

# Inter County Association of Western New York



% Ontario County Board of Supervisors, 20 Ontario Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424  
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Robert A. Green, Jr., President – Ontario County  
Peter Yendell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Livingston County  
Shelley Stein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Genesee County  
Karen R. DeMay, Secretary – Ontario County  
Brenda K. Mori, Treasurer – Steuben County

**RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:**  
Donna Vickman, Cattaraugus County  
John Pastrick, Chemung County  
David Callard, Orleans County

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

## MINUTES – October 20, 2017

The meeting, held at Apple Shed, 3391 Fairville Maple Ridge Road, Newark, NY, hosted by Wayne County, was called to order by Association President Bob Green (*Ontario*) at 10:00 a.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

President Green (*Ontario*) welcomed everyone in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by S. LeRoy (*Wayne*), and B. Manktelow (*Wayne*) provided the invocation.

### **Roll call of counties**

The following 12 counties answered roll call: Allegany (1), Cattaraugus (2), Cayuga (1/1), Chemung (4), Genesee (1), Livingston (2/1), Monroe (1), Ontario (3), Orleans (2), Seneca (1), Steuben (2), Wayne (2/6) and Wyoming (2/1). **23 members, and 9 guests in attendance.**

### **Welcome from Host County**

President Green introduced Wayne County Chairman of the Board, Steven M. LeRoy. Mr. LeRoy welcomed everyone to Wayne County. John Smith, Town of Ontario, Monica Deyo, Town of Marion, Chuck Verkey, Town of Arcadia, Laurie Crane, Town of Huron, Patti Marini, Town of Walworth, Brian Manktelow, Town of Lyons and Steve Groat, Town of Galen were recognized in attendance. Mr. LeRoy concluded by thanking Apple Shed owner Jessica Wells for shutting down one of the Apple Shed lines today. President Green also welcomed Jake Chard from Senator Funke’s office.

### **Approval of Minutes**

J. Pastrick (*Chemung*), made the motion, seconded by P. Marini (*Wayne*), to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2017, as written; motion carried.

### **Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

	-	+	Net
Treasury Balance ending May 31, 2017			\$4,483.24
“Cash Box” as of July 31, 2017		\$30.00	
Check Book Balance as of July 31, 2017		\$4,726.48	
<b>Receipts:</b>			
August Meeting @ Monroe		\$660.00	
<b>Disbursements:</b>			
Ck#1171 – Diana Christodaro-Continental Breakfast supplies	\$89.26		
Ck#1172 – Nick Tahou Hots Inc. (Monroe)	@297.50		
Treasury Balance ending September 30, 2017			\$4,756.48

**Dues not received from:** Tompkins

B. Riehle (*Allegany*), made the motion, seconded by J. Sheppard, (*Seneca*), to accept the Treasurer's reports dated September 30, 2017; motion carried.

### NYSAC Update

Association President Green introduced Katie Hohman, NYSAC Abstractor, who presented an Albany update.

- 75 resolutions were passed at the fall seminar and are now being transformed into NYSAC priorities for the 2018 legislative session. As of right now, the Governor still has 271 bills to act upon before the end of the year, whether to sign or veto. They are watching some specifically on his desk, sparklers, sales tax and an emergency management plan bill. Updates are located on the NYSAC website.
- Federal update on the state and local tax deduction-A sample letter to Congressman Collins opposing any changes to the local tax deduction has been sent to counties. NYSAC has also partnered with a few other associations to help get their message across. Raise the age implementation is a big topic this year. The State traveled around this summer to regional areas and NYSAC attended the workshops as well to understand how this state is expecting implementation of the law. NYSAC has received some feedback from the state but they are still missing a lot of information in terms of how we expect to pay for this. OCFS is hosting a 2-hour statewide webinar on Monday. It is important to weigh the options and understand how this law will be implemented.
- There are three referendums on the November ballots-1) constitutional convention, 2) pension forfeiture bill if you are convicted of a crime as a state or elected official, you forfeit your state pension and 3) a landbank right-a-way for the Catskills and Adirondack allowing anyone to build on existing utility right-a-ways to no longer need an amendment to the constitution. NYSAC is in support of the third ballot
- There were 34 counties that presented shared services plans for 2018. An overall study performed by Rockefeller based on county plans the savings was \$208,000,000. If your plans are accepted, the state is willing to do a one-time match. NYSAC has put together some draft papers to assist counties on shared services plans for next year. Rockefeller also put together a report talking about all the shared services proposals and the counties that participated, breaking down the savings by county for each tax payer. They have been told by Budget that the state is looking at a \$4 Billion deficit but they will continue to ask for savings in unfunded mandates. There was discussion on any way of forcing schools to participate. There was discussion on school consolidation.
- NYSAC is starting to draft 2018 resolutions for the legislative conference so counties should send any new ideas. You can go to the web site and join any committee or enroll in the Institute. A member of their office is involved in a plastic bag task force through the state. There is discussion on a 5¢ fee or to ban plastic bags altogether. NYSAC is keeping track of anyone up for reelection in the counties. There was further discussion on school district, fire department, police department and court consolidation. Nassau and Suffolk have consolidated police services. President Green explained difference between a sheriff's office/police department and elected vs appointed positions. There was discussion on the definition of what's a plastic bag and it is a carry out bag.

Discussion followed among members after Katie's comments. President Green thanked Katie for her report today.

### Old Business:

**Report of Nomination Committee:** M. Schuster (*Livingston*) is unable to be here today. M. Didio (*Cayuga*) will confirm the slate of officers and send information to Karen DeMay to email to the members.

**Resolutions:**

2017 FINAL NUMBER	PRESENTING COUNTY	RESOLUTION TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
24	Niagara	Resolution Supporting Research and Preparation of Feasibility of Individually Filing or Joining Multi-Plaintiff Lawsuit Against Major Drug Manufacturers to Recover Current and Future Damages to the County Taxpayers from Abuse of Opioid Pharmaceuticals	<i>Motion to REAFFIRM ADOPTION</i> (August meeting) made by G. Hebert ( <i>Monroe</i> ), seconded by M. Pastrick ( <i>Chemung</i> ). <i>Motion carried unanimously</i>
25	Steuben	Memorializing the Governor and the New York State Legislature to Open Up RPTL §487-a for Residential Solar Energy	<i>Motion to adopt</i> made by C. Ferrantella ( <i>Steuben</i> ), seconded by J. DeFilipps ( <i>Orleans</i> ).

President Green commented that prescription drugs such as oxycodone and oxycontin are in some cases the first step with this epidemic. The illegal introduction of fentanyl and hard fentanyl compounds ‘on the street’ further complicates the crisis and brings it to a higher addictive and/or deadly level. In addition, the low cost and availability of heroin further adds to the drug addiction crisis in this country. The dynamics of addiction is now changed to simply the world of availability and low cost of the heroin. First time users are now starting with heroin.

**Unfinished / New Business:**

Association President Green announced that he has the 2018 Inter County meeting schedule for anyone that would like to sign up today. There was a lot of information from the state level today and it is important and he is pleased with the attendance here today to continue this level of comradery and participation.

**Presentation/Program:**

President Green welcomed Wayne County Chairman of the Board, Steven M. LeRoy.

- S. LeRoy reviewed the Lake Ontario water levels. For 60 years the lake levels were controlled by a plan called 58ED holding lake levels within a four foot range, 243-247 feet above sea level. Communities bordering the lake built their homes and infrastructure under a treaty between the United States and Canada promising to control lake levels within this four foot range. In the final weeks of the last administration in Washington a new contract was signed implementing Plan 2014. Clearly outlined in this plan is the **International Joint Commission’s** (IJC) intent to flood 64,000 acres of land around the perimeter of Lake Ontario. This is being done in an attempt to increase meadow marsh to create a better habitat for the muskrat. The intent was to also lengthen the boating season, which did not happen due to flooding. Plan 2014 went into effect on January 1 of this year. There was flooding in every community bordering the lake including the Canadian side. The IJC did not lower lake levels over the fall and winter months. There were combined efforts by local residents, volunteer organization, villages, towns, counties and state agencies to save life and property. In Wayne County alone, there were over 450,000 sand bags distributed and 68 diesel pumps ran non-stop 24/7 for three months just to keep roads clear. Their legislators worked tirelessly to fast track permitting and to secure funding. The National Guard, the Army Corp and ten Wayne County Town Highway Department, both local and out of town fire departments, EMS and Emergency Management staff, DEC and other agencies all teamed up to help. Wayne County has a total of 71 miles of water frontage between the lake and their four bays. 43% of Wayne County’s assessed value comes from the five townships that border the lake. In the small village of Sodus Point alone, the assessed value is \$114 Million. The assessors are expecting a barrage of

complaints for assessment reductions. Cleanup efforts are still ongoing to this day. Legislators and town officials have traveled to Washington, D.C. several times in efforts to repeal plan 2014.

- George Hebert (*Monroe*) explained that his lakefront property owners are having difficulties with the November 1 deadline for tax reduction process because contractors are so busy. K. Hohman (*NYSAC*) explained that there have been rumors about the legislators coming back to reassess lake recovery still on the floor. She encourages having discussion with state elected to help. There is \$45 Million available to help lakefront communities. Contact NYSAC to help draft letters or to put it through as a resolution at their legislative conference. J. Gerard (Representing Senator Funkes' Office) explained that their office is more than happy to help in any way possible. J. Smith (*Wayne*) reported that the National Weather Service released their long term winter forecast for a likelihood of above normal temperatures and more rain than usual which is a recipe for saturation and runoff. We may be one or two incidents from sand bagging again. Everyone will need to be very cautious and continue our level of preparations for lakeshore communities across the entire Niagara and western frontier for Lake Ontario. There was discussion about how the Canadian provinces stand on Plan 2014 and the lack of IJC discussions prior to Plan 2014. There may be forthcoming changes to the IJC Board. The IJC has all of the responsibility for the great lakes with the exception of Lake Michigan.

President Green thanked Mr. LeRoy for his informative presentation, Wayne County for hosting this meeting, and all who contributed.

**Adjournment:** On motion of S. LeRoy (*Wayne*), seconded by P. Ingalsbe (*Ontario*), the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM followed by lunch; motion carried.

**Reminder:**

The next regular meeting will be hosted by Ontario County on November 17, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



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Michele R. Rees, Acting Secretary  
Inter County Association of Western New York