



May 2014

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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 feels like only yesterday we were starting the year and now, with May 1st only 2 days away, it's pretty much over. Sure, we will do the best we can to push the students a bit farther. And yes, we still have review and testing, but the end is so close you can feel it.

It always seems that as we approach the end of the school year that the last quarter goes so fast that it's like a race to the finish. I'm sure that my students don't feel that way. They have worked hard all year and are starting to fatigue. Not to mention that some of them are enjoying the spring evenings so much that they forget to get a good night's sleep. I think that many of them are ready for the summer break and are impatiently awaiting its arrival. I totally get it. I was a teenager once, though it was a while back, and remember looking forward to all that the summer could offer.

Well, talk about a change in the seasons. At the RA, the attending delegates decided to elect a new slate of officers for NYSUT. I personally did not expect that they would all be replaced, but you just never know what might happen in an election. Is this a good change? My feeling is that only time will tell us that.

Shortly, you will receive a letter asking you to consider to contribute to

VOTE/COPE. Vote cope is how political action with our elected government officials such as lobbying happens and is essential and effective. We are all painfully aware of the changes education has faced and the impact it has had on all of us, our classrooms, programs and the students who need all of us. Vote Cope and the use of the MAC (NYSUT automated fax site) allows us to have a voice in the communicating with our legislators. Donating to Vote/Cope could be as little as the cost of a cup of coffee while using the MAC is nothing more than downloading the app and sending faxes to our elected government officials. If we all take a part no matter how large or small, we are joining our colleagues throughout the state in saying that we are not happy with the direction education is going in and will be a voice to be heard.

What about the future? Though what lies ahead is not certain, what is certain is that things are changing and will continue to change. Sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. What we need to do is watch what is happening, be proactive, and participate in the process. We need to promote positive change and work to stem the big money, negative change. In doing that, we will help shape decisions, and mitigate many of the negative effects that often result from change. Be a part of the process, a part of the decision and a part of the solution.

Looking Forward, Doug

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION
BOCES FACULTY
ASSOCIATION.

REP COUNCIL

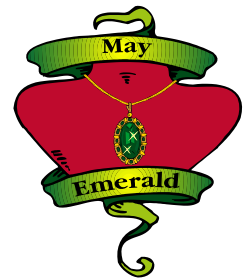
May 21, 2014

BOCES BOARD

May 19, 2014

National Nurses Week

May 2-12, 2014



**TRIAD Article
Deadline 5/27/14 for
June Newsletter**

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Very Useful Web Sites

Explore the outdoors: Search by zip code for parks, trails and other special places to enjoy nature. Includes descriptions, directions, events and other information.
NWF.org/NatureFind.aspx

Shop at government auctions: Find bargains in new seized and surplus vehicles, furniture, real estate and other offerings.
USA.gov/shopping/shopping.shtml

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Automatic e-mail reminders: Schedule free e-mail reminders to send to yourself and/or others at a future date and time, such as “pay rent tomorrow” and “renew car insurance next month.” ReMe.io

Grow your own food: Detailed guide to growing delicious fruits, vegetables and herbs. From the National Gardening Association. Garden.org//FoodGuide

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Important Dates for 2013-14

<i>BOCES Board of Education</i>	<i>Representative Council</i>	<i>TRIAD Committee Meeting</i>
May 19, 2014	May 21, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road	May 27, 2014
June 16, 2014	June 11, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road	None

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

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Grievance Chair	Kristen Lashway	421-3446		Kris10Lashway@gmail.com

From the Editor's Desk

By Lanny Barsale, Co-Editor

From the Editor's Desk

Wow! It is hard to believe that I have reached the second to the last article for the TRIAD as your co-editor. It's been a wild ride and I have mixed feelings about leaving. However, I am ready to start the rest of my life sans BOCES. I have so many plans and I'm also looking forward to just enjoying life and having the time to heal that I have needed.

I look back and so much has changed. I remember using my typewriter, liquid white-out, scissors and glue to put together a page. It took much longer because we had to bring the information to a central location and then I had to type the information onto another page. We made the pages 8.5 x 14 and I had to hand deliver them to NYSUT to get them copied. Then I had to pick them up and we put on the labels. Then it was off to the post office for bulk mailing. It would sometimes take two months to get one out and the information wasn't exactly timely. We did have the same problem of getting the President to finish his article.

I had to walk away from it for a while and we started to get more technological. The old word processors definitely sped up the process. The hard part was still getting the articles together, especially the President's. We had a few different editors but somehow I kept getting involved. I still remember our Dear Gabby column and it would be good to resurrect that.

Those questions still come up and it would be good if people had a way to get them answered. While we did it once, we had to put a stop to romantic advice.

Little by little it got more efficient. The articles now come to us via email. We can gather them the day of the meeting and, as long as the President gets his article in, it comes out in a much timelier manner. It's almost mind-boggling. However, there are problems that we didn't encounter in the past. We have to be more careful with all the new regulations and the speed that we work at means we miss things and make mistakes. The committee is very small for the amount of work that needs to be done. The same people supply articles when we have a plethora of talent in our Association.

So – think about this. I'm out of here soon and need to be replaced. And we could use more people. You don't need to attend the meeting to send in an article. And even doing one every once in a while would work. While I was out and couldn't attend Rep Council, the job of doing the Highlights was shared. This could happen again and could help to make it a less daunting task. Please take time and consider the possibility.

And while you're at it, remember, we always need representatives and substitutes for Rep Council. Once again, many hands make light work.

**In Solidarity,
Lanny Barsale, co-editor.**



The members of the Communication Committee want to say how much we will miss Lanny . We know that she will have a wonderful life after BOCES. We will look forward to any articles she wants to send as a retiree.

The Communication Committee

*Susan Kusalonis, Catherine Jakway, Jeanette Christoff,
Pat Gollub and Barb Burnham*

Teaching Assistants/Aides

Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituents:

Finally, the weather has taken a turn for the better! It felt wonderful to have the warm sunshine on my face as I ventured off to work. I even dug out my sunglasses from my glove compartment. I haven't had much use for them up until now. May has always been one of my favorite months. It is not too hot and all the flowers are in bloom. I love all the colors and smells of spring. There is a freshness in the air that revitalizes me. I wish the spring months do the same for you.

This school year has been flying by but, unfortunately, negotiations have been moving slowly for all Chapters. A few weeks ago, members of the Executive Board received from NYSUT the outline of questions the bargaining units have regarding the proposed Health Insurance plan administration drafted. The questions were submitted to administration and the committee should be getting a response soon. Once we have the responses, we are hoping the negotiations will begin moving forward. We still have so much to do and our chapter is not the only one who wants to get to the table for discussions of our proposals. I will let you know how everything is progressing. The team is anxious to move forward.

I recently ended my landline service to my house so you can no longer reach me at 393-2244. You can reach me on my cell phone 265-2358 or my work phone 356-8349. Of course you can always contact me through my personal email address at condolora@aol.com.

Letters recently went out to several Teaching Assistants whose certifications have expired. Please be sure to update your Teach account and sign up for the DASA training. Please let Barbara Petraznik know when your DASA training is scheduled so she can send a voucher for the \$75 fee. It is imperative you take this certification requirement seriously. If there are reductions in force, those with expired certification will be the first to be placed on the RIF list.

Letters have also gone out from Human Resource to staff who have five days or less of their short-term leave left for this current school year. This is a precautionary letter to inform you that payroll will take actions to put you on timesheets if you go down to zero days. Please be cautious with your short-term leave. Administration is using abuse of time as a tenet to dismiss untenured staff. As you know they are taking this matter very seriously, you must do the same. Don't give them any ammunition to terminate you. I have spoken to administration regarding this matter and they are aware that each circumstance should be looked at individually and not collectively.

I hope to see some familiar faces at the TA Showcase and the Celebration Bash this month. I look forward to spending time with each of you. Take care everyone!

**In Solidarity,
Colleen Condolora**

Dates to remember:

May 1: [Worthy Wage Day](#)
May 6: National Nurses Week
May 6: National Teachers Day
May 9: BOCES Spring Prom, Ramada Inn, Albany
May 15: Celebration Bash, Mohawk River County Club
May 17: Brown v. Board of Education 60th anniversary

RETIREES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff

One day while loading groceries into my car, I glanced down and there on the pavement lay 3 pennies. With their inscription of, “In God We Trust”, they are to me, worth retrieving. In today’s world, they are not greatly valued, except by numismatists. But back in the 40’s, 5 of them would buy a cup of coffee or soda, 5 candies or a comic book. They were the cost of riding the New York City subway from the farthest uptown station to the end of the line. Five cents also bought an “ocean” voyage of sorts, on the ferry from Battery Park in Manhattan, past our Statue of Liberty and on to Staten Island. Five pennies would buy a Popsicle, a treat not readily available to those who still used an icebox as we did. Gathering the parking lot pennies opened my world of memories, a place I visit often.

My journey took me back to the summers of childhood when a cousin would often visit. We would spend those hot afternoons at a nearby park, cooling off in the wading pool, swinging, seesawing and watching the many steam powered trains puff by. We were only 9 or 10 and gave no thought to our safety since many of our neighborhood friends were there and also a few Moms. We made up simple games and challenges, one of which was finding money. We only needed 5 pennies to buy our cold treat and we usually had some success looking under benches and the monkey bars, but we were often a penny or 2 short. Since we had to wear those ugly brown tie shoes because we were “too young” to wear penny loafer, there were no shoe pennies.

Our plan became bolder as we decided we would likely find some change outside of the neighborhood beer gardens, as they were called. In our small, upstate mill town, there were many of them in every neighborhood and about 50 just on the main street. Cousin and I would walk past one, our eyes focused on the sidewalk. As the younger, I was chosen to pick up the coins. I did so reluctantly, and with treasure in hand, we both ran to the corner, in our naïveté, thinking no one had seen us.

After making our purchase and usually breaking our twin pop neatly in half, we savored the sweet, cold ice. Refreshed, we headed for home. A magical box, called a radio, awaited us. We listened to the daily programs and knew each characters’ voice. Their faces were created in our imagination. There were the continuing sagas of Peppers Young’s Family and of Stella Dallas. We chuckled at the misadventures of Lorenzo Jones and we laughed as Fibber McGee opened the door to his closet of treasures and they came crashing down. Soon Grandma would serve supper. Life was good.

My memory journey concluded on entering my driveway and reality returned. How simple our life and our needs had been. Our dependence on electricity was minimal, only a kitchen ceiling light and a radio. A power outage was of no concern as a kerosene lamp sat on the shelf above the kitchen table and in winter our kitchen stove provided heat, as long as we brought in some coal in the old black scuttle. We do wonder what pleasant memories today’s, 9 and 10 year olds will have of their good old days when they reach 75. For them it must seem an eternity way, as it once did for us.

Highlights of Rep Council – April 23, 2014

Submitted by Lanny Barsale

Correction to April Rep Council Highlights:

During the meeting there was unfortunately inaccurate information reported and associated to people in error. The Communication Committee was in error and apologizes for this unintentional miss-information

The corrected information is as follows:

Principals are alerting some therapists to potential issues identified by the "internal auditor" regarding related service delivery. The Internal audit suggested that additional "like" sessions delivered within the same day may both be billable (ex. 2 individuals or 2 groups); currently only 2 "different services" per day are billable (ex. 1 individual, 1 group). The Deputy Director will communicate to related service staff IF this change is made and subsequently WHEN we should change current billing practices. It was also suggested that therapists avoid too many back-to-back sessions in a row. The Deputy Director suggested that IN FUTURE SCHEDULES, a break session (lunch) should be inserted some time near the middle of the day, so as to avoid potential audit questions about when they take "necessary break time". Both the Principal and Deputy Director were responsive to questions about internal audit issues and the need for clarification for related service providers when changes do become necessary.

Minutes – accepted as written

Chapter Vice President's reports:

TA/aides – There have been lots of calls and meetings.

- Administration is pressing hard on staff taking too many days, untenured being flagged as well as tenured, if only 5 days left of allotted time. They will be terminating untenured with too many absences. There have been problems with Workman's Comp reporting. It has been a very difficult week. People are being told they are being laid off, let go, etc.

- Summer school – fluctuations in enrollment making it difficult to know how many classes there will be. We are down many classrooms. It is expected that related services will be less.

Special Education teachers –

- attendance has been an issue,
- staff related issues,
- remind staff that equipment is for school related use.
- Problems of related service being left out of decision about frequencies in annual reviews are being addressed.

Service –

- Attended SRP roundtable – met the new officers from NYSUT.

CTE –

- Received a call from a member at Schoharie campus that needs to be checked out.

NYSUT officers – Much of the old slate was voted out at Delegate Assembly. Suburban districts were status quo but the big 5 (Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Binghamton, Albany) and downstate wanted the new slate. The discussion from ED#10 thought old slate was cozy with governor but some felt that both were. The disturbing thing is that it's not a secret ballot. The people representing you have access to your ballot. Some reps were told by their unions how to vote without polling membership. Much discussion about balloting and lack of secret balloting. There hadn't been movement on union issues until just before the election

Budget – It was handed out at last meeting. It was approved.

Motion was made to increase office supplies line for this year. Asking for a \$1000 for safety net because we need new laptop and more supplies for election as well as checks. Need software for laptops. Money comes from savings. Any not used will revert to savings. Carried.

New Business –

Motion – Philanthropic fund – end of year field trip. Group of students from Maywood that have had "stellar behavior". Going to Boston. \$100.00 comes

from student need. This will cover 2 students. Carried.

Today at Labor Management – talking about budget for next year. Mentioned openings and closings. 2 classes closing but 4 opening.

Standing committees –

Membership – Members went up from 490 – 498, agency fee payers went down from 81 – 69. Some people did not receive NYSUT cards this year. Takes three days to get one on-line.

Negotiations – “battleship” There was information from admin for health plan proposal, NYSUT expert reviewed. Questions sent to administration and waiting for response. Also requested three HMOs to do an analysis. Good plan but issues to be resolved.

Election – Committee will work after the meeting today with enough people to really check. Urging members to read the letter that comes with the ballot!!! Ballots sent through courier will not be accepted. Has to be mailed with a postmark. This election is a bit more “heated”. May 9th is the cutoff. All ballots are numbered randomly. If ballot does not have the number, it is not accepted. Counting will be May 14th at Maywood.

PDP – training for the mini-grants

TRIAD – meeting next week. Concern was expressed about information in TRIAD. It needs to be more closely monitored. Suggestion that it be a bigger committee.

Board Meeting – Very little information because it was held prior to the annual meeting. They went through the agenda very quickly.

There was no Exec session because no one had an issue with personnel. Dr. Dedrick congratulated Bill DeVoe for work on Pipeline issue. Students spoke against it. Done very well.

Annual meeting – all component boards invited. Did a power point on how they contained the budget. 53% of budget is retiree cost such as health insurance. Doug will bring copies of report to next meeting.

Celebration Bash – checks to Brent Pierce. Gerene Lynn, Lisa Mink and Lanny Barsale.

Board Meeting Notes – April 9, 2014

Attending: Susan Kusalonis

4:48 PM

Dr. Dedrick congratulated Bill DeVoe (Communication Dept.) on the entire process for set up and the running of the Pipe Line meeting at Schoharie CTE. There was quite a following along on twitter during the event. Three CTE students spoke and were very articulate on why the Pipe Line should not be allowed to run over the Schoharie CTE Campus grounds.

According to Bill, one of the Teamsters agreed with us after he had heard everything.

5:15 PM

Adjourned

Disclaimer for Articles in the TRIAD

The articles contained in the TRIAD are proofed by the Communication Committee and the individual’s opinion does not reflect the opinion of the Executive Board, Rep Council or the Communication Committee of the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association.

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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We want to congratulate all the graduates in your life. Family or the students you work with and wish them a happy and productive future



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. In doing so, you will be assured of receiving all that correspondence that the Association will send you including your newsletter, the TRIAD.