



June 2012

Vol. XXXVI No. 10

# CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

## TRIAD

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

### News from the President

Dear Colleagues,

The school year is almost at an end. With all that we have been doing and all that has happened, it seems like it has been an especially long year. It was only about 8 months ago that Hurricane Irene came through and did tremendous damage. So many folks lost so much and are still working to put their lives back in order. Many will never return to their homes to live again. The devastation was so great for some, that they simply can't overcome the financial loss. I know that this is classified as a natural disaster, yet it seems so unnatural. Perhaps surreal is an apt expression of what happened. It makes no sense, but it happened just the same.

Perhaps that is this year's theme "It makes no sense, but it happened just the same." It aptly describes the acts of our governor and legislature with respect to educational planning, funding and teacher evaluation. There doesn't really seem to have been much real planning with respect to improving education sensibly. The tests are not good, but the grades stand. State funding is lacking, and local districts have been handicapped in their ability to raise the dollars needed to maintain, let alone improve, education in their schools. The "improvements" politicians and top educational leaders claim to be making in educational quality and teacher evaluation make little sense to those of us on the front lines of

educating our 21st century kids. This also seems surreal. I believe this is another disaster, though manmade and not natural.

It has been a long year. We have been under attack, fighting to just keep some sanity in much of what is proposed. We have and will continue to fight for what is right, no matter how much abuse we receive and how tough it gets. We will continue in the hope that someday sanity will return to the leadership of this state and its top educational leaders. We will continue to fight for the best public education this country has to offer. Why? For the same reason we entered this field of work. It is because we care about what happens to kids in this state. It's because we believe in high quality education for everyone, not just a chosen few. We believe in the education and success of all the children of this country.

Looking at what is being done to our public education system and knowing that many kids will be hurt by these changes is hard to stomach. We press on. It is what we do. Public education will survive, and, if it is better in the future, it will be because of what we have done *in the classrooms*, and not what the leadership has done. The fact is... that is how it has always been.

Looking forward, Doug

### CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION BOCES  
FACULTY ASSOCIATION.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Summer 2012

#### REP COUNCIL

June 13, 2012

#### BOCES BOARD

June 18, 2012-Schoharie

Birthstone:  
Pearl



Flower: Rose

#### TRIAD Article Deadline:

August 5, 2012 for  
September Newsletter

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# Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association

## Rep Council Highlights

May 18, 2012 by Lanny Barsale

### Chapter Vice-Presidents' report:

Special Education Teachers – Flora Fasoldt – hoping reps return in Sept. Getting that set up early.

CTE teachers – Jeannine Moran – Talked about calendar for next year. There is color coding for days. Rosh Hashanah is green but no explanation. She was told that it's not designated as a day off.

TA/EA – Colleen Condolora –

- May 4<sup>th</sup> – contract ratified. It will go to the Board on Monday. She will send out an e-mail when she hears back. Changes in contract – 21+ will receive retro check by end of school year. Bonus pay for 3 days or less of short term – will be in 30 days of last paycheck.
- 26 TA's who were in jeopardy now numbers to 4 TA's. Everyone else did what they were supposed to do to be certified.
- TA pool – June 12<sup>th</sup>. List being compiled

Service – Susan Kusalonis - Mike Rowan has submitted package to admin. There may be a few changes and the rest of the negotiations will be for money.

DHH students did a presentation about their science trip to Key Largo. We had given money toward the escort costs that they would need or interpreting.

Pat Dover was appointed as a rep for service

NYSUT is offering building rep training July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9 – 3. Please see Susan Kusalonis if you want to attend. Very in depth.

Problem with OT/PT again – scheduling problem because of supervision. Very concerned that this is being used again as a way to get rid of OTA/PTAs using scheduling as a reason. They are being told that this group is the hardest to schedule for? Only 5 assistants left. Feel it's not an issue if it's not done correctly.

Negotiations – teachers – not doing a lot, APPR is a problem, no money, if we don't settle and there's no money, nothing much happens. Retirement incentive – spoke with Chuck last week but haven't seen anything. It's in the newspaper but no info to us. Doug has been told that they are working on it. It may go to the Board first. We will need 8 teachers (CTE and Special Education combined) and 4 from each of the other two units in order to offer the incentive. When Board acts on incentive, then we will. It will be done as a memorandum of understanding.

Election results were announced.

Pres. – Doug Harple, Vice-President – Pat Gollub, Recording Secretary – Barb Burnham, Corresponding Secretary – Suzanne Davis, Treasurer – Deb Sorvari

Chapter Vice-Presidents:

Service – Sandy Smith, TA – Colleen Condolora, Special Education teachers – Flora Fasoldt, CTE – Jeannine Moran, ED #10 – Pat Gollub, Colleen Condolora, Barb Burnham, Lisa Mink, Diane Kavanaugh, Sherry Karcher-Hewitt. Alternate – Jeannine Moran

Flora Fasoldt thanked Susan Kusalonis for all of her hard work as Chapter VP. She looks forward to Board report and appreciates hearing that.

Grievance – none

PDP – yesterday's meeting was the mini-grant winners. It was disconcerting that only 4 members of the committee came. No one from the outside attended.

Vote/Cope – exceeded goal of \$1000. Will report next month.

Adjourned: 5:20 PM

## 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	Susan Kusalonis	393-5598	421-2007	maidmrn300@aol.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@googlemail.com
Corresponding Sec'y.	Sue Davis	427-0459	456-0574	scdavis@nycap.rr.com
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

## BOCES prescription drug benefit manager to change July 1

Benefits will remain the same, new cards to be issued  
[Editors Note: This does not apply to NYSHIP members.]

Express Scripts Inc. (ESI) will be the new prescription-drug benefit manager for BOCES employees beginning July 1, 2012, following the company's acquisition of BOCES' current prescription drug manager, Systemed Medco.

### What this change means

BOCES employees enrolled in any of the following insurance plans: CDPHP, MVP or Blue Shield Community Blue, are affected and will receive new benefit cards with the BOCES logo imprinted on them. All benefits will remain the same: Current co-pay options of \$5 for Generic drugs and \$10 for Brand Name drugs will remain intact.

**Note: Employees must present their new card for all prescription drugs to be filled on or after July 1, 2012.**

### Specialty drug pharmacy vendor change

Effective July 1, 2012, the new specialty drug pharmacy vendor through ESI will be CuraScript. If you are currently taking a specialty medication that is processed through Accredo (Medco's specialty drug vendor, offered currently with BOCES' coverage), this will change. Please visit the benefits section of the BOCES website to view more information.

### What BOCES employees must do

BOCES employees currently enrolled in the Medco program will automatically be enrolled into the ESI program. Those with open prescription drug refills or maintenance drugs with refills available will not need to ask their doctors for new prescriptions: Simply log onto [www.ExpressScripts.com](http://www.ExpressScripts.com) and register for a personal account. The website allows access to personal drug information, as well as provides drug costs and access to educational materials.

### What is Express Scripts Inc.?

Express Scripts Inc. is an industry-leading pharmacy benefit manager which BOCES is working with to make employee use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable. Express Scripts uses the most advanced methods available to process prescription-drug claims, which translates into fast, reliable service. Also, Express Scripts will periodically send information home to keep employees up-to-date on new programs and resources available to help employees manage their health.

Reprinted from the BOCES Insider

## Service Chapter Notes

By Susan Kusalonis

Dear Colleagues.

This will be my last article as Chapter Vice President. I want to thank all of you for the support and understanding over the years and I will do everything I can to support **Sandy Smith**, the new Chapter VP.

I will miss working with the Executive Council as they have all proven to be true professionals in all of the dealings I have had with them. They all are good people and I know they will welcome Sandy and give her all the support she needs.

It is my hope to continue going to Board Meetings as I find them to be quite enlightening. I believe we have one of the best Boards of Education there is. They all are working to support the students, staff and programs that Capital Region BOCES sponsors.

One of my last duties as Chapter VP happened tonight as I spoke at Kathryn Gerbino's retirement celebration. She has been a great supporter of Service Chapter members and their professional growth.

**In solidarity, Susan**

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## Hazard Communication training

The **last** live Hazard Communication training, which included the Bloodborne Pathogen segment, was scheduled for **Wednesday, May 23rd**.

**All employees** are required to take the Hazard Communication training **annually**.

For those who need Bloodborne Pathogens training, it is NOW AVAILABLE at <http://www.capregboces.org/Risk/OnlineTrainings.cfm>

You may choose to take both the Hazard Communication training and the Bloodborne Pathogen training **online**-as opposed to attending a live training.

**NOTE:** These online Hazcom and Bloodborne training courses are two separate courses. Those staff needing the Bloodborne Pathogens course must complete both.

Reprinted form BOCES Information.

# TEACHING ASSISTANTS/EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS/AIDES

By Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituents:

It is difficult to believe another school year has come to an end. It seems as each school year passes, time just appears to fly by more and more quickly. I believe this happens to each of us because we are so busy with work, family, friends, and all the extra responsibilities we have each day.

As you know the contract was ratified on May 4<sup>th</sup> and was approved by the Board on May 21<sup>st</sup>. For step 21 plus staff, those staff who did not receive any increase in pay for this school year, your retroactive pay will be given to you by the end of this school year. I hope several more staff will be able to enjoy the bonus pay this year. The bonus pay for staff that has used 3 or less days of short-term leave will receive their incentive check in July. Contractually, you must receive the bonus no later than 30 days after your final paycheck, which is June 15<sup>th</sup> this school year. I want to thank everyone for their support during negotiations in these unprecedented economic times. I am keeping the faith that our economy will turn around so our next round of negotiations will be less stressful for everyone involved and will result in putting more money in our coffer. Hopefully the bad times will be behind us soon.

Summer school assignments were challenging again this year. Unfortunately, there were fewer positions due to lower enrollment by our component school districts. The early assignment notices however, gave employees an opportunity to find alternate work for the summer. Remember, for next school year, to please

keep good attendance since this is a criteria being used to hire for summer school assignments. The good attendance will also put added money into your pocket if you use 3 days or less of your short-term leave. Please note: days used for bereavement and jury duty **do not** count as days taken from your short-term allotment for the year. If anyone has any concerns or questions during summer school, please feel free to contact me through Group-Wise, [ccondolo@gw.neric.org](mailto:ccondolo@gw.neric.org) or at home at 393-2244. I am always available during the summer months for assistance.

Please remember to bring non-perishable items to Opening Day on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 5, 2012. The Faculty Association is sponsoring a food drive again this year for the Northeast Regional Food Bank. This worthy cause helps so many families in our community. Thank you everyone for your support and generosity each year. Teaching Assistants and Aides are so generous with their donations, year after year.

In closing, please enjoy your summer months. Take some time to find a beautiful beach to walk on, a hammock to read a book in, or a stroll in a beautiful park. Enjoy your family and friends and try to get some much needed rest. Everyone has worked so hard this school year and you deserve to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. Enjoy the summer months everyone!

**In Solidarity,  
Colleen Condolora**

## **Opt IN for a hard copy of the TRIAD**

A motion was passed by the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association to try to "Go Green" and only send a hard copy of the TRIAD starting with the September 2012 issue to members who request it.

We will start asking those members who want to continue receiving a hard copy to let our Membership Chairperson, **Lisa Mink**, know that they want a hard copy and confirm the mailing address. You can contact Lisa by phone (518) 372-7240 at home; email her at [lmink8@hotmail.com](mailto:lmink8@hotmail.com) or by US mail to: 8 Jester Drive, Colonie, NY 12205.

**This is the last hard copy you will receive if you have not contacted Lisa Mink yet. (This does not apply to e-mail recipients).**

# VOTE-COPE June, 2012

## Putting Activism To Work: “You Have The Power”

By Catherine A. Jakway, VOTE-COPE Chairperson.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association

The VOTE-COPE campaign continues and I am still receiving your kind donations. I would like to thank all of those who have sent back their contribution cards. To those who haven't, it's not too late. We have a VOTE-COPE contribution that fits all budgets. This can be done by check (made out to “Vote-Cope”) or through payroll deduction. Retirees can contribute through automatic pension deduction. **New members are encouraged to make a donation.**

If you need another packet sent to you, please let me know. I have your name and member ID# and I can get another out in the mail and to you within a couple days.

Everyone benefits when you support your NYSUT's efforts to protect public education, access to health care, labor rights, and fairness for working families. A contribution to this political action fund helps ensure your voice will be heard on issues, large and small, that affect your life. Make an investment in yourself and your future. Please make your donation to VOTE-COPE today.

**Thank you, Catherine Jakway**

## Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Election Results 2012 – 2014

President: Doug Harple

Vice-President: Patricia Gollub

Recording Secretary: Barbara Burnham

Corresponding Secretary: Suzanne Davis

Treasurer : Debra Sorvari

Special Education Teacher Chapter VP: Flora Fasoldt

CTE Chapter VP: Jeannine Moran

Service Chapter VP: Sandra Smith

TA/Aide Chapter VP: Colleen Condolora

The Results for ED 10 Representatives 2012 – 2014 are;

Patricia Gollub, Colleen Condolora

Barbara Burnham, Lisa Mink

Diane Kavanaugh, Sherry Karcher-Hewitt

Alternate: Jeannine Moran

Congratulations to all of you! I would like to thank those who participated by returning their ballots for the election. I received a great number of returned ballots, and I hope to continue getting record numbers of returns. Every one I received showed your support for our Association.

I would like to thank the Election Committee members. Thank you, Thank You, Thank You, to **Terry Bennett**, Sp. Ed. TA, **Anne Conway**, Sp. Ed SW, **Wendy Cotter**, Teacher CTE , and **Abby Fischer**, Sec. Service Chapter, for volunteering your time, effort and patience and spending several hours representing your Chapter. Getting the election results done accurately and correct was greatly appreciated. I could not have done this job as well without your time, effort, assistance and dedication.

**Catherine Jakway, Election Committee Chairperson,**

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## Capital Region BOCES changes banks effective July 1st

The Capital Region BOCES will begin using JP Morgan Chase for banking services, effective July 1, 2012.

Beginning with the first paycheck in the 2012-13 fiscal year, payroll checks will be written on the JP Morgan Chase payroll account. Because JP Morgan Chase does not have any local branches in the Albany area, First New York Federal Credit Union has offered to open credit union accounts for BOCES employees, and waive the initial \$5 minimum balance requirement, which will enable employees to cash paychecks at any office of the First New York Federal Credit Union.

All employees who currently receive paychecks will receive a memo about this change in their June 1 paycheck. The bank change does not affect BOCES employees who currently have direct deposit.

Employees with questions may contact Business Administrator Bruce Bonacquist at 464-3902.

Reprinted from the BOCES Insider.

# Thinking About Retiring?

By Cecelia Gookin, OT Retired Dec. 2012

Having just taken the plunge, the decision to retire is fresh on my mind. It wasn't easy as there are so many pro's and con's. If you have the magic number of years in or are of a certain age, here are some things to consider.

While everyone's situation is different, it takes less money to retire than you might think. Look at the difference between your gross wages and the net amount you get in each paycheck. The lesser, net amount is what you live on now. Now consider that once retired, there will no longer be deductions for FICA, Medicare, medical insurance or union dues taken from your pension check. It's pretty much all yours. You will most likely be in a lower tax bracket than you are now - so less taxes to pay. NY State pensions are exempt from state taxes and in some cases part or all of your Social Security check may also be, depending on what tax bracket you fall into. At 65, you qualify for the STAR exemption on your property tax, and that's another savings. Hopefully, you will have your spouse's pension, IRA, personal savings and at 62 or later, social security to round out your income. If you really feel you must work to keep busy, social security allows you to earn \$14,100 per year until the age of 65, after which you can earn all the money you want with no reduction in benefits. I retired with less than 20 years accrued at BOCES and am having no trouble living solely on my pension, but I got most of the big expenses like mortgage and car payments out of the way first. I will have enough to put some away for long term care insurance, emergencies or mad money once social security kicks in. My budget includes a certain amounts for "fun and games" even with my smaller-than-average pension.

A good way to determine if you're ready to retire is to make a list of all your monthly expenses, plus the yearly ones, like insurance, taxes, and things you're billed for

only once or twice a year converted into monthly amounts. Allow yourself some extra for miscellaneous expenses, entertainment, and of course saving for unexpected things like a new roof, car repairs or a leaky water heater. Compute what your pension will be plus any other source of income you may have, and compare it to your projected retirement income. What I found surprising was that I needed much less than I thought I did. While I am planning on doing some travel and hobby activities, I decided I didn't need to live like a movie star. With all this newfound free time, one can research more carefully for the best deals and use those senior citizen discounts to their best advantage.

As far as keeping busy, I seem to be as busy now as I was while working. I reviewed and adjusted my finances, insurance, will, etc. to be sure everything was in order. Am taking care of home improvement chores that had to be put off and going through the incredible accumulation of belongings I didn't have time to deal with. I'm working on fitness and have time to devote to special interests. There are so many quality free or low cost activities out there we never had time to take advantage of while we were working. Where I live there are free documentary movies at the library, fitness courses and lecture series. And finally time to stop and smell the roses.

With the economy the way it is, many of our younger co-workers who are not able to retire are facing layoffs and the potential for being out of work for a long time. Others may find themselves with both family breadwinners out of work at the same time. So if you've been thinking of retiring this may be the time to do so and give some of the younger folks a chance in these tough times. I can guarantee you won't regret it.

## Efforts aim to boost financial literacy in schools

The goal of increasing Americans' alarmingly low financial literacy got a boost on May 10, when the White House held its first-ever summit on financial capability and empowerment. The summit, which was an initiative of the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability, included discussions that targeted a whole range of populations that could benefit from a strong focus on financial literacy, from elementary school students up through current workers and retirees. The AFT is supporting the council's efforts, and AFT president Randi Weingarten attended the summit. She wrote about the importance of the issue in a recent [Huffington Post column](#). "Knowledge is power," Weingarten writes, "and in the case of financial education, knowledge is economic power, perhaps even economic destiny. Individuals, families, employers, communities and schools all have roles to play in ensuring that a secure economic destiny is available to all."



*Inside AFT*, an electronic newsletter for leaders and activists, is prepared by the AFT communications department. Contributors and sources for this week's edition include Barbara McKenna, Delisa Saunders, LaToia Jones, Virginia Myers, Adrienne Coles, the Economic Policy Institute, Tear Jones Murphy, Catherine Mason and Kathy Buzad. Dan Gursky, editor; Jane Feller, copy editor.

# RETIREES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff

Greetings; It Is Our Wonderful Month of June,

As the school year draws to a close on this continuum we call time, we look to bring some good news stories we found, often buried amidst the bad.

Our first story is of our neighbors in Schoharie who are forging ahead in their battle to regain their lives. For the children, attending school was and is a beacon of comfort and normalcy, amidst the chaos. It was thought that the tradition of the Senior Prom would be impossible with the personal and financial losses. To the rescue came Kim Vescova program manager for N.Y. Disaster Relief and the employees of Ellis and Bellevue Hospitals. Through their Project Cinderella, they collected over 300 gowns, tuxes and suits. It was heartwarming to see the report of joyous students as they

searched, tried and selected their beautiful apparel for that special evening, a fairy tale come true after the months of muck and debris they have endured.

Our second story is also of a student and a Prom. A charming young man named Max won the hearts of his classmate's receiving 70% of the vote to become King of the Prom at Lake George High School. Max has Down Syndrome. The report evoked memories of our first years at Maywood in the early 80's and of the beginnings of the BOCES Prom. It was a milestone for many students who had never been to a dance. The excitement of preparation and the happiness at the event of students and staff is a treasured memory. Thanks to two TA's, Linda Percent and Kathie Bouchard, the annual prom has become a tradition. If only there was a way to be in those moments again and know the joy.

Our third story is also about students. A school bus was traveling along when the driver suddenly suffered a seizure losing control of the vehicle. A quick-thinking nine year old student knew that if he turned off the ignition, the bus would stop. He did and it did. Another student came forth and began doing CPR on the driver. These two young heroes averted what could have been a major catastrophe.

Our last good news story is that all who are reading this have come through another year of school or retirement. As summer approaches, we wish you the pleasure of warm air on your skin, of wet sand between your toes, of the laughter of friends and family, of the fragrance of clean, sweet air after a storm and the sight of a rainbow or two. Blessings to all.

## RETIREE UPDATE

Our condolences to the family of Jennie Stumpf, who passed away suddenly on May 16, 2012. Jennie was a Teacher's Assistant in the Special Education Division and was located the Guilderland District. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Edward, her children Charles and Marcia, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

# From the Editor's desk

Lanny Barsale, Co-Editor

Ah technology. What a wonderful thing it is. I can experience a myriad of things without ever leaving my study. I can contact hundreds through social networking sites. I can even set up a date with Mr. Right. I can plan, take reservations, answer questions, make table assignments, and set up the venue for the Celebration Bash sitting at my laptop. I can even make mistakes in the seating chart without leaving my home.

Many of my daily contacts are made on-line. One can meet one's needs without leaving your living room. I tried to make an order today and was directed to do it on-line. I just "chatted" with my sister in Idaho without hearing her voice. Pictures of my nieces and nephews and their children show up in Facebook and my e-mail and are then downloaded and added to my digital frame without paying postage or developing costs. Do I need anything else?

Well...maybe. Having just enjoyed another successful Celebration Bash, I have to admit that this is one place that technology can't replace. Yes, it made it easier to organize. Yes, the certificates looked wonderful. And the write-up about it can be found in your TRIAD which can be accessed on-line. However, there are certain things that technology just can't replace.

First, the meal. You can't taste chateaubriand and chicken au pouvre over the internet. It's just too delicious to even just be described. You have to experience it, not to mention range of hors d'oeuvres served before the meal and that was a meal in itself. The salad, potatoes and vegetables made the meal complete. Then, for dessert, came the make your own sundae bar.

But it wasn't just the food. There are the people. Many get together here every year, reserving a table and just enjoying the evening and the company. You don't have to know the retirees to come. One of the reasons that I got involved with the organizing of this evening was that I would miss seeing those folks. I am especially blessed in that I get to greet them at the doorway and catch up on their school year or another year of retirement.

We give a free meal to people with 20, 25, 30 and 35 years on the job. What a deal! It's a gift from your Faculty Association to thank you for your time and efforts in a sometimes thankless job. How could you resist. And yet, many do. I am very impressed with the folks who decide to take advantage of it even when they don't really know people there. What a great way to connect with folks in an organization this size. Makes it seem a bit smaller.

Then, there are the retirees. They have muddled through all of these years so we give them 2 free dinners, a centerpiece, a certificate and pin, a photo album and CD of the evening, a video, and a sendoff. Is it enough? I think not but it's what we can do. It's a fun evening for them and the folks who come to honor or roast them. Even when I don't know the people, I enjoy the presentations which give a glimpse into their time with BOCES. Another reason that I got involved in the organization of the Bash is that I didn't want to see this opportunity end. In fact, I can't wait until it's my evening.

This year I got a reservation from a computer programmer who had retired in December. His name was posted with the others but I didn't get any takers from the NE-ERIC folks. So, I put him at my table (usually known as the misfits table) and hoped to get to know him. Well, Dan and his wife Marilyn turned out to be very delightful in spite of the fact that he stated that he wasn't a people person. I also found out that he had hidden the invitation and his wife had found it and e-mailed me. They really seemed to enjoy themselves and I was so glad that Marilyn had taken the initiative.

Well – technology cannot replace that experience. Having a great meal, enjoying the company of old friends, meeting new friends, and giving a sendoff to our retirees is something that you have to be a physical part of. Dan talked about being in his cubicle and not engaging with people. While that was okay for him, he still seemed to have a good time. And for me, a major people person, I did not want to experience THAT on-line. So think about it for next year. You don't have to know the retirees, you can come with friends or make them there, and you don't need your laptop.

**In solidarity, Lanny Barsale**



# RECLAIM THE DREAM: VOTE 2012 NYSUT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Buffalo Niagara Convention Center—Buffalo

The following are highlights from the 2012 NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) held on April 26-28 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, NY.

The NYSUT Leadership, led by President Dick Iannuzzi, vowed the union would hold accountable those aiming to publicly shame teachers through the misuse of personnel information, and hold every elected official accountable, whether in the House or the Senate. Executive Vice President Andy Pallotta stated that union members might get knocked down, but they will stay relentless in their fight for those they serve... **We will never stop fighting for you!** Vice President Maria Neira chanted, "We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore!" She told all delegates to "**Channel our anger to challenges ahead.**" State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli received a thunderous applause and was thanked by NYSUT leadership and members for "**courageously telling the truth about so-called pension reform.**" On another

note, delegates were respectful but clearly angry as they questioned State Education Commissioner John King on every subject from state assessments to APPR plans. The Buffalo delegation protested his arrival by walking out when Commissioner King arrived at the podium.

On a high note, **Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association** was recognized and given a Community Service Award for our charitable fund-raisers and philanthropic donations on behalf of the communities we serve. In addition, NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi acknowledged our President Doug Harple for his YMCA project with his class. This RA was a proud moment for our own Faculty Association!

**In Solidarity,**

**Colleen Condolora and Diane Kavanaugh**

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## June Checklist

**Stock up on insect repellent:** DEET is the best for mosquitoes. Controlled-release products work for 10 hours. Products containing *picaridin* are more effective against flies.

**Get extra sun protection:** Special clothing – [www.SunPrecautions.com](http://www.SunPrecautions.com)...Sun Guard laundry additive – [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)...UVprotective sun umbrellas and other products – [www.Coolibar.com](http://www.Coolibar.com).

**Summer-proof your vehicle:** Make sure that tires are properly inflated (pressure raises as temperatures increase). Replace wiper blades. Check fluid levels.

**Stay safe in thunderstorms:** Review dos and don'ts during Lighting Safety Week, June 24-30. Corded phones, computers and other equipment connected directly to electricity are off-limits. Do not take showers or wash dishes.

**Celebrate Father's Day:** Sunday, June 17, Great gift ideas: Mugs, plaques, T-shirts and other items with his favorite sayings ([www.SaveASaying.com](http://www.SaveASaying.com))...CDs with songs or memories that your family has recorded...customized license plates (look up your state at [www.dmy.org/license-plates.php](http://www.dmy.org/license-plates.php)).

[Reprinted from Bottom Line Publications.]

# Capital Region BOCES Board Meeting

May 21, 2012—by Susan Kusalonis

A Public Hearing started at 6:30 PM to obtain comments from members of the public regarding the proposed Code of Conduct Policy (#5300) which incorporates the statutorily required language from the Dignity for All Students Act.

Inge Jacobs introduced the Farnsworth MS DHH students who were able to go to Key Largo with regular ed. Guilderland students for Marine Lab. **Pam Lane** (Educ. Interpreter) and **Karen Harris** (Speech) went with them as chaperon and interpreter. The students were amazing and the Board members were impressed by their presentation. Some parents were in attendance to watch their children present. Dr. Dedrick brought out a picture of him scuba diving and wanted to know if the students were considering this? Tyler said absolutely yes.

Terry Swett thanked CTE staff member who had helped with the Middle States Accreditation Recertification. Jim Hass and Larry Hinman were singled out as they had taken leadership roles in the process. Kim Brizzel had handled the Adult Ed Accreditation and Denise Capece in Schoharie. Kathryn Gerbino wanted to also thank Nancy Jones for her support with statistics and the data she pulled together.

Terry wanted to inform the Board that there would be a Scholarship award that parents of Aaron Schwartz had set up after he was killed last year in a car accident. Aaron was a graduate of the welding program. It will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM in Building D, Room 5 at Albany CTE.

Dr. Dedrick wanted Terry to inform the Board of the two new programs that were being started at CTE in the fall.

- First, Tech Valley Manufacturing & Machining Technology will be housed at the Mohonasen HS. The students will be learning modern machining curriculum, i.e. Robotics, lathes, bench work, etc. This class has a limit of 15 and 7 slots are Mohonasen students. Other districts will be filling the remaining spots.

This will be a two year course. *[One board member wanted to confirm that they will be taught hands on knowledge of micrometers, scales, calipers, etc. Not just computer knowledge.]*

- Second, the Theatre Institute at Sage is being co-sponsored by Capital Region BOCES and Questar III. There will be five students to start and they will be working directly with the professors at Sage and performing in any productions that are put on while they are there. This is a half year course for seniors only. They will be there from 10 AM to 6 PM at night. They will receive credit in English, Art and PE.

Next Denise Capece introduced student Dallas who is the Skills USA President from Schoharie CTE and will be representing us at the Kansas City national meeting.

Dallas spoke well and stated that he couldn't have done it without the help of the CTE Staff and their encouragement. Dr. Dedrick wanted to know how his parents felt about his involvement and how had it changed him. They saw how Dallas was with younger students in the wrestling matches and how he was the first to stop the bullying and teasing of new and younger students. Also, his public speaking ability amazed them.

Dr. Dedrick let the Board know that he would be meeting with the Board of Regents to discuss the possibility of changing the pathways for students to get a degree with different choices. Wants to move away from cookie cutter approach to students. They could replace social studies exam with choice of math, science or CTE credit. This is a start and these discussions are a small first step.

All agenda items were passed by the board.

Executive Session started at 7:45 PM all non-board members left at this time.

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## Attention Locals: Don't miss out on a special prize drawing!

We know that your Local Association's newsletter is a great vehicle to find out what is going on in your region, meet the members of your local and learn about exciting opportunities available to you.

Along those lines, we have a great opportunity for you! NYSUT Member Benefits has launched a special prize drawing for all NYSUT members in an effort to encourage greater participation in our free MAP Alert email service.

MAP Alerts are sent approximately once every three weeks to your email inbox and contain information about new endorsed Member Benefits programs, changes to current programs and reminders about existing programs. And, you have our word that you will not be bombarded with email messages.

You will receive one entry into the drawing for every MAP Alert that you open and read before August 15. Winners will be announced on August 16 on the Member Benefits website!



If you are not already a MAP member, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) and click on the MAP graphic in the upper right hand corner of our homepage to join this free service.

*Please note that you must be a NYSUT member to be eligible to win any of the prizes in this contest. Only one prize per winner. Current or retired NYSUT employees, NYSUT Member Benefits vendors, or their family members are not eligible to win.*



**All current and new MAP members who open at least one MAP Alert before August 15, 2012 are eligible to win the following prizes:**

### **Grand Prize**

Bose Home Theater System

### **First Prize**

iPad

### **Second Prize**

Kindle Fire

### **Third Prize**

Bose Noise-Canceling Headphones

### **Fourth Prize**

\$50 Powell's Books Gift Card

For more information about this drawing, call **800-626-8101** or visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org).

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



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

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## **Personnel Personals**

Wishing **Terry Livingston (TA, Sp. Ed.)** a speedy recovery and return to good health.

**Mary Jane Cleary**, who worked an occupational therapist with our BOCES from 1981 until her retirement in 2006, passed away peacefully and at home on Saturday, June 2.

A celebration of Mary Jane’s life and legacy was held Thursday, June 7th at 5 p.m. at New Comer Cannon Funeral Home.

<b>Rep Council Dates</b>	<b>Location Of each meeting</b>
6/13/12	900 Watervliet Shaker Road Albany/Schoharie Rms.

**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 **Lisa Mink**, Membership Chair, with any change in address that you have. You can reach her at [lmink8@hotmail.com](mailto: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.