

WHAT'S NEXT?

Grace Wilkie, President of NYSCEA

Newly-elected Commissioner Steiner took office yesterday. He was invited to attend but today he is meeting with our NYSUT leaders. Gee, I would have thought we were more important! Only kidding! But I am glad that he has agreed to meet with us in May unless something prevents him from attending. He has set up a phone conversation with me in a few weeks. I look forward to that conversation. I appreciate his taking the time and look forward to his attending our spring conference. The date is May 15th - you may want to also invite your president of your association to attend.

The Regents has been busy. They have just announced the appointment of Dr. John B. King, Jr. as Senior Deputy Commissioner for P-12 Education. He will begin his job on Monday, October 5th. He was a Managing Director with Uncommon Schools, a non-profit charter management organization that operates schools in New York and New Jersey. He was assigned for P-12 Education. What happened to P-16? I always thought including college was a great thing.

NYSCEA looks forward to working not only with these 2 men but also the department. We appreciate the Reading Resource team, Jean, Howard, and Alysyan for sharing their expertise.

As I was reviewing some NYSCEA papers I came across notes from a strategic planning meeting of 1993 – that's 16 years ago. It says:

“The issues in the notes from a NYSCEA meeting 14 years ago are still are discussed” (can you imagine now we are talking about 30 years ago? Do you know what you were doing in 1979?)

Here is what was listed as commonalities in vision and goals:

1. Recruitment of leaders and leaders training; 2. Communication among member organizations; 3. Defining and meeting needs of member organizations; 4. Defining goals of the organization; 5. Draft a document that will give new delegates information about NYSCEA and their responsibilities; 6. Develop an informal, friendly networking system; 7. Create a listserv; 8. Communication with SED, Legislators, and the Regents; and, 9. Sponsor research on educational issues.

Lastly they discuss a major issue “How can NYSCEA demonstrate to SED that it is a viable professional network with a common purpose to provide a forum for examining issues held in common and a structure to communicate agreed upon ideas and concern to policy makers.”

It is good that some of this goals have been accomplished but isn't it remarkable that based upon our recent survey some of these goals still are on the list.

During the summer I met with Jean Stevens to discuss our working with the SED as partners. I look forward to this conversation continuing. In the latter part of October I will be having a phone conversation with Commissioner Steiner. I will dedicate myself to show others that we are a viable professional network and recognize our educational professional organizations for their good work they do for their members.

In your folder you will find a Membership Brochure and the Survey Results.

Let's look at the Membership Brochure: in the tri-fold on the left side is the purpose and meeting dates, in the center are your responsibilities as a delegate and membership eligibility, and lastly, on the right side are all our member organizations. On the other side is our mission statement and the e mail addresses for the Executive Committee. If you know of any organizations that have not been listed and should be invited to join our group please let our Past President Dennis Tosetto and he will send out the information,

Now for the Survey: the data has been collated and prioritized and during the summer the Executive Board analyzed your requests. You will see some changes reflected in our meeting today.

Page 1 – Sharing Association Information – we have the initial areas that were listed and then your suggestions and how many delegates agree with you.

Page 2 deals with Common Interest and Advocacy. We had the initial areas that I listed and then again your suggestions which have been prioritized. Today you will see we have dedicated the afternoon toward Professional Development.

Page 3 deals with how we as an association should improve. I hope you see that we are proactive and will continue to do so, that the sessions will be hopefully more interactive and that we removed the roll call.

In addition from page 3 to page 5 deals with SED – what we would like to see addressed. Of course this list can not be static. As new changes occur we need to be informed. We thank Laura Miller for all her efforts on our behalf in arranging the speakers from SED to attend. On page 5 under your suggestions the fourth one down – Anne Schiano was invited and was planning on attending but could not at the last moment. She has promised to come to one of our upcoming meeting.

Your Executive Board reviewed them and is dedicated to work on them. Starting in February, we are going to try something different. We plan on having 4 afternoon sessions running simultaneously. You register for a session, the group leader will run that session, you all then return our meeting room, the group leader will summarize what occurred, and then possibly further discussion can occur on a wiki. You ask “What is a wiki?” Well don't ask me ... here is where Dave Arnone, President Elect, will get involved. If you are willing to be a group leader please see me. Registration is on a first come basis for the sessions and will take place on line and also at the meeting.

Today we are going to start something new – we are going to do some kudos – sharing some of the accomplishments of the organization. If you have something you would like to be shared with your colleagues please let me know before the meeting and we will recognize that accomplishment during the meeting.

Some kudos

Kudos to Joan, Dave Sue, Dennis and Robin for their work on the Executive Board

Kudos to the NY Association for Continuing/Community Education and Laura Borgstedt: She received a Literacy Zone grant for the city of Amstersdam after hearing about the program from NYSCEA.

Kudos to the Middle Level Association and Dennis Tosetto: As a result of their good efforts, Governor Patterson has proclaimed October 2009 as the Month of the Young Adolescent.

Kudos to Robin Wheeler: NYSCEA would like to recognize your efforts on our behalf. With these efforts we have a successful conference.

Kudos to 2 Kathie DeKalb and Jim Viola: All I had to do is e mail them and say “I need help” and they did not hesitate to assist. Thanks for all your invaluable assistance and your willingness to share with our delegates your expertise.

NYSCEA is excited about the web site, www.nyscea.com. On the site you can find who spoke at the meetings, their presentations, who are the members and links to sites as well as many other things. Eventually we are hoping educators will come to our site and then link to our members’ sites to get the related information needed. Here is Pat Barbanell to show us about the web site.