

NEWS NOTES

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



August 2017

Beth Thomas
President

Robin Johnson
1st Vice President

Russ Harris
2nd Vice President

Kathy Guenther
Past President

Heather Zellers
*Legislative
Committee Chair*

Chuck Rothfuss
*Appointed
Representative*

Jeanne Durfee
*Appointed
Representative*

**Sharon A.
Sweeney**
Executive Director

Sue Wyatt
*Administrative
Assistant*

Presidents Message

I always feel more conflicted this time of year than any other. On one hand, it is the end of summer, which always goes way too fast! On the other hand, it is the beginning of a new school year, full of possibilities. I know our teachers and administrators have been working hard over the summer to plan for a new school year, and I am excited to see their results.

Four County is no different. Although we have found summer meetings to be more challenging than I expected, (I never thought about the fact that all boards have their reorg meeting in mid-July which means we have no official Four County delegates until they are appointed/reappointed at those or August meetings.)

Despite this, Heather Zellers, our Legislative Chair has been working tirelessly to plan for the fall legislative meetings. See her report in this newsletter. Thank you Heather for all the work you do on our behalf.

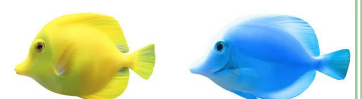
The Board of Directors met August first with the primary purpose of identifying a remuneration package for a new administrative assistant. As you may have heard, Sue announced last spring that she would be moving south with her children in the fall. Sue did an amazing job last year, her first with Four County. She brings sunshine to every phone call she answers and has made our website beautiful and filled with pictures and information. I was very pleased with how quickly the group came to consensus but even more pleased with the obvious value our members have for our director and administrative assistant. With this in mind, I am so thrilled that Sue and her son have decided to stay in our area and Sue will remain with us. Four County will be stronger with her service.

Sharon announced at the Board of Directors' meeting that this will be her last year of service to Four County. After much soul searching and nearly 24 years as our director, she has decided that it is time to retire. The only plus side of this announcement was that she has agreed to stay as long or short as we need to find and transition a new director. I am very grateful for all the insight, wisdom and connections that Sharon has brought to Four County. It is impossible for me to think that anyone will ever fill her shoes! The Board of Directors at the August meeting was charged with thinking about the skills, strengths and characteristics they believe we should look for in a new director. There will be more information to come after your Board of Directors meet in September to decide what we would like the search process to look like.

In addition to this newsletter, you will receive recommended revisions for our bylaws for your review. The Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee has worked very hard to make this document a strong backbone for our organization. Your Board of Directors have reviewed the document and are ready for you to vote to accept them at our fall General Membership meeting - a "Special" business meeting - for that purpose.

Clearly this coming year will bring changes and challenges. I look forward to working through them together and to another successful year.

Beth

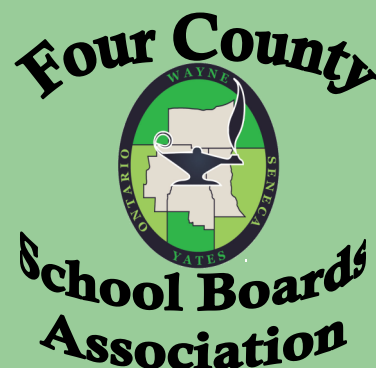


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A WARM FOUR COUNTY WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBEBERS

Jen Schneider - Canandaigua

Robert Neu - Dundee

Kevin Crofoot - Dundee

Ray Thomas - Honeoye

Amanda McNamara - Manchester-Shortsville

Benjamin Wickham - Marcus Whitman

Linda Jones - Seneca Falls

Ralph Malvik - South Seneca

R. Steven Gallaher - Wayne

Welcome also to:

Matt Sickles - new Phelps-Clifton Sprints Superintendent

Congratulations to Jamie Farr - newly appointed Canandaigua Superintendent



Legislative Committee Report

By

Heather Zellers

Legislative Committee Chair

The legislative committee has continued to work through the summer to come back this fall with a renewed energy around the vision of “**Inform, Influence and Engage**”! We met in June for a brainstorming session that focused on reviewing the by-laws and policies for the Legislative Committee and starting to work on goals for the coming year. We are excited about the possibility of hosting a workshop and the creation of legislative liaisons for boards that may be unable to participate in meetings and events. Federal issues surrounding education funding and related services continue to be a legislative priority. Over the past few weeks, Four County representatives have teamed up with NYSSBA during meetings with local Federal leaders. Sharon and Lynn Gay attended a meeting with Congressman Collins. Sharon and Heather attended a meeting in Congressman Reed’s office. Title II funding and Medicaid were the focus. Information regarding Title II funding levels for each of the Four County Component districts was shared. Representatives stressed the importance of protecting professional development as we begin to implement ESSA and providing our teachers and administrators with tools to address the rapidly changing needs of our students.

The first Legislative Papers Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 at 8:00am. As in the recent past, Four County will provide coffee/beverages, please feel free to BYOB (bring your own breakfast) or a treat to share with the group. The committee wants to give the papers a new look and feel, so come with fresh ideas! Please spend some time over the next few board meetings to discuss with your board and administrators the specific needs of your district. This information will be a key component to help **inform, influence** and actively **engage** our legislators in our local conversations.



August 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEET

The Four County Board of Directors will meet on **Thursday, September 28** to set plans in place for the 2017-2018 year. Representatives/Alternates will review and adopt the Action Plan and Calendar, approve depositories, appoint the Executive Director, and review the Association's financial activity. They will also review the compensation for office staff and consider the process for hiring the next Association Executive Director. Make sure your board is represented for this important meeting. It will be held in the **Four County meeting room – registration beginning at 6, dinner at 6:15 with a call to order by 6:30.** An official notice will be sent to each Board of Directors' Representative and Alternate as well as District Clerks and Superintendents. Superintendents are invited and welcome to attend.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP and SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

The Club 86

Avenue E

Geneva, New York

5:30 – Registration and Conversation

6:30 – Dinner

7:30 – Program

Topic and Speaker

(To be Announced)

Join us for the first gathering of the 17-18 year. In addition to the first General Membership program (details in progress) members will be asked to adopt the revised Four County Bylaws.

(Sent separately from this document and available on the website at www.fourcountysba.org).

Help us kick off the new year,

Reconnect with friends and colleagues, and take action on the bylaws.



SAVE THE DATE

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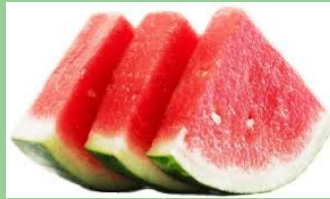
NEW YORK STATE BUSINESS OFFICIALS RELEASE REPORT ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES OF RURAL SCHOOLS

The New York State Association of School Business Officials (NYSASBO) has released a brief report entitled Demographic Challenges Facing Rural Schools: Declining Populations and Growing Poverty. The report analyzes demographic trends in New York State to highlight the challenges facing rural school districts and their communities. The report is available at this link:

https://www.nysasbo.org/uploads/reports/1502457215_Rural%20Schools%20Report_Updated_Final.pdf

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MANDATORY GOVERNANCE TRAINING

Saturday, September 9, 2017

7:55 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Four County Meeting Room

Maple Building

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Support Center

Newark, New York

Members - \$85.00

Non-Members - \$135.00

Encourage your new board members to join us for this in-person version of one of the mandated 6 hour training session. Nearly New and experienced board members are welcome for a refresher - \$25.00

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NYSSBA AREA 2

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Canandaigua Academy Library

9 – 11:30 a.m.

Please note this event is several weeks earlier than in the past due to the early date for the convention

Mark your calendar

Calendar of Events

September 9, 2017

Mandatory Governance Training

September 16, 2017

Legislative Paper Meeting

September 28, 2017

Board of Directors

September 23, 2017

Area 2 Resolutions Discussion

October 3, 2017

General Membership and Special Meeting

October 12-14, 2017

NYSSBA 98th Annual Convention

February 3, 2018

Mandatory Fiscal Training