



May 2013

Vol. XXXVII No. 09

CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

TRIAD

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

News from the Vice President

Dear Colleagues,

While Doug is recuperating and taking some time off, I will be filling in on this month's newsletter.

As an elected delegate, I was able to attend the 2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly which is also known as the RA in April.

Over 1500 delegates were in attendance and arrived in Washington, D.C. to discuss the current events in education and to vote on 65 resolutions. While there, there was also opportunity to voice our opinion on issues such as defending ourselves, our jobs, our workplace, unfunded mandates and of course the highly resented, overly tested APPR process. As NYSUT Vice President Maria Neira stated, "It doesn't matter where you are in the state, the challenges are the same." This is where our students are becoming test scores and big business is making big money using a business model to try to undo public education. So it came as no big surprise that the theme for this year's Representative Assembly was VOICE.

For three days we listened, voiced our educational concerns with frustrations becoming more evident with every speaker and asked a barrage of questions not only of each other but also of our NYSUT Board. We also had the opportunity to listen and ask questions of the Commissioner of the State Education Dept., John King. For me personally, I could have passed on this opportunity on listening to the commissioner since the rhetoric was

not beneficial to any student or for public education.

At the end of three full long days, with the voting completed and the NYSUT Board truly listening to their members, a call to rally became a reality. The ONE VOICE – UNITED rally will be held on June 8th, which is a Saturday from 12 Noon until 3 PM in Albany at the capital.

With that in mind, your Association and Political Action committee has been busy in the planning process. Bussing arrangements have been made to leave from NYSUT headquarters. To reserve seating, please call James McFawn at 783-7977 or jmacfawn@nysutmail.org. Please contact him as soon as possible. This rally is for anyone involved in education, parents, grandparents, students, and even school board members. In addition please contact your Representative or an Executive Board member to provide us with a number of how many are coming so that we can provide you with Association T-Shirts and signs.

This is a time when everyone needs to play their part in being ONE VOICE – UNITED. For every person who does participate, it will send a message that needs to be heard. Education cannot continue on this current path. We are our student's best line of defense and we need to stand up for them and ourselves so we are not losing anymore programs or jobs.

In Solidarity, Patti

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION BOCES
FACULTY ASSOCIATION.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

May 1, 2013

REP COUNCIL

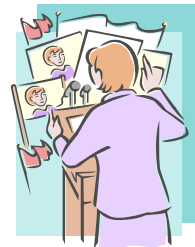
May 15, 2013

BOCES BOARD

May 20, 2013

NYSUT Rally

June 8, 2013



TRIAD Article Deadline

May 28, 2013 for
June Newsletter

In This Issue:

From the Editor.	Page 3
TA/EA Chapter	Page 4
Rep Council Notes	Page 5
Retirees Corner	Page 6

ONE VOICE UNITED

RALLY TOGETHER

Educators, parents, students, community
June 8th • noon • Empire State Plaza • Albany

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Important Dates for 2012-13

<i>BOCES Board of Education</i>	<i>Executive Board</i>	<i>Representative Council</i>
June 17, 2013 Schoharie	May 29, 2013 (June meeting)	June 12, 2013 900 Watervliet Shaker
TBA		September 3, 2013 Opening Day
TBA	September 4, 2013 NYSUT	September 18, 2013 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road

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.

I'm sitting quietly while the kids are doing the state testing and I suddenly realize that it's all (as Jack Daly would say) minutiae. We put these kids and ourselves through so much stress for what? Basically nothing. Does it really say what kind of a teacher I am?

I was feeling really bad about not being able to get the kids to where they needed to be in order to score well on the tests. I was really feeling bad when I realized that I would have a hard time passing the math tests. Then I spoke to some of my friends who teach "normal" kids and found out that those students were having a really difficult time and didn't have time to finish, especially the English/Language Arts tests. They were having some of the same difficulty with the math that I had. And...they were "teaching to the test." One of my students that couldn't do the third math test, wrote in the booklet the reasons that he was having difficulty and what they could do to fix it. For one question he wrote that he hadn't been taught that information. Later he wrote, "Do you get it?" I don't think they ever will. And the clincher was, "Better luck next year."

But, afterwards, we had a pizza party and I was able to tell them that they did a really good job taking the test. We didn't have any meltdowns, no one refused, and basically they gave it their all. So I did the only thing that I could do – gave them a reward. I even threw in wings. That's what I could do. I always wonder, "Is it enough?" I recently read about a teacher who gave her kidney for a student that she had in her class the year before. Now that's an amazing gift. Not sure that I could do that but I guess she can say, "It's enough."

I have to believe that we give our students what they need. We put our hearts and souls into teaching and what is best for each child. This is reflected in the grudging appreciation they give us for our efforts. And, even if we don't get that appreciation, we give more. In our own ways, we give what we can. Some, like me, could probably have retired earlier if we didn't spend as much as we do to fill in the budget gaps. Others put in that extra time working long hours to get the lessons just right. And I know a lot of teachers and TAs and other related service people who show up for special programs that a student is in or stay late so a student can be involved in something in the host school. We drag in when we don't feel well because it's better for the kids. We are there.

Not totally sure how this article will end this month. I've had a lot of time for reflection trying to be quiet and available during the testing. But I'll go back to the questions I posed. Does a test say what kind of a teacher I am? I sure hope not because tests are not my students' fortes. And, is it enough? It will have to be. I don't think anyone wants my kidney but I have students who just want my time. I have that to give. As I wind down on my teaching career, I have to look back and say "No regrets." I have some things that I might do a bit differently if I had another go-round but no regrets. I would do it all again.

**In solidarity,
Lanny Barsale**

Save the date for high-tech, high-fun Career Pathways Summer Camps!

Career & Tech will again be offering SEMI High Tech U, a unique day camp for teens, this summer. Camp will run July 23-26, with a parent/guardian night on July 22. Scholarships will be available to cover costs as well. Locations will include the Center for Nanoscale Science & Engineering at U-Albany, TEC-SMART and more, where campers explore the cool worlds of nanotechnology, semiconductors and more.

Tech Valley Summer Camp returns for teens as well, running from July 16-20. Locations include SUNY East Campus, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and more. Hands-on activities will focus on biotechnology, nanotechnology, advanced materials, alternative energy, information technology and engineering.

Registration details are being finalized for both camps, but save the dates now.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS/EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS/AIDES

By Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituents,

We are heading into the home stretch for this school year. The days are flying by for me with so many events and meeting occurring this time of year. I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather and getting some fresh air.

As you are aware, these are very troubling times for education. Districts are running on bare minimum budgets which have resulted in reduction in staff, over-crowded classrooms, and loss of valuable programs such as music, art, sports and foreign language classes. The list could go on and on. Here at BOCES, we are also adversely affected by the financial difficulties of the districts we serve. I hope everyone was able to attend the Town Hall meeting on May 14th that outlined the challenges we are facing in BOCES. There will be several classrooms closing which will result in more staff layoffs this year. Layoffs always are very troubling for me to accept. These are good, hard-working employees who have served our students and BOCES well throughout the years. I don't know when this bleeding will stop but we have to stay together and advocate for change. On **Saturday, June 8th** there will be a public rally in Albany to have our voices united. Parents, educators, students and the community will be coming together at the **Empire State Plaza at 12:00pm** to voice our concerns on the current issues affecting education in New York State. Please come out and support your student's, children's, and grandchildren's future, there is much at stake. Your livelihood is also in jeopardy, everyone needs to band together to stop these injustices occurring in education. Your voice does make a difference, there is strength in numbers. Please be there!

I have had several conversations with Peter Taormina regarding summer school. It looks like the projections for student enrollment are about the same as last year. At least this is good news and we didn't have any loss in numbers. Information for summer school placement will come

out in June. I hope it works out for those who have replied. Remember, attendance during the regular school year is a criterion for summer school assignment. This is a criterion that is not going to go away, so it is up to you to make sure you are coming to work during the regular school year if you want to be considered.

This message is for the Teaching Assistants who received a letter regarding their certification status. Please make sure you contact Human Resource to outline your plan for getting your needed credits in order to be compliant with the State Education Department requirements for certification. If you have not yet enrolled in a credit bearing course, I recommend you do so **immediately** or your position at BOCES is in peril.

I have had several conversations with Human Resource regarding our seniority list this year. I should be receiving an updated list in time for the TA pool. It is crucial this list is accurate for both layoff and the pool activity. I will continue to ensure this information is accurate and current. They haven't made it easy for me; they insist they don't have the manpower to go through each employees file to get the board appointed dates which is the tie breaker for all teaching assistants who have the seniority days. That excuse is just not good enough for me and I will continue to push the issue. I need that information for accuracy of our rankings so I can clearly answer your questions.

In closing, I hope you were able to attend the Celebration Bash and the TA Showcase this month. These are wonderful celebrations for our chapter. It is during these times that I am so proud to represent you; you all do such amazing work with our students and co-workers. Please stay vigilant in keeping a positive attitude and putting forth your best professional efforts. Our future status as BOCES employees depends on this.

In Solidarity, Colleen Condolora

April 24th Rep Council Notes

By Lanny Barsale, Teacher, Spec. Ed.

Chapter VP Reports

Teachers - Flora Fasoldt

- Possible Closing of Special Ed Classrooms which would mean cutting back related services in addition to classroom teachers and teaching assistants
Looks like 8 classrooms closing

- There are three teachers retiring at this point
- Schenectady is dropping and pulling back students (student attendance a big part, plus they are laying off some of their own staff)
- Town hall meeting is May 14th, 3 PM at Maywood
- SED – IEP diploma gone – focus will be on work based learning and career exploration

TA/Aides – Colleen Condolora

- TA showcase – May 21st at 900

- TA negotiations are starting – contact team if you have any questions.

Service – No Report

CTE Teachers – No Report

Old Business

Representative Assembly – Sherry Karcher-Hewitt

- We as an Association are no longer on the defensive – we need to take the offensive
 - June 8th – Be There
 - List of web sites handed out by Sherry
- Constitution Review – June 6th – You will be contacted with more information

Budget – Presented - after discussion and motion to change two line items, budget was passed.



RETIREE UPDATES

Anita Riccio, Teacher, Spec. Ed. and our friend for over half a century, recently returned from a visit to the back villages of Bangladesh where poverty is the norm and English is not spoken. As with previous trips, Anita's focus is meeting the people and especially working with children, this year at an all girls' orphanage. Since visitors are rare, the children showed much interest in her pale (by comparison) skin. Adapting to the culture, Anita learned the 'finger scoop' way of eating. Due to the political unrest in the country, all must abide by the 11pm curfew, which forbids travel or outdoor activities beyond that time. A salute to our own Ambassador of Good Will.

Martha Whitney, Psychologist, Spec. Ed. sent a lovely note telling of her enjoyment of our Corner. As she lives with the problems of arthritis, she found the March column to be 'right on'. Your encouragement is much appreciated, Martha. Thank you.

RETIREES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff

Spring Greetings,

An early spring it was not but the rains of April finally came to cleanse away the grime of winter and motivated us to do a bit of Spring-cleaning, but not with the exuberance of the past. As we tackled some of the chores, we became keenly aware the many ways our life is controlled by government regulations.

We began with an easy task to gain some sense of achievement. Newspapers, plastics and glass went into the required recycle bin. Our Time Magazines went to a neighbor but we found no takers for our 20- year collection of National Geographic. The libraries we called have them on CDs which take up a minimal amount of space. We moved on to the paper work we seem to acquire from everywhere; utility bills, medical bills, bank statements, taxes and more. We are warned against just trashing them as that could lead to identity theft. Shredding takes forever as does black marking Social Security numbers and other personal information. We thought a quick solution would be burning them in our outdoor stove but there are local ordinances that forbid outdoor burning. No easy solution for that endeavor.

We moved on to sorting closets. There was a multitude of items we would never again fit into and without the daily trek to work our needs are minimal. Fortunately a friend who works at City Mission was more than happy to accept and deliver them. Finally some progress.

We came across a container with used 9V and AAA batteries and also burned out spiral light bulbs. Radio Shack's response to our call was that only rechargeable batteries are accepted. No help there. The spiral bulb

containers read, 'Contains mercury. Manage in accordance with Disposal Laws'. What?

We decided that the old analog TV and defunct microwave will have to wait until we can get help lugging them to a 'Electronic Recycle Day', whenever that happens. Our Spring-cleaning was not progressing too well. Time for an aspirin, after loosening the child proof cap and dislodging the tamper proof aluminum covering. A large cup of soda would quench our thirst and fortunately we did not have to buy it in NY City, where large containers are forbidden.

The 'to do' list had only two jobs left, scrubbing the kitchen floor and raking and again our efforts were governed by the rules. Our tried and true cleaning products of years past contained chemical, which could harm ground water, streams and river. So we tried vinegar as suggested. It did not remove the old wax.

We save the best for last, outdoor work in the sun. After diligently placing our rakings in the paper lawn bags as required by our town, we lugged he them to the road with help of our handcart. As a bonus job we found that after a soaking rain, using just plain water will clean the green mold off a vinyl fence and leave it looking brand new.

So much for Spring-cleaning. We have to wonder if the small part we played really will have any effect on keeping our planet greener for future generation. We have seen photos of the tons of debris at the curbside of the areas of our country that have suffered devastating tornadoes and floods. We wonder. Where has that been disposed of? What pollution will that cause to our planet? Does our small effort matter? We hope so. We will continue to do our part.

Save on vacations with Member Benefits

Have you been planning to finally book that incredible vacation to the Caribbean, Europe or Australia that you've always dreamed about? Or perhaps you need to plan an upcoming business trip or rent a vehicle as part of your next excursion?

Wouldn't it be great to be able to save some money while doing so? NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed discount travel programs designed to help you keep extra cash in your wallet while enjoying some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

If you're on the hunt for big savings, look no further than the Member Benefits-endorsed travel program offered by **Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals**. NYSUT members can enjoy savings of up to 20% at nearly 7,000 participating hotels among 17 hotel brands with Wyndham Worldwide; meanwhile, save 25% at more than 200,000 vacation rentals in 100 countries with Endless Vacation Rentals.

Wyndham Hotels has the right hotel for you at the right price – whether it's an upscale hotel, all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective. With Endless Vacation Rentals, NYSUT members can save on resort condos, villas, homes, and cottages that provide space



and flexibility ideal for families and groups of friends traveling together.

These aren't your everyday run-of-the-mill hotel rooms as accommodations range in size from resort studios to multi-bedroom units. And, many units feature large living rooms, dining rooms, fully-equipped kitchens, and laundry facilities.

Whether you're looking for a multi-bedroom condo in Orlando or Las Vegas, or a luxurious resort in Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, or Canada, Endless Vacation Rentals offers the space and comforts-of-home to make each stay a memorable time!

Don't forget the car rental discounts!

Next time you need to rent a vehicle, make sure to contact **Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, or National**. These companies provide NYSUT members and their families with discounted rates on passenger car rentals.

You can even receive 20% off local or one-way truck rentals from **Budget Truck Rental**.

Learn more about these endorsed programs – including how to access discounts, unique website codes and website links – by contacting **Member Benefits at 800-626-8101** or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

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.

May/Jun. '13



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

**COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
AND TRIAD NEWSLETTER
STAFF**

TRIAD Co-Editors:

Susan Kusalonis—maidmrn300@aol.com

Lanny Barsale—lannyb1953@yahoo.com

Website Editor

Barbara Burnham, baburnham@gmail.com

Web Site: www.crbfa.org

Contributing Staff and Committee:

Pat Gollub—Gollub02@yahoo.com

Jeanette Christoff

jankachristo@juno.com

Catherine Jakway

mssmartypants429@nycap.rr.com

Gretchen McDonough and Transition Class

Capital Region BOCES

Faculty Association

1015 Watervliet Shaker Road

Albany, NY 12205

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage PAID
ALBANY, NY
Permit No. 237

Personnel Personals

RETIRED PERSONALS

Our condolences to **Walter Hacker** and family on the passing of his wife Elsie on April 7, 2013 in Valatie, N.Y. Elsie was 93. Walter, taught Auto Mech at the VoTec Center in Albany. Arrangements were made by the Raymond Bond Funeral Home in Valatie.

Retirement Celebration for Michelle Rosenberger

June 20th—3-5 PM at Maywood School

*A \$5.00 donation towards a gift and refreshments
would be greatly appreciated!*

Please RSVP to Barb Petraznik: 464-6317

By June 14th barbara.petraznik@neric.org

Let us know if you would like to say a few words.

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 mailing address or to give her your personal email. 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.