



April 2013

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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,

It's hard to believe, but we are almost through another school year. It's been busy and maybe that's why it seems to have flown by. It seems like only yesterday we were starting the year and now it's pretty much over. Sure, we still have review and testing, but the end is so close you can feel it.

Truthfully, I find the end of the school year bittersweet. Yes, I look forward to the break from the norm and an opportunity to rest and refresh myself in preparation for next year. However, I will miss my students. I was just getting used to them (and perhaps they to me) and the year is over. I do revel in their accomplishments and feel a sense of achievement myself. Though this job is a lot of hard work, I find great satisfaction in teaching.

I guess you could say that I love teaching. I try not to say it too often for some people think differently than me. And heck, the way the economy is, if they thought I enjoyed it too much they would want to charge me for the fun. And no, I never said it was that much fun. Still, we have all experienced how easily and often things are misinterpreted. So, I need to be careful about letting folks know how much I enjoy working with kids and teaching.

I don't love some of the aspects of this job, but I do love the teaching. It's great fun when students demonstrate what you taught them. Right now we are framing the walls of a building for a local YMCA camp. We are working with drawings drawn by an architect and structurally certified by an engineer. This project, though only a 26' x 46' building is very real and exciting experience for my students. Several of them are totally focused, working hard and on task. They are problem solving and learning as they go. Every one of them is engaged and demonstrating knowledge and skills they have learned while in the program. I am extremely proud of each of them and thankful for the opportunity to have them as students. Next week we will begin to assemble the building at the jobsite. Though it seems like this time of year goes quickly by (too quickly), working with the kids and seeing their

excitement as we build makes the tougher parts of teaching seem worth the effort.

Each student has, in his/her own way, added much to my teaching year. I did not say all of my students are easy to teach. Yet each brings much to the class and to me as a teacher. Sometimes it is by what they do and sometimes it is by what they have learned not to do. Teaching and working with people certainly keeps me on my toes. A good friend of mine passed away this year. We spent countless hours working together on different volunteer projects. He had two thoughts I would pass on to you. First, "working in these endeavors is always a learning experience. It may not always be pleasant, but it's always an education."

I view my role as President of this Association in a similar light. Though much of the time, it is not pleasant nor easy, I find I am always learning. And I suppose if it was easy and always pleasant I would get bored. Well, I'm not bored yet.

What about the future? Things are changing and will continue to change. We can't stop that. What we can do, is watch what is happening, be proactive, and participate in the process. In doing that we will be prepared to make the best decisions and mitigate many of the negative effects that can result from changes.

Two excellent ways you can affect what the future of your employment will be, is by voting for educationally effective government leaders and support political action. One way you can support political action is by supporting Vote/Cope. It's more important than ever, if you have any connection with education, that you do these two things.

Hopefully you have read the letter the Executive Board, over my signature, sent in the last TRIAD and posted on our Association website, about the health insurance discussions. In it we explained that we are looking into a self-funded insurance plan which would offer equal or better benefits, but at the same time save members, retirees and BOCES money. No decision has been made and any proposed change like this would need to be voted on by our members and passed before it can happen. I know that maintaining excellent health benefits is important to all of us.

Looking Forward, Doug

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION BOCES
FACULTY ASSOCIATION.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

April 10, 2013

REP COUNCIL

April 24, 2013

BOCES BOARD

April 10, 2013

Earth Day

April 22, 2013

Administrative Professional Day

April 24, 2013

Arbor Day

April 26, 2013

Cinco De Mayo

May 5, 2013

TRIAD Article Deadline

April 30, 2013 for
May Newsletter

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BOCES Spring Prom seeks support

For \$30, you can sponsor a student to attend

Each spring, students who attend BOCES special education programs and alumni dress up and step out for the Spring Prom (formerly the Very Special Prom). This year's event is just around the corner.

The 32nd Capital Region BOCES Spring Prom will be held on May 17. This event is a true example of BOCES-wide collaboration. Many aspects of this prom — from formalwear, corsages and cookies made for dessert to cash and other donations — come courtesy of staff, students and local businesses. This generosity helps make the event accessible and affordable to all.

The prom committee is accepting \$30 sponsorships to help individual high school students in BOCES special education classes attend this year's prom. Sponsorships cover the cost of a student's dinner, flower corsage or boutonniere, and a prom favor. Please make checks payable to “**Capital Region BOCES Prom Scholarship Fund**” and send them to the attention of Susan Kusalonis at NERIC, 1031 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Important Dates for 2012-13

<i>BOCES Board of Education</i>	<i>Executive Board</i>	<i>Representative Council</i>
April 10, 2013	April 10, 2013	April 24, 2013 1031 Watervliet Shaker
May 20, 2013	May 1, 2013	May 15, 2013 900 Watervliet Shaker
June 17, 2013 Schoharie	May 29, 2013 (June meeting)	June 12, 2013 900 Watervliet Shaker

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
Corresponding Sec'y.	Vacant			
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

From The Editor

By Lanny Barsale, Teacher, Spec. Ed.

From the Editor's desk

I spent Friday and Saturday at Odyssey of the Mind state finals in Binghamton. There are meetings and last minute training on Friday and then a long day of judging on Saturday. I am always exhausted and exhilarated at the same time when I finish that day.

This year was especially tough since I didn't feel well. I'm usually the "runner" – the one who goes to pick up the kids at the holding room and help them be less anxious before the competition. We got behind in the schedule so we had to give up our breaks to catch up and finish on time. I was "whooped." So, at the end of the day, I trudged wearily to my car. A parent was heading to her car and began chatting. She asked me if I was going to the closing ceremonies. I usually do but I really needed to go home and told her that. She said, "I understand and thank you."

Wow! Thank you. That is a wonderful phrase to hear. Judging is totally voluntary and a big commitment. I don't do it for the thanks but it sure was nice to hear.

How often do we take someone for granted and forget to say thanks? The staff in my room go the extra mile for the kids. Do I remember to let them know how much they are appreciated? I'd like to think so but there are days that I wonder if they know. The people that make me look good need to hear how much they are appreciated. My goal from now on is to do just that.

Do you have folks in your life that go above and beyond? Do you wonder sometimes what you would do without them? So, what are you waiting for? Be sure to thank them. It really means a lot.

PSRPs 'are the mortar that holds education together'

School support employees are the foundation of education, AFT president Randi Weingarten told paraprofessionals and school-related personnel at their annual conference, and they are building on that foundation through their strong bonds in the community. During her keynote speech at the AFT PSRP conference, held March 22-24 in Minneapolis, Weingarten urged members to keep strengthening public education, like those in Ohio who fended off an attack on collective bargaining, and those in California who won a return to tax fairness and a halt to school layoffs. PSRP chair Ruby Newbold, president of the Detroit Association of Educational Office Employees and an AFT vice president, urged members to speak out. "Who is the best to advocate for your profession? You are," she said. "Who is the best to tell your story? You are. We are, every one of us, advocates for the students we serve. We are advocates for the institutions in which we work. If we don't advocate, nobody else will."

Tough policy questions top teachers' division agenda

Poor implementation often trumps good policy goals, and that concern dominated the discussion at the AFT Teachers program and policy council meeting in Washington, D.C., March 18-19. Much of the meeting focused on reports from the field about spotty, inadequate preparation for the rollout of the new Common Core State Standards and related assessments. Also raising red flags among divisional leaders were deep concerns about how competition-based approaches to school improvement are placing schools with limited resources at a profound disadvantage. Divisional leaders surveyed work under way at AFT locals to help prepare teachers and communities for the transition to the new standards and the 2014-15 school year, when related assessments will be in use. These efforts encompass proven, traditional approaches, such as coaching and professional learning communities, and new vehicles, such as the union's Share My Lesson online resource bank.

AFT online – March 30, 2103

TEACHING ASSISTANTS/EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS/AIDES

By Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituents,

As I write this letter, we are preparing to go into our spring break. I hope everyone was able to enjoy the time off with their families and succeeded in getting those spring cleaning jobs started which are inevitably put off during the winter months. I am still waiting patiently for the warmer weather to arrive. I have had enough of the house being closed up and the coldness in the air.

This notice is to the specific Teaching Assistants who received written notification from Human Resource regarding their lapsed certification. Please take this matter seriously. I was informed, since your present certification is not in compliance with State Education regulations, you will be the first to be RIF'd if there are layoffs in June. Seniority will not come into play because technically you are not a certified Teaching Assistant. To begin the process, you must contact Human Resources with your updated credit hour information so it can be entered into your Teach account. You must also apply to State Education for either a renewal of your Level I certification (if applicable) or apply for a Level II or Level III certification. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me and I will assist you with your concerns.

I have spoken with administration regarding the status of summer school. Administration is waiting to hear from a few districts in order to make projections for the number of students, classroom needs and staff hiring. Keep your fingers crossed if you applied this year for summer school. Employment in the summer is not a guarantee for anyone.

I hopefully will have more information in the next TRIAD.

The negotiation team (**Colleen Condolora, Barb Burnham, Chris McDonough and Kevin Rheden**) met to discuss possible proposals. We will be meeting again in a few weeks following the Health Insurance committee interviews of perspective carriers. In the previous TRIAD, an article was written by Doug Harple and Mike Rowan, NYSUT Labor Relation Specialist regarding the talks of a BOCES self-insured insurance plan. I hope everyone had the opportunity to read the article in order to be informed of what is transpiring with our current health insurance plans. You should be made aware; our health insurance talks will have a direct impact on the team's ability to negotiate a new contract.

Remember to sign up with Marcia Siver to attend the TA/Aide Showcase on May 21st. Please come out to support your co-workers and friends on this very special afternoon. There will be ten tables set up with the special projects your co-workers have done this year in their respective classrooms. Food, drinks and professional development certificates will also be available. I look forward to seeing each of you at our yearly recognition.

If anyone has any concerns, please contact me either through email or phone.

In Solidarity, Colleen Condolora

NYSUT information of interest:

- Workers Memorial Day is April 28.
- National Healthy Schools Day is April 30. Find ideas and register your activities at <http://www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org/>. The day is coordinated by Healthy Schools Network in cooperation with U.S. EPA. Sponsors include NEA's Health Information Network.
- **VOTE May 21!** It is now several weeks before most schools across the state vote on school budgets. Last year a dozen school districts had a negative tax cap. Thankfully, only a handful of districts face that situation this year.

March 20th Rep Council Notes

By Lanny Barsale, Teacher, Spec. Ed.

Chapter Vice Presidents Reports

Special Ed Teachers – Flora Fasoldt

- There is not much to talk about, health insurance committee still meeting, next meeting in April 17th. Will interview some of the companies that have Request For Proposals to manage the plan if our health insurance become a self-insuring plan

TA/aides – Colleen Condolora –

- TA showcase May 23rd, art gallery, ten TA's will be showcasing their projects,
- Time sheets – People that have run out of sick days have been put on time sheets. This means they won't receive a check before vacatios.
- Negotiations team met, came up with ideas for proposals, let Colleen know if anything desired

CTE Chapter – Jeannine Moran

- Health insurance letter is in TRIAD,
 - Language in contract being interpreted to the letter.

Service Chapter - Sandy Smith

- Same information on health insurance. Still negotiating.

Old Business

The motion was to have a raffle at Rep Council and we were checking to see if it was considered gambling. Deb Sorvari checked on this and it is not an issue. Language in motion changed to call it a door prize for \$25 gift card at each meeting. Member must be present at the end of the meeting to win. Open to whoever is in attendance, not just Reps. Executive Board members are excluded. Motion carried.

The second motion on hold was about a possible donation from the Philanthropic fund. However, the person was not an Association member so we are unable to use the fund that way.

New Business

Motion made to change agenda to constitution review to this time. Carried.

The draft of the revised constitution was passed out. It was decided that people should spend time reading it and try to have as many members read it as possible. Then we will discuss it at the next Rep Council meeting. Copies will be e-mailed to all Reps. Things changed have strike-through for language being removed and additions are highlighted in yellow.

Standing Committees:

Budget – *will be presented and voted on at the April Rep Council Mtg.*

Nominating: - AFT Delegates only. Two so far. People can do write-in votes. They need to be sure that when a write in vote is done that the person wants to be elected.

Election: - will be a mailed ballot

Select Committees:

TRIAD – articles due next Tuesday

Vote/Cope – should be in soon

Student Incentive – due April 1st, need applicants –go to www.capfa.org website for application.

FYI topics:

Pat Gollub announced an all-day cosmetology clinic to raise money for a trip to NYC for those students as well as a scholarship for a student at graduation. There will be other fundraisers.

Special Ed teacher's house has burned – co-workers are collecting through Region 1 to try to help out.

BOCES Board Report – will be in TRIAD

RETIREES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff

Greetings,

It was heartening to read that the February Rep Council meeting had a quorum, especially as the Association continues to evolve. The constitution is in the process of revision, contracts are unsettled and NERIC will be moving again. That division is currently in the red brick building known as “1031”, located next to the CTE (VoTec) Center. They will move down the road to 900 Watervliet Shaker Rd., where Administration has been located for several years. For future reference, the entrance to the new BOCES headquarters is the South Family Road. It is about a ½ mile east of Sand Creek Road. BOCES is in the second building. The phone numbers will be the same. The move is anticipated to be completed in August.

You may recall when BOCES changed insurance carriers several years ago, we were invited to attend presentations by the new carriers. If there are major changes in our Health Benefits, it is likely that we would be invited to learn about them if there are to be choices. It would be helpful to know this new location if this should happen.

We have heard that there have been some changes at the CTE Center.

We recall our own early history with BOCES in the 70's, before the center was built. At that time, vocational classes were housed in various buildings in the area. Some were located on New Karner Road, others on Carmen Road in Rotterdam. Enrollment was increasing and there was a need for more classroom and courses. Because the BOCES cannot build or own property without voter approval, we participated in the referendum campaign to have the VOTEC complex built. We did radio spots on the Ely Pankin talk show, newspaper ads and contacted teachers and staff in our component districts. The referendum was approval and VOTEC came into being.

On our first visit to the center, all was new, clean and shiny, but we were disappointed that no Special Education students would be attending there. Time has changed that.

In view of recent school tragedies, measure have been taken at the Center to make it a safe environment. All doors are locked during the school day and visitors must be “buzzed “ in. Employees are required to wear a photo I.D., a policy in existence for a number of years.

Some familiar things have continued through the years. Platters of cookies can be ordered from Food Services. Call Teresa at 862-4822. Cosmetology offers hair care clinics on Thursday and Friday. Call Pat at 862-4716. Auto continues to accept some old vehicles and donations may be tax deductible.

Most of the original courses continue, Building Trades, Electricity, Auto, Welding, Fashion, Nursing and Floral Design. Since we retired, many new ones have been added including Journalism, Government and Law, Aviation, Manufacturing, Construction and Heavy Equipment, Patient Care and many more.

Although we are “connected” to BOCES through our health care benefits and the Triad, we had little knowledge of the new offerings, except for an occasional article or photo in our Gazette. A friend gave us the BOCES website address and it is very impressive.

We wonder if the general public is aware of the CTE courses BOCES has to offer. School districts may not give priority to BOCES information with their budgetary problems and our own School District newsletter does not publicize the course offerings.

In our past history, if memory serves, the BOCES placed ads in local newspapers. At this time of declining enrollment it may be an idea to again consider. It has been said, “It pays to advertise”. We, as retirees and those in the ranks can do our share as well.

We are fortunate to have chosen BOCES for our life's work or to have been chosen by them. We owe appreciation to those who organized our Association as well as to those who have worked and continue to work to keep our benefits. We are also fortunate to be members of the well managed NYS Retirement Systems. We must be vigilant however, that the “powers” do not delve into it to balance the budget, as has been spoken of. Our NYSUT lobbyists have kept that from happening so far, and need our support through VOTE/COPE. Some of us are getting too old to go back to work.

For an update on BOCES and the new CTE programs, check www.capitalregionboces.org. You will find it interesting and enlightening.

Service Chapter News

By Sandy Smith, Chapter VP

Hi Every One,

I just wanted to send you quick reminder. Did you do the survey that Robert Zordan sent everyone through your NERIC email? It's a questionnaire about where your health insurance plan doctors (In-Network) are and where the needs are for the future. Can you take a few minutes and fill it out? As you know, BOCES is looking for new plans, we need as much input on this as possible.

Examples: Do you travel out of state? Will you be retiring out of New York? These are things that need to be in the plan "if" it goes forward.

Remember strength is in number with people coming together and then sticking together. I can't stress enough how we all need to stick together for this.

I know that so many people these days are not happy with unions, let alone any big business, (so much of it just comes down to the all mighty buck). But, I will say from what I have seen so far in this position, if it weren't for this Association standing behind us, we wouldn't be able to have the options that are coming to us for health insurance, we would have to take what is given and that would be that.

The Health Insurance Committee meets again in April. I will keep you informed about what's happening as soon as I have any new updates.

Please feel free to email or call if you have any concerns. Check with your co-workers to see if I have everyone's personal email for communication purposes. We cannot use the BOCES email system to communicate Association business.

Thank You, Sandy Smith

PS. If you receive an email from Shortmom2@Verizon.net, that's me, too. Yahoo will only allow so many emails per day.

Tribute to Stormy Shayne

by Barb Burnham

Earlene (Stormy) Shayne, Rotterdam and Ballston Lake, NY passed away on March 14, 2013. Stormy was born on November 29, 1941. Stormy grew up in the Schenectady area. She graduated from Mont Pleasant High School and attended Green Mountain College in Vermont. Stormy was very proud of her work with people with disabilities. She retired from the Capital Region BOCES after 30 years, 15 years in Special Education as a secretary and 15 years in the vocational center (CTE) as an administrative assistant for the principal.

One of the very first people I met when I transferred from the Schoharie CTE Center to the Albany CTE campus about twenty two years ago was Stormy. At that time she was secretary the Gary Jones, then Principal of Special Programs, which included all our service level programs as well as our Alternative Ed program. She gave me the standard welcome, although I was a bit intimidated then, she became a great friend over the years.

During my early years as Secretary for our Association, I was charged with the job of getting Service Awards to be presented at our Opening Day. I decided to get nice Cross pens that were engraved with each person's name. I remember getting the call from Stormy to come to her office, dutifully I went immediately. She pointed out that I had made an error in the engraving, I mistakenly had Earlene Shayne engraved. Let's just say I never made that mistake again from that day on, it was always Stormy (like the weather).

I really don't know all the details but I know she was instrumental in inclusion of the Service and Educational Assistants into our present Association. In the early days, these groups were not represented at all.

The following is from Gary Jones, former CTE Director and in the early days, the leader of our Special Programs group, which also included Joy Moch, Larry Hinman and the various teachers who worked with our students.

"One of the very first people I met upon joining the staff at Capital Region BOCES was Stormy Shayne. Little did I know that she had been most appropriately named.

Stormy had agreed to help me out as a rookie administrator in addition to her regular job as administrative assistant to the principal. I knew nothing about the complexities of the BOCES organization and clearly, Stormy knew everything, having worked in the Special Education Division for many years prior to coming to CTE. She guided me through the maze that was BOCES with her intelligence, knowledge, and amazing sense of humor. It was not uncommon for Stormy to come into my office in later years, close the door, and ask me if I had any idea what I was doing? (Actually she may have had a more colorful way of asking the question.) Most times she was right and her frank advice ended up being better for the organization than whatever it was I was considering.

Stormy had a gift for dealing with the most difficult students and could always help them through their hard times with her wisdom and calm demeanor. I often marveled at her amazing ability in this respect. Stormy was an incredibly loyal co-worker, friend, and always did what she thought was best for our students and the staff at BOCES. She was a gem and I will miss her."

Board Meeting for March 18, 2013

By Susan Kusalonis

Executive Session from 6:35 to 7 PM

Presentation by Terry Swett for CTE

- Middle States Approval has been received and is on Page 10 of this agenda
- Some of the Adult Education requirements to receive School Title IV Funding are: Prove 70% placement Rate; the more classes we have that better the possibility of achieving this; We have to apply program by program, cannot lump all classes together as all the application forms are by program as industry directs the program; An MOU is signed to confirm that this is in the plans; CTE must maintain good financial and student records

Q – What will this do for us?

A – The more students who can apply for federal funding aid, the higher enrollment we will see. We have to sustain the 70% and it is very important that students not default on loans as these effects our program.

Health Services at Rosewood Plaza had a good program and this will help us maintain these records.

Q – Are costs of running programs built into the tuition.

A – Yes

Medicaid Compliance Officer – Michele Handzel-Miller Overview of the first year of progress was given to the Board Members in a March 7th memo (no copy given to me).

- New data entry system is working well – all staff have laptops
- Auditing individual related service staff
- Goal – we are not billing Medicaid for services not performed
- Peter Taormina added that all was going very well at Special Ed. Not trying to catch them doing wrong. Help them be compliant.

Building Update(s)

Tech Valley HS – No impact on CNC breaking off into SUNY

900 – Mark Jones reported that we have finally signed a contract with Turner Construction Co. We are a little behind and will be running a much tighter schedule than anticipated.

Annual Meeting for 2014 has been set for April 9.

Meeting ended at 7:20 PM

Tough policy questions top teachers' division agenda

Poor implementation often trumps good policy goals, and that concern dominated the discussion at the AFT Teachers program and policy council meeting in Washington, D.C., March 18-19. Much of the meeting focused on reports from the field about spotty, inadequate preparation for the rollout of the new Common Core State Standards and related assessments. Also raising red flags among divisional leaders were deep concerns about how competition-based approaches to school improvement are placing schools with limited resources at a profound disadvantage. Divisional leaders surveyed work under way at AFT locals to help prepare teachers and communities for the transition to the new standards and the 2014-15 school year, when related assessments will be in use. These efforts encompass proven, traditional approaches, such as coaching and professional learning communities, and new vehicles, such as the union's Share My Lesson online resource bank.

First lady unveils 'Let's Move! Active Schools'

On the third anniversary of her Let's Move! initiative to promote children's health, first lady Michelle Obama unveiled Let's Move! Active Schools. The first lady launched Let's Move! in February 2010 to unite the country around our kids' health and to help families live healthier lives. Let's Move! Active Schools is a public-private partnership that builds on that effort, boosted by studies that show active students do better in school than their sedentary peers. The Let's Move! Active Schools website includes lots of materials and resources to help schools join in the initiative, and it makes it easy for people to get their own schools involved. The goal, Michelle Obama says, is to get 50,000 schools to participate in the program over the next five years.

Reprinted from AFT Electronic Newsletter

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

—Gandhi

Heads-up:

All teachers must participate in roster verification

SED has issued the attached memo to school superintendents, BOCES district superintendents, as well as charter and other public school principals describing the process of roster verification for teachers for the 2012-13 school year. This year all teachers will be expected to participate in the roster verification process. As we have done in the past, we are making local presidents aware of this memo and the process it describes so you can inform your members. As we have indicated previously, verification of student rosters by teachers is critical to ensure the correct student data is assigned to each teacher. Presidents should contact their superintendent to ensure teacher and union involvement. The process for verifying teacher-student data linkages (TSDL) should be part of your APPR plan.

Reporting Requirements

- All public school districts, BOCES, and charter schools are required to submit 2012-13 school year data that include information about the following:
- All building principals employed by your education agency;
- All classroom teachers who are employed by your education agency;
- All students who are taught by those teachers, even those students for whom your agency does not have Elementary and Secondary Education

Reprinted from NYSUT Electronic News

Up Coming Conferences

NYSUT Local and Retiree Council Presidents Conference

April 10 -11, 2013
Washington, DC

NYSUT Representative Assembly

April 11-13, 2013
Washington, DC

NYSUT PROFESSIONAL ISSUES FORUM ON HEALTH CARE

Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Springs
April 27, 2013

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES

\$81 MILLION IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS TO SIX DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT TURNAROUND, RESTART AND TRANSFORMATION EFFORTS IN EIGHTEEN SCHOOLS

State Education Commissioner John B. King, Jr. today announced that six school districts will receive nearly \$81 million in the current round of federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) awards to support turnaround, restart and transformation efforts in eighteen schools. King said the Buffalo City School District will receive \$22.5 million; the Poughkeepsie City School District will receive nearly \$4.5 million; the Rochester City School District will receive nearly \$4.5 million; the Syracuse City School District will receive \$31.5 million; the **Troy City School District** will receive nearly \$4.3 million; and the Yonkers City School District will receive \$13.5 million. The school districts will use the grants to engage in dramatic and transformative whole-school change in their lowest performing schools.

"SIG grants are an important piece of the Board

AFT praises pick to head Labor Department

The AFT is urging swift Senate confirmation of Thomas Perez, who was nominated by President Obama on March 18 to head the U.S. Department of Labor. "At a time when workers' rights of all kinds—from the right to fair and equal treatment in the workplace to the right to safe working conditions and beyond—must be defended more resolutely than ever, I congratulate Thomas Perez on his nomination to serve as the next Secretary of Labor," AFT president Randi Weingarten says. "Mr. Perez has an extensive background as a champion for fairness and dignity on the job, and as a person who takes on discrimination and exploitation wherever he encounters it."

Union to ask state to delay testing on tougher curriculum

BY MICHAEL GOOT *Gazette Reporter Reach Gazette reporter Michael Goot at 395-3105 or mgoot@dailygazette.net.*

New York State United Teachers plans to announce today that it is asking state education officials not to base this year's standardized tests on the new Common Core curriculum.

NYSUT President Richard Iannuzzi said the union believes students in grades 3-8 will not be ready for tests on the new, more challenging curriculum, which New York has adopted along with other states to reflect what students should know by the time they graduate from high school. Schools have not received material to prepare for this new curriculum, he said.

"Good teaching says that you teach first and you assess afterwards," he said. "We're about to assess before teaching. And that's not good practice."

Under the state's new teacher evaluation system, 20 percent of a teacher's score is based on student performance on state tests. Another 20 percent is based on locally developed tests and the remaining 60 percent on traditional evaluation measures such as observation.

Iannuzzi didn't rule out a lawsuit if teacher evaluations are negatively affected by lower test scores.

"If teachers receive poor evaluations or if their job status was threatened by this, we would probably look closely at this to pursuing their defense," he said.

NYSUT is rolling out a media campaign, including full-page advertisements in local newspapers and online, which will provide a link to a parent petition that urges the state Education Department to reverse course. The ads and petition can also be found at www.nysut.org.

State education officials did not return a call seeking comment. In a statement on the website, however, Education Commissioner John B. King Jr. said he understands a major change such as this new curriculum comes with anxiety and challenges, but the state cannot afford to wait to implement these changes to make sure students graduate high school ready for college and careers.

Schoharie Culinarians are #1 in New York State



Schoharie Career & Tech's Culinary Team is now ranked number one in the state after winning first place in the 2013 New York State Restaurant Association's ProStart Invitational Culinary Competition in Niagara Falls March 22-23. They now go on to compete nationally. The Culinary Management Team also performed well under pressure at the event, which tested the skills, knowledge and professionalism of students from across New York.

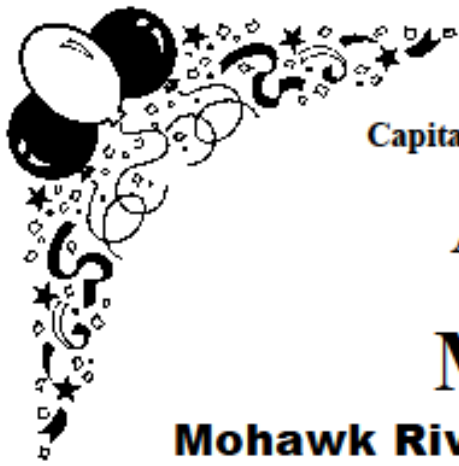
Students win big at SkillsUSA

Team Career & Tech won big at the March 13 SkillsUSA Regional Competitions at Schenectady County Community College, bringing home 15 first place trophies, 10 2nds, eight 3rds, 10 4ths and three 5th place awards. Several students will go on to the New York State SkillsUSA competition April 24-26 in Syracuse.

SkillsUSA is a national organization for career and technical education students, and competitions are held annually at the regional, state and national levels. Students compete in hands-on, oral and written tests of their knowledge and skill.

Wow: Retail, Transition students raise more than \$1,000 for several charities - and they aren't finished yet!

Students in Gretchen McDonough's Retail & Office Services and Vocational Training & Transition classes have raised more than \$1,000 to-date this school year for several charities of their choice. Each month, they select a cause to receive a donation from money they raise through hot beverage sales. The students have helped storm victims, special promgoers, even a Bengal tiger.



**Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association
Celebration Bash
And Retirement Party**

May 16, 2013

**Mohawk River Country Club and Chateau
847 Riverview Road, Rexford, NY (Map on back)**

5:00 – 6:00 Cocktail Hour - You won't want to miss the

Entertainment: Chuck Fuller

Butler passed hors d'oeuvres, made to order hot stations

Cold Stations: International cheese, antipasta, eggplant, fresh mozzarella

6:00 – Dinner

Rainbow mesclun salad with cranberries and walnuts

"Turf and turf." Chateaubriand (filet mignon) and/or

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: \$30.00 per person -- Deadline: May 3rd

Are you retiring? Please call Lanny at 231-0552 if we have not already contacted you so we can be sure to include you and a guest in our celebration.

Please make checks payable to:

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association

Please mail check and registration form to:

**Lanny Barsale
P.O. Box 762
Cobleskill, NY 12043-0762**

Name: _____ **Phone #** _____

Requesting Vegetarian? _____ **If registering for more than one, please list names of each person having vegetarian dinner.**

Seating requests: Maximum of 12 per table _____

_____+

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

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Personnel Personals

Congratulations to **Stan Christoff** who celebrated his 85th birthday at the Marriott in Saratoga. It was a multi-generational party celebrating also great granddaughter Emilee's 10th and her dad, Scott's 40th.

We send our condolences to **Micki (Joanne) Agresta**, (Teacher, Sp. Ed. at Draper Middle School) whose father passed away on March 17th.

Save the Date

Celebration Bash

May 16, 2013

BOCES Spring Prom

May 17, 2013



Sunshine Chairperson

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

Abby Fischer

4 Wicken Square, Albany, NY 12205

518-852-0958

abbylynn52479@yahoo.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.