

# Inter-County Association of Western New York

% Genesee County Legislature, 7 Main Street, Old Court House, Batavia, New York 14020

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Gary T. Maha, President – Genesee Co.  
 Carol Ferratella, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Steuben Co.  
 Mark Rondinaro, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Schuyler Co.  
 Lisa K. Casey, Secretary – Genesee Co.  
 Brenda K. Scotchmer, Treasurer – Steuben Co.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
 Brenda Rigby Riehle-Allegany Co.  
 Jerry Davis – Wyoming Co.  
 Chad Klotzbach – Genesee Co.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**  
 Rochelle M. Stein – Genesee Co.  
 James W.D. Howell Jr. – Schuyler Co.  
 Tom Sweet – Chemung Co.

*Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates*

## Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2023

The second meeting of the year was hosted by Schuyler County which was held in-person at Watkins Glen International located at 2790 County Route 16, Watkins Glen, New York 14891. The meeting registration was at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Association Vice President Carol Ferratella (Steuben) in absence of President Maha (Genesee) at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was conducted by Legislator James Howell from Schuyler County.

### Roll Call of Counties

Roll call was recorded as: Allegany (3), Cattaraugus (1), Cayuga (1), Chautauqua (0), Chemung (4), Erie (0), Genesee (3+1), Livingston (2), Monroe (0), Niagara (2), Ontario (3), Orleans (2+1), Schuyler (3+6), Seneca (0), Steuben (2+2), Tompkins (0), Wayne (2), Wyoming (1), and Yates (4).

Distinguished guests in attendance included Legislature Chairman Carl Blowers, Congressman Nick Langworthy (via zoom) and Patrick Cummings, Esq. of NYSAC. ***There were 32 members and 13 guests in attendance.***

### Communications None.

**Welcome** Carl Blowers Chair of Legislature of Schuyler County, “Welcome to Watkins Glen International (WGI) – Schuyler County gate way to Erie Canal and Wine Country. Along with brewing and spirit Capitol of New York and maybe even in the United States”.

**Approval of Minutes-** February 2023 – Approval of minutes motioned by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler) and seconded by James Howell (Schuyler), carried unanimously

### **Approval of Treasurer’s Report - TREASURER’S REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2023**

	-	+	Net
Treasury Balance ending December 31, 2022			\$7,094.75
“Cash Box” as of March 31, 2023			\$35.50
Check Book Balance as of March 31, 2023			\$7,728.25
<b>Receipts:</b>			
Monthly Meeting – Seneca County; 31 paid attendees (4 guests)		\$775.00	
Dues: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates		\$750.00	
<b>Disbursements:</b>			
Bank Service Charge – January	\$2.00		
Bank Service Charge – February	\$2.00		
Bank Service Charge – March	\$2.00		
del Lago Resort Ck#1204 – February Meeting @ Seneca County	\$850.00		
<b>Treasury Balance ending March 31, 2023</b>			<b>\$7,763.75</b>

Approval of March 2023 Treasurer Report – Motioned by Member Rochelle Stein (Genesee) seconded by Member Tom Sweet (Chemung). Unanimously carried.

### Distinguished Guests

#### NYSAC Counsel – Patrick Cummings, Esq.

- This is amazing venue.
- Lobbying for the Counties.
- Budget is typically passed by April 1<sup>st</sup>. - has not happened yet. Delayed 1. Power control, who gets control of that the Governor and legislature. 2. Major issues – housing (out of budget) 3. Bail reform. 4. Indigent Defense 18b counsel going up. \$75 up to \$130 to \$160 – Counties to pick up the first \$25. State will pick the rest up. 5. eFMAP – \$600- billion dollars. Budget taking it away. Everyone has made it clear this cannot happen. Keep your voice up on this. Budget will be resume in June anticipating. Delinquent Taxes – foreclosures – supreme court case going on – fiscal relief. Anticipating taking out of the budget – state changing unilaterally – NYSAC working on with state to keep this moving forward. Sales Tax – over 10% average better than last year. Need to ask for a home rule over 7.5 -8 cents goes to the county. Extenders 2 years going forward. They have to pass by June. Get your home rules in.
- Since the budget has not been passed by April 1, then they issue extenders. June is the last they will be in office, but could potentially come back.
- Shelley Stein (Genesee) - Several years ago HCR (funding partner) – participated in Brownfield Cleanup Site for apartments in the City of Bataiva. Due to the impact of inflation. Rising wages at an incredible pace. Housing units now falls under section 8 and not for workforce entry. Lenny is not wanting to talk to Genesee County about this. Important workforce development, we have jobs, our goal was to match for the workforce to come into the City of Batavia, now it does not fit the original agenda. Patrick to look into this issue.
- Finding these problems pre-covid contracts and now working after covid. – Thruway Green Apple going up along I-90 but now seeing issues with finalizing because of several reasons (lack of supplies, covid, etc.)
- Reserves healthy with the State. Higher income tax level over 2 billion dollars. Money is there from the State to help counties.
- Yates County - eFMAP – reconcile money not received from 2016,- don't expect a check anytime soon, presuming there will be lawsuits is Patrick's guess.
- Shelley Stein Genesee County– explain one party rule in Albany? Patrick – one piece of legislation. Unique the governor has veto power. Over last 12 years more policy put in. Controlled by the executive. Policy control by governor which pushes into the budget. Control how the bill is done and take that away from legislature. Interparty power dynamics.
- Brooke Harris Allegany County - ARPA funds strong suggestion from NACO – Patrick has not seen this. Take it seriously.
- Leslie Church Yate County - Comptroller put report out on sales tax on marijuana. In just some areas. Will be pretty quick as they come in. Will local government be notified of when a license has been provided in your community?
- Tom Sweet Chemung County – a marijuana store in Binghamton is losing business because of the sticker stores. Bills out there that will increase the felonies.

Congressman Nick Langworthy (zoom video)

- Thank you for what you do.
- Goal – best federal partner to our local governments and municipalities. Your needs and concerns are important. Will do what he can do to enforce your needs and concerns.
- Burden of NYS mandates have made it very difficult. Trying to keep clean balance sheets and accomplishing things for your constituents.
- Budget delayed three weeks already.
  - eFMAP: counties are going to force to flip the bill here.
  - Spending sprees - just not right.
  - Unfair and illegal seizure of funds
  - Working with Congressmembers Tenney and Williams to get some awareness and attention to get the funds to go where they are supposed to go.
  - Held a lot of meetings, broadband, agricultural – administration priorities. Need quick action for the funds. Leaders need to work with Economic Development. Losing many to economic issues here in NYS. Work on realistic opportunities without massive expenditures. Governor debt ceiling bill. 10 trillion dollars debt. Need to get spending under control. This pandemic is over. Our bill does state our position - bring Senate and Governor together. “Limit, Save and Grow”. 500 billion dollars on student bail out. 50-60 billion unspent covid funds. They are on balance sheet, need to help clear this debt.
  - Energy plans – state taking down the wrong path. The technology does not exist. Our energy suppliers cannot provide the energy needed for the governor’s plan to go all electric. Blizzard this Dec. 2022 – many would have froze if they lived off electric.
  - Shelley Stein (Genesee) We need employees, pathway for our farm workers – those are the ones that provide food to all. Farm Bill was not main topic but for the farm workers to have the surety, safe predictable work force. A solution should come forward. Not take the path of the immigration rules that are inhabiting potential farmers.
  - Tom Sweet – Chemung – Energy independent. Not true anymore. China is ruining our dollar. Pipe lines shut down by Biden. Gas skyrocketed. HR1 – all about energy.
  - Solar Fields and windmills – China is integrated everywhere. This is a true problem. China wants to replace our wealth. Need to start at State levels to ban these energy issues. Very concern of the threat of Chinese. Deadly fentanyl that Chinese distributing through the cartel.
  - Expedite mining here in America. Fossil fuels will be dealing with the rest of our lives. The fairytale of going off electric is nonsense. Chinese are mining rare minerals for the electric batteries for the cars. We need to produce here in this country. We have to shut of the spigot. Green energy needs to happen here.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Resolutions:**

<b>2023-04-IC</b>	Chemung	Resolution Supporting New York State Senate Bill S.2862 Authorizing Municipalities to Offer Real Property Tax Credits to Certain Volunteers Who Live In One Municipality But Who Serve In Neighboring Municipalities	<i>Motion to adopt made by Thomas Sweet (Chemung) seconded by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-05-IC</b>	Chemung	Resolution Supporting New State Senate Bill S.2048 Increasing the Volunteer Firefighters' and Ambulance Workers' Credit	<i>Motion to adopt made by Thomas Sweet (Chemung) seconded by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-06-IC</b>	Chemung	Resolution Supporting New York Senate Bill S.4237 – Enacts the “Omnibus Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act” To Provide Benefits To Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers	<i>Motion to adopt made by Thomas Sweet (Chemung) seconded by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-07-IC</b>	Chemung	Resolution Encouraging NYS Senate and Assembly To Support and Enact An Amendment To Repeal Subpart (2) Of Tax Law § 606	<i>Motion to adopt made by Thomas Sweet (Chemung) seconded by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-08-IC</b>	Cattaraugus	Opposing Governor Hochul’s New York Housing Compact Proposal and State Government Override of Local Zoning Laws	<i>Motion to adopt made by Rick Helmich (Cattaraugus) seconded by Rochelle Stein (Genesee). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-09-IC</b>	Cattaraugus	Opposing New York State’s Poor Fiscal Policies Resulting In Private Employer FUTA Credit Reductions	<i>Motion to adopt made by Rick Helmich (Cattaraugus) seconded by Thomas Sweet (Chemung). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-10-IC</b>	Cattaraugus	Opposing Minimum Wage Index To Inflation	<i>Motion to adopt made by Rick Helmich (Cattaraugus) seconded by Gary Barnes (Allegany). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-11-IC</b>	Cattaraugus	Urging New York State Legislators To Advocate On Behalf Of SUNY Community Colleges To Increase Funding To Community Colleges In The State Budget	<i>Motion to adopt made by Rick Helmich (Cattaraugus) seconded by Gary Barnes (Allegany). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-12-IC</b>	Allegany	Resolution Opposing The Inclusion Of Part M of Article VII Revenue Bills In Governor Hochul’s Proposed SFY 2024 Executive Budget Which Replaces the Current In REM Tax Delinquency Foreclosures Process	<i>Motion to adopt made by Gary Barnes (Allegany) seconded by Brooke Harris (Allegany). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays.</i>

<b>2023-13-IC</b>	Allegany	Resolution Opposing Governor Kathy Hochul's Proposal To Ban The Sale of Natural Gas Stoves, Appliances, Water Heaters, and other New Fossil Heating Equipment	<i>Dated: 4-21-23</i> <i>Motion to adopt made by Gary Barnes (Allegany) seconded by Brooke Harris (Allegany). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays.</i> <i>Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-14-IC</b>	Steuben	Memorializing the Governor and New York State Legislature To Support Bill NO. S2177/A4220 Which Would Amend The Penal Law And Cannabis Law In Relation To Including Certain Acts and Subsequent Penalties In The Criminal Sale of Cannabis	<i>Motion to adopt made by Brenda Scotchmer (Steuben) seconded by Carol Ferratella (Steuben). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays.</i> <i>Dated: 4-21-23</i>
<b>2023-15-IC</b>	Livingston	Resolution In Opposition to New York State's Legislative Proposal to Mandate All Local Boards of Elections To Hire Additional Full-Time Election Staff	<i>Motion to adopt made by Donald Wester (Livingston) seconded by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler). Motion carried. 32 ayes, 0 nays.</i> <i>Dated: 4-21-23</i>

Closing Remarks: Vice President Ferratella thanked Schuyler County for hosting. Next meeting is hosted by Genesee County on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

Moved to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler) seconded by Rochelle Stein (Genesee) carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Lisa K. Casey*

Lisa K. Casey, Secretary  
Inter-County Association of Western New York