Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another year of education and Capital Region BOCES. If you are new to BOCES, “Welcome”.

I hope your summer went well and you were able to do some of those things that you wanted to or needed to do that you couldn’t do during the school year. I also hope that some of the things you did included rest, relaxation and stress removing activities. As a teacher, I understand how hard and stressful your job is and how important the summer break is to continuing success in the classroom.

The summer has been a busy one for members of your Executive Board and myself. There have been many issues that have required many hours of phone conversations and numerous meetings. Summer seems to be very busy with student enrollment beginning to grow.

Change continues to happen. Some of it may be good. We will have several new faculty and staff members along with some new administrators. There will be a few new classes starting and some old classes closing. The one thing that seems to be constant with BOCES is change.

Unfortunately there have been many changes over the past few years which are put upon us by the Governor, the NY State legislature, NYSED (New York State Ed Dept.) and the NYS Board of Regents. So many of these changes are politically motivated and not thought out as to how they will impact students in “the real world of education.” These changes have not been for the benefit of students, but have been an attack on public education and its teachers. Unfortunately it has changed much of the focus of education to defending what we do well instead of building on it. It was a sad day when this governor was elected, as he has led the charge against public education and public employees. I wonder how long he would last teaching in one of our classrooms.

Though there seems to be a sentiment that students need to be prepared for the “real world of work”, much of the changes we have seen are so far from this. From what I can see where I work, what we need to do in order to move forward is back up a few years and then focus on tuning and enhancing our work. With proper support and funding we can still fix this mess. We have a new commissioner of education and some new members on the Board of Regents. They seem to be thinking for themselves and be less politically motivated. Perhaps there is still hope. Resignation of the chancellor would certainly brighten up my day. Here’s hoping.

We have what we have and we need to continue to try to do the best job we can. Our students need that from us. We need to keep our chins up and push forward. Those are real world skills we can teach and model. Outside of the classroom we need to keep fighting for what is right. My hope is this will get better.

As with last year, I expect you will be asked to help write letters, make phone calls and monetary contributions (VOTE COPE) to help maintain and/or improve funding for our programs. Also, as we start the new school year I want to ask you to consider what you, as an individual, can do for your Faculty Association (and for yourself). Many members have and continue to help, but there is still much to be done. Consider becoming a Chapter representative, bringing concerns of your colleagues to the Association through Rep. Council and helping to decide on these issues.

Or, you could work on one or more of the many committees that help get the work done. Consider sharing your thoughts, expressing your concerns and giving your help. Your Association will not run by itself. Your help is needed and welcome.

All the best for this new school year.

Looking Forward, Doug
## Important Dates for 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exec Board NYSUT</th>
<th>Rep Council 900 bldg. (unless noted otherwise)</th>
<th>TRIAD Meeting Maywood</th>
<th>BOCES BOARD Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 9, 2015</td>
<td>Sept. 30, 2015</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
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<td>November 4, 2015</td>
<td>Nov. 18, 2015</td>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
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<td>December 2, 2015</td>
<td>Dec. 16, 2015</td>
<td>Dec 29th??? Or Jan. 5th</td>
<td>Dec 21 or (17)</td>
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<td>January 6, 2016</td>
<td>Jan. 20, 2016</td>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Jan 21</td>
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<td>February 3, 2016</td>
<td>Feb. 24, 2016</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Feb 22</td>
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<td>March 2, 2016</td>
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<td>March 22nd or 29th</td>
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<td>April 6, 2016</td>
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<td>May 4, 2016</td>
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<td>May 16 Schoharie CTE</td>
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<td>June 1, 2016</td>
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<td>04:15-6:00 PM</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
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## Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>HOME</th>
<th>WORK</th>
<th>E-Mail Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>H. Douglas Harple</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:hdharple@msn.com">hdharple@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>862-4716</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>862-4720</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baburnham@gmail.com">baburnham@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Deborah Sorvari</td>
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<td>334-1296</td>
<td><a href="mailto:debmom39@nycap.rr.com">debmom39@nycap.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>862-5334</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ghanley97@gmail.com">ghanley97@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Kristen Lashway</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kris10Lashway@gmail.com">Kris10Lashway@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[www.crbfa.org](http://www.crbfa.org)
Dear Constituents:

Welcome back everyone to a brand new school year! The summer months just seem to have flown by so quickly this year. I hope everyone who worked summer school was able to get some well-deserved rest and also some fun in the sun with family and friends. We were all very fortunate to have such beautiful sunny weather this summer to enjoy.

Over the few weeks I had off following summer program, I met with administration on several occasions to discuss Teaching Assistant/Aide issues. There were several staff returning from leaves who needed to be placed. There was also some lateral movement of staff who were placed in different classrooms in order to strengthen teams. Dr. Taormina also made a request for Flora Fasoldt and me to be part of a Special Education Safety Subcommittee. As you know, health and safety are two very important issues to safeguard our staff. I, of course, agreed to be on the subcommittee. This is an area I am well-informed on since I am the statewide NYSUT Health and Safety Chairperson. I will keep you abreast of any information that is pertinent to our Chapter.

In July, I met with Lynne Wells and Donna Lamkin to address professional development opportunities for this school year. I suggested six topics to be offered on the days your districts have staff development days. Last year we were able to combine several districts on their Superintendent Days. Since this worked out well, we will be doing this again. I gave the dates to Donna and Lynne and the workshops will be offered on those days. As you are aware, next year the requirements for Level III Teaching Assistants will be increased to 100 hours over five years. I will keep you updated on when this will officially occur. This year Level III are still required to obtain 75 hours/5 years.

Finally, our contract is almost complete with the updates and changes. I will be going over to Human Resource to sign the Memorandum of Agreement. I will then make a request to NYSUT to have them printed. The Association will be holding a General Membership soon so I am hoping to have the contract available then. If this does not work out I will need to go back to the drawing board and come up with an alternate solution. One way or another you will have them available to you.

Please remember to keep track of the number of days you work this school year. Due to the BOCES calendar, which our pay is based on, Teaching Assistants and Aides are being paid on a 184 day calendar. Some of the districts we work in have a longer calendar than 184 days. If you work over the 184 days, then you will need to submit a timesheet to your principal to be compensated for the extra days in June. It will be up to you individually to make sure your pay is correct, payroll will not be keeping track of this for you.

Enjoy your school year everyone! I hope everything starts out smoothly for you. If you have any questions or needs, please contact me and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. Welcome Back!

Colleen Condolora, Teaching Assistants/Aides Chapter VP

FREE FALL EVENTS IN THE CAPITAL REGION

Larkfest 2015, Lark Street in Albany, September 19th, 10 AM-5:30 PM
“LarkFEST is New York’s largest one day street festival! It is one of Albany’s most anticipated events with 80,000 people expected to attend this year. This event is not to be missed! LarkFEST was voted in the top 3 of the "Best Arts Event" in the Capital Region. The big event is on Saturday September 19th, 2015 from 10am to 5:30pm. You can expect 2 stages of live music and entertainment including top regional bands, fun activities for people of all ages, visual arts, music, poetry, magic acts and much, much more!"
Source: www.larkfest2015.com/

What’s Happening at the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School

October 2nd starts Manufacturing Week activities in a joint effort with the City of Schenectady
Retirees Corner
By Jeanette Christoff—518-356-0137

IN MEMORY

GORDON S. PARO

Gordon S. Paro (Gordie) 84, of Bayard St., passed away on Aug.19, 2015. Born in Amsterdam, he was a life-long resident and a 1947 graduate of W.H. Lynch High School. Gordie was a member of the Army National Guard and a carpenter by trade all of his life, working for various contractors in the area throughout his career. As a carpentry instructor at Capital Region BOCES, his students built modular homes, which would be sold to consumers. Gordie enjoyed being with his family and gardening. He was a devoted husband and his wife Carmella’s best friend. They were married in 1958. He is also survived by his brother Martin of St. Petersburg, FL, his sister Audrey of Amsterdam, nieces, nephews and cousins. Gordie was of the Roman Catholic faith. On line condolences may be left at www.brbsfuneral.com and memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one’s choice. (Gazette, 8/21/2015).

BRIAN M. KENNEY

Brian M. Kenny, 60, passed away on Aug. 7, 2015. Born in Staten Island, Brian was a 1972 graduate of Monsignor Farrell High School where he was an all-star offensive guard for the football team. He graduated from Siena with a B.S. in Social Work and from the College of St. Rose with a Master’s in Special Education. Brian taught at Parson’s Child and Family Center, Albany and went on to Capital Region BOCES where he taught for 30 years, retiring in 2013.

Brian was an avid golfer and member of Stoney’s Irish Grill and Ancient Order of Hibernians leagues. He enjoyed playing guitar, making appearances and always said, “Music is my life”. He was a devoted father and never missed any basketball, soccer or volleyball games of his children.

Brian is survived by his wife Kathryn Stone, his son Sean of Glenville, his daughter Jillian of East Tawas, MI, brother Bob of Marietta GA, brother Kevin of Rhinebeck, NY, sister Maureen of Port Ewen, NY, sister June of Schenectady and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Family and friends attending Brian’s memorial service were invited to wear golf attire because of his love for golf.

Appreciation is given to the Ellis ICU staff and dialysis team. Donations may be made to the Animal Protective Foundation, 53 Maple Ave. Scotia, NY, 12302. (Gazette 8/10/2015).

STANLEY H. CHRISTOFF

Stanley Christoff, 87, entered Our Lord’s Kingdom on July 8, 2015 in the arms of his loving wife. He was a 1946 graduate of Gloversville High School and worked as a building contractor for many years. After receiving his Master Carpentry and teaching certifications, he taught Building Trades at the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery County BOCES where he organized and was President of the Teachers Association.

Stanley joined the Capital Region BOCES in the 1970’s, where he taught Building Trades and related subjects. He initiated a program for Special Education students, preparing them for the world of work. Stan served as Vice President of the Faculty Association, was a NYSUT ED. 10 Rep and Sergeant at Arms for many years at the annual state Representative Assembly.

An avid outdoors man, Stan loved the Adirondacks, hunting, camping, shooting and hiking. He was a member of the NRA and was club champion in skeet and trap at the Watervliet Protective Assoc. in the 1980’s. Stan was an activist in the NY State Conservation Council and a Boy Scout leader. After his stroke in 1992, he joined and volunteered at the Sunnyview Post Stroke Club. He was also a member of Right to Life.

In 1981, he married his cherished wife Jeanette, and is also survived by his children James, Karen, Diana, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2777 Albany St. Schenectady, NY, 12304.
BOCES Board Meeting – June 15, 2015
Dr. Dedrick related that he had recently been in Washington DC and had met with legislators. The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has been put off. “The longer you keep putting off the reauthorization the longer you let the Dept. of Education run the country” stated by Arty Dunkin. [Secretary Duncan has called for replacing NCLB with a new ESEA that takes advantage of the lessons of the last several years and builds on the progress that America’s students and educators have worked hard to achieve. On January 12, 2015, Secretary Duncan laid out a bold vision for ESEA. Duncan called on Congress to create a law that will improve access to high-quality preschool, foster innovation, and advances equity and access.] Taken from the US Dept. of Educ. Website.
Board Members stated that they were encouraged to see that Maywood School had become a true community.
Dr. Dedrick announced that tonight would be Bruce Bonaquist’s last meeting before retirement.

BOCES Board Meeting – July 20, 2015
The BOCES Report Card – Aaron Bonchik asked Monica Statile report to the Board.
- They wanted to state that the inaccurately of the information. Dictated by Home SD. Report data - how SED interprets and send it back to us!!
- Data received back from state has discrepancies.
- SED developed the Report Card process years ago when they had the capacity to do the work. This is no longer true.

District Superintendent Report:
- He presented Lifetime Achievement awards to Board Members Rose Shurman and Jack Phalen
- He noted that Lynn Lenhardt is the current President of the NYS School Boards Association.
- Regional Summer Schools: Schenectady and Niskayuna – 679 students; Mohonasen, Schalmont, Guilderland – 371 Students; Schoharie, BKW, Sharon Springs – 158 students.
  - The Regional Summer Schools help districts considerably as the finances are prohibitive to run a summer school program alone.
  - Regional Summer Schools are three years young and growing each year.
Board Members
Lynn Lenhardt had met with the new Commissioner of Education and felt she was very approachable and willing to listen!

BOCES Board Meeting – August 24, 2015
Medicaid Report – Michelle Handzel is the Compliance Officer
- 2014-15 Data– All providers are required to use IEP Direct for all students that they serve.
- She was not able to review the Itinerate Providers that are placed out in districts.
- This fall all providers will be audited to help them with any concerns. She will work monthly with Principals to review current data and compare with previous data.
- We are not fully compliant at this. Recommendation is to continue provider audits.
- It is better for providers to note only what has occurred during their sessions.
- We will continue to educate the providers on this. We will start to hold people accountable, as BOCES is being held accountable by the State. We will give it another year.
- Remote possibility that we may have to get out of this business.
Dr. Taromina – This process is a monumental task – very serious and we are working on an ongoing basis.
“Groups” are incorrectly being reported. Accuracy and quality of information is important.
Q – If a recording mechanism is available, are we sharing reports with districts?
Q – Can we provide pressure on districts to help us? (JB)
Dr. Dedrick – Faculty Association has been incredibly cooperative with us!
Attorney General’s Office has come in and has been helpful in explaining the process.
BOCES – We were not required to have a compliance plan as of 2009 – confusion on this.
SED – asks that IEP’s be 80% in meeting requirements to be compliant. Medicaid requires 100%
Dr. Dedrick noted that Barbara Shurman has been appointed the Area 7 Director of School Boards Association.
Healthy Living; Living For Good Health
By Catherine A. Jakway, TA, Spec. Ed.
It’s All Good

Really? Who says that? I have heard that phrase so many times this summer I question if I’ve missed something. There has been too much tragedy around the world, in our own backyards and this message of hate continues. It’s not all good. I don’t get it. How can you not be affected by all of this? The bigger question is how can we change our corner of the world so it doesn’t happen to our family, friends, co-workers, those who serve and protect, and innocent victims both children and adults?

We can start by reaching out to those in need. Check on your neighbors especially the elderly, and thank those who “serve and protect.” A simple “thank you for your service” goes a long way. I know because I take responsibility to help people and I say those five simple words. Kind words or acts of help are appreciated and they make the world a better place.

At the time of this writing it is August 31st. I know that I am down to the wire trying to get the last few things on my summer list accomplished. More things come out of the blue and I just think to myself they will get done too. Maybe I have had too much summer and I expect too much of myself. I took the summer off to work on healing my left rotator cuff, like I didn’t get enough pain and misery when I had rotator cuff surgery on the right shoulder. I feel like a new woman.

So, it’s all good. Having to make the time to keep what I have is still an uphill battle. I have come too far to lose it. Making the effort to go to fitness therapy keeps both shoulders moving and strong.

It’s been a long interesting summer. I got to watch how people live day in and day out. I really should just say how “they” drive. I spent my summer living in my car on the thruway going to physical therapy and visiting my mother who is in a nursing home. It’s not all good! Do you know that when it is raining our headlights should be on? How about when a vehicle is on the side of the road or even better yet, a police officer has someone pulled over we are supposed to move to the left, and if you can’t at least slow down? How about turning your headlights on at dusk? Just because the driver can see me doesn’t mean I can see that car in the dark. I could go on and on. I stay calm and move along, no road rage. So, I guess it’s all good.

Now we will be returning to doing what it is we do best. We move forward because we love what we do and do what we love. I wish everyone a successful school year. If there were retirees over the summer, I wish them the best as well because they are the best. I will be happy to be back to work and use the God given gifts and talents that I have been blessed with.

This has been a sad summer of personal loss for me. I’ve lost four friends, and two were former BOCES employees. Stan Christoff and Brian Kenney. I knew Stan not as an employee of BOCES but because of his wife Jeanette, the “Retirees Corner” writer and a darn good one. Stan retired just before I came on board. I got to know Mr. “how the hell are ya” Stan Christoff from my church and visiting Stan and Jeanette at home as well. Stan could spin some tales that’s for sure. We could yuck it up for hours. I heard some of the best stories of all times. Illness could not silence Stan. Only one thing could, but knowing Stan he’s having a great time pain free and doing whatever he wants to do with his family and friends who have gone before him. Still, it’s hard to believe. I miss his company and his enlightening BOCES stories.

And there was the loss of Brian Kenney. When I think of Brian I can’t help but smile. I enjoyed every minute working summer program with him for many years. Let me tell you about his choice of books. Brian would choose classics that I disliked. I think he did it just because he could do it. And, this is my favorite classic of all time. I’d ask Brian, “Are you working Summer Program?” His response every time, “yup, it’s in the budget.” Brian coined that phrase and I made the mistake of using those words in his presence. I got the finger pointing and “hey, you stole that from me!” I told Brian I was just borrowing it. If I “borrow” it again, I know that it will keep his memory dear and I will feel happiness in my soul, not sadness.

We’ve lost excellent colleagues who we consider friends, it still hurts and it’s not all good. Loss of this magnitude has tugged at my heart and questioned my faith or made it even stronger. I don’t know which. I’ve put my pain in the Lord’s hands for comfort and guidance. I guess it’s all good after all.

Senior Texting Codes (STC)
I thought the following listing was appropriate...after all, the kids have all their little codes...like BFF, WTF, LOL, etc. So here are some codes for seniors:

- ATD - At the Doctor’s
- BFF - Best Friends Funeral
- BTW - Bring the Wheelchair
- BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth
- CBM - Covered by Medicare
- CUATSC - See You at the Senior Center
- DWI - Driving While Incontinent
- FWBB - Friend with Beta Blockers
- FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
- FYI - Found Your Insulin
- GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- GHA - Got Heartburn Again
- HGBM - Had Good Bowel Movement
- IMHO - Is My Hearing-Aid On?
- LMDO - Laughing My Dentes
- LOL - Living on Lipitor
- LWO - Lawrence Welk’s On
- OMMR - On My Massage Recliner
- OMSG - Oh My! Sorry, Gas
- ROFL...CGU - Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can’t get Up!
- TTYL - Talk to You Louder
- WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?
- WTFA - Wet the Furniture Again
- WTP - Where’s the Prunes
- WWNO - Walker Wheels Need Oil
- GGLKI - Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!

09/15— Page 6
General Membership Meeting

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 30th

3:30 - 4:30 PM (before Rep Council)

**WHERE:** 900 Watervliet Shaker Road,

   Albany Rooms 1, 2, 3

Members are invited to a full membership meeting.

There will be a discussion session with questions and answers. After main meeting there will be breakout sessions for each of the Chapters.

Contact your Chapter VP if you are interested in becoming a member of Rep Council for the upcoming year.

Refreshments will be served.
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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- Gretchen McDonough and Transition Class

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**Congratulations to Mini-Grant winners for 2015-16**

- LuAnn Alimeda
- Joseph Bouchard and Carol d’Estienne
- Nancy Liddle
- Cynthia Packard
- Brent Pierce
- Natalie Powell
- Mary Ragucci
- Healthy
- Stephanie Warlik

- Peer Buddies
- Maywood’s Got Talent
- CTE Interviewing Publications
- Students and Gardens Growing Together
- Dress for Success
- Connecting Drama with Learning
- Functional Kitchens, Skills and Living
- Eating our Way through the Alphabet

**Personnel Personals**

Our condolences to Colleen Condolora on the passing of her sister over the summer.

Our condolences go to Mark and Ryan Blake on the passing of their wife and mother this past July.

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**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. 518-221-1237,abby.fischer5@gmail.com

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**Disclaimer for Articles in the TRIAD**

The articles contained in the TRIAD are proofed by the Communication Committee and the individual’s opinion and do not reflect the opinion of the Executive Board of Rep Council or the Communication Committee of the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association. They are strictly for your information and enjoyment.

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09/15 — Page 8