

# NEWS NOTES

September  
2014



(315) 332-7294

Web Site: [www.4csba.org](http://www.4csba.org) Email: [4countysba@edutech.org](mailto:4countysba@edutech.org)

## General Membership Meeting

***“Shared Services in New York State:  
A reform that works”***

**Tuesday September 30, 2014**

**5:30 Registration/Conversation  
5:45 Legislative Committee Meeting  
6:30 Dinner  
7:30 Program**

**Club 86  
Geneva, NY**

**Kathy Guenther**  
*President*

**Kathy Hart**  
*1st Vice President*

**Caroline Nevil**  
*2nd Vice President*

**Anne Morgan**  
*Immediate  
Past President*

**Bill Buchko**  
*Legislative  
Committee Chair*

**Chuck Rothfuss**  
*Appointed  
Representative*

**Jeanne Durfee**  
*Appointed  
Representative*

**Sharon A.  
Sweeney**  
*Executive Director*

**Sarah Sarkar**  
*Administrative  
Assistant*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 2014-15 school has begun and by now everyone should be well situated, in the routine and, hopefully, off to a good start. Here, at Four County, we are putting together some great programs for the new school year. We hope that you will find many that are of interest to you and your district. On September 13th Four Counties had its New School Board Member workshop that was well attended (16 people). It was a great session and we wish all the new members a great term in office.

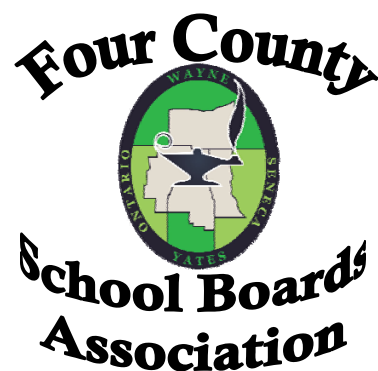
And if you join us at the September 30th meeting, make sure to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, **Sarah Sarkar**. She has fit in well and has gotten her feet wet with all of the hubbub that goes on with Four County Meetings. We will also have the opportunity to thank **Mary Roth** for her 9 years of support for our work and wish her well as she moves on to new adventures in business ownership. And welcome to our new members.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 30th!

Kathy

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## FROM YOUR AREA 2 DIRECTOR

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*President*

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*1st Vice President*

**Caroline Nevil**  
*2nd Vice President*

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*Immediate Past President*

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**Sarah Sarkar**  
*Administrative Assistant*



Professional development is a key piece of education that we must continue to include in our budgets. Think about the trainings required for any vocation – doctor, auto mechanic - if the providers are to remain current to better serve their customers. Well, there are no more important customers anywhere than the children we serve in public education. Our teachers and administrators must attend professional development to be current and replicate best practices in their service to our children, their students.

The same is true for Boards of Education; we must engage in professional development. Ours is not a service that requires only one or two meetings a month. To do our jobs as board members well and to serve the children in our communities best, each of us ... all of us ... need to engage in professional development opportunities. NYSSBA and our local school boards associations coordinate activities to bring us together to provide information and engage in conversations to share what's working and where we need help.

The major NYSSBA learning opportunity for Board member training is our annual conference, this year being held again in New York City October 26 – 28. The theme of this year's convention is "Painting Their Future". Every decision we make as Board members adds color to the future of our children and grandchildren. The annual convention brings together learning opportunities from around the country to provide us insight and professional development, to provide the paint on the palette that will allow us to do our jobs as Board members even better. (If necessary - educate your constituents as to why your training is so important.) The NYSSBA convention is a valuable professional development opportunity for all Board members.

And So - I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the convention in October. I would love to have Area 2 with the highest percentage representation in the State. Our work is essential to the future of our communities. To do our jobs well, we need to continually engage in our own professional development.

See you in New York City!

*Rodney*

SAVE THE DATE

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PRESIDENTS'/VICE PRESIDENTS' DINNER

&

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

Thursday

October 30, 2014

Watch for details

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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 30, 2014

5:45 p.m.

(prior to the General Membership Meeting)

The Club 86  
Geneva, New York

We will set the Committee's calendar and  
identify advocacy activities for 2014-2015

## REMINDER

**A WORKSHOP FOR BOARD CLERKS  
And those who work for Clerks**

8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.  
OCTOBER 3, 2014

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES  
Finger-Lakes Conference Room  
Join your colleagues for information and conversation!  
Hope to see you there!

**To All Voting Delegates  
And other NYSSBA Members**

Join colleagues for the

## AREA 2 RESOLUTIONS DISCUSSION

Saturday, September 27, 2014  
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Canandaigua Academy

Hosted by Area 2 Director Rodney George  
Discussion Leader James Colt  
Joined by NYSSBA Director of Governmental Relations  
David Little

The Association will offer the mandatory Fiscal Training on Saturday February 7. Several have taken advantage of the opportunity for "bundled tuition". Others are invited to attend – reminders will be sent to all newly elected board members. Experienced board members are invited to attend for a refresher.

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## FOUR COUNTY OFFERS MANDATORY TRAINING

On Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> 16 newly elected area board members gathered to complete their 6 hours of mandatory governance training which was held at the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Newark Regional Center. Thanks to the outstanding "faculty" who provided the attendees with valuable insight and information about their new role and responsibilities.

Thanks to the faculty for the day, in order of appearance:

**Kathy Guenther**, Four County President who moderated  
**Dr. Marla Iverson**, W-FL BOCES Assistant Superintendent for  
School Improvement

**Sharon Sweeney**, Four County Executive Director

**Barbara Schoonerman**, Marion CSD Board Clerk

**Mike Midey**, Bloomfield Superintendent

**Scott Bischooping**, W-FL BOCES District Superintendent

**Jeanne Durfee**, Four County Steering Committee

**Kathryn Hart**, Four County First Vice President

**Michael Looby**, Attorney, Harter Secrest and Emery

## COMMISSIONER'S ROUND-TABLE REPORT

By

**Joe McNamara**

**President Seneca Falls BOE/member W-FL BOCES BOE**

NYSSBA arranged a roundtable event for representative Board of Education members from around the State to meet with Commissioner King. I was one of nineteen board members to attend the roundtable, hosted by the Capitol Region BOCES, on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Albany.

The event began with a presentation by the Capitol Region BOCES staff that outlined:

Regional Information Centers (RICs) database of state and local assessment data that is available free of charge to all school districts

The role of data in Board of Education decision making NYSBA then followed with a briefing on the Federal Equitable Access to Effective Teachers Initiative that aims to have highly effective teachers in all low performing schools

Finally, the round-table session with Commissioner King began. Our discussion included:

Attendees' responses to Dr. King's question "what was the best thing that happened in your schools this past year?" Responses included action toward implementing the Common Core, efforts to inform parents and others about the changes, and many comments about changes to the way districts are doing things.

The Commissioner reinforcing the value of data, the importance of quality data, and the ability to understand and use data properly

The "opt out" challenge and the importance of educating parents and others about the value of testing

Concerns about the testing of special education students and the coming ability to provide adaptive tests for these students

Concerns about the compatibility of tests and text books, avoidance of bias in testing, and quality in the wording of questions

Reaffirmation by Dr. King that Person is developing the tests within NY State guidelines and review by NY educators. Regents' exams are written by NY State teachers and subject to a bias review process.

The Commissioner's Round Table event demonstrates the Commissioner's and NYSSBA's acknowledgement of the importance of strengthening communication, sharing best practices, and building collaborative relationships among all stakeholders, from SED to BOE members across the State.

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## FOUR COUNTY PLANS EVENTS FOR NYSSBA CONVENTION

The Four County School Boards Association will once again jointly sponsor several events during the NYSSBA Convention – October 26 – 28 in New York City.

### The UPSTATE/DOWNSTATE HOSPITALITY SUITE

Again hosted jointly with colleagues from the Erie ASB, Genesee Valley SBA, Monroe County SBA, Nassau-Suffolk SBA, Niagara-Orleans SBA, Rockland County SBA, and Westchester-Putnam SBA.

C& S Companies are generously sponsoring the event. Join us to network with colleagues!

SUNDAY 7:45 – 12:00 midnight MONDAY 5:30 – 12:00 midnight  
Watch for suite location information when you arrive in NYC

### The UPSTATE/DOWNSTATE RESOLUTIONS DISCUSSION

Monday – October 27  
In the Hospitality Suite  
(Room # TBD)  
BYOB

(Please feel free to bring breakfast and coffee)  
Discussion leaders - Erie County Association of School Boards

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2014-2015

**General Membership—Sept. 30, Dec. 3, Jan. 29, Mar. 3**

**Board of Directors—Sept. 23, Dec. 3, Jan. 29, Mar. 3**

**Legislative Committee—Sept. 30, Jan. 29  
(plus the Saturday Position Paper workshops)**

**Presidents'/Vice Presidents'—Oct. 30**

**Annual Meeting—May 18**

### Other Fall Events:

Area 2 Discussion of Proposed Resolutions—Canandaigua—Sept. 27

NYSSBA Annual Conv. And Bus. Meeting—NYC—Oct. 26-28

NYSSBA Policy Conference—Rochester—Nov. 6

Statewide School Finance Consortium Workshop—Newark—Nov. 6

NYSSBA Winter Law Conference—Rochester—Dec. 12