

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, 1st Vice President – Steuben Co.
Mark Rondinaro, 2nd 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 – June 16, 2023

The fifth meeting of the year was hosted by Allegany County which was held in-person at the David A. Howe Public Library, 155 N. Main Street, Wellsville, NY 14895.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Association 1st Vice-President, Carol Farratella. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gary Barnes (Allegany County) and Brenda Riehle (Allegany County) offered the Invocation.

Roll Call of Counties:

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

Distinguished guests in attendance included Honorable Thomas F. O'Mara, 58th Senatorial District, Alison Hunt, Chief of Staff for Senator George Borrello, 57th Senatorial District, Joe Sempolinski, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio, 158th Assembly District, Alexandra LaMonte, NYSAC. **18 members in attendance.**

Communications: None

Welcome: Allegany County Administrator, Carissa Knapp welcomed everyone and thanked Brenda Riehle for her efforts in organizing and coordinating everything for today's meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes of the May 12, 2023 meeting motioned by Hilda Lando (Steuben) seconded by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler). Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF MAY 31, 2023

	-	+	Net
Treasury Balance ending April 30, 2023			\$8,736.75
"Cash Box" as of May 31, 2023			\$35.50
Check Book Balance as of May 31, 2023			\$8,544.43
Receipts:			
Monthly Meeting – Genesee County; 27 paid attendees (Invoice Chemung – 2ppl & Monroe – 1p)		\$67 5.00	

Disbursements:			
Bank Service Charge – May	\$2.00		
Ck#1206 – Lisa Casey, Reimbursement of Supplies for May Meeting @ Genesee	\$79.82		
Ck#1207 – Alabama Hotel, Lunch for May Meeting @ Genesee	\$750.00		
Treasury Balance ending May 31, 2023			\$8,579.93*

***The donation to Spirit of Schuyler has not been made as Yates County’s payment for the April Meeting has not yet been received. I’m told the check was mailed on 6/15/23 so it should be received next week.**

Brenda Scotchmer noted that the donation to Spirit of Schuyler has not been made as Yates County’s payment for the April Meeting has not yet been received. I’m told the check was mailed on 6/15/23 so it should be received next week.

Approval of May 2023 Treasurer’s Report – Motioned by Tom Sweet (Chemung), seconded by Gary Barnes (Allegany). Motion carried unanimously.

Distinguished Guests:

Alison Hunt, Chief of Staff for Senator George Borrello:

- All tax extenders bills were approved by the Senate
- Bill to change county and town elections to even years passed. Senator Borrello voted in opposition to the Bill.
- Clean Slate Legislation passed. Only very serious crimes will be sealed.

Senator Tom O’Mara:

- Even Year Voting Legislation is an extreme intrusion into Home Rule and will NOT save money. It will confuse the voters and local elections will get drowned out by campaigning of higher level offices.
- Taxpayer funded campaign contribution matching – contributions up to \$50 matched 12-1, up to \$250 matched 9-1, contributions over \$250 matched 7-1. This will cost hundreds of billions of dollars each election and will simply multiply the number of big donors.
- The 2023-24 NYS Budget increased spending by \$2 billion over the 2022-23 Budget. Over the past 5 years the NYS budget has increased by 40%. NYS spends more than 35 states combined. This level of spending is unsustainable. The 2023-24 budget is balanced, however projected budget deficits are \$9.5 billion for 2024-25 and \$13 billion for 2025-26. Cuts in spending or increasing taxes are the only way to bridge the gap. Senator O’Mara noted that the state is currently fiscally sound with \$19 billion in reserves however that will vanish quickly unless out of control spending is stopped. He noted that NYS is the 2nd leading state in loss of wealth as many high income residents are moving out of state.

Joe Sempolinski, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Joseph Giglio:

- ICAWNY is an important Association, having a unified voice for the western portion of the state which doesn't get a lot of attention downstate. Mr. Sempolinski encouraged the Association to continue with strong collaboration and advocacy.
- NYS Assembly is still in Session. Important bills still being considered:
 - Local tax extenders (6 counties)
 - Seneca Compact – directly impacts local area. A casino in Rochester is being considered.
- NYS 2023-24 approved budget - \$226 billion. PA State budget is \$80 billion
- The Governor is “stealing” eFMap funding from counties. This can't be found in any legislation, Senate and Assembly had no vote on this. It was not debated or discussed. This is not how government is supposed to work. No one is being held accountable.
- Migrant crisis – NYC is a Sanctuary City, but the mayor is sending busloads of migrants to rural areas who don't have the resources needed. This is not good for counties or migrants. Counties who issued a State of Emergency regarding the migrant crisis are being sued.
- Clean Slate Legislation – a poor piece of Legislation that will endanger people and put the public at risk
- Even Year Voting Legislation is blatant political targeting and is not in the best interest of local elections and the good governance of counties and towns.

Alexandra LaMonte, NYSAC – Legislative Policy Coordinator:

- 2023 Legislative Session winding down – Senate concluded on June 9th. Assembly is coming back the week of June 12-16.
- 839 bills passed through both houses already – NYSAC has provided an Impact Report for counties regarding those bills.
- Possible moratorium in changes to In-Rem Foreclosure proceedings. Passed the Senate, Assembly is considering and if passed the Governor would need to sign. This would allow more time to determine the ramifications of the bill and what the Supreme Court ruling means for counties.
- County Health Departments have been removed from certain licensure requirements. This will save counties time and money.
- Even-Year Election Bill (does not include NYC) and does not affect certain elected positions (District Attorney, County Clerk, Sheriff)
- Legislation re-classifying Class C streams as protected streams would be very costly to counties. NYSAC is hoping for a veto on this bill.
- Amendments to the wrongful death statute could also be very costly to counties. NYSAC is hoping for a veto.
- Inflation is down to 4% on a year-to-year basis, however food, shelter and labor costs are still increasing. NYSAC will continue to advocate for reigning in spending at the state level.
- NYSAC predicts massive gaps in the state budget in upcoming years. A \$22 billion reduction in tax receipts coupled with increased spending is the cause.
- Seneca Nation Compact negotiations are continuing. The current Compact expires at the end of 2023. A new Compact will need to be approved by the Senate and Assembly. The Senate passed a bill that allows the Governor to sign the Compact when negotiations are completed. Local governments get about \$16 million each year in gaming receipts.

- Broadband – All NYS residents are encouraged to complete a 10 minute survey that was initiated by the NYS Connect All Office to identify areas where broadband is lacking. Funding for counties to expand broadband is available.
- The NYSAC Fall Seminar is scheduled for September 13-15, 2023 in Oneida County.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Resolutions:

2023-IC	Allegany	Resolution asking Governor Hochul and the New York State Public Service Commission to deny the NYSEG and RG&E rate hike requests, and to correct the billing Problems before rate hikes are considered	Motion to adopt made by Barnes (Allegany) seconded by Riehle (Allegany) Carried 18 ayes, 0 nays
2023-IC	Schuyler	Supporting H.R. 2600 to ensure equitable treatment of political subdivisions contributing to state expenditures under the Medicaid Program provided by the Affordable Care Act Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage	Motion to adopt made by Howell (Schuyler) seconded by Rondinaro (Schuyler) Carried. 18 ayes, 0 nays
2023-IC	Schuyler	Opposing NYS Senate Bill S06282 which would repeal Section 257-C of the Executive Law, effectively eliminating all probation administrative fees in NYS – Probation Department	Motion to adopt made by Rondinaro (Schuyler) seconded by Howell (Schuyler) Carried. 18 ayes,0 nays

Presentation:

Nic Gunning, Director of the David A. Howe Public Library provided a history of the library. David A. How grew up in Pennsylvania but spent his summers in Wellsville. Funding from the original \$1million endowment is still being utilized today. The original library was built across the street however it was quickly outgrown and construction on the current library began in 1935 with the library opening in 1937. The architecture of the building is Georgian Style which requires everything to be symmetrical. The library has a 300 seat auditorium and is the largest library in Allegany County. They circulate about 10,000 items annually in the five-county Southern Tier Library System. The library offers free lunches and a reading program for children over the summer. Many special collections make the library unique. One such collection is the Lincoln collection which includes a piece of the shawl President Lincoln was wearing when he was assassinated.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned on the motion by Tom Sweet (Chemung), seconded by Gary Barnes (Allegany). Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



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