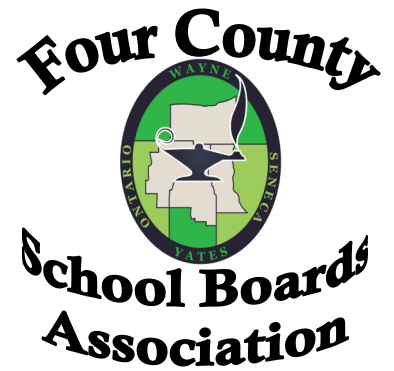


NEWS NOTES

March
2016



(315) 332-7294

Web Site: www.4csba.org Email: 4countysba@edutech.org

Kathy Hart
President

Beth Thomas
1st Vice President

Caroline Nevil
2nd Vice President

Kathy Guenther
*Immediate
Past President*

Bill Buchko
*Legislative
Committee Chair*

Robin Johnson
*Legislative
Committee Vice
Chair*

Chuck Rothfuss
*Appointed
Representative*

Jeanne Durfee
*Appointed
Representative*

Russ Harris
*Appointed
Representative*

**Sharon A.
Sweeney**
Executive Director

Sarah Sarkar
*Administrative
Assistant*

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING **Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

Geneva Country Club
Geneva, NY

5:30 Registration/Conversation
6:30 Dinner
7:15 Program

“WHAT WORKS”

in

Bloomfield: Standards Based Reporting in the English Department

Canandaigua: Using State Data to Improve Curriculum and Instruction

Penn Yan: A Summer Food Program

Each presentation will provide a brief overview of the program with time for questions. Our format and purpose is to provide just enough information to tempt possible replication or adaptation for those who think it may work in their district or to create interest in learning more about it. Contact will then be possible for those who may want that additional detail.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Budget season is in full swing! For Board members and Superintendents, that means late nights and extra Board meetings; advocacy letters and phone calls; and treks to meet with state legislators both locally and in Albany. I wish you much patience and stamina as you work your way through budget season. Hang in there!

This year, the lack of state aid and the “tax freeze” imposed by the tax levy cap are really putting districts between a rock and a hard place. I know that many of us are struggling with difficult choices as we try to do what’s best for both the children and the taxpayers. This is what public service is all about, of course, balancing competing interests and trying to find common ground, for the common good. But no one ever said that it would be easy.

Many thanks to Bill Buchko, Robin Johnson, and all the passionate members of the Legislative Committee for the many hours spent drafting our positions papers. I encourage everyone to read the Four County position papers and use them as talking points with legislators and community members alike. If Four County can assist you in any way, please do let us know.

Hope to see many of you at our spring events!

Kathy

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From Your Area Director

I was pleased to see a number of you at this year's Capital Conference in Albany February 28 -29; it was quite a way to spend the Leap Day. It was good to hear Governor Cuomo's new Deputy Secretary for Education Dr. Jere Hochman but a highlight of Sunday evening was the tribute to NYSSBA Past President and immediate NSBA Past President

Anne Byrne recognizing her 19 years of service on the NYSSBA Board of Directors.

As I listened to the State Senators that represent Area 2, I left with optimism as they each stated that eliminating the GEA this year was a priority, even though the governor is trying to take two more years to phase it out. The gap elimination adjustment has been an onerous onus on school districts for too many years and it is past time for its demise. I also heard our legislators state that for those districts whose GEA was restored last year, they are working on revisions to the foundation aid formula. As the GEA is finally eliminated, revising the foundation aid formula needs to become our focus so that aid is distributed in a way that all districts have the opportunity to provide sound, basic, educational opportunities for all students across this State.

Some Capital Conference attendees expressed to me displeasure regarding the format of this year's conference. All attendees should be receiving an email survey shortly (if not received already); I encourage everyone to complete the survey. Your input will assist in planning future meaningful advocacy and learning opportunities.

I know we are all busy developing our budgets for the 2016-17 school year; I am hopeful we will have accurate State Aid numbers in time to complete that process. Given this year's tax cap calculations, it will be a challenging year for many; however, I am confident each of you will make the best decisions for the children and communities you serve. Effective communication with our constituents about the educational needs of our students coupled with the fiscal realities of the legislation and State Aid have generally allowed our communities to understand the mission of each district and the task of every school board member. I wish you all success for your upcoming budget deliberations as boards of education and the subsequent votes on May 17.

For those of you facing elections to new terms of office, I wish you well. The responsibility of effective school board members is daunting but our public education system would not be possible without your commitment and dedication focused not on personal agendas but on the needs of all children within your care. Thank you for your service.

Rodney

SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Saturday, March 19, 2016

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES
Jack Loveless Conference Room
Newark, New York

This is an annual public service provided by Four County for any community member considering board service or simply wanting to learn more about the role and responsibilities of the school board.

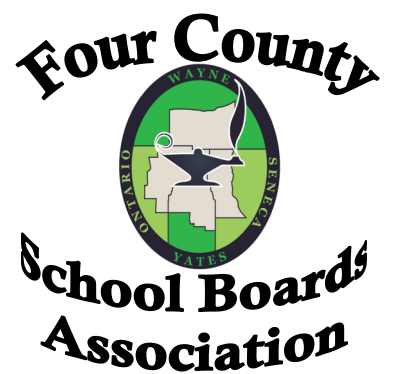
NO FEE. Pre-registration not necessary!

Spread the word! Encourage community members to attend!!

Flyers have been sent to all libraries, media outlets and a number of folks in every area school district.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE WRAP UP

A dedicated group of Legislative Committee representatives wrapped up their work on the 2015-16 Four County position papers with a final meeting on February 2nd. Beginning with a planning meeting on October 6th and ending with the adoption of their work by the Board of Directors at that meeting on the 2nd, the group added 5 Saturday morning sessions to the process. In addition to considering concerns from the represented boards, Rural Schools Executive Director **David Little** and NYSSBA Governmental Relations Representative **Greg Berck** provided insight and input to the deliberations.

Committee members held a series of local meetings with area legislators and traveled to Albany to participate in the NYSSBA Capital Conference. Interested in engaging all Four County members in identifying legislative priorities and active advocacy, the Legislative Committee sponsored the February General Membership program with David Little as guest speaker.

Thank you to the dedicated members of the committee who met early Saturday (8:00 a.m.) mornings, to the members who provided fresh baked goodies for breakfast. A special thank you to Committee Chair **Bill Buchko** (Gananda) and Vice Chair **Robin Johnson** (Penn Yan) for their leadership!

FACTS & FIGURES DISTRIBUTION

2015-16 Facts and Figures Booklets have been sent to all district clerks. By now you should have received yours. Please contact the Four County office if you would like additional copies.

VISION – MISSION — GOALS UPDATE

A group of Four County members continue the review of the Association's Vision, Mission and Goals. With the revised Vision and Mission already approved, the focus is now on the goals and objectives that will support them. Facilitating the process is **Marla Iverson**, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement. All board Presidents have been contacted to join the process or send a representative.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Monday, April 25, 2016
5:30 p.m. – Registration
6:30 p.m. – Dinner and Meeting

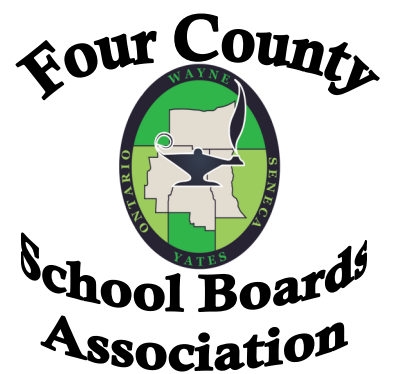
Location TBA

(Note – this is a date change from that on the tentative calendar!)

Make sure your board is represented to prepare for 16-17 by:
Adopting the budget and dues assessments
Accepting the Slate of Officers for submission to the General Membership
Considering program speakers/topics.

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FOUR COUNTY REPRESENTED AT NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE

Four County members traveled to Albany on February 28 and 29 to attend the NYSSBA Capital Conference and participate in the Lobby Day. The tone was set with comments about the appropriate tenor for legislative meetings by Tim Kremer on Sunday evening, followed by an outline of the critical issues with Governmental Relations Director Julie Marlette and her staff. Four County representatives met with Senators **Funke, O'Mara and Nozzolio** and Assembly members **Minority Leader Kolb, Oaks and Palmesano**. Four County advocates included: **Chuck Rothfuss & Superintendent Sean VanScoy** (Gananda); **Rebecca Vermeulen** (Newark – accompanied by her 11 year-old son); **Kathy Guenther** (Penn Yan); **Melissa Baxter, Joe McNamara, Heather Zellers**, and Superintendent **Bob McKeveny** (Seneca Falls); **Karen Ballard, Gary Gilbert, Trisha Turner**, and Superintendent **Dawn Santiago-Marullo** (Victor); and **Lynn Gay, Terrie Meyn, Anne Morgan**, Assistant Superintendent **Quinn Morris**, and District Superintendent **Scott Bischooping** (Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES). Joining the group was Executive Director **Sharon Sweeney**.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO MEET

Chaired by Immediate Past President **Kathy Guenther** (Penn Yan), the Nominating Committee will meet in the next few weeks to identify a Slate of Officers for consideration by the membership at the Annual Meeting in May. Other members of the Committee are **Josie Guard** (Geneva), **Kathy Metcalfe** (Marion), **Phil Rose** (Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES) and **Chuck Rothfuss** (Gananda).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2015-2016

The Steering Committee has identified the following dates as preferred for upcoming Four County events. Topics and other details will be provided as soon as available. In the meantime - make a note on your personal calendar.

Prospective School Board Member Seminar—March 19
General Membership—Mar. 22
Steering Committee—Mar. 30
Board of Directors—April 25
Annual Meeting—May 23

Other Spring and Summer Events:

NSBA Conference—April 8-11, Boston, MA
Budget Votes and Elections—May 17
Get Acquainted Evening—June 20
Vision Review—TBA