Rural Schools Association
& the Rural Schools Program
of
New York State
2015 Annual Conference

“Communities Committed To
Educational Excellence”

Sunday ~ Tuesday
July 12 ~14, 2015

The Otesaga Hotel
Cooperstown, New York
Gordon Daniels, Chair  Zone 9
Linda King, Vice-Chair  Zone 7
Janet Ahola  NYS PTA
Robin Blakely-Armitage  Cornell
Patrick Brady  Zone 2
Richard Calkins  Zone 8
Charles Chafee  Zone 6
Edward Engel, Chair  Zone 4
John Evans  Zone 10
Robert Everett  Zone 8
Linda Gonyo-Horne  Zone 2
Gilbert Green  Zone 8
Darrell Griff  Farm Bureau
Doug Gustin  Zone 1
Charlene Harvey  Zone 4
Timothy Hayes  Zone 4
Thomas Huxtable  Zone 6
Rosemary Joy  Zone 3
Douglas Ann Land  Zone 5
James Loomis  At-Large
Kevin MacDonald  NYSCOSS
Patrick Michel  Zone 6
Cammy Morrison  Zone 1
Thomas O’Brien  Zone 9
John O’Connor  Zone 3
Carolyn Ostrander  NYS Grange
Joseph Rotella  At-Large
Nicholas Savin  At-Large
John Sipple  Cornell
Dorothy Slattery  NYSSBA
Daniel Starr  Zone 7
Cheryl Steckly  Zone 1
Daniel Teplesky  At-Large
Mark Vivacqua  NYSCOSS
Donald Vredenburgh  Zone 9
Charles Walters  Zone 5
Michael Wendt  Zone 3
In Appreciation

A profound “Thank You” to exhibitors and special friends who have provided support for the 2015 RSA Conference. They include:

ALBANY MEPS
Bearsch Compeau Knudson
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Sei Design Group
Synthesis Architects, LLP
Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers
Turner Construction Company
Utica National Insurance Group
Welliver

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All are encouraged to visit the exhibits in the Ballroom
Sunday, July 12, PM

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Registration
Lobby

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
RSA Committee Meetings (optional)

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
RSA Directors Annual Meeting
Kingfisher Room

5:45 pm - 6:45 pm
Reception (Exhibits Open)
Ballroom

Sponsored by:

**Turner Construction Company**

6:45 pm - 9:00 pm
Opening Dinner and Awards
Dining Room

Keynote Speaker:

**David A. Little, Esq.**
Executive Director of the Rural Schools Association

Awards:

- **Dr. James C. Dawson Lifetime Service Award** presented to Dr. James C. Dawson
- **Anne Z. Paulin Distinguished Service Award** - TBA
- **Appreciation Award** presented to **Senator Catharine Young**
- **William Deming Recognition Award** presented to **Charles Szuberla**

Executive Director **David A. Little, Esq.** Presiding

Presider: **Mr. Gordon Daniels**, RSA Chair
Recorder: **Mr. James Loomis**
Introduction: **Mr. Mark Vivacqua**
Conference Chair
Monday, July 13 AM

7:00 am - 8:30 am
Breakfast
Dining Room

8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Registration
Main Lobby

8:30 am - 9:45 am
Templeton Lounge

Early Bird Session

“Effective Strategic Planning for School Districts”
Dr. John Sipple, NYS Center for Rural Schools

Presider: David A. Little, Esq, Executive Director
Recorder: Mr. Thomas Marzeski

9:45 am - 10:30 am
Coffee Break
Ballroom

Sponsored by:

Utica National Insurance Group

10:30 am - 11:45 am
3 Programs - Session I

“Community School Model – Assuring Success through Connections”
Broome-Tioga BOCES

This program will review the unique partnerships of the Promise Zone efforts in the Broome-Tioga-Delaware BOCES region. This is one of six New York State funded programs and the only Promise Zone connected to a countywide approach. The higher education connection to Binghamton University (School of Social Work) is a key component of the effort linking Broome County and the local school districts to build community-based connections through several grant opportunities.

Kathryn Sheehan,
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Laura Bronstein
Director of the Institute for Intergenerational Studies, Dean of the College of Community and Public Affairs, and professor in the Department of Social Work

Presider/Recorder: Mr. Gilbert Green

Four Winds Room
“Small Town Technology: Connecting Parents to Classroom Learning”
Waterville CSD

Efforts in the Waterville Central School district will be presented that demonstrate how the use of technology can create real and immediate remedies to the challenge of keeping parents involved in the school environment. Select technology applications will be reviewed that help keep parents informed of what’s taking place in the classroom, from behavior management to math strategies that may be new to them. The use of technology breaks down barriers created by the difficulty in setting times to meet with parents and helps provide better support for students.

Maureen Gray,
Elementary Principal

Jaclyn Stovall,
5th Grade Teacher

Presider/Recorder: Mr. James Loomis

Kingfisher Room

“Getting Students Prepared for Their Own Personal Future”
Unadilla Valley CSD

After the merger of the New Berlin and South New Berlin School Districts in the mid 1990’s, one of the main purposes for the Unadilla Valley School District was to provide more opportunities for their students from a high need rural area. After being awarded a School Improvement Grant in the 2012-13 school year, the district implemented changes that would enable students to graduate from both high school and Tompkins Cortland Community College with an A.S. degree in four years. Adult mentors monitor student progress and assist with transitions between grade levels and from school to work or higher education. Mentors utilize a unique research based curriculum that has modules in life skills, college/career readiness, asset building and a component that addresses bullying.

Kevin Nial,
Student Advocate

Presider/Recorder: Ms. Linda King

Council Rock Room
Monday, July 13, Noon

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Luncheon
Dining Room

Speakers:

2015 New York State FFA Oratorical Contest Winners

Ms. Margaret Brownell
Greenwich CSD

Ms. Sarah LaLumiere
Warwick Valley CSD

Sponsored by:

John Deere Corporation

Presider: Mr. Mark Vivacqua
Chair, 2015 RSA Conference Planning Committee
District Superintendent
Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm
3 Programs - Session II

“Rondout Valley Central School District’s Successful Farm-to-School Collaborative”
Rondout Valley CSD

The district will present its Farm-to-School program highlighting efforts with the Rondout Valley Growers Association, SUNY Ulster, Cornell University and local non-profit organizations. They will share and discuss best practices utilized to develop and expand opportunities for students, staff and the community to engage in Farm-to-School activities. Several highly successful interdisciplinary initiatives will be described for science, home and careers, art and technology. The district will also share strategies to incorporate local produce into cafeteria offerings.

Rosario Agostaro,
Superintendent

Lisa Pacht,
Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Presider/Recorder: Ms. Rosemary Joy

Four Winds Room
“School Community Connections Enhance Seneca Falls CSD School Program”
Seneca Falls CSD

The Seneca Falls School District will provide information on an action plan implemented that is focused on ways to promote partnerships and increase communication efforts to benefit academic programs, extra-curricular opportunities and student achievement rates. District representatives will share its School Community Connections initiative including action plan highlights, the process for the development of a Community Partnership Newsletter, Business Education and Marketing class projects designed to work with local businesses and a campaign to assist with fund raising for the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

Bob McKeveny,
Superintendent

Presider/Recorder: Mr. Charles Walters
Kingfisher Room

“The ABCs of Early Literacy and Preschool/School Readiness Strategies for Rural Children”
Dolgeville CSD

The Dolgeville Central District Elementary School will provide a presentation on a program designed to increase whole-child readiness for school. This program includes experiences and interventions that help prepare children for PK/Kindergarten. Highlights include: work with the Literacy Coalition of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, employment of a Preschool Home-School Liaison, data collection to determine the effects of PK on kindergarten readiness and plans for nurturing relationships with families of children from birth through school entry.

Susan Butler,
Elementary Principal

Presider/Recorder: Ms. Douglas Ann Land
Council Rock Room

2:45 pm - 3:15 pm
Afternoon Dessert Reception
Ballroom
“High Need Rural School District Success Indicators: A Study of Economic Factors in New York State”
Prattsburgh CSD

Results of a study done to determine if high need/rural school districts in New York classified as Reward school districts by NYSED receive more than expected financial support in the form of the local tax levy and apply a significantly different level of their financial resources to administrative functions, when compared to non-Reward districts, will be reviewed. The study attempted to determine if communities with schools that earn Reward status provide more local financial resources through proportionally larger tax levies. The study also sought to determine if High Need/Rural Reward school districts spend a significantly different proportion of their overall budgets on administrative functions than school districts that do not earn Reward status

Jeffrey Black,
Superintendent

Presider/Recorder: Mr. Charles Chaffee

Four Winds Room

“One2One Summer Melt Program”
McGraw CSD

The One2One Program has been implemented in the McGraw Central School District to help increase the graduation rate and to help ensure students who graduate are college and career ready. The program involves a partnership with Tompkins Cortland Community College and neighboring school districts to administer a diagnostic assessment each January to current seniors. This assessment provides results that place students into a “Math and ELA Boot Camp”. This experience results in a plan for students to enroll in college courses their first year that are deemed appropriate for them. The Summer Melt program provides students assistance with some of the steps necessary for them to be enrolled in college in the fall semester, so students don’t experience “summer melt” and become overwhelmed by barriers that prevent them from attending. Results from this year’s programs will be shared during the presentation.

Mary Curcio
Superintendent

Presider/Recorder: Mr. Michael Wendt

Kingfisher Room

“The Tuition Option – A Tale of Financial Savings and Program Presentation”
Chautauqua Lake CSD & Ripley CSD

This presentation will feature a unique partnership between the Chautauqua Lake Central school District and the Ripley Central School District to provide a high school program in the Chautauqua District for Ripley Central students, through a tuition agreement. An overview of the process from the initial discussions, public vote, steps in the planning for the program to start and lessons learned from the experience in areas such as staffing, space allocation, transportation, student/parent concerns and finances, will be included.

Benjamin Spitzer,
Superintendent

Presider/Recorder: Mr. Donald Vredenburgh

Council Rock Room
Monday, July 13, PM

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Reception

Sponsored by:

**NY Schools Insurance Reciprocal**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Dinner

Keynote Speakers:

**Regent Beverly Ouderkirk**
New York State Education Department

**MaryEllen Elia**
New York State Education Commissioner

Presiders: **David A. Little, Esq.** RSA Executive Director and **Mr. Gordon Daniel,** RSA Board Chair

Recorder: **Mr. Tom Marzeski**

Honored Guest: **Elana Sigall**
Deputy Secretary for Education

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Mixer

Sponsored by:

**C&S Companies**
Panel Presentation

Moderated by: Karen DeWitt,
Capital Bureau Chief of WXXI

Mr. Timothy Kremer
Executive Director of NYSSBA

Mr. Steve Greenberg
Spokesperson for Siena Research Poll
and
Founder of Greenberg Public Relations

Mr. Bob Bellafiore
Founder and President of Stanhope Partners

Presider: David A. Little
Recorder: Mr. Gordon Daniels

10:00 am - 11:15 am
3 Morning Programs

“Information Technology Academy Students Earn 29 Transferrable College Credits”
Herkimer– Fulton– Hamilton-Otsego BOCES

A strong collaboration between the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES and Herkimer Community College affords students the opportunity to earn up to 29 transferrable College Now credits. The credits are earned through concentrating in Computer Networking or Business Management classes while enrolled in the Information Technology Academy (ITA) program. The ITA program features a blended learning environment utilizing traditional classroom strategies as well as online (virtual) instructional strategies. Industry certifications and work-based learning are integral components of the program.

Kathleen Fox,
CTE Principal

Presider/Recorder: Mr. Thomas Huxtable

Four Winds Room
“Creating Flipped Classrooms at a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center”
Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES

This presentation will describe the concept of a flipped classroom being utilized at the Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES CTE Center and describe how it benefits students. It will provide an overview of steps to be taken in starting a flipped classroom and review costs involved. Various apps that assist with a flipped classroom environment will be showcased and a review of data available on student results from utilizing a flipped classroom will be provided. Possible future trends involving this instructional technique will also be discussed.

Christopher Fatta,
Principal

Presider/Recorder: Mr. Edward Engel

Kingfisher Room

“Engaging the Whole Community to Improve Student Outcomes: Launching a Community School”
Fulton City SD

This program will provide an overview of the establishment of a community school by the Fulton City School District. The community school was established at the Fulton Junior High School with resources and programming available for the whole community, as well targeted programs to promote school engagement, academic growth, enrichment and leadership skills in at-risk students in grades 5-8. A partnership between Oswego County Opportunities (a local community based non-profit), the Oswego County Department of Social Services and the Fulton City School district successfully secured a state grant to establish the community school. The presentation will allow participants to explore best practices in community engagement and collaboration, while also discussing potential barriers such as sustainability funding, transportation and parent participation.

Geri Geitner,
Director of Student Support Programs

Presider/Recorder: Mr. James Loomis

Council Rock Room

11:30 am - 12:00 Noon
Crackerbarrel Session & Conference Evaluation
(All Welcome)

Kingfisher Room

Mr. Mark Vivacqua
Mr. Gordon Daniels
Ms. Linda King
Mr. David Little
Mr. Tom Marzeski

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Luncheon

Dining Room
PAST CHAIRPERSONS
RSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Everingham, 1981-1989
James Loomis, 1989-1994
Anne Paulin, 1994-1998
Daniel Porter, Acting, 1998-1999
Joanne Martin, 1999-2007
Antoinette Kulak, 2007-2009
Delores Ackerman, 2009-2010
Michael Wendt, 2011-2012
Edward Engel, 2012-2014
Gordon Daniel, 2014-Present

2015 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Mark Vivacqua, Chair
Ms. Laurie Hedges
Mr. Thomas Huxtable
Mr. James Picolla
Mr. Thomas Shypski
Mr. Tom Marzeski
Mr. David Little

RSA STAFF

David A. Little, Esq., Executive Director
Thomas Marzeski, Deputy Director
Natalie Mitchell, Office Manager

FUTURE RSA CONFERENCES

July 10-12, 2016
The Otesaga Hotel
Human Rights Challenges: Past and Present
39th Annual Civics & Law-Related Education Conference
Hosted by the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association

October 16, 2015
7:00 am–3:30 pm Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn

- Breakfast
- Two 90 minute morning sessions
- Luncheon
- Afternoon Plenary Session featuring:
  Karen Korematsu
  Discussing the landmark Supreme Court Case Korematsu v. United States (1944)

$50.00 fee includes meals/registration and all materials

Register or join the conference mailing list at www.lycny.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Anne Z. Paulin Distinguished Service Award</th>
<th>Appreciation Award</th>
<th>William H. Deming Recognition Award</th>
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<td>Linda King</td>
<td>James Seward</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Thomas Huxtable</td>
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<td>Douglas Ann Land Robert Everett</td>
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<td>Deborah Cunningham</td>
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<td>Connie McGarr Delores Ackerman</td>
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Generous Sponsors of our Conference Activities

Sunday Reception
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Monday Break
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FFA Luncheon
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Monday Reception
*NY Schools Insurance Reciprocal*

Monday Night Mixer
*C&S Companies*