

Gallivan pushes for Charitable Gaming Act

State Sen. Patrick M. Gallivan is again calling on the New York State Gaming Commission to fully implement the Charitable Gaming Act, which will allow nonprofit groups to sell raffle tickets via the internet and provide for additional payment options for raffles and other fundraising activities.

Gallivan sponsored the legislation, which was signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in December 2017. It directed the gaming commission to develop and approve regulations to allow the law to take effect in June 2018. The commission has yet to promulgate regulations and fully implement them.

“The gaming commission is violating the law by failing to do what the Legislature and the governor have directed it to do,” Gallivan said. “Nonprofit organizations have been forced to cancel many of their in-person fundraising events because of the pandemic and they need this law now more than ever. Allowing them to raise money through online raffles will help ensure these groups are able to assist people in need and provide important services to our community.”

In a letter to Gov. Kathy Hochul, Gallivan said it’s time for the gaming commission to fulfill its duty and implement the law as intended.

“I support Gov. Hochul’s endeavor to restore trust in state government. Getting this law on the books is a step in that direction,” Gallivan said.

Gallivan sponsored the bill after learning that outdated regulations limited organizations when it came to raffles, 50/50 prizes and other games of chance by prohibiting online sales and electronic payments.

Bundle up and unite as #oneEA

One of the best parts of living in Western New York is the change of seasons and, with them, the rituals that we follow to mark the passage of time: festivals, fairs, holidays, big games and community events. Recently, it was wonderful to witness first-hand a ritual we all missed last year: the return of students – all students – to the classroom. The joy and energy present in the buildings since then has been electric and the students and staff have been polite, respectful and responsible. Other than the presence of face masks, it is the closest we have felt to “normal” in 18 months.

However, with the change of seasons, we know that storms often come too. On both the larger and local level, we have weathered many storms recently. Whether rooted in the pandemic, politics, or societal, ethical and even personal concerns, the “storms” of the last 18 months have continually pummeled us and show no signs of stopping. Regardless of which side of an issue you may be on, I think we can all agree the storms have led us to be less united than we can be – and should be. So how have we, as a district, worked together to weather these storms as #oneEA?

As Sir Ranulph Fiennes reminds us – and as we, all know from living here – “There’s no such thing as bad weather, only inadequate clothing.” We, as a district family, have geared up to protect ourselves from the harsh storms.

First, we have taken to wearing the gloves of gentleness. Winter drivers know the effects rapid acceleration, quick breaking and sudden turns can have on a vehicle during a storm. The same counts for navigating how to best deal with individuals, families, and

situations. Slow, steady, and gentle are the way.

Second, we have committed to putting on the hat of respect, with its two core hallmarks: Loyalty and Justness. We have pledged to be a district that both respects and represents the full diversity of the human experience.

Third, we have taken to wearing the glasses of positivity. Instead of focusing on what is wrong with public education, we speak first of what is strong with public education. That does not mean there are not problems – real problems that need real solutions. It means we must first recognize that there is so much more that is good than is broken.

Fourth, we have draped over our shoulders the parka of empathy. A line in Disney’s movie “Frozen” states, “People make bad choices when they’re mad or scared or stressed.” Over the last 18 months, I believe we have all had those feelings – and the longer this all goes on, the more often we will feel them. As a result, bad choices will happen. The song, however, continues, “but throw a little love their way and you’ll bring out their best.” Understanding and kindness matter.

Lastly, every day we lace up the work boots of effort. Currently, it is not easy to do what we do. However, when you see the joy and energy the students bring into the building, you see that all the hard work is worth it.

It does not mean that we are all going to always agree on what the next step should be. But it does make nonnegotiable, in a world that seems to have become a politicized us vs. them, that the only way we will survive, and thrive, through the storm is by bundling up to move forward as we.



Mark Mambretti

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & PERSONNEL

ITAC Prepares for busy October

It is a busy time of year for everyone. Our students are back to school full-time, and we are all starting to get into the swing of this new way of life since COVID-19. ITAC – the nonprofit Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition serving Elma, Marilla and Wales – is ready to ramp up activities for the month of October with lots of exciting projects.

Youth engagement and voice is an integral component of the Coalition. ITAC was proud to co-sponsor the Iroquois High School homecoming dance on Oct. 2 by assisting with the cost of a tent to hold the dance outside. We hope all students had a great night and look forward to students becoming active ambassadors in the Coalition.

Isabella Michael, senior class president of the Student Government Body at Iroquois High School indicated that high school students were excited and looking forward to celebrating Homecoming activities, including Spirit Week, the traditional Powder Puff game, Homecoming game and dance.

“This year we tried something new and different, having this event outside under the stars and tent that was generously provided by ITAC. We are grateful for their support,” said Michael.

ITAC meets with our steering committee and the coalition monthly to work on our action plan, and ITAC is always looking for new coalition members. Our members come from all walks of life – youth, parents, business owners, law enforcement, national guard, public officials and many more. If you are interested in joining our coalition to have your voice heard in our prevention program planning, please contact ITAC at itacemw@gmail.com.

Donna Bove, a parent and Iroquois District resident, attended our recent ITAC Town Hall event in August and commented on why she thinks ITAC’s mission is so important.

“I believe teaching our children the dan-

gers of substance abuse is an important part of education.” says Bove, “Children need to understand the dangers of using and the importance of being a productive part of society and how drugs can and will damage relationships.”

The end of October is Red Ribbon Week. The Red Ribbon Campaign is the nation’s largest and longest-running drug use prevention education program. Kicking off Red Ribbon week is the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, held locally from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at Elma Town Hall. The Erie County Sheriff’s Department will be on hand to collect unused or expired prescription drugs, and ITAC representatives will be distributing red ribbons as well.

Later that day, you will find ITAC at the Boys & Girls Club of Elma, Marilla, Wales for their Trunk or Treat event from 3 to 5 p.m. More information about the event is available by visiting the Boys & Girls Club of EMW Facebook page. Bring the whole family, dress up for Halloween and trick or treat in a safe environment by walking around all the decorated trunks. Sheriff’s deputies and Explorer Post 505 members will be providing child safety ID tags at the Trunk or Treat for interested parents.

Rounding out the week, ITAC is collaborating with the local fire departments to bring back last year’s “Trunk or Treat” from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30. The six fire companies – Springbrook, Marilla, Jamison Road, Blossom, Elma and Wales Center – will be hosting this fun family event. It’s a great way for the community to come together, tour the fire stations and trucks, and meet volunteer firefighters. There will be free candy, giveaways and more. October is also Fire Prevention Month, so put on your Halloween costumes, give a shout out and thank our volunteer firefighters for their commitment and service.



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