

Greetings 4CSBA Members,

Here we are well into the second half of the school year, 2007-2008 budgets being planned, school board members trying to understand what the "state of the state" message really said about NYS education and then have the proposed budget for next year and its impact on your district. Wow, a lot going on and difficult to digest, to say the least.

In addition to the knowledge your individual Superintendents and Business Officials can provide regarding these subjects, there are several resources available to you that NYSSBA and 4CSBA can provide through their legislative forums and various articles, located on their respective websites. All these resources can help you understand the pertinent issues and the effects they may have on your districts.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Legislative breakfast being held on Saturday March 24 at Club 86.

I appreciate your notes and emails about current issues or things you hope NYSSBA can provide as services in the future. If you wish to send me anything I'll continue to keep my contact points in this column for ease of communications.

My email addresses are: tnespeca@rochester.rr.com, or Thomas.Nespeca@Kodak.com.

Telephone numbers are: home 585-671-7858, Work 585-724-6252, Cell 585-747-9922 feel free to use any of them and they all have voice mail so leave a message and I'll do my best to get back to you ASAP.

In closing I hope to see you at the legislative breakfast in March.

Sincerely,

Tom



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FCSBA
ANNUAL DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING
Thursday, May 31, 2007

Social Hour - 5:30p.m. Dinner - 6:45 p.m.

The Belhurst Castle
Geneva, New York

Our Guest - *Dr. Daniel T. Hayes*
Finger Lakes Community College President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

NYSSBA News

The **New York State School Boards Association** has changed the location and format for some of the **New Board Orientation** programs. As in the past, one will be held in Albany in July beginning on Friday evening and ending on Sunday morning. The September program will be moved to Buffalo and follow a similar format. In addition, several one-day orientation programs will be held at various locations throughout the state. The NYSSBA Leadership Development staff has made these changes in an effort to better serve the membership. Watch for details from NYSSBA.

Welcome to newly appointed Director of Leadership Development **Barry Entwistle**. Barry is a former board member and member of the NYSSBA Board of Directors.

AD HOC BUDGET AND DUES COMMITTEE BEGINS DELIBERATIONS

Policy requires the Association to review the dues formula and budget guidelines periodically. To comply, the Board of Directors authorized the creation of an **Ad Hoc Budget and Dues Committee** to undertake this important task during 2007. Desiring a broadly representative group, boards were identified based on district wealth, size and location. The presidents of those boards were invited to join the committee or send a representative. Keeping with tradition, a member superintendent is also on the Committee. Members of the 2007 Ad Hoc Budget and Dues Committees are: **Sue Campbell** (Marcus Whitman), **Superintendent Brenda Keith** (Naples), **Bob Montemorano** (Clyde-Savannah), **Jeff Morehouse** (Penn Yan), **Bob Rose** (Victor), **Chuck Rothfus** (Gananda), **Four County President Tom Scherer** (Steering Committee Liaison), **Mark Sinkiewicz** (South Seneca), **Tarry Shipley** (Canandaigua). Tarry was a member of the Committee that crafted the original dues formula bringing the historical perspective to the discussion. The group is chaired by **Stu Einstein**, a member of the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES BOE and former President of the Association.

The Committee will review the current formula and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Any recommendations for change would be reviewed and accepted by the Board of Directors and then presented to the General Membership for ratification.

FOUR COUNTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Four County members who represent the area to the **Federal Relations Network (FRN)** and the **State Legislative Network (SLN)** attended the National and State Legislative Conferences and Lobby days. (See President **Tom Scherer's** report on the **Federal Relations Network Conference and Lobby Day** {Washington, DC, January 28-30} in his message on the front page of this publication.) Both groups are appointed by NYSSBA Area 2 Director **Tom Nespeca** with registration to their respective conferences paid by your State Association. The Four County School Boards Association then pays a portion of the additional costs associated with this participation.

Representatives to the **State Legislative Network** include: **Jeanne Durfee** (W-FL BOCES), **Lynn Gay** (W-FL BOCES), **Jane Lawson** (Dundee), **Joyce Lyke** (Wayne), **Scott MacDonnell** (Phelps-Clifton Springs), **Anne Morgan** (Romulus/W-FL BOCES/FCSBA Legislative Committee Chair), **Nancy Scher** (Penn Yan/W-FL BOCES), **Tom Scherer** (Geneva/FCSBA President), and **Tarry Shipley** (Canandaigua). Those who attended the Conference, held in Albany March 4 - 7, heard from key Albany officials including **Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli**, **Senate Ed Committee Chair Steven Saland**, **Budget Director Paul Francis** and **Chair of the Regents State Aid Committee James Tallon**. On Tuesday the group met with **Senator Mike Nozzolio** and staff members from the offices of **Senators Volker and Winner**. They also met with **Assemblymen Jim Bacalles, Joe Errigo, Brian Kolb, and Bob Oaks**. Among the issues discussed during the Conference and with the legislators were the State Aid foundation formula proposal, school district accountability, charter schools, and mandate relief.

Join Four County to continue the discussion of these issues at the Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, March 24, 2007.



SAVE THE DATE

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**Mandatory 6 Hour
FISCAL TRAINING SEMINAR
Saturday, April 28, 2007**

**8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Victor Education Center
Victor Central School District**

Watch for Registration Details!



SPREAD THE WORD

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Four County Hosts Annual Prospective Board Member Seminar

A Panel Presentation
Saturday, March 31
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

*Jack Loveless Conference Room
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Support Center
131 Drumlin Court
Newark, NY 14513*

Flyers and Brochures have been sent all Four County member and non-member board presidents, superintendents, and board clerks. Notices have been sent to PTA presidents, public libraries, and the radio/TV stations and newspapers serving the Four County area.

Community members thinking about running for their Board of Education or those would just like to know more about the roles and responsibilities of school trustees are encouraged to attend.

Please share this information with those who may be interested.

Details available by calling the Four County office or at

www.4csba.org

This program is offered a service - there is not charge.

A Call to all Four County Members

The 2007 Legislative Session is in full swing. The changes in Albany make it essential that all Four County members maintain contact with their Senator and Assemblyman about the issues that impact school districts.
(Contact information is available at www.4csba.org.)



WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

www.nyscoss.org - This is the website of the **Council of School Superintendents** for New York State. (Some of you may already be frequent visitors.) The site currently offers an analysis of the 2007-08 Executive Budget ("Shifting Out of Neutral") and state aid runs that demonstrate the impact of the state aid proposal for every district. Access the Council's website as highlighted in the Links section of the Four County Website at www.4countysba.org.

March		April		May		June	
4-6	NYSSBA Legislative Conference	2	W-FL BOCES Annual Meeting	4	Negotiators' Breakfast	3-5	NYSASBO Conference
6	State Legislative Network (SLN) Lobby Day	6	Conference Day	4-5	Joint NYSSBA/ NYSCOSS/ BOCES Workshop (Albany)	19	FCSBA New Board Member Orientation
15	FCSBA Steering Committee	7	Spring Holiday-Office Closed	15	School District Budget/ BOE Votes		
21	FCSBA Ad Hoc Budget And Dues Committee	9-13	Spring Recess	28	Memorial Day-Office Closed		
22	FCSBA Nominating Committee	14-17	NSBA Conference (San Francisco)	31	NYSSBA Spec Ed Law Conference (Roch)		
24	FCSBA Legislative Breakfast	25	W-FL BOCES Budget Vote	31	FCSBA Annual Meeting		
30	Conference Day	28	FCSBA Fiscal Training				
31	FCSBA Prospective Board Member Seminar						



Four County School Boards Association
131 Drumlin Court
Newark, NY 14513

March 2007

2006-2007 Legislative Breakfast

Saturday, March 24, 2007
8:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

The Club 86-Geneva, NY

Invited Guests:

Senator George Winner, Jr. - 53rd Senate District
Senator Mike Nozzolio - 54th Senate District
Senator Dale Volker - 59th Senate District
Assemblyman Bob Oaks - 128th Assembly District
Assemblyman Brian Kolb - 129th Assembly District
Assemblyman Joe Errigo - 130th Assembly District
Assemblyman Jim Bacalles - 136th Assembly District

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Executive Director
MARY TRANELLI
Administrative Assistant

President's Message



Four County School Boards Association represents 19 local school boards, the Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES board and over 30,000 students in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties. Through membership in Four County School Boards Association, school boards gain access to and have a credible voice in the ongoing debates about education. The debates over NCLB, (funding of Title I and IDEA specifically) and state aid funding are just two important examples of how Four County School Boards Association has been an important presence for all of our member districts.

At the end of January, five members from Four County School Boards Association and over 1,000 other school board members from across the country traveled to our nation's capitol to advocate for all of our students and become active participants in NSBA's Federal Relations Network. Those members included **Tim DeLucia** (Victor Central), **Joyce Lyke** (Wayne Central), **Jean Durfee** (WF-L BOCES), **Jane Lawson** (Dundee Central), **Tom Scherer** (Geneva City) and **Sharon Sweeney**, Executive Director of Four County School Boards Association.

The main elements of the FRN included NSBA's bill to fix the problems of NCLB, increased funding for Title I and special education by 2.5 billion each for fiscal year 2008, approaches for the federal government to support teacher effectiveness, initiatives to support voluntary Pre-K education and initiatives to support 21st century skills such as advanced math and science.

The New York delegation met with **Senators Hillary Clinton** and **Charles E. Schumer** while individual meetings were held with Congressional representatives **Mike Arcuri** – 24th district, **Jim Walsh** – 25th district and **Randy Kuhl** – 29th district to address these important issues and how they impact OUR students in the Wayne-Finger Lakes area. Each of the meetings was very productive with members of congress being open to addressing these issues.

Four County School Boards Association is honored to serve all of its member districts in this important work. Rest assured that your voice is being heard at the Federal and State levels in our efforts to support and serve our local boards and all of our students!

One of the many valued services provided through membership
In your Four County School Boards Association!

We look forward to seeing you at our Legislative Breakfast at Club 86 in Geneva on March 24th and share in the discussion on relevant state and local issues!

Tom