope of getting some CTLE hours for attendees. Please come out to support your co-workers and colleagues at this very special reception. It truly is a lovely afternoon celebrating the accomplishments of the Teaching Assistants and Aides. I look forward every year to showcasing your amazing talents and all the special things you do for our students each day. An email and letter will be coming to you directly to RSVP for the Reception for our Chapter. Please come and join us for food, dessert and browsing the exemplary display of projects on this very special day designed just for TA's and Aides! You definitely won't be disappointed.

In closing, I want to extend my well wishes for a great spring break. Get some well-deserved rest and relaxation, we will be coming into the home stretch shortly. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, I am always available to assist you.

In Solidarity, Colleen Condolora

Retirees Corner

By Jeanette Christoff 518-356-0137

Spring Greetings,

March is finally here and although our heart is saddened by the tragedies, injustices and disunity of our nation and the world, we will attempt to offer you, our readers, and a small diversion. Maybe it will take your memory to a place or time that seemed less chaotic and might bring a bit of joy as you dust off and relive the times that were.

Have you ever been frustrated with yourself for being unable to recall the name of someone whose face is most familiar, despite a search of your memory bank? Have you ever considered the number of people who have entered and exited your life through the years especially in the field of teaching?

For some of us, memories can go back to the age of three or four. Information could be easily imprinted on the yet un-programmed "hard drive" of our brain. Memories of the first home we lived in, our neighborhood friends, the aunts, uncles, cousins of the large families of the time, plus weddings, church and fun times began to fill the mosaic of our mind with names and faces. It is likely we knew at least 100 people before we entered kindergarten. During the seven or nine years we spent with our elementary school classmates, their names and faces became firmly imbedded, as did those of their siblings and families. We are blessed that some of those first friends have become "life" friends.

Our first day at the Junior High School came as a shock. With only one junior and one senior high, students came from every elementary school in the city. In spite of my many grade school friends, we can recall the aloneness of not knowing one person in homeroom. Fortunately, my new classmates were a friendly lot and soon, there were 25 new names and faces, to remember, plus 25 more in each of the 7 subject classes plus those not in our classes, totaling 297 in our High School graduating class. We made acquaintance with students from private schools, in dance and music group and those who hung out at the drugs store that sold cherry phosphates and hot fudge sundaes. My guess is that we probably knew 700 people before we left home and entered the world of college.

College brought a cascade of 100's of more faces and names into our life and the number of friends and acquaintances grew with graduation, jobs, new neighborhoods, cities, interests, travel, marriage, the spouse's family, children and their friends and families. The list is endless as we review our life and how far we have traveled since our days in grade school.

How easy it would be if we could just look at someone familiar and our brain could give us their name and some brief info on who they are and the time and place they were in our life. But it doesn't, so we are left with the task of trying to recall. Considering the vast number of people, places, experiences and acquired knowledge we carry within our memory, it's remarkable that we can retrieve it as well as we do. The field of medicine has made great strides in repairing so much of our body, but repairs to an injured brain are far more limited.

For what it's worth, here is a memory game I play on my rare sleepless nights. Think of an event or hobby that was fun. For golfers, try to recall 10 courses you played, for travelers, 10 places, states or countries visited, if you often moved, recall 10 addresses at which you lived. For a real challenge, try to recall the names of your grade school teachers. It can help your mind refocus away from the myriad of problems that keep us awake.

Good night, sweet dreams, God bless.

PERSONALS

Our condolences to **Jack Daly**, retired Director of Special Education, upon the passing of his beloved Laurel in Mary Ester, Florida on Feb. 4, 2018, after a long battle with cancer.

Laurel had a passion for teaching troubled children and those with special needs. She worked at St. Ann's and the Niskayuna CSD.

Laurel is also survived by her children John, Andrew, Luke and Kristin and 8 grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 99 Eglin Parkway NE, Suite 37, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

BOCES Board Meeting NOTES

February 15, 2018—Notes by Susan Kusalonis

The meeting opened with Dale Breault, Director, presenting the NERIC Budget for 2018-19. The total budget at $50,804,433.00 is a 9.47% increase over last year's budget. First time over 50 million. Salaries and benefits are at 37.5% - lower than last year. Professional and technical costs are at 13.15%.

Some of the programs that NERIC provides are:

- Administrative Technology, distance learning, instructional technology, VoIP, model schools, virtual summer school.
- Over the next year the internal process will be expanded: Staff evaluation, disaster recovery, business continuity; expanded support hours – presently start time is 5 AM and we hope to extend the evening hours or use a third party vendor. Also the regional advisory group - new governance and implementation of 1-844-MYNERIC.
- Program highlights – instructional technology leadership; technology planning assistance; smart school; E Rate.
- Extended Classroom – formerly connected businesses – Kajeet Service
- Early Warning Data on students educationally – a software program -BrightBytes
- Continued cooperation technological services standardization and growth

On the Horizon:

- Telemedicine/virtual health – Schoology
- DL Network to do psychological evaluation
- Adaptive Technology
- Schoolzilla – Data platform
- Wide area network re-design
- Athletic/facilities/food service
- School Climate – Parents/Teachers – does your child feel safe at school
- Technology programs - accountability

Q – If a shooting situation occurs – do we have a role in the School?
A – Cameras/VoIP Phones – Districts call for help on camera time frames
Q – Do we have a filter that can trigger a problem?
A – No – use social media for early warning? Not easy to be involved.
Q – High percentage of bus's running late due to sub bus drivers not knowing directions.
A – GPS mapping to help bus drivers, photo identification
Q – What about application on grant money
A – Very limited availability on grant money for technology; more likely for Transportation grants, Inter-municipal grants on next horizon
Q – Hacking in news – how do we protect ourselves?
A - Any opportunity to protect school districts on hacking will be done
Q – Does IEP information go through NERIC?
A – IEP Direct and Clear Track
Q - Could we handle an IEP for all students?
A – No problem

Joe Dragone presented the new web site to the board members.

Individual Board Members:

Lynn Lenhardt – As Board Members we need to be cognizant of what is going on around us.

Audience Participation – not so much here – not like our home board meetings.

Superintendents Lobby Day is March 6th.

After personnel items were passed the board welcomed Sarah Horaczek, the new Dean of Students for Maywood, who was in the audience.

Your monthly bills won't stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan – provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.

Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.

For more information and/or to get an application, visit ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.

Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT *Educator's Voice*

New York State's classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently seeking article proposals on **"Culturally-Responsive Teaching"** for consideration in its annual edition of *Educator's Voice, a Journal of Best Practices in Education*. **The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.**

Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom, something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT's member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Once accepted, authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research-based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education; at least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit *http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice*.

Previous editions of this publication are available at ***https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/educators-voice.***

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.

Mar/Apr. 18

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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Things you might want to do

Be kind to your eyes: When reading or using a computer, look at least 10 feet away for at least 10 seconds every 10 minutes (the 10-10-10 rule). Feast on foods that may reduce eye-disease risk – including almonds and walnuts, broccoli, cold-water fish (salmon, tuna, etc.) and spinach and other leafy greens. Cook's resource: Search "Recipes for Healthy Eyes" at the American Optometric Association's website (AOA.org).

Know how to get help in poison emergencies: Free, confidential assistance is available 24/7 by calling 800-222-1222. Make sure the Poi9son Hotline number is posted near your home phones. Add it to smartphones by testing "poison" to 797979.

Prevent spring allergy flare-ups: Consult your physician about taking possible medications before pollen counts rise. Garlic, rosemary and turmeric can help minimize symptoms when allergies strike.

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Please let either know if someone needs cheering up, congratulations, get well or condolences.

Disclaimer for Articles in the TRIAD

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