

NEWS NOTES

(315) 332-7294 Fax:(315) 332-7380
Web Site: www.fourcountysba.org
E-mail: 4countysba@edutech.org



November 2017

Beth Thomas
(Canandaigua)
President

Robin Johnson
(Penn Yan)
1st Vice President

Russ Harris
(Newark)
2nd Vice President

Kathy Guenther
(Penn Yan)
Past President

Heather Zellers
(Seneca Falls)
*Legislative Committee
Chair*

Phyllis Frantel
(Marcus Whitman)
*Legislative Committee
Vice-Chair*

Sharon A. Sweeney
Executive Director

Sue Wyatt
*Administrative
Assistant*

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
Club 86
Geneva, New York

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

Guests
From the New York State Board of Regents

Dr. Betty A. Rosa - Chancellor
T. Andrew Brown - Vice-Chancellor/7th Judicial District
Wade S. Norwood - Member At-Large
Susan W. Mittler - 6th Judicial District

Please join us for this important opportunity!
Meet the Chancellor in our smaller, local gathering where all voices
can be heard!



Presidents Message

Most people don't enjoy change. The seasons remind us that change is in fact a part of life but that doesn't stop most of us from complaining every time we have to change our clocks. I'm sure you are all aware that change is coming to Four County with the retirement of Sharon Sweeny our Executive Director. Sharon has been dedicated to our organization for over 25 years and has huge shoes to fill!



In September the Board of Directors agreed that we wanted to find someone to help facilitate our search. I spoke to Scott Bischooping, Superintendent of BOCES. During our conversation he offered to use BOCES as a mechanism to bill for Four County services thereby allowing districts to receive state aid for our dues, as well as programs and meals. Making this change would, of course, also introduce some issues we do not currently face: specifically, our employees would be BOCES employees.

The reason to decide on this issue now is because being a BOCES service will affect our new director's benefits as well as make it impossible to hire someone who has retired from state education and is under the age of 65. (They would not be permitted to work for BOCES and make more than \$30,000 per year.)

This issue has been discussed at length at two Board of Director's meetings. At our last meeting it was decided to take this information back to our boards so we could all have our boards' input when we vote on this issue at our November 28th meeting. If you have any questions about this topic, or any other, for that matter, please contact me.

I encourage every district to send a representative and have a voice at our next Board of Director's Meeting on November 28th.

Beth

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November 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

5:45 p.m. – Dinner and Call to Order

Make sure your board is represented to consider what the future of Four County will look like.

Watch for additional agenda and registration details



RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION WINTER CONFERENCE

**Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Conference Center
Friday December 1, 2017**

Co-sponsored by the

Four County School Boards Association

10:00 am Registration

10:30 am Keynote Speaker: Johns Hopkins' Tyler Enslin on "Achievement Now"

Noon Lunch is Provided

**Breakout Sessions:
1:00-2:15 PM**

- The OHM Learning Network: Meeting a Need, Providing an Opportunity - or - BOCES Adult and Continuing Education : A Resource for Recent Graduates and Non-completers **2:15-3:30 PM**
- The Power of STEAM - or - Innovation Through Collaboration Creates Real-world Learning for High School Students

Registration Fee: \$85 - Contact NAM33@Cornell.edu to register for this important summit

Registration form:

<https://cardi.cals.cornell.edu/sites/cardiacals.cornell.edu/files/shared/documents/RSA/Registration%20Form%20for%20Conf%2010-31-17.pdf>

A Better You and Better Programs = Better Student Outcomes

Thank You to C & S Companies for their support of this event!

(Please share this information and invite others in your district to join us!)



FOUR COUNTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NYSSBA CONVENTION

A number of Four County board members and superintendents trekked to Lake Placid to attend NYSBA's 98th Annual Convention and Business Meeting. In addition to attending general sessions and workshops, and representing their boards as delegates to the Annual Business Meeting, many provided assistance by presiding over workshop sessions. Two Four County member districts were featured at workshops. Presentations were offered by Seneca Falls Superintendent **Bob McKeveny**, who talked about "Board Member Handbooks Strengthen Relationships" and by Marion Principals **Cathy Hauber** (formerly of the Elementary School) and **Nick Ganster** (High School) on the topic "Personalized Learning: The Future of Education". Lending assistance as workshop Presiders were: **Lynn Gay** (Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES), **Russ Harris** (Newark), **Jim Koehler** (Dundee), **Joe McNamara** (Seneca Falls/Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES), **Jeff Morehouse** (Penn Yan), **Anne Morgan** (Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES) and **Heather Zellers** (Seneca Falls). **Mary Church** (former member of South Seneca and now with TST BOCES) was also in attendance and serving as a presider. Executive Director **Sharon Sweeney** once again served as a Teller for the Business Meeting.

OTHER CONVENTION NEWS

During the Annual Business Meeting, Delegates elected officers for the 2018 year. Serving the Association as President will be **Bill Miller**, from Area 5 and a member of the Herkimer, Fulton, Hamilton, Otsego BOCES BOE. First Vice President will be **Fred Langstaff** (Area 12 and a member of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES BOE) and second Vice President **Peggy Zugibe** from Area 10 and the North Rockland BOE. **Tom Nespeca** (Monroe 1 BOCES and Area 2) was re-elected for another year as the Treasurer. Rounding out the leadership group will be Immediate Past President **Susan Bergtraum** from Area 11 and the Nassau BOCES BOE. **Congratulations to all!!**



November 2017

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

From Legislative Committee Chair - **Heather Zellers**

The Legislative Committee is working to define and understand the local issues facing our districts. In October, the committee participated in a logic model exercise to encourage a better understanding of our specific State issue asks and how these would impact our districts.

The group explored what was needed to meet our needs, what districts would do with the additional resources, what would be the immediate impact for districts, and how these changes would affect long-term planning. This exercise will help prepare the committee members and enable them to craft a compelling story for their district and answer potential questions from legislators in Albany.

Along with working on the position papers, the Chair and Executive Director have met with representatives from Congressman Reed's, Collins' and Katko's offices to discuss the impacts of the federal tax changes to local districts.

NYSSBA representatives have accompanied local school boards at meetings that address changes to the S.A.L.T. deductions, allowable uses of the 529 educational savings plan, and repeal of provisions for school bonds that include repairs, construction and energy conservation. Four County will continue to support the State in its fight to protect public education on a federal level. Please be sure to answer NYSSBA's calls to action.

Our voices matter!

Four County is taking the lead in bringing together legislative representatives from all the regional school board associations and NYSSBA. We hope to have a stronger united voice in Albany by collaborating around a single message. We will keep you updated as we work to coordinate this event.

Thank you to the committee members from Newark, Wayne, Penn Yan and BOCES for stepping up to support our outreach program as Legislative Liaisons. The power of Four County is the power of connection.

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly" – Martin Luther King Jr.

Upcoming Events:



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE POSITION PAPER WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 18, 2017

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**Four County Meeting Room
WFL BOCES - Maple Building
131 Drumlin Court
Newark, New York**

Join us to continue consideration of the Four County legislative platform for 2017-2018

Beverages provided – feel free to BYOB or a breakfast treat to share!

FOUR COUNTY ONLINE

Check us out: www.foucountysba.org. Stay updated, register for upcoming meetings, access member directory.



Four County Facebook page. Please "Like" us and follow posts of interest. You can find the link on the home page of our website.

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SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

While official School Board Recognition Week was October 22-28, The Four County School Boards Association recognizes and supports the work of the school boards throughout the Year! Thank you to each of you for your commitment to the education of the children in your communities. Your work is important and you do make a difference!

Calendar of Events



November 18, 2017
Legislative Committee Meeting
8:00am—10:00am



November 23, 2017
Thanksgiving Day



November 28, 2017
Statewide Finance Forum
9:30 am
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Campus

November 28, 2017
Board of Directors Meeting
5:45 pm



December 1, 2017
Rural Schools Winter Conference
4 County SBA-Co Sponsor
10:00am - 3:30pm
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Campus

December 6, 2017
NYSSBA Legislative Priorities Webinar

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General Membership Meeting
Club 86—Geneva
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6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Program



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T. Andrew Brown - Vice-Chancellor/7th Judicial District
Wade S. Norwood - Member At-Large
Susan W. Mittler - 6th Judicial District

December 9, 2017
Legislative Committee Meeting
8:00am—10:00am



December 25-29, 2017
School Closed—Winter Break

February 3, 2018
Mandated Fiscal Training
Registration- 7:55am
Training starts @ 8:15am-4:00pm
Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks Provided



February 19-23, 2018
School Closed—President's Week