

Inter-County Association of Western New York

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

Phone (585) 344-2550 Ext 2202

Email: lisa.casey@co.genesee.ny.us or bscotchmer@steubencountyny.gov

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 – October 20, 2023

The eighth meeting of the year was hosted by Wayne County which was held in-person at the Intergrow Greenhouses, 663 Timothy Lane, Ontario, New York. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President, Gary Maha (Genesee). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblyman Brian Manktelow. President Maha asked for a moment of silence regarding the events that are happening in Israel and Ukraine. Town of Ontario Supervisor Frank Robusto (Wayne County) offered the Invocation.

Roll Call of Counties:

Roll Call was recorded as: Allegany (2), Cattaraugus (0), Cayuga (0), Chautauqua (0), Chemung (1+1), Erie (0), Genesee (2+1), Livingston (2), Monroe (1), Niagara (2), Ontario (0), Orleans (2), Schuyler (2+1), Seneca (0), Steuben (1+1), Tompkins (0), Wayne (3+7), Wyoming (1+1), Yates (0).

Also in attendance: Assemblyman Brian Manktelow, Alex LaMonte-Uprove with NYSAC, Wayne County Representatives: Frank Robusto, Mike Donalty, Tony Verno, Dic Lasher, Kim Leonard, Kelley Loveless, Debbie Liseno - **19 members and 14 Guests in attendance.**

Communications: None

Welcome: Wayne County Supervisor Phil Eygnor welcomed the members to Wayne County and is pleased to offer a tour of one of Wayne County's wonderful businesses that they are very proud of.

Approval of August Minutes: August 18, 2023 motioned by Tom Sweet (Chemung) seconded by Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler) carried unanimously.

Approval of September Minutes (Joint Meeting): September 15, 2023 motioned by Rochelle Stein (Genesee) seconded by George Hebert (Monroe) carried unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approval of Treasurer Report presented by Amanda Chapman of Steuben County providing number ending July 31, 2023 and ending September 30, 2023 Motioned by Hilda Lando (Steuben) seconded by George Hebert (Monroe) carried unanimously.

	-	+	Net
Treasury Balance ending July 31, 2023			\$7,525.93
"Cash Box" as of September 30, 2023			\$35.50
Check Book Balance as of September 30, 2023			\$7,411.43
Receipts:			
Monthly Meeting Registrations @ Steuben – 29 pd		\$725.00	
Disbursements:			
Bank Service Charge – August & September	\$4.00		
Ck#1210 – Lake Life Catering – August Meeting @ Steuben	\$800.00		
Treasury Balance ending September 30, 2023			\$7,446.93

Wayne County Supervisor Phil Eygnor introduced Assemblyman Brian Manktelow who looks out for us all. Extends his appreciation for being at the meeting.

Distinguished Guests:

Assemblyman Manktelow 130th district which covers all of Wayne County and all of Webster. One fun fact that assembly members can do is marry people – Manktelow announced he had 3 marriage services this year. It was great. Announced that he’s on the Veteran’s Committee, Energy committee, Local Governments Committee, Ways and Means Committee and Environmental Conservation Committee. He announced his appreciation for all of the members in this association. He stated he works for you. Boots on the ground. You are the ones that see the constituents. We are here to serve you. Serving is very important. Thank you for coming and the invite. Look forward to going into the plant for the tour. Assemblyman Manktelow state, “God Bless you, Servicemen and America”. Hilda Lando extended appreciation on Assemblyman Manktelow comment that he announced that he works for everyone not just Wayne County. Member Lando encounter push back from assembly members stating she should refer to her own assembly member for assistance. There are 150 assembly members – Manktelow stated, “we represent you it doesn’t matter the location”. Question from Mark Rondinaro Schuyler County asked about the renewable energy mandates – consideration opening up for small modular. Can the assembly go to minority for small modular nuclear in NYS as a baseload provider? Nuclear Plant on Wayne County. Push the message on renewal energy. Assemblyman Manktelow will keep an eye on the energy out on west coast and know there are problems so we are watching and staying informed of upcoming renewable energy. There was a bus fire recently it was a horrible fire. If this was electric bus he doesn’t think any of the kids would have gotten out with the electric fire. Mark reiterated it’s good to look for alternatives. In Schuyler there are sealed units in a box. Alex Uprove from NYSAC discussed the renewable act. Talked about NYIPA Power. You can buy your power anywhere right now. Legislation to build your own projects. Renewable energy projects. NYSAC to work with the Climate Act committee where discussion with the power authority next week, Alex asked for anyone interested in speaking to her about this to see her after the meeting. Other discussion: NYS wants to be a leader for electric, but natural gas is important. Need the power and the energy. Gary from Allegany. Rules about not being able to hook up to gas. Is there a fight back on this? Manktelow said there is push back on this, it is not feasible to not allow hook up to gas. Tom Sweet – decisions are being made by a committee that he does not agree with or who he didn’t vote for. They are the ones making decisions. Manktelow would like to see testing three schools in NYS and take electric buses and see how they work before pushing this

mandate out. The State does not have finance nor do the schools. The energy committee will push for your concerns.

Alex LaMonte-Upgrove – NYSAC spoke next, announced recently married, new name Upgrove. Also, Dave Lucas passed along information on Operation Greenlight. It's in honor of our Veterans and with Veterans day around the corner light up your establishments in green.

2024 NYSAC Priorities

- eFMAP Payments – state used to give the payments to the counties because you contribute to the programs, now the state is withholding this money – million dollars worth. NYSAC talking with governor office – will keep you informed.
- In REM Tax
 - Tyler Foreclosure Court Decision– if property owner did not pay taxes, county would need to pay the taxes. County would foreclose if they did not pay taxes. Would sell at foreclosure and payment would be kept at the county level. Tyler Court Case says you cannot do that any longer. Placed a moratorium – many counties still using moratorium. NYSAC trying to come up with solutions as an example impose a fee in the process to help with some of the cost. June 2024 expiration – conclusion. Hoping for sooner date. Can no longer gift to a Landbank if the county forecloses. An appraisal now needs to be done. Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter out of Syracuse is in favor. Manketlow has rapport with assemblywoman Pam Hunter. Please let him know if you need help with this.
 - Public Safety Service Charge – Looking to increase amount of funding for 911
- Sales Tax Collections
 - On the radar: rental site, Airbnb, no sales tax collected on this. This is separate from occupancy tax
- EMS - having hard time finding EMS workers. Supporting a number of bills to support EMS program for volunteer and Paid – Exempt taxes
 - Sales Tax Update – returning to trends to pre-pandemic, however, Oct lower than last year in Oct, Up 3.8% sales tax
- Legislative Hearings
 - Public service – retention and recruitment, benefits, flexibility in the civil service system – advocating more local control, additional ways of recruitment, allowing to hire outside of civil service
- Returnable Container Act
 - Currently, cans and bottle returns are \$.5. NYSAC is asking to include tea bottle, wine bottles and other bottles that are not part of the \$.5 return. Currently these unrecycled bottles are going into the recycling bin and breaking during the transport and sorting which sticks to cardboard and makes the cardboard unrecyclable. Counties/municipalities are still covering the cost of collection, transporting and sorting and now cannot get any value for some the recycling products because of the shattered glass. Add more plastics and aluminum bottles to the recycling redemption bill. Recycling costs goes up when some of these materials are destroyed because of the items not accepted. EPR Program: packing and printed paper (Amazon, Kraft, anyone that uses packaging and printed paper– requires the producers of the product they are responsible for the entire life cycle of the packing and printed. Should be company's cost rather than government and tax payers. NYSAC is supportive of this program.
- Operation Greenlight
 - Alex encouraged to look at the NYSAC website for helpful resources to plan for the support of illumination. November 6 through the 12 illuminate Green - Show support for the veterans.

Questions for Alex Upgrove:

Brooke Harris (Allegany) In Rem – are villages included? It's a County Charter, depends on your County. Are there any other associations come out with discussion on this that supports this? Not aware of another association coming out with this?

- Shelley – any list that NYSAC bills that are signed or not signed? Yes it is on the PBA report
 - Update the PBA report – List to provide to all counties (Bills that go in front of Governor or those bills that haven't). Alex will talk to the team to obtain one for members.
 - Brooke – eFMAP – is NYSAC focusing on the past payments only? Is the County just going to take a loss going forward? Focus on past payments. It's up in the air about future payments.
- Changing directions: John Fitzak went to meeting “Divide New York” – in Syracuse
 - Premise sounds good, one problem is finding the first county to support such a premise. Biggest problem is retribution to those that support such a bill. No one wants to be first so concerns that the State will take retribution on Counties that support. The idea of having all counties do at once to avoid retribution is key. Alex stated this is a complicated initiative. They would need to divide in 3 sections – which would change the Constitution of New York. NYSAC has not moved on this

New Business:

Birds and Bees Act discussed by member Shelley Stein

- There is legislation out on an act that would significant impact our communities. Asking ICAWNY to oppose its enactment into law because of its potential to inflict significant harm on our state's agricultural sector, increase food prices for New Yorkers, and fail to deliver on its purported environmental benefits.
- Farmers, who rely on pollinators like bees for their livelihoods, are already implementing various strategies to safeguard pollinator health, including best management practices for pesticide application and timing applications to minimize impacts during bee activity. If enacted, this bill would drive farmers to use more pesticides by prohibiting seed treatments that contain small but necessary amounts of pesticides. Instead of using these efficient seed treatments, farmers would be compelled to resort to larger-scale foliar applications of pesticides, which not only pose potential environmental risks but also necessitate the use of diesel fuel to power tractors for application.
- This legislation would raise the cost of food for New Yorkers. The use of neonicotinoid seed treatments is a proven method to ensure successful crop growth. Given New York's short growing season, there are no practical alternatives to seed treatments for our farmers. Removing neonicotinoids from the toolbox of only New York State farmers would increase the cost of food, jeopardize the safety and affordability of locally produced products, and threaten the viability of the agricultural sector of the economy.
- Member Stein spoke of Commissioner Ball no taking sides on this, it's frustrating to so many.
- It is recommended that your counties send a letter to the Governor, Lisa Casey the Secretary will send the letter to you to use.
- President Maha asked to take a vote if ICAWNY would like to send a letter to Governor. Rochelle Stein (Genesee) motioned seconded by Hilda Lando (Steuben) to send letter on behalf of ICAWNY which President Maha will sign. 19 Ayes and 0 Nays, unanimously carried. President Maha directed to prepare the letter for his signature and send to all ICAWNY.

2023-24-IC	Steuben	Urging Local Federal And State Government Representatives To Advocate For Increased Funding Levels For Area Agencies On Aging To Provide Critical Services To Older Adults So They May Age Safely In Place	<i>Motion to adopt made by Hilda Lando (Steuben) seconded by Brooke Harris (Allegany) Carried 19 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 10-20-23</i>
2023-25-IC	Orleans	Supporting Senate Bill S7645 That Repeals Certain Provisions Of The Executive Law Establishing A Fee For Background Checks On Certain Firearm And Ammunition Purchases	<i>Motion to adopt made by John Fitzak (Orleans) seconded by Tom Sweet (Chemung), carried. 19 ayes, 0 nays. Dated: 10-20-23</i>

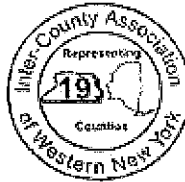
Resolutions:

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 11:07 a.m. – Motioned by Rochelle Stein (Genesee) and seconded by Phil Eygnor (Wayne).

Tour of Intergrow facility and then lunch was provided.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa K. Casey

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