



*“Using a democratic structure, SABEA supports student success and works towards improving the professional, economic, and personal lives of our members and families.*”

Volume 2 Number 4 December 2014

## Monthly Newsletter

With the snow falling, it is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! The last few days have been interesting.

It is a good thing that we work in fields that support education and are used to ever changing situations. Some folks experienced rapid weather changes the last few days as they made their way to work at our various centers- much like we roll with the changes that are out of our control on how we support and educate our students.

Locally we are dealing with slow contract talks, cumbersome mileage reimbursements and slow payments, enrollment issues, poor communication to staff, feelings of being overworked and undervalued. At the state level the labor force, middle class and educators are being made to appear to be the problem for so many problems and again, undervalued for the knowledge and service provided. And now, to compound issues at the national level, John King will be moving his ideas to the Department of Education- who knows what that will bring to us (and the children we serve.)

On the other hand, those who are part of SABEA make the world a better place. Every day I see and hear people doing their job, often going above and beyond. I see you helping one another, supporting each other, lending a hand in so many ways. There are aspects of working at BOCES that try my heart and patience but then I experience or witness one of those acts of support, and I know I work with some of the best people around. For that, I am especially grateful.

I hope you all have a joyful and wonderful holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Ruth*





Thank you to Tammy W, the somewhat shelved SABEA website is back up and running. You will find newsletters, articles about things that are going on, photos, and links to our FACEBOOK and Twitter accounts.

There are also articles from our national affiliate, AFT. As we develop it further, we will have member only sections to keep you more informed.

Check it out at [sabea.ny.aft.org](http://sabea.ny.aft.org)  
Feedback is appreciated; send to [SABEA@NYSUT@gmail.com](mailto:SABEA@NYSUT@gmail.com)

### **November 2014 Sunshine News**

Kathy Hubbell, Myers Center: Had surgery.  
Barb Campbell, Myers Center: Hurt leg  
Laura Rychcik, Myers Center: Had surgery

Catherine Scott, Myers Center: Got married

Melanie McCarthy- former Special Education  
Teacher passed away



### **Rallies and Events to Support Education:**

**SRP Roundtable**  
at NYSUT March 10

**Health and Safety Conference**  
March 13-14 Saratoga Springs

**Health Care Conference**  
April 18 in Albany



# Save this Date

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

## For Lobby Day

We Rally Because  
**#WeCantWait for Equal Funding for all Schools**

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Empire State Plaza Convention Center Albany, NY

Contact: Chad Radock (978) 376-8178



# We Can't Wait: #WeCantWait Gallery

[We Can't Wait Home](#) » #WeCantWait

## #WeCantWait

### TAKE ACTION!

#### Take A #WeCantWait Selfie!

Make, share and challenge others to take a #WeCantWait selfie to show we urgently need to fully and fairly fund public schools.

- 1) Make a #WeCantWait sign and write why you can't wait for New York to fully fund public schools. (Tell the world what your school is missing because of funding cuts).
- 2) Share that picture across social media with #WeCantWait and at [@AQE\\_NY!](#) or email it [tochadraddock@gmail.com](mailto:tochadraddock@gmail.com)
- 3) Challenge your friends and family to take their own #WeCantWait selfies to support our schools! (Former SABEA member Wendy Liberatore is now working at AQE and is asking us to help with these selfies! Send them in to let people know BOCES is doing our share!)

### **January 22 Rally: Join with our Component Schools in Sending Albany a clear message:**

#### SU4US – STAND UP FOR UPSTATE SCHOOLS

As our governor and state legislators begin the process of developing a budget for 2015, it is important for all of our elected officials to understand the importance of funding for public education. Our state and nation have been in the midst of a recession for the past six years. While there are signs of economic growth, that growth is small. Public schools like Hadley Luzerne have reduced staff and cut program in response to reduced state support; in fact, state aid to our school district has not exceeded the level provided in 2008.

The state has hurt school districts and municipalities on both sides of the ledger sheet. Reductions in state aid, primarily through the Gap Elimination Adjustment, and the tax cap, a complex calculation intended to control the growth of the local tax levy, have reduced revenue, while the transition to the Common Core State Standards and other unfunded or underfunded state mandates (teacher professional development; special education provisions, printing costs, data and accountability costs) are pressing tight budgets.

Please join us on Thursday, January 22 at 6 PM at Saratoga Springs High School (1 Blue Streak Blvd, Saratoga Springs), when community members like you and I can stand up for our schools in a manner that our elected officials understand the need to improve funding for our schools. Join parents, students, educators, school leaders, board members and other concerned residents from school districts in Washington, Saratoga, Hamilton, Warren and Essex counties to advocate for public education!



**Announcing:** Tickets for Disney's Beauty and the Beast

April 17 at 8 pm at Proctor's

SABEA has obtained group sales orchestra seats for this performance.

Contact Ruth Shippee at extension 13695 or 321-8676 to arrange for purchase. Tickets are \$55 + 4.90 charge.

Limited seats available—great holiday gifts!

Another way for you to support our students and programs:

### **Submit public comments by Dec. 20 on multiple pathways to graduation**

The public comment period for the new pathways to graduation for students in the arts, humanities, STEM and Career and Technical Education has begun and will end Dec. 20. Calling it a long overdue step in the right direction, NYSUT is asking members to submit comments in support of the move. Here's our [news release](#) on the Regents' announcement with links to the draft language and supporting material. Here's the [public comments page](#). NYSUT has said the proposed pathways would allow all students to graduate by demonstrating they have a strong, core academic background, as well as the knowledge, skills and coursework in CTE or other areas to apply their interests to industry-related jobs in their chosen fields. Briefly, NYSTEEA expressed the following concerns with the Proposed Rule Making:

Comment Process:

1. Got to [www.nysteea.org](http://www.nysteea.org) for links to obtain the referenced documents.
2. Read the Proposed Rule Making language in the November 5, 2014 NYS Register, page 19-.
3. Write a letter or email SED with your questions, concerns, suggestions for changes to strengthen the Pathways concept beyond assessment options. Keep the language positive and include personal experiences. (Contact information is at the end of this document.)
4. Ask others to comment as well. SED needs to hear from all stakeholders from across the State.

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**Be on the lookout for your new Union card. They are to be mailed out early 2015. These cards are your key to many things- including taking advantage of what Member Benefits has to offer. This is an independent division that works to find many ways to save money for NYSUT members. Check out what they have to offer at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)**

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Friends SABEA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nysutsabea>

**Next Representative Council Meeting:  
Wednesday, January 14 at 3:30 SAEC- B-7  
All are welcome!**

**Happy New Year!**