News from the President

It seemed like just yesterday we were starting another school year and now the holiday season is upon us. It is certainly a time of reflection and thanksgiving. Though I believe we will continue to see tight times ahead, I am thankful that this year has turned out as good, as it has.

We have had staff losses, but not nearly what had been predicted. Unfortunately, with the possibility of mid-year cuts in the state budget, I am careful to not be too overly optimistic about the immediate future. These are truly extraordinary times. However, difficult as the economic situation is, we will get through this. In the end, we may be better for it (or maybe not?). My aunt used to say “It’s a great life if you don’t weaken”.

In spite of the difficulties, I continue to find things to be thankful for. The truth is, it really doesn’t take a ton of effort to find things to be thankful for. I know too many of my friends who are battling various diseases and some who battle no more. I’m very thankful that I have a job and am healthy enough to go to work each day.

Yes this is truly a time of reflection and thanksgiving. We all have many reasons to be thankful. I consider myself, as President of this Faculty Association, very fortunate to work with many great and talented people. I want to thank you all for your hard work and support. I am also thankful for all the hard work of your Executive Board and the various committees have done to help your Association operate. This newsletter is one example of this. I want to thank the Editors and staff for the fine job they do. I also want our Webmaster and website committee for their hard work and continued dedication to providing you with access to news and information in an electronic media.

I want to thank members of the Rep. Council for continuing their hard work. They are the strength of the Association. Their decisions are what define much of the way we do business and they continue to do this with much careful consideration. Their efforts and dedication demonstrate a unity of purpose, despite small differences that exist amongst us.

We all need to remember to thank our Executive Board. They work untiringly and deal with the day in and day out business of running an Association. The work that has gone into supporting you and managing our Faculty Association has been enormous. They continually go above and beyond what is reasonable expect. We are fortunate to have each of them as leaders.

I would like add my personal thanks. I truly appreciate all they do. My job would be impossible without their work.

In closing I want to wish you all the best this holiday season. I hope you get to laugh a lot and find plenty of time to share with your friends and family.

Looking forward,

Doug
New Business:

Nov. 17, 2009 is SRP (School Related Personnel) Recognition Day for the State. SRPs include individuals working in schools in areas such as: health services, transportation, clerical, teaching assistants, educational assistants, custodial, interpreters and OT and PT assistants.

SRP Round Table will be held at NY-SUT on Nov. 23, 2009.

Teaching Assistants are reminded that BOCES requires 75 hours of professional development over five years for all Teaching Assistants. Currently the State only requires 75 hours of professional development for Level 3 Teaching Assistants. Contact Colleen Condolora CVP TA/EA for more information.

Website: Website Guidelines were distributed by the Website Committee. Guidelines currently include a Photo Release Form which needs to be completed and signed by individuals prior to having their pictures published on the Website. Committee asked Rep Council if the Photo Release Form should continue to be required. Lively discussion followed resulting in passing a motion to continue to require the use of a Photo Release Form.

Dues Committee: A committee will be established to examine issues related to the Association dues. Committee will research other Association’s dues and policies, gather relevant information and then report recommendations to Rep. Council. Committee Members include: Mary Ruby (TA/EA), Deb Sorvari (Ex-Officio). More members needed including a committee chairperson.

Memorandum from Dr. Dedrick on Special Education Division study: Memorandum was read to the group. Discussion followed.

Special Education Advisory Committee: Flora Fasoldt, CVP-Spec. Ed. is a member of committee which meets monthly with Dr. Jacobs to discuss issues relevant to the Special Education Division. Meeting minutes will be recorded and made available.

Standing Committees:


Budget/Audit: Need committee members for both committees. Contact Reps or Chapter VP if available. These are short term committees.

Nominating/Election:

Catherine Jakway is the Chair of both committees.

Leadership Conference: Anne O’Brien Teta reported on the NYSUT Conference for BOCES Leadership. State Ed. is in the process of reorganization. The plan is to integrate special education and regular education. AFT (American Federation of Teachers) has an extensive manual on “The Medically Fragile Child” available at AFT.org. More information from the leadership conference will be presented next month.

Student Incentive Award:

Lanny Barsale announced that the deadline for the Student Incentive Award will be April 1, 2010. The information on the website will be updated.

American Cancer Society Funds raised by CTE students and supporters: $655 was raised for Breast Cancer Research and Awareness by the Cosmetology Clinic and the Washington Park Breast Cancer Walk. Thank-you to everyone!!

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Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

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<th>POSITION</th>
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SRP CONFERENCE DONATIONS HELP COMMUNITIES

SRPs in New York State recently met in Albany for their annual conference where they enjoyed informative workshops, union solidarity, inspiring speeches and some fun and socialization. In addition to their professional and union emphasis, they also focused on students with their annual book drive, which is a major part of their conference. Every year, SRP conference participants bring a book, or books, to be contributed to a school district. This year participants brought 355 books. This year’s recipient was the Sidney Central School District in Delaware County, which suffered tremendous flooding in 2006.

Sidney superintendent Sandra Cooper was overcome with emotion at the generosity of SRPs when she accepted the books. A lifelong educator, Cooper praised the role of SRPs in the schools, specifically the Sidney SRP local led by Andy Searles. “You go above and beyond. You keep buildings and offices clean, you keep kids fed, you transport them safely to school and you build connections with them,” said Cooper. “You are really unsung heroes in our schools and for this you are now huge heroes to me.” In addition to their book donation, conference participants also donated $2,200 to NYSUT's Disaster Relief Fund, and a large supply of toiletries to a family shelter.

Reprinted from NYSUT.

Conference Dates 2009-2010

2010

February 4-5
CDRO Regional Presidents’ / The Gideon Putnam - Saratoga Springs, NY

March 20-21
Regional SRP Leadership / The Otesaga Hotel Conference - Cooperstown, NY

March 22-23
Committee of 100 / The Desmond Hotel - Albany, NY

April 28-29
NYSUT Local Presidents Conference / Marriott Wardman - Washington, DC

April 29-May 1
Representative Assembly / Marriott Wardman Hotel - Washington, DC

July 7-11
AFT Convention Washington State Conv & Trade Center, Seattle, WA
Dear Colleagues,

Thanksgiving will soon be approaching and I know personally that this is a time for me to reflect on the things I am sincerely thankful for. I am thankful, considering these fiscally challenging times, to have a job to go to each morning, especially a job that I enjoy. The money doesn’t always stretch as far as I wish it did, but the alternative could be direr. I am also grateful for the dedicated staff, those members willing to go the extra mile to advocate for each other and assist each other in the workplace. Please take a moment out of your busy day and look around. I am sure you will find many things that you can be thankful for. We often don’t take the time to notice and reflect.

At this time, I need to update you on some changes that have occurred since my October article. Last month I reported that Timekeeper would be phased out in November, 2009 and that WinCap would be used to record our professional development hours. At this time, this will not be happening as soon as we had anticipated due to software problems. I communicated with Administration recently to discuss this issue. Presently, we will continue to use Timekeeper until the end of the school year. In the mean time, WinCap will be implemented as a pilot in the new year and a select few people will be invited to participate in the pilot. Please continue to update your professional development using Timekeeper. It should be noted, that each month a notice will be sent to you on GroupWise of upcoming Timekeeper training.

Another change for our chapter is the way in which VISTA workshops will be offered to us. Although there isn’t a catalogue this year, BOCES will be offering “VISTA on Demand.” If a need for a particular topic becomes apparent by several employees, then BOCES will look at each request and decide if a workshop is needed. Hence, the term “On Demand.” At the time of this writing, the Special Ed professional development monies are still frozen. I was told that this situation should hopefully change soon. I also have received several calls on the status of TCI training. Following a meeting with administration, I was informed that our current trainers will be retrained in November and that TCI will be offered soon. It should be noted at this time, if you have not been properly restraint trained, it is not advisable to be part of a restraint due to liability or the possibility of sustaining an injury to either yourself or a student.

On another note, while reading the October TRIAD I noticed a few items that pertained to the TA/EA contract that were inaccurate. In the Dear Gabby section, it was noted that there wasn’t any language in our contract regarding the number of personal days we receive each year. This is erroneous; each TA/EA receives four days that can be used for personal business. This information can be found on page 24 under Sick Leave. Also in the same section it was noted that the index for our chapter contract is inaccurate. Each TA/EA contract came with an insert showing the correct index so the pages are easily accessible. If you do not have the insert please contact me.

Currently, I have only received a few inquiries regarding the evaluation process that was implemented this school year. I will ask at the committee level if we can have a training for those who need an explanation of the process. Further notice on this topic will be forth coming. Until then, please call me if you have any concerns or questions.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to sit on a committee, being a Representative on Rep Council, or lending a helping hand to a colleague in need. Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday everyone and remember to look around and see the many things you can be thankful for during this holiday of thanks. Also, while you are looking around, check out the Faculty Association website, www.capregbocesfa.com, to find pertinent information for our chapter.

In solidarity, Colleen Condolora
Dear Colleagues,

This has been a crazy year so far. Hope you have all maintained and stayed healthy.

With the many hats that come with my involvement in the Association, one I enjoy is the TRIAD Co-Editor. Last week our committee and the Web Site committee met as a group to brainstorm how the two groups could meet the communication needs of the Association in very different ways. One idea was to feature classroom locations with either video or pictures as a walk through, maybe narrated by a staff member. Could this be a way for staff to do a virtual tour of your work space? Tell us what you think? Do you have any other suggestions that would help with time sensitive material?

Another hat I choose to wear is as an Association member sitting at the BOCES monthly Board meetings. You should try it some time. They meet at School Support building now since Central Administration has moved there. Each meeting I attend, helps me understand how our agency works. This month the discussion of hiring a Space Planner held my interest. With all the leases of BOCES business locations running out in 2 to 3 years, the Board wants to try to have all administrative office staff at one location. We may all end up at 900 Watervliet Shaker Road, but it would make more sense with today’s economy and the fact that we are downsizing through attrition to combine duties and bring it all to the center. No more silos.

The Special Education Division memo that was recently sent out has made some people nervous. It is my belief that only good can come of this process, so stay tuned.

At this meeting we have had three more titles added (Receptionist-Central Admin.; Payroll Clerk-Mgt. Ser., and Secretary I at CTE). A Sr. Keyboard Specialist at SSS was abolished. I would like to mention that a title is usually abolished when someone leaves and individuals are not usually impacted.

We want to welcome Mary Ann Alvaro (SSS) Carol Martin and Patricia Ross (CTE) all Secretary I’s. Also, Theresa Capobianco, Sr. Keyboard Specialist at SSS. Next time you are at these locations, stop by and say Hi!

Hope you all have a great Thanksgiving Holiday and we hope you all stay healthy.

In solidarity, Susan

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**GOT MILK? WHITE OR CHOCOLATE?**

Milk is a beverage that is part of every school breakfast and lunch program. The choices are white or chocolate flavored. According to a recently released study of school milk consumption, school nutrition programs that serve chocolate and white milk serve more milk than districts that only serve white milk. Also, the average amount of milk served to students continues to increase as the number of flavored milk options increases. Information collected from milk processors and school nutrition programs determined that the average student receives 3.8 milk servings per week at school.

Schools that only offer white milk provide an average of 3.0 servings of milk per week to students, while schools that offer both white and chocolate milk provide an average of 3.6 servings of milk per week to students. While this research shows that flavored milk can increase the student milk consumption, it also means that an increasing number of school nutrition directors are receiving questions or concerns regarding the extra sugar. Finally, the study also showed that school nutrition directors are becoming increasingly aware of chocolate milk’s impact as a sports recovery beverage.

Go to MilkPEP web site to see the flavored milk fact sheet and to School Nutrition Association’s web site to view the **2008-2009 school milk report**.

Reprinted from Electronic PSRP Newsletter.
RETIREE MEMORIES

What a nice surprise we recently received in the mail. The sender was Ginny Wilber, who worked for BOCES from 1967 to 1987. Ginny and Jim, now live in Salisbury, No. Carolina. She says “Hi” to all. The surprise was 2 sets of photos of celebrations from the good old days.

The first set was easily identifiable as a Retirement Dinner at the Italian Community Center, held sometime in the early 80’s. Doris Schuyler chaired this event for many years. Those we could identify in the photos were Shirley Anatriello, Maxine Bach Heffron, Marie Colligan and Bernie, Jim Dunham, Pat and Paul Gordon, Doranne Stagnito and spouse (?) Paul Tonetti (?) and Ginny Wilber. Most treasure of the photos is one of Stan and me before the devastating stroke which changed our lives.

The second set is also a celebration, attended by at least 20 people. The banquet room appears to have a Spanish motif. Stan suggested it might have been held at Garcias. The time frame would to be after 1970 as that was the year Mimi Mounteer was hired by BOCES and joined me in the Lisha Kill Methodist Church basement.

I had been assigned a class of 20 students, then called TMR. That number surpassed what the law allowed and several calls to administration resulted in Mimi coming on board and the class being divided in half. Mimi’s class was put in the auditorium/gymnasium of the church, hardly an appropriate setting for primary age Special Ed. students. The following year she was transferred to Pine Grove Methodist Church. Many of those in the photos worked at Pine Grove in the 70’s. Those we can identify are: Marie Colligan, Carole Jennison, Ginny Wilber, Lillian Marron Forsell, Maxine Bach Heffron, Cindy Graham, Ross Stonefield, Don Welch (?), Sylvia Goerg Hauser, Mimi Mounteer, Stephanie Hines, Dottie Welsh and Jane Sullivan.

If anyone can shed some light on this celebration, we would be interested in hearing and will share it with all. Our appreciation to Ginny, for the photos and for jogging some nice memories of our co-workers and days at BOCES.

Health Insurance

Retirees and employees should have received our annual letter from BOCES Central Administration affording us the opportunity makes changes in our Health Insurance coverage by November 30th.

Included in the mailing were changes in charges and co pays, available carriers, availability of on-line information on benefits and dates of informational sessions at BOCES. To be held on Nov. 9th at 900 Watervliet Shaker Road and on Nov. 17th at 1031 Watervliet Shaker Road from 2-4 PM each day.

No action was necessary for those who choose to stay with their current carrier.
RETIREE UPDATES

We are wishing Mimi Mounteer a speedy recovery from her recent illness.

Good to hear that Fran Yankowski has recovered from her surgery.

21st Century Bullying and Its Implications for Schools

The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany, NY
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The New York State Educational Conference Board, which includes NYSUT, is planning an important and timely conference on bullying for Dec. 10 in Albany. "21st Century Bullying and Its Implications for Schools" will include a keynote address by Kevin Jennings, assistant secretary of education for the U.S. Department of Education, who wowed delegates at this year's NYSUT RA; a panel of experts to cover school climate, cyber bullying and identifying bullying; and a panel of practitioners from districts with successful programs.

Searching for answers? Let us help.

- Relationship Issues
- Care for aging parents
- Substance abuse
- Medicare/Medicaid questions
- Chronic illness and Disabilities
- Reassurance through difficult times

Contact NYSUT Social Services
1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206 or soesvcs@nysutmail.org
Free and Confidential
Special Education Teacher Chapter meeting minutes—October 21, 2009
By Susan V Stewart

Topics discussed included:

There is a need for improved communication between teachers and administration in a variety of areas. Some examples given were: teachers not being notified of trainings, teachers arriving at trainings and finding they had been cancelled, lack of agendas prior to some strand meetings, efficient use of time allotment at strand meetings.

SETRC: Questions were raised about where SETRC is located now. (see Gabby)

Supplies: Issues regarding how to get basic and necessary supplies and technology support were raised. Some teachers were told no supplies would be purchased, went and bought them with their own money, and then heard that other teachers had received supplies. There is a need for consistency with regard to information and provision of supplies.

EA/TA: There is confusion about the possibility of some TA positions changing to Teacher Aide positions.

Student placement: Discussion on the how to improve intake/transfer of students including follow up on new charts when they come in, communication between administrators and staff about possible students, communication between CSE’s and classrooms about the parameters of the program, etc. Is there a need for a placement committee of some kind?

Next meeting: Nov. 18, 2009 at School Support Services, 3:30-4:00 PM. (Before Rep Council)

Special Ed. Teacher’s Chapter Meeting
Mark You Calendar
We Need you!

Nov. 18, 2009 School Support
Jan. 20, 2010 School Support
March 17, 2010 School Support
May 19, 2010 Maywood School
Dec. 16, 2009 Maywood School
Feb. 24, 2010 Maywood School
April 21, 2010 School Support
June 9, 2010 School Support

(Before Rep Council)
3:30-4:00 PM
Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association
Annual Children’s Christmas Party

The Faculty Association wishes to invite all staff and family to the annual Children’s Holiday Party. Food, drinks, games and activities will be provided and a very special visit by Santa Claus for the youngsters. Please come and join in the fun during this festive time of year.

**When:** Saturday, December 12, 2009

**Time:** 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

**Where:** Albany Career & Technical Dining Room, Bldg. B
1015 Watervliet-Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205

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Maywood Recycle Program

Maywood Recycling: For years now the Maywood School has been recycling and continuing to expand this program. We recycle cans and plastic for deposit, returnables such as glass, plastic, and cans not for deposit, as well as paper and cardboard. The Maywood School has formed a Green Team that continues to look for ways to make Maywood "greener". This school year we are also recycling ink cartridges, laser cartridges, and cell phones. If you would like to donate these items to the Maywood program, please drop them off or send them (courier is acceptable) to Alison Mesick at Maywood School. The funds collected from all of the efforts will go to something for the Maywood School (one possibility is reusable lunch trays-not using paper or Styrofoam). Please recycle!!

By Alison Mesick, Teacher, Sp. Ed.
Dear Gabby

Dear Gabby,

We were told that the SETRC Library is gone. Why?

Wondering in Shenendehowa

Dear Wondering.

We have checked into this and will give you a little history on this. Years ago, NYS Education Department funded the SETRC Library with books and staff. About five years ago they stopped doing this. Our Division Director, Dr. Jacobs and Instructional Support Coordinator, Deven Horne, then worked out a system to keep it running with Marie Brander and first, Nadine Mossy and then Linda Stapleton. With the recent economic climate and funds being cut all over we had to let one secretary go and cut Marie’s time. Marie and Linda are both now at School Support Services working for a new grant.

Over the summer and this fall Deven, Inge and Moe Gushlaw have brainstormed what to do with this space. Since the testing and assessments are needed for our teachers and related service staff, Deven and Susan took over that part of the Library. The books that are left are being organized by Alison Mesick, a teacher at Maywood School and her IMN students, since she has agreed to run the “Maywood Library” with scheduled open times. We hope to have an open house some time soon. Both Alison and Susan have been trained on the computer program that registers users and what they borrow.

We think this will be one of the best solutions for this space and the materials that are left. Look for an announcement in the future on this.

Gabby

New York State School-Related Professionals Recognition Day

The Third Tuesday in November is:

A day to recognize and honor the school support staff who help educate, transport and feed our children and those who keep our schools clean and safe, and the offices running smoothly.

Say “Thank You” to an SRP on November 17, 2009

CELEBRATE!

New York State School-Related Professionals Recognition Day

Tools for Teachers

The source for tools and support to help your workday be even more successful.

Tools for Teachers provides new and veteran teachers with resources, research, and strategies on:

- Managing Your Classroom
- Working With Special Populations
- Teaching as a Career
- Classroom Materials
- Working Together
- Funding Opportunities

www.aft.org/tools4teachers
Stay informed with NYSUT Member Benefits

free online services

Are you aware of the various ways you could save money through NYSUT Member Benefits? With more than 30 endorsed insurance, financial, legal and discount plans, it’s hard to keep track of what is available to you.

If you have access to e-mail, consider joining MAP, Member Benefits’ Member Assistance Program. Once every three weeks, you’ll receive a brief e-mail message. It may be an advance notice of a change in an existing plan, an announcement of a new endorsement or a reminder about an endorsed program. These e-mail messages are immediately recognizable by the subject line: MAP Alert.

You have the option of reading each brief text message in an e-mail format or in a Web page format that includes eye-pleasing colors and graphics.

Occasionally, MAPers are asked for their opinions. Sometimes "MAP Alerts" include the opportunity to win valuable prizes offered by Member Benefits or providers of its endorsed programs.

Since MAP Alerts are sent from Member Benefits, your e-mail address is not shared with any outside parties.

If you haven’t yet joined, simply complete a brief sign-up form on the Member Benefits Web site, www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, and within three weeks, you’ll start to receive MAP Alerts.

If you participate in any Member Benefits-endorsed voluntary insurance and legal programs, you have a new online capability available.

This service, called My Program Participation, allows you to look up information about the endorsed programs you participate in at any time, day or night. Information includes the payment methods you are eligible for as well as the method used (payroll/pension deduction or direct bill); deduction amounts; premium amounts and coverage information if provided by the vendor to Member Benefits; and phone numbers for the vendors.

In addition, if you are covered by a Member Benefits-endorsed Group Legal Service Plan provided to you by your local association, benefit fund or employer, this information will also be displayed.

My Program Participation offers convenience and is especially beneficial if you participate in multiple programs through payroll or pension deduction. Your check stub shows one total deduction amount. With MPP, you can immediately see the individual amounts that comprise the total deduction.

Go to www.memberbenefits.nysut.org for the My Program Participation navigation bar on the left-hand side of the home page. Because MPP is housed in a password-protected area of the site, you will need to do an initial login to establish your account. Due to privacy issues, you will be asked to create your own enhanced security code to access the look-up service. Instructions are on the Web site.

For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement/arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits at 800-626-8101, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

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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**TRIAD GOING GREEN**

If you want to opt out of receiving a hard copy, please email Lisa Mink (lmink8@hotmail.com). Please give her your name and Chapter you belong to and your home email address.

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**PERSONNEL PERSONALS**

Congratulations to Barbara Blakely Taylor (TA, Sp. Ed.) on her recent marriage to Daniel F. Taylor on October 19th. They are Very Happy as are Ruby and Rocky. It only took 14 years.

We wish a speedy recovery to Teresa Jones-Strock (Secretary, Sp. Ed.).

Condolences to Janine Lee (Teacher, Sp. Ed.) and her family on the recent death of her mother, Reema Gravelle, who passed away on October 22 at the age of 89.

A speedy recovery to Dayna Kalil’s (TA/EA, Sp. Ed.) husband Peter, who suffered a heart attack.

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

If you know a member or retiree who should be getting the TRIAD, give them this information.

Sunshine Chairperson

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

**Theresa Bennett**
23 Harriet Street, Albany, NY 12205
869-2367