



*New York State Financial Aid
Administrators Association*

NYSFAAA Executive Council
October 17-18, 2016
Verona, New York

Call to Order & Roll Call

President Kerrie Cooper
President-Elect Darrin Rooker
1st VP- Jan Scheutzow
2nd VP- Howard Leslie
Secretary-Kathy Flaherty
Treasurer- Kerry Lubold
Treasurer-Elect Robert Zasso
Region 1 Kathy Michalski
Region 2 Margaret Christian
Region 3 LaSonya Griggs
Region 4 Michelle Fountaine
Region 5 Diane Donohue
Region 6 Melanie Williams-Bethea
Region 7 Amy Thompson
Region 8 Todd Moravec

Guests:

Adrienne King – First Vice President-Elect
Kelly Henry Kelly- Secretary-Elect
Lisa Simpson
Ajana Wilkinson
BJ Revill

Kerrie Cooper called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm with a quorum of Executive Council present.

Approval of August 17, 2016 Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Kathy Michalski, seconded by Todd Moravec to accept the minutes as written. There was no discussion. The motion was passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

Conference 2016- BJ Revill

- Final registration count is 241; full day registrants about 190
- Day trip/ retiree registrants on target with estimates
- Room count is short; so food budget is increased
- Early bird registration did not work well: logistically difficult both with exceptions and ATAC
- Sessions look good

- Wednesday program is atypical since dinner theatre murder mystery is mingled with reception, dinner and awards
- Grad symposium is good
- Zac Goodwin will be doing Federal Update
- Registration reminders were effective in creating registration spikes
- Constant reconciliation with hotel and registration was effective

Kerrie commended BJ for his work and filling in for Scott last minute.

President's Report– Kerrie Cooper

- EASFAAA Report
 - Co-Chairing Lake George 2018 EASFAA Conference at the Sagamore
 - 2017 Conference: May 7-10, 2017, Burlington, Vermont
 - 2019 Conference: Portland Maine
 - Executive Council Meeting October 2-4, 2016: Warwick, Rhode Island
 - Long Range Plan discussion- good points as we will be going through this
 - President-Elect Kristi Jovell from Champlain College (Buffalo/Hobart native)
 - Regional Thought Force has been created by NASFAA to see how states/regions/national organizations can work together and to study their structures
 - Themes: Be all things for all people; turnover affecting continuity
 - Highlight strengths weakness, challenges and opportunities
 - Produce report by March 2017 where there is consensus on items
 - Looking for 4 members of each regional association (EASFAA) for this committee (possibility of NY member)
 - New regional scholarships
 - looking for state scholarship applications samples
 - Target is someone working in financial aid (employee, student worker)
 - Awards and nominations later this year
 - Budget issues: Atlantic City conference did not break even so had to move funds from investments to cover
 - Conference fee: conference budget and vendor fees are part of the general budget for EASFAA
 - New chair of Graduate and Professional Concerns: Meredith Schor (GW University)
 - goal of creating topic as track at Conference
 - Guest speaker: Amy Carroll Director of Research at Brown was a good speaker on advocacy. Washington Hill visits will be in February
 - NASFAA credential modules: purchased by EASFAA Training Committee. Many are in webinar format and will be using these periodically.
 - How to incorporate first-timers in Conference
 - NYSFAAA has as reception, but could more be done: pair with a mentor, sit together at meals.
 - The following ideas were shared
 - assign them a Conference "buddy"
 - ice-breaker before Conference begins

- help in finding good sessions
- lounge area to gather with regular times to meet
- many novices cannot attend Conference or leave office is an issue, same is true in small shops
- have Novice small group leaders do follow-up to see what financial aid connection/interest is; some use Facebook to maintain connection with their group
- use of "The Heart of Leadership"
- Other state reports;
 - DC works on community projects; partnership with local school district (backpacks, coats and hats; literacy spring project)
 - CONN: communication templates and restructure conference
 - MD: lot of community service: PBS call-in feature, red-shoe shuffle (Ronald McDonald event) diversity workshops
 - Puerto Rico: Presidents' symposium (80 attended) at Conference
- Membership structures: individual vs institutional
 - same questions as NYSFAAA gets
 - EASFAA looking at this as part of strategic planning process; becoming a priority
- EASFAA Conference vs State Conference: should states not have their own state conference in a year that EASFAA is in that state - currently in discussion
- Trademark discussion
- Renewing and looking at their contract with their auditor
- Government Relations Committees
 - State: What will agenda be for the February meeting
 - Federal wait until after presidential election
 - Lamar Alexander plan : one loan; one grant may come up

President Elect's Report – Darrin Rooker

- Governance
 - Recommendations from annual report assessment include posting of Long Range Plan on the website for use by Committee Chairs and that the survey of Standing Committee Chairs be done annually as part of the Long Range
- Elections
 - President-Elect and Treasurer Elect will be elected in May
 - Kerrie Cooper will contact regions for representatives to this committee

First Vice President's Report – Jan Scheutzow

- Membership
 - Met 2015-2016 goal with 1346 members against a goal of 1325
 - \$80,260 dues collected
 - 819 members for 2016-2017, collected \$56,265 in dues to date
 - Meeting last week
 - Discussing how to engage affiliates and novices regionally
 - Discussed membership goals in context of NYSFAAA goals
 - Should review people and their membership classes quarterly to see if in right category

- Will use guideline to cancel membership if unpaid after 90 days

Second Vice-President's Report – Howard Leslie

- Statewide Training
 - Still looking for a co-chair
 - 8400 trained last year(duplicated)
 - Webinars:
 - September 30 webinar trained 1600 plus, including web hits on archived site
 - October 13 – Borrower Defense Proposals
 - November 18 webinar; encourage registration
 - Listen to the beginning of the October 13th webinar to see the importance
 - Verification trilogy
 - January -FSA Audit Guide
 - Tax guide presentation- February
 - GE recent notifications – webinar possibility
 - Comments:
 - Too many webinar emails go out: regionally and statewide
 - Request to have Statewide Training send names of registrants to site coordinators
 - If non-members attend, have them sign up for membership and pay at time or later
 - Request to view on desktop when can't get to a meeting: probably will not happen as not the purpose of these webinars
- TICC
 - New NYSFAAA Website
 - Met with TICC co-chairs and presidents: there is a March launch date for the website
 - More interactive with fresh material
 - Proposing that Regional Chairs, Committee Chairs and any leadership person be required to put brief informational updates on the new site

Motion: A motion was made by Howard Leslie, seconded by Rob Zasso to make it a required responsibility of every manager of NYSFAAA such as chairs of regions, committee chairs or leader to update/inform the community on a regular basis of activities via the website.

Discussion points:

- Don't like it! Making this a requirement is not fair.
- Response is that the website will be more interactive, fresh. Make meeting notes short for the update.
- Include regional minutes
- Logistically, how would this be enforced? As a volunteer organization people are busy
- Response: this is a desired outcome
- Difficulty with the term "required". Can this be strongly encouraged, while not required?
- Can individuals post? Or would this need to go through ATAC?
- Response: regions, chairs can post. TICC could review and repost, if necessary. Training can be provided

A friendly amendment was proposed to add that it is the duty of the leaders to keep the membership informed and update the web with ongoing activities. This was accepted.

- The Long Range Plan includes transparency and this speaks to that point

Another friendly amendment was added that the updates should occur after each meeting or event. This was accepted.

Revised Motion:

That NYSFAAA leadership including regional chairs and committee chairs have the duty to inform membership of activities and decisions by updating the website within a reasonable time after the meeting and/or event has occurred. These regular updates should be incorporated with the launch of the new NYSFAAA website.

A vote was called. The motion passed with all in favor, 1 opposition and no abstentions.

Secretary's Report – Kathy Flaherty

- School Outreach
 - NY GEARUP cohort is in ninth grade focused on early awareness
 - College Goal New York has excess funds. The deadline has been extended until December 31, 2016 to spend these funds.
 - Comments
 - Do we need anything in writing about the funding extension: yes, and this has been done
 - For those who can't be on the standing committee, perhaps NYSFAAA could have an on-call list to help with a FAFSA filing event.
 - Difficult to get people for evening events; could events be held during the
 - Guidance Counselor Workshops
 - Topics will be special circumstances, HEOP/EOP, Federal and State updates
 - HESC will partner with the Guidance Counselors' workshops this year to present financial aid sessions rather than running separate workshops
- NYSFAAA Annual Report – now available at the NYSFAAA website

Treasurer's Report- Kerry Lubold

- Distributed budget vs actual report for discussion
- Conflict of Interest Policy distributed and signed
- Per previous discussion will move \$50,000 from our investment to cds. Will meet with Key Bank in the next few weeks to complete.

Motion: A motion was made by Kerry Lubold, seconded by Rob Zasso to accept the written description of Standing (friendly amendment) Investment Committee and have it added to the NYSFAAA Policies and Procedures.

There was no discussion. A vote was called and the motion was passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Purpose: The Investment Committee will serve as fiduciaries of the NYSFAAA investment accounts. The committee provides oversight of NYSFAAA's investment funds; coordinates regular review of the portfolios; shares relevant information with executive council and the membership on the health of our accounts; and makes recommendations to executive council regarding asset allocation and risk strategy.

Reports To: Treasurer

Duties:

1. To perform an annual review of our reserve and scholarship funds in consultation with our investment group.
2. Convene a meeting (in person or remotely) annually to go over any updates and significant changes in our portfolios.
3. To report to Executive Council pertinent investment information.
4. To provide an annual report to the membership of the status of our investments.

Membership:

1. The chair is an active member appointed by the President or Treasurer.
2. Additional committee members include the President and Treasurer; Treasurer-Elect or Past-Treasurer; at least two current members of executive council; and up to two additional members who may be active, associate or retired.

Tenure: All committee members are appointed to two year terms and are renewable.

Qualifications: All committee members should have an interest in providing fiscally responsible oversight of NYSFAAA's investments with deliberate effort towards serving and promoting the purposes of the Association outlined in our Constitution.

Motion: A motion was made by Kerry Lubold, seconded by Kathy Michalski to modify the proposed description of the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee by striking duty number 9 as it is not relevant.

There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Purpose: To serve in support of the Treasurer's accounting and recordkeeping functions, and to establish, present, review and recommend a fiscal year budget for NYSFAAA.

Reports To: Treasurer

Duties:

1. To submit the annual budget to Executive Council at the annual summer meeting for discussion, modification, and approval.
2. To submit the approved budget to the general membership at the Business meeting during the Annual Conference.
3. To review the budget on an on-going basis to determine if adjustments should be recommended to Executive Council.

4. To review the Budget requests of any Committees of members during the year for assisting Council in any fiscal action.
5. To request that each Committee (30 days prior to the summer meeting) submit their Budget Request Form to the Budget Committee in order to prepare the Annual Budget.
6. To meet prior to the start of next fiscal year (July 1), review all requests, and establish the preliminary budget for Council.
7. To notify the Committee Chairs of their budget after the June Council vote.
8. To review the annual audit.
9. ~~To review investment strategy.~~

Membership:

1. Chair – An active member appointed by the President.
2. Three Active Members and no more than one Associate Member appointed by the Chair.
3. Three Council members, President Elect, President, and Immediate Past President.
4. Treasurer and Regional Treasurers – ex-officio

Tenure: Chair – Two-year term coinciding with the terms of the statewide officers. Members – one year renewable.

Treasurer-Elect's Report – Rob Zasso

- Collecting quarterly regional treasurer reports; electronic format is helpful
- A few regional reports are missing, holding up the 2015-2016 audit

Alcohol Policy Exemption

The 2016 NYSFAAA Conference Committee requested an exemption from the Alcohol Policy for the NYSFAAA banquet.

Motion: A motion was made by Darrin Rooker, seconded by Todd Moravec to approve the request.

There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

HESC Update – Lisa Simpson

Report is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

Day 1 concluded at 3:55 pm

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Meeting resumed at 8:30 am

Old Business

- **Conference 2017-** Melanie Williams-Bethea
 - Co-Chairs: Melanie and Lucy Villaquiran
 - Site: Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown
 - Dates: October 10-12, 2017
 - Same format, but taking recommendations
 - New financial aid landscape after election
 - Shift happens
 - Expect many commuters

- Target registration is @ 275
- Metro North stops and shuttle runs from stop to hotel

- **Novice Update-** Theresa Weimer

- Request for additional funds for Novice Budget
 - 79 registrants at this year's program
 - Mt. St Mary, Newburgh location with \$22/night rate this year
 - Now estimate is \$45/night for 2017, same week and facilities will be available and so need @ \$3000-\$4000 more to cover for next year

Motion: A motion was made by Kerry Lubold, seconded by Howard Leslie to increase the Novice Budget by \$3781 for the 2017 Training

Discussion points:

- Can the rate be confirmed: no answer at this time
- What would be the cost of relocation: comparable pricing is likely, but there would be expense to visit other site and assess
- Name badge expense was listed twice

Amended Motion: An amended motion was made by Todd Moravec, seconded by Howard Leslie to increase the Novice Budget by \$3500 for the 2017 Training

A vote was called and the motion was passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

- **Review of Operational Calendar**

- Add to October: include regular Conference session on advocacy and ethics and governance
- Add to October: presentation of the year's Goals and Objectives at the Annual Business Meeting
- November tasks: Novice Training budget has been approved; there are no proposed constitutional amendments

New Business

- **Next Long Range Plan-** Darrin

- Need to start process for the next plan
- Reviewing EASFAA process
- May create ad hoc committee from the Governance Committee
- Discuss mission and vision statement
- Once the Mission and Vision statement are developed they will drive the next Long Range Plan
- Organization is discussing balance of training webinar vs in-person format and writing a Mission and Vision statement to support this
- Include feedback and participation from NYSFAAA
- Several Executive Council members offered to be on the committee: Kathy Flaherty, Howard Leslie, Todd Moravec and Rob Zasso
 - Discussion:
 - should we get outside consultant, at low cost, to help with construction of mission statement
 - Include all generations of members in mission statement

- History: Generation X Committee, created in the past, was a failure as it placed segments of NYSFAAA against each other
- **Regional Concern - Amy Thompson**
 - institutional membership vs individual membership
 - Discussion points
 - Will be part of the Long Range Plan
 - How to manage in database
 - How it affects budget
 - How many members/school
 - Was researched in last 5 years: institutional membership created a financial loss
 - Membership is main income source, no sponsorship. Have obligation to find other sources of revenue than dues
 - Identify who we are as an association: are we collection of institutions or groups or professional members and then look at what services we provide
 - Also include affiliate members in the conversation
 - External charity for Conference detracting from Scholarship fund raising
 - Has been done in past (books for children, backpacks, gift cards)
 - Difference is with using golf event to raise the funds and not done on the list serve as a promotion
 - Region 2 is taking their local charity to the conference and inviting others to participate
 - After conference can look at scholarship income to see if it suffered by competition
 - Conference 2018 – Sonya Griggs
 -

Motion: A motion was made by Sonya Griggs, seconded by Todd Moravec to have Region 3 host the 2018 NYSFAAA Conference

- Discussion points: 2 sites
 - Two sites being considered: Turning Stone and Marriott Syracuse Downtown
 - How do room rates align with State reimbursement for rooms
 - This will be the 50th Anniversary Conference; first NYSFAAA Conference was held in Syracuse

A vote was called and the motion passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions

Regional Updates

Summarized in the NYSFAAA Annual Report

- Bring –a- buddy- to the meeting with Post GI bill topic

Schedule of Future Meetings

December (Remote)- Tuesday, December 13, 2:00-4:00 pm

February 13-14 Executive Council and Advocacy

Darrin commented on Advocacy in new administration.

- Will review TAP white paper and work on increasing TAP awards using an ad hoc committee

Other Business:

Met with EASFAA President, Wynette Zuppardi

- Regional Thought Force will meet in January, with first report due in March
- Discussing what is the purpose or niche for EASFAA

As there was no further business a motion was made by Todd Moravec, seconded by Rob Zasso to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at: 11:00 am

Charter: Regional Thought Force on State/Regional/ National Alignment

May 2016

Timeline & Commitment

Start Date: October 2016
Max. End Date: October 2019 (could end earlier dependent on work)

To ensure that high level strategic conversations and decisions are not lost due to volunteer turnover, consensus was reached by the regional presidents and NASFAA for a multi-year appointment. Each representative to this group should plan to serve for a minimum of three years. If deemed necessary, the composition of the group could change if the focus shifts to action planning and implementation.

Composition

Each of the six regional associations selects--through whatever means decided by their regional board--*a group of three individuals, in addition to the 2016-17 Regional Observer to NASFAA's Board*, to serve on a NASFAA-Regional Thought Force. Ideally, these individuals should be sitting regional board members. We strongly recommend that these individuals have experience volunteering at the state, regional, and preferably NASFAA-level, so they can bring a multilayered perspective to the discussions.

Background & Purpose

Over the course of several years, NASFAA has brought the incoming presidents of all six regional associations to DC to meet and discuss points of alignment, the role of the national association in supporting the regions and states, and the role states and regions play in the national context. The most recent meeting took place in September 2016; it was at that meeting that a need for a regional thought force was conceived.

One theme that has consistently come from these meetings is the idea that efforts are being duplicated at the state, regional and national levels, and in many cases each association is trying to "be all things for all people" rather than targeting/focusing on their specific strengths and value-adds. Another theme was the notion of turnover—in an all-volunteer organization with a new president at the helm each year, there is sometimes a lack of needed momentum to implement changes that require multi-year commitments.

This ongoing conversation, which has happened year after year, finally spurred the creation of a NASFAA Thought Force in spring 2016, chaired by RNASFAA Past President Art Young (Brigham Young University) and tasked with

thinking outside the box about this larger issue, highlighting the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities inherent to the national-regional-state association dynamic, and making recommendations for the next exploratory measures. At that meeting, representatives from each region reached consensus on several key strategic questions related to national and regional partnerships. No operational or strategic decisions were made at the state, regional, or national levels after the meeting. However, it was determined that the process of reaching consensus was important enough to expand the conversation to the current regional presidents.

During the September regional presidents meeting, it was suggested that we convene a larger group of regional, state, and national representatives to replicate that process again and see if we can reach consensus on multi-level strategic and/or operational alignments.

Task Force Duties & Responsibilities

- Engage in thoughtful, open, trusting, creative, and honest discussion on all issues related to national-regional-state association alignments.
- “Think big” and not be constrained in discussions by the way things have always been done, e.g. status quo.
- By March 2017, produce a report detailing the findings from the larger convening, clearly indicating where the group had reached consensus. The paper should answer the following specific questions:
 - Should state, regional, and the national association share the same mission and goals?
 - Should a consistent portfolio of products, services and programs be offered nationwide?
 - Should associations at each level have complete freedom to determine their revenue streams and funding prospects?
 - Should the state/regional/national associations rebrand and restructure into a collective organization?

If there is consensus on any single question or all questions, the work of the task force will be to develop plans to move towards those goals during the time remaining for the group. It is expected that another charter will be developed to guide their work.

Budget

The costs of the larger convening will be a cost share, with NASFAA covering the costs of lodging, food on-site, and a facilitator. Regions will cover all other travel costs.



HESC Update October 2016

2017-18 FAFSA & TAP Application

The 2017-18 FAFSA and TAP applications are now available.

The confirmation page of the FAFSA will provide a link for NYS students attending a NYS school to apply for TAP. The calculation for a TAP award will use prior prior tax information for processing (2015 tax information) for the 2017-18 year, the same tax data used to file the FAFSA.

All awards are subject to change based on the 2017 NYS Enacted budget.

2017-18 TAP Application Processing Changes

- Estimated awards will be available to students on HescPub and to schools on View Student Record beginning October 4, 2016. As in the past, a message will be displayed to indicate the awards shown are estimated until the State budget is passed.
- Emails will be sent to students beginning October 7, 2016 inviting them to log into their HESC accounts to see the status of their applications.
- TAP estimators will be available in early October. Students will now have the option to see the TAP estimates for a specific type of school or multiple types of schools.
- Student Status Listings will be sent to the schools in February, 2017, and will include the estimated TAP awards. The awards on the Student Status Listing will not be masked and will no longer include "Prelim" in the header on the file. Customized reports will be available in April 2017.
- Beginning with the 2017-18 academic year, students will no longer be able to report if they are enrolled in the EOP, HEOP, SEEK or College Discovery programs or in an approved five-year program. If a student is entitled to a fifth year of TAP awards, the information must be submitted by the school using Student Record Maintenance (SRM). The school must also confirm the enrollment for the fifth year of TAP payments through the certification process when the student is in the final two terms of studies.

The Veterans Tuition Award (VTA) will no longer include the college fee when determining the amount of the award. The VTA award will be limited to SUNY tuition only as set forth in section 669-a of the Education Law

NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program

The NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program application for the 2017 series is now available. The Program provides a full SUNY tuition scholarship to the top 10 percent of students in each NYS high school if they pursue a STEM degree in an associate's or bachelor's degree program and agree to live in NYS and work in a STEM field in NYS for five years after graduation.

To be eligible an applicant must:

- be a NYS resident and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the fall college term;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- be a high school senior/recent high school graduate who will be enrolled full time at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University, beginning in the fall term following his or her high school graduation;
- be ranked in the top 10 percent of his/her high school graduating class at a NYS high school;
- be matriculated in an approved undergraduate program leading to a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics at a SUNY or CUNY college;
- earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher each term after the first semester;
- execute a Service Contract agreeing to reside and work in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics in NYS for five years. View the terms and conditions of the service contract.

NYS Masters- in-Education Teacher Incentive Scholarship Program

Masters-in-Education Teacher Incentive Scholarship Program provides students who (a) have achieved academic excellence in their undergraduate studies, (b) are pursuing a master's degree program in education, and (c) agree to teach for five years in a classroom at a NYS public elementary or secondary school with a full tuition scholarship to a State University of New York (SUNY) or City University of New York (CUNY) college or university.

Award payments will be paid directly to the schools on behalf of students upon successful completion of each term. HESC will be issuing certification guidance shortly. Till then, HESC would like to share some frequently asked questions:

- Did HESC verify the UG degree was earned in NYS, or do schools have to?
 - HESC verified the UG degree was earned in NYS.
- Did HESC verify the 3.5 UG GPA requirement during the application process, or do schools have to?
 - The school would need to verify.
- Does the U. S. high school/GED/ATB requirement apply?
 - You would need to verify the high school requirement. This requirement applies to all HESC financial aid programs.
- Can certify based on these FTE classes?
 - For Masters in Education the school defines the number of credits required for full time study. For example, if full time is defined as nine credits then the MIE recipient would only be required to take nine credits to be certified for the award.
- If so, presumably we would report the number of credits and actual tuition and the award would be pro-rated somehow?
 - The school will not be required to report the number of credits the student is taking but will be required to report the actual tuition if it is different from the tuition reported on the roster
- What documentation, if any, would we have to make sure was available to justify the FTE? The Graduate Studies Office has a list of classes that are considered FT with less than 12 credits—is that sufficient?
 - Yes

Homeschooled Students

To be eligible for State student financial aid, homeschooled students must meet the same criteria as students who attend public high schools: receive a high school diploma or the recognized equivalent, or a passing score on an approved ability-to-benefit test.

However, because homeschooled students do not receive a high school diploma that is acceptable for financial aid purposes – as only public and registered nonpublic schools in New York State are permitted by Education Law to award diplomas – they must demonstrate their eligibility for State student financial aid in one of the following ways:

- take and pass a Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) formally known as a GED and receive a NYS High School Equivalency Diploma from the New

York State Education Department (SED) by the first day of classes to be certified as eligible for a financial aid award for that term; or

- achieve a satisfactory score on an approved Ability-to-Benefit test by the term add/drop date.

On January 21, 2015, SED issued a memorandum providing additional guidance regarding high school equivalency requirements which indicated that a student without a valid high school diploma must hold a high school equivalency diploma or receive a passing score on a federally approved ability to benefit test.

More information on homeschooling can be obtained from SED:

The University of the State of New York
New York State Education Department
High School Equivalency (HSE) Office
P.O. Box 7348
Albany, NY 12224-0348
(518) 474-5906

High School Diploma

To be eligible for State student financial assistance, Education Law section 661(4) states that a student first receiving aid in academic year 1996-97 to 2006-2007 must have a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such certificate, or receive a passing score on an approved ability-to-benefit test. For students first receiving aid in academic year 2006-07 and thereafter, the certificate of graduation must be from a recognized school providing secondary education within the United States; or the recognized equivalent of such certificate; or received a passing score on a federally approved ability to benefit test that has been identified by the board of regents and has been independently administered and evaluated as defined by the commissioner.

Therefore, a student without a valid high school diploma must hold a high school equivalency diploma. A student can earn a high school equivalency diploma in New York State in one of three ways: (1) by taking and earning passing scores on a TASC test or (2) by completing 24 semester hour credits in specified subjects as a recognized candidate for a degree in an approved (accredited) institution or (3) through the National External Diploma Program. For more information on High School Equivalency Diploma visit nysed.gov.

Note:

1. The New York State High School Equivalency diploma may also be awarded to those candidates who meet all New York State requirements and who submit an official report of results from a GED® Test taken outside New York State prior to 2014. Candidates will receive a diploma and an official transcript certifying that

they were awarded the New York State High School Equivalency diploma based on GED® testing out of state.

2. For financial aid purposes a record of a prior degree earned by a student is not acceptable.

FFEL Access on HESC System

Due to increased security requirements by the US Department of Education, school access of FFEL data will be removed from the HESC website. HESC staff will be able to view the accounts if any questions arise. The change is expected in January 2017.

Region 1 Report

October 5, 2016

1. MEETINGS Held This Year

Date and Location: October 1, 2015 - Hilbert College
November 20, 2015 – Canisius College
December 10, 2015 – Salvatore’s Restaurant
February 26, 2016 – Hilbert College
March 24, 2016 – Medaille College
April 21, 2016 – Joint meeting Region 2 – GCC
May 19, 2016 – Medaille College
June 23, 2016 – Summer Outing – Bisons game

Attendees = October 1 – 24 attendees
November 20 – 20 attendees
December 10 – 32 attendees
February 26 - 28 attendees
March 24 – 19 attendees
April 21 – 44 attendees
May 19 – 12 attendees
June 23 – 18 attendees

Topics and Training details:

Round Table discussion on PPY

NYS Standardized Award Letter

“Get on Your Feet” Loan Forgiveness program

HESC updates

Support Staff Workshop – in the planning stage

Admissions Counselor Workshop – in the planning stage

College Goal New York

Discussion on how to get more people involved with NYSFAAA and better attendance at meetings

Conference 2015 wrap up

2 Other Training events that Region was involved in :

Example – CGNY, Guidance Counselor workshop?

NYSFAAA Statewide Training Webinars – 11/20/15 - Canisius College & 2/26/16 - Hilbert College

High School Training workshops were held on November 4, 2015 at UB North and November 5, 2015 at St. Bonaventure.

3 Treasury update: Balance as of 5/6/16 was \$7454.59

4 Committee Reports - none

5 Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning)

6 Upcoming meetings and events - Regional Meeting on October 6, 2016 at Hilbert College

7 Regional comments/Recommendations (If you region has a pressing issues that needs to be brought to the attention of Council) - None

Submitted By: Kathleen Michalski

Date: October 5, 2016

Region 2 Annual Report

Date: 10/04/2016

1. MEETINGS HELD THIS YEAR:

Date and Location: September 25, 2015 at Genesee Community College in Batavia with 22 attendees. Last treasurer's report from the April 17, 2015 meeting there was a balance of \$1477.72. Topic Discussion: we welcomed the election of Margaret Christian as the next Region 2 Executive Council Representative. Margaret will begin her two year term for 2015-2017 at this year's October 27th NYSFAAA Conference in Buffalo, NY. Margaret has requested to have a volunteer take over her duties as Region 2's membership person when she begins her role as the Exec. Council rep. for Region 2. Region 2 Membership update by Margaret is we currently have 127 members paid for the 2014-15 year. It is too early to provide a number for 2015-16 as registration is open for new members and renewing members. Update for the Intermediate Workshop in Albany on October 15-16 is still open for registration and currently there are only 19 attendees registered. Three volunteers attended the Marketplace Mall College night on Wednesday, October 23, Melissa Casselman, Laura Formella, and Marie Longyear. Approximately 120 families stopped at the table for information. Another College night will be held at Greece Ridge Mall. PPY discussion amongst region members showed this will create some significant changes at schools to accommodate the earlier FAFSA filing dates. Lisa Simpson called in to give updates for HESC on TAP, rosters, AIMS, Get On Your Feet criteria, PPY concerns.

Date and Location: November 20, 2015 at Roberts Wesleyan College

Attendees –31 attendees

Topics and Training details: The training portion of this meeting was the SWT on the Top 20 Verification Frequently Asked Questions and Everything you need to know about Modules. We also had a regional meeting following the training and lunch. Margaret Christian, Region 2 Exec Council rep, provided a report from the October council meeting in Buffalo, NY. Margaret also provided a Membership report in Deidre Strutz's absence. Region 2 currently has 114 members and 32 who have not renewed. Statewide membership for 14-15 was 1319, currently we have 1053 and our goal for 15-16 is 1325. November 15th was the cut-off for renewal. If members have not renewed they will no longer receive emails via the listserv. Membership fees were increased by \$10. Going forward, one of the goals for membership is to develop a plan to engage more members and communicate with members more frequently. Jane Gilliland also reported feedback on the Intermediate Workshop that was held in Albany. The next regional meeting will be held on December 15, 2015. Lunch will be served. To help defray the cost members will be charged \$10 per person. The region will cover the difference.

Date and Location: December 15, 2015 at Finger Lakes Community College -Attendees –21 attendees

Topics and Training details: Margaret Christian provided a report from the remote Exec Council meeting that was held on December 9, 2015. The TICC Committee is looking for volunteers, any and all are welcome! The survey results from the Buffalo Conference were not available yet. 252 members attended the State-wide Conference. Region 6 will be hosting the 2017 Conference. The Marriott Westchester is the location that will most likely be selected. Lisa Simpson provided the HESC update via phone. Some of the main points she presented: PPY, Standardized Award Letter, TAP changes for 16-17 and updates on Get on your Feet program and STEM and AIMS. We did not have a formal training at our holiday meeting/lunch but we had an informal discussion regarding sessions at the FSA Conference that were held in Las Vegas. Members talked about sessions they attended and the highlights from those sessions. The members that were present also discussed the latest information regarding the Perkins loan program. The next meeting will be the Jim Briggs SWT to be held February 26, 2016 at Nazareth College. A regional meeting will follow the training.

Date and Location: February 26, 2016-SWT at Roberts Wesleyan College

Attendees = 31

Topics and Training details: State of the Association Update-Kerrie Cooper

State-wide Training was presented by Jim Briggs

Date and Location: March 11, 2016 at RIT

Attendees: approximately 20

Topics and Training: A brief meeting was held prior to our presentation by Ramon Rodriguez on the "Alpha Effect for Financial Aid Administrators." This session will provide Financial Aid Professionals (PAF) with powerful knowledge and techniques to effectively deal with Alpha Effect. FAP will realize how vivid perceptions directly implement in their mind and heart distorted interpretations of relationships, events and ways of communication. FAP will understand the significance of the Alpha Effect to apply it to their mostly overwhelmed work life through Collaboration Connection activities. By integrating the Alpha Effect Positive Triggers, FAP will be equipped to successfully transform sensitive and disasters outcomes form a pandemonium outcome to a paradise outcome. At the end of the presentation, FAP will be encouraged to share their Alpha Effect stories to inspire others by emphasizing how their knowledge, experiences, expertise, behaviors and actions attracted the best to them. This was a very interactive presentation!

Date and Location: April 21, 2016 at GCC (this was a joint Region 1 & 2 meeting)

Attendees= 43

Topics and Training: Kerrie Cooper attended this meeting and gave a brief update on happenings with NYSFAAA and EASFAA. After regional updates from both regions 1 & 2, a roundtable discussion ensued regarding what campuses are planning to do with Early FAFSA/PPY.

Date and Location: June 2, 2016 at Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack

Attendees=14

Topics and Training: We had brief meeting with regional updates followed by a Roundtable discussion on the EASFAAA Conference and what campuses are doing about Perkins for 16-17.

The first meeting for the 16-17 academic year will be on September 23, 2016 at SUNY Geneseo.

New Regional officers for 16-17 are:

- Co-chairs: Deidre Strutz from RIT and Megan Kennerknecht from SUNY Geneseo
- Secretary: Jon Heininger from SUNY Geneseo
- Treasurer: Nora Bell-Owens from SUNY Brockport

2 Other Training events that Region was involved in :

Example – CGNY, Guidance Counselor workshop?

College nights at Marketplace Mall on 9/23/2015 and Greece Ridge Mall on 9/24/2015. High School Guidance Counselor Workshop will be held at Nazareth College on November 6, 2015. Each region school to donate folders and prize giveaway such as a coffee mug or t-shirt.

3 Treasury update: As of June 2, 2016 the regional balance was \$1,950.01 which does not include the revenue sharing check that is expected in August 2016.

4 Committee Reports n/a

5 Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning)

The speakers have been are confirmed and contracts have been signed.

- Dr. Guadalupe Quintinella is an Associate Professor at the University of Houston and who presented to NYSFAAA back in the late 1990's. She tells her story of her struggle with learning English and then goes on to college. She owes her success to a financial aid advisor who didn't give up on her.
- The keynote speaker will be Pam Sherman who writes a weekly column for the Democrat and Chronicle titled, "Urban Outlaw." She encourages engagement and get excited about leadership regardless of your level in the organization.
- Smoking is more contained at Turning Stone since our last conference so the smell should be minimal. Also the HVAC system has been upgraded.

- Adrienne King will be leading the Grad/Professional symposium which will be held from 8am to 11:30am before the conference officially kicks off at noon.

6 Upcoming meetings and events :

September 23, 2016-SUNY Geneseo

November 18, 2016-RIT SWT

December 9 or 16, 2016-TBA

March 17, 2017

April 7, 2017-Possible joint Region 1 & 2 meeting at GCC

June 2017-TBA

7 Regional comments/Recommendations (If you region has a pressing issues that needs to be brought to the attention of Council) n/a

Submitted By: Margaret Christian

Date: October 4, 2016

Region IV Annual Report

October 17, 2016

1. Meetings Held during 2015-2016 Year

- a. November 20, 2015 at Excelsior College. There were 34 attendees and we served both breakfast and lunch. We viewed the statewide training together and then had a regional meeting. The regional meeting included a HESC update by Lisa Simpson, a discussion of prior-prior year, a Perkins discussion and legislative update by Maria Livolsi and a discussion of future meetings.
- b. February 20, 2016 at Excelsior College. There were 31 attendees. We had breakfast, viewed Jim Brigg's statewide training together and then had lunch followed by a regional meeting. The regional meeting included a HESC update by Lisa Hearley, and we also had Erika Terwilliger attend as a guest and give updates on NYS Ed news. During this meeting we took an anonymous survey from attendees regarding convenient locations, topics of interest for future meetings/webinars/trainings, and ideas for a summer social gathering.
- c. A regional meeting including a panel of schools who recently went through an audit (both Federal and NY State panelists) was scheduled for 4/22/16 but was later cancelled due to lack of interest/attendees. Also, there was a lack of interest (busy schedules and summer vacations played a part) from the membership in having a summer social gathering.

2. Other Training events that Region was involved in: We assisted with College Goal Sundays and SUNY Financial Aid day.

3. Treasury update: \$8856.81

4. Committee Reports: Membership: 121 Associate, Affiliate, Retired and Life Member; 101 active.

5. Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning): None.

6. Upcoming meetings and events: November 18 Statewide Training Event at Empire State College. We will also have a region IV meeting/update following lunch and we are working on securing other speakers/presenters.

7. Regional comments/Recommendations:

- a. Strategic Long Range Plan goals:
 - i. **ADVOCACY:** We would like to increase advocacy efforts of Region IV members due to our location. Over the next year we would like to continue to incorporate guests from state legislature, SED, OSC and HESC into our meetings in order to strengthen our relationships with those agencies.

- ii. **LEADERSHIP and DEVELOPMENT:** Over the next year we will encourage other members to attend Executive Council meetings so that they can have an opportunity to learn more about NYSFAAA. This will provide a targeted mentoring opportunity for those who may be interested in becoming future leaders within NYSFAAA.

Submitted By: Michelle Fountaine

Date: 9/28/16

Region V Report

NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting

October 17, 2016

1. MEETINGS HELD THIS YEAR

Date/Location/Attendees: November 20, 2015, Berkeley College, 19 attendees
January 21, 2016, The Culinary Institute of America, 32 attendees
February 26, 2016, Berkeley College, 21 attendees
September 20, 2016, Region 5 Webinar, 11 attendees

Topics and Training details:

November meeting – Statewide training event followed by regional meeting to discuss CGNY, future meetings, encourage regional reps for NYSFAAA, and Exec Council and Treasurer's reports

January meeting – Guest speaker, Lisa Simpson, gave a very informative HESC Update and answered numerous questions regarding standardized award letters and other current hot topics. Discussed CGNY, promoted state-wide training event Feb 26, asked for advice regarding future meeting topics, and Exec Council and Treasurer's reports. Following the meeting we had a delicious lunch at the Ristorante Caterina de' Medici.

February meeting – Statewide training event followed by regional meeting to discuss possible June meeting, spoke about regional reps for NYSFAAA committees including new rep for State Government Relations Committee (Kathy Gailor, CIA) and introduced our regional rep for Election Committee (Dan Robinson, Pace), gave Exec Council Report and Treasurer's report.

September meeting – Kick-off for 2016-17. Discussed goals of the upcoming year. Announced meeting dates. Encouraged involvement and ways to get involved. Executive Council update and Treasurer's report. Held 3 online votes: subsidize a portion of the dinner cost at regional meeting during the conference (amount over \$20pp not including alcoholic beverages), provide lunch for attendees at 11/18/2016 State Wide Training event, and subsidize a portion of luncheon at the Culinary Institute for the January training/meeting (amount over \$20pp or \$90 for non-members to include cost of membership fee).

2 Other Training events that Region V was involved in :

CGNY events held in Region V included locations in Poughkeepsie, Yonkers, and New Rochelle. Members from region participated in Novice Training at Mt St Mary's.

3 Treasury update:

As of September 20, 2016 Region V had a balance of \$10,325.27.

4 Committee Reports n/a

5 Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning) n/a

6 Upcoming meetings and events

October 18 – Tuesday during the conference we will hold a dinner meeting for Region V at the Upstate Tavern.

November 18 – NYSFAAA Statewide Regional Training – Berkeley College, Westchester.

January 27 – Region meeting at Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park. HESC/TAP Update from Lisa Simpson and Coat Drive for regional charity.

February – NYSFAAA Statewide Regional Training – date/location TBD.

Spring meeting – would like to bring a speaker in. Took a poll during webinar to determine the amount willing to pay toward that event.

7 Regional comments/Recommendations (If you region has a pressing issues that needs to be brought to the attention of Council)

n/a

Region 6 Report

October 11, 16

1. MEETINGS Held This Year

Date and Location: October 9, 2015, Kick-off Meeting Beth Israel School of Nursing

Attendees = 32

Topics and Training details:

- Rules of FA Land': Federal Regulations and the upcoming Negotiated Rule Making, by Jim Gathard
- Unusual Enrollment History (UEH) as reported by the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA)
- Discussion of What's Going on in Financial Aid Offices.

Date and Location: November 20, 2015, SWT at your Region. Mercy College

Attendees=

Topics and Training details:

- PRESENTER: Zachary Goodwin - Student Federal Aid (SFA) Trainer
- Top 20 Most Frequently Asked Verification Questions
- Everything you needed to know about modules but were afraid to ask.

Date and Location: January 15, 2016, Frames Bowling

Attendees = 22

Topics and Training details:

Zachary Goodwin from the DOE gave a federal update; which included the changes in the Perkins program, verification policy changes, and future cash management changes. There was plenty of time for Q & A. A discussion on creating a Mentoring program and guidelines were discussed with those interested in participating.

Date and Location: February 26, 2016, Fordham Law School

Attendees= 130

Topics and Training details:

Jim Briggs Federal Taxes and Verification

Date and Location: May 6, 2016, Beth Israel School of Nursing

Attendees: Members and non-members 34

Topic and Training Details:

- Support staff training: Financial Aid 101, Apply to Qualify, Verification, C-FLAGS, Sources of Financial Aid, Basics of College Costs and Budgeting, HESC Training, Effective use of IFAP, Networking, Being a valuable resource to your Organization, and Mentoring.

Date and Location: June 24, 2016, Beth Israel School of Nursing/Spirit Cruise Lines (Joint meeting with Region 7).

Attendees: 44

Topics and Training Details:

- Federal Update: Verification, conflicting information, and Professional Judgment- Zack Goodwin
- HESC Update PPY & The Tap Application- Mike Turner

2 Other Training events that Region was involved in:

- Guidance Counselor Workshops with HESC
- Several College Goal FAFSA Events city wide
- NASFAA comes to NYSFAAA-April 2016

3 Treasury update:

- Region 6 was selected for the annual NYSFAAA audit. Improved documentation was given as feedback on meeting topics and attendees.
- The closing balance based on the fourth quarter report shows \$1764.44 available.

4 Committee Reports:

N/A

5 Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning):

- Site was secured in February 2016. The Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY was selected for the 49th NYSFAAA Conference, October 10-12, 2017.
- Committees have been formed and more information will be sent after the 2016 NYSFAAA Conference.

6 Upcoming meetings and events:

- November 18, 2016-SWT Comes to Your Region-Monroe College
- Holiday Meeting-December 2016- TBD
- February 2017-Location TBD

7 Regional comments/Recommendations (If you region has a pressing issues that needs to be brought to the attention of Council)

- In person meetings vs. webinars this continues to be a discussion amongst members.
- Need for more networking opportunities.

Submitted By: Melanie J Williams-Bethea

Date: 10/10/16

Region 7 Report

September 28, 2016

1. Meetings Held This Year:

- a. **October 2, 2015** Regional Meeting at St. Joseph's College
 - i. 20 attendees
 - ii. Topics:
 - 1. Region 7 Survey Results
 - 2. Presentation "Incorrect Data Challenge" by Tom Kokis, Director of Student Financial Literacy at Berkeley College
- b. **November 20, 2015** State Wide Training at Molloy College
 - i. 30 attendees
 - ii. Topic: Verification presented by Zachary Goodwin, Training Officer, U.S. Department of Education
- c. **December 11, 2015** Regional Holiday Meeting at the Milleridge Inn
 - i. 22 attendees
 - ii. Topics:
 - 1. Kerrie Cooper, President of NYSFAAA, presented NYSFAAA updates
 - 2. Scott Buchanan, courtesy of Sallie Mae, presented a federal government relations update
- d. **February 26, 2016** State Wide Training at NYIT
 - i. 44 attendees
 - ii. Topic: Jim Briggs the Tax Detective
- e. **March 4, 2016** Regional Meeting at SUNY Farmingdale
 - i. 41 attendees (bring a buddy session)
 - ii. Topics:
 - 1. Student Loan Repayment Strategies, presented by Joe Garzillo, Vice President, Sallie Mae Bank
 - 2. Post 9/11 Veteran's Education Assistance Act of 2008, presented by Richard Robitaille, Assistant Vice President of Military and Veteran's Affairs, Berkeley College
- f. **June 10, 2016** Summer Meeting (Combined with Region 6) at Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing
 - i. 10 region 7 attendees at meeting
 - ii. Topics:
 - 1. Verification, Conflicting Info and PJ presented by Zachary Goodwin, Training Officer, U.S. Department of Education
 - 2. HESC Update presented by Michael Turner, Client Relations Manager, HESC

- 2 **Other Training events that Region was involved in:**
 - a. **November 6, 2015** HESC Guidance Counselor Workshop at SUNY Farmingdale
 - b. **January 12, 2016** CGNY at Paul Schreiber HS Port Washington
 - c. **January 27, 2016** CGNY at Elmont HS
 - d. **February 11, 2016** CGNY at Wyandanch HS
 - e. **February 27, 2016** CGNY at Brentwood HS
- 3 **Treasury update:** \$3595.41 as of 9/22/16
- 4 **Committee Reports:** N/A
- 5 **Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning):** N/A
- 6 **Upcoming meetings and events:**
 - a. **September 23, 2016** Regional Meeting at St. Joseph's College
 - b. **November 18, 2016** State Wide Training at Hofstra University
- 7 **Regional comments/Recommendations (If you region has a pressing issues that needs to be brought to the attention of Council):**
 - a. **Two Items of Concern Were Voiced at 9/23/16 Meeting:**
 - i. **NYSFAAA membership:** The question about institutional vs. individual membership was once again raised. If we have decided against this, perhaps something can be sent out to the membership explaining the rationale. Also, if institutional membership is not an option ever, perhaps there can be some sort of tiered discounting model implemented for volume (i.e. pay full membership price for the first 5 members from an institution, and then discount members 5-10 by a percentage, members 10-15 by a larger percentage etc.)
 - ii. **Conference Charity:** Concern was voiced by a few members that by selecting an outside charity to be the beneficiary of proceeds from a separate raffle basket, that we may be detracting from our own internal scholarship fundraising efforts.

Submitted By: Amy Thompson

Date: September 28, 2016

Region 8 Annual Report

September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016

1. Meetings Held This Year

Date and location:

11/20/15 - NYSFAAA Statewide Training and Region VIII Meeting

Location: SUNY Potsdam

Attendees: 20 to 25

Topics and Training: "Top 20 Most Frequently Asked Verification Questions" & "Everything You Need to Know About Modules But Are Afraid To Ask"

2/26/16 NYSFAAA Statewide Training and Region VIII Meeting

Location: SUNY Canton

Attendees: 11 members

Topics and Training: Networking with muffins and coffee, NYSFAAA update from Kerrie, HESC Update, and high school equivalency for TAP, Statewide training from Jim Briggs - The Tax Detective, Lunch, & then a Region Meeting

5/12/16 NYSFAAA Statewide Training and Region VIII Meeting

Location: Clarkson

Attendees: 12 for meeting and 15 for training and an additional 4 at SUNY Plattsburgh.

Topics and Training: Exec council update, EASFAA conference, NASFAA evaluation of products, Statewide training from several presenters on Early FAFSA and Its Impact on enrollment.

9/22/16 Region VIII Meeting

Location: St. Lawrence University

Attendees: 11

Topics and Training: NYSFAAA goals and objectives were reviewed.

Topics and Training details:

Two School Counselor Workshops were held in November. Stacey Hawkins from Clarkson and Kathy Parker from Canton were Co-Chairs. The first occurred on 11/9/2015 at Clarkson University and there were 31 counselors in attendance. The second occurred on 11/10/2015 at SUNY Plattsburgh and there were 20 counselors in attendance.

Over the winter months, high school nights were conducted at least 37 different high schools across the North Country. At least 1,002 students and families were in attendance at these various locations. Presenters included staff from SUNY Plattsburgh, SUNY Canton, SUNY Potsdam, St. Lawrence, and Clarkson.

College Goal NY was held on 1/30/16 at Clarkson University. Stacey Hawkins was the site coordinator and we had 12 families we were able to assist. We had a total of 10 Region 8 members assist at the event allowing us to provide one-on-one assistance to the families.

SUNY Financial Aid Day was held on 2/20/2016 at SUNY Potsdam. Staff was available to help families complete a FAFSA. A total of 17 families and 33 people attended the event.

Kerry Lubold served as a small group leader during Novice Training at Mount St. Mary's in June.

2. Other Training events that Region was involved in: No other training to report.

Example – CGNY, Guidance Counselor workshop?

3. Treasury update: \$3,532.49 as of 10/5/2016.

4. Committee Reports: We had 51 paid or expected-to-pay members as of 10/5/2016. Carolyn Corcoran stepped down in her temporary role as regional chair and Todd Moravec agreed to serve in this capacity until October 2017. Todd is currently evaluating committee vacancies in the region and will probably start to group several committees together under a single chair in order to reduce the number of regional committee chairs in our small region.

5. Conference News: No news

6. Upcoming meetings and events: The new Regional Chair, Carolyn Corcoran held her first meeting on 9/17/2015.

11/18/16 - NYSFAAA Statewide Training and Region VIII Meeting

Location: SUNY Plattsburgh

Attendees: TBD

Topics and Training: TBD

7. Regional comments/recommendations :