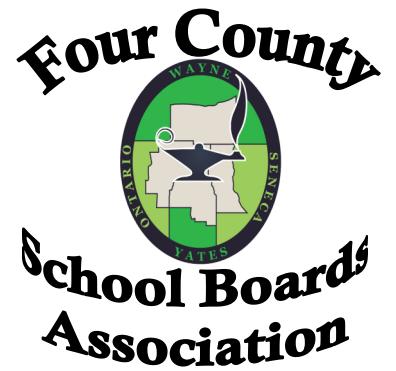


NEWS NOTES

**December
2015**



(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 2016-2017 Legislative Priorities and Activities

DAVID A. LITTLE

Executive Director, Rural Schools Association

Tuesday February 2, 2016

**The Club 86
Geneva, NY**

5:30 Registration/Social Hour

5:45 Joint Board of Directors/Legislative Committee Meeting

6:45 Dinner

7:15 Program

**Governor Cuomo will present his State of the State
and 2016-17 Budget on January 13th.**

Join us to:

- **Gain information about his proposals that impact public education**
- **Consider our priorities for the coming Legislative Session**
- **Craft the Message to our Legislators and Legislative Leadership**



Happy Holidays from Four County!

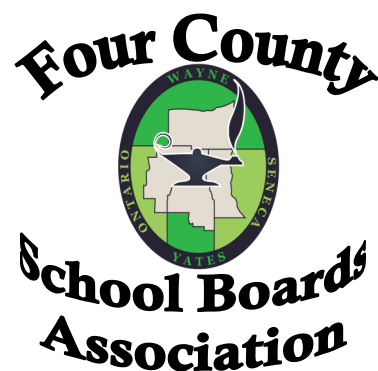
*Wishing you peace, health and
happiness during this holiday season!*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Joint meeting with Legislative Committee
Tuesday February 2, 2016
5:45 p.m.**

Make sure your board is represented to consider parameters for the 2016-2017 Four County Budget and Dues, review financial activity, and adopt the 2015-2016 Legislative Papers.

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Administrative Assistant



From Your Area Director

I am hopeful you enjoyed the state-wide conference held in October; it was nice to see so many of you. This is our annual opportunity to interact with each other and to learn so we can better lead our districts; thank you for taking the time to attend the convention.

At this time of year, I often reflect on the gifts for which I am thankful. I am a Vietnam era veteran and Veterans Day causes me to remember how thankful I am for all who have and are serving in our military so that we can live in freedom. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, I look forward to time with my family; I hope you will have the opportunity to share time with yours. As the years progress, our families change. In our roles as school board members, always know that your family reaches beyond to other Board members, district employees and community members. Even when we have our differences, we have much to be thankful for when we remember that our service is for the children.

November/December also brings the initial planning stages for our next year's budget. Please begin now visiting your legislators' in their home offices to continue to advocate. Before the governor issues his budget is when our legislators have the real opportunity to affect it. We need to get our message to them now. The message is to once and for all eliminate the GEA and to create a fair and equitable foundation aid formula. Please set aside the time to visit with your legislators now.

I wish each of you a very Happy Holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Rodney

NYSSBA NEWS MEMBERSHIP ELECTS 2016 OFFICERS AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

During the Annual Business meeting that was held in NYC on October 20, NYSSBA members elected the officers who will lead their Association during the 2016 year. **Susan Bergtraum**, a member of the Nassau BOCES Board of Education, and currently Area 11 Representative to the Board of Directors, becomes President effective January 1. Joining her are First Vice President **William Miller**, Area 5 Director and a member of the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES BOE and second Vice President **Fred Langstaff**, Area 12 Director and a member of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES BOE. **Tom Nespeca**, former Area 2 Representative to the NYSSBA Board, was re-elected to serve his third term as Treasurer. Rounding out the group will be Immediate Past President **Lynn Lenhardt** who serves on the Bethlehem, Capital Region BOCES and Tech Valley High Boards of Education. Congratulations to all. We look forward to working with them in the coming year.

MANDATORY FISCAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 6, 2016

7:55 a.m. – registration

8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Jack Loveless Conference Room

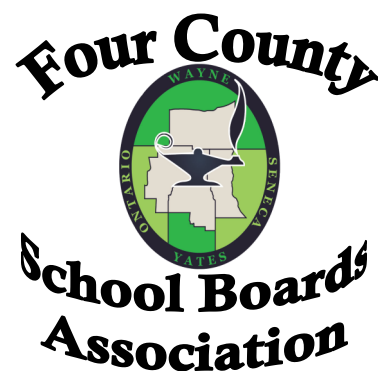
Members - \$105.00 Non-Members - \$135.00

(with a special reduction for those who bundled with the Governance held last fall)

Experienced Board Members welcome to attend for cost - \$25.00
(no binder of materials provided)

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Legislative Committee has held four Position Paper Workshops with a dedicated group of Committee members gathering at 8:00 am to consider the Association's 2015-16 Legislative agenda. Providing information and insight to inform their work have been presentations by Rural Schools Executive Director **David Little** and NYSSBA Governmental Relations Representative **Greg Berck**.

Committee representatives have met with **Senator Nozzolio**, and **Assemblymen Kolb** and **Oaks**. Scheduled for early in the new year are meetings with **Senators Funke**, and **O'Mara** as well as **Assemblyman Palmesano**. The work of the group is ably facilitated by **Committee Chair Bill Buchko** (Gananda) and **Vice Chair Robin Johnson** (Penn Yan).

The group will meet again in a workshop on January 16 and jointly with the Board of Directors on February 2. (See details for each.) It is not too late to join the discussion.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE EVENTS

Position Paper Workshop 5
Saturday January 16, 2016
8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES
Newark, New York

(Enter through the arched doorway at the North end of the building)

Joint Meeting with Board of Directors
Tuesday February 2, 2016

5:45 p.m. (Prior to General Membership Meeting)
Club 86 Geneva, NY

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.

General Membership—Feb. 2, Mar. 22

Board of Directors—Feb. 2, Mar. 22, April 19

Legislative Committee—Feb. 2 (Joint BOD meeting)
Saturday Workshops—Jan. 16

Fiscal Training—Feb. 6

Annual Meeting—May 23

Other Fall and Winter Events:

National Advocacy Institute—January 24-26

NYSSBA Capital Conference—Feb. 28-29