

Empire State  
Council of Agricultural Organizations, Inc.

**ATTENTION: CAO MEMBERS**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations will be held on January 12, 2024 at the Embassy Suites – Syracuse Destiny, in Syracuse, NY. Registration/coffee begins at 8:00 a.m. This is a great time to socialize with other members and guests. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 3:30 p.m.

This year's annual meeting promises to be both productive and thought provoking. The day's agenda (attached) includes the traditional legislative review/business session as well as an overview and discussion of CAO's priorities for 2024. We will also discuss plans for CAO's Lobby Day. An update from the Commissioner of Agriculture, Richard Ball, is planned. In addition, Dean Benjamin Houlton will discuss Cornell's College of Ag and Life Sciences and the interface between agriculture and the college. As in past years, invitations are extended to guests (government, academia and other groups) to allow for good dialogue with industry partners. You are encouraged to bring other members of your organization and interested parties to the annual meeting. *Note: 2024 Membership Dues must be paid prior to the annual meeting for your organization to be able to vote on 2024 policies.*

Overnight suite rooms are available at the Embassy Suites – Syracuse Destiny at the rate of \$159 per night, which includes a 2-hour open bar manager's reception the evening before our meeting and an expansive breakfast buffet. The hotel is located at 311 Hiawatha Blvd W, Syracuse, NY, just a short drive from the location of the NYS Ag Society meeting. **To reserve your room by December 25th**, please call (315) 303-1650 and mention code: CESCAO. If you prefer to reserve your room online, please use the following direct link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?cityhcn=SYRDEES&arrivalDate=2024-01-11&departureDate=2024-01-12&groupCode=CESCAO&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>

**TO REGISTER:** Please email Sue VanAmburgh in the CAO office at: sue@nysta.mobi. The registration fee for the meeting and lunch is **\$90.00** per person and payment can be made onsite. (Note: CAO does not accept credit card payments). If you'd like to mail a check, please send to Empire State CAO, PO Box 304, Latham, NY 12110.

**2024 Board Slate:**

Chair – Jim Bittner (NYS Horticultural Society)  
Vice Chair – Renee St. Jacques (New York Farm Bureau)  
Secretary – Brian Reeves (New York State Vegetable Growers Association)  
Treasurer – Michael Maffei, CGCS (New York State Turfgrass Association)  
Immediate Past President – Sam Filler (New York Wine & Grape Foundation)  
Director – Mary Jean Packer (Empire Sheep Producers Association)  
Director – Jodi Smith Krzysiak

NYFVI Representative - Brian Reeves will continue in this position

*The Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations  
extends its appreciation to the following Sponsors:*

