



## 2008 Awards For Excellence

MHSSC's annual awards dinner and recognition ceremony at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor recognized the 2008 award winners from the fields of teaching, administration, school board service, support staff services, and pupil personnel services.

With registration approaching 700, many family members, colleagues, and friends of the 36 award winners attended this notable evening of recognition.

Each award winner was honored with an award medal and a certificate of excellence. Statements highlighting the reasons why the individuals received this recognition were read.

This year's event was sponsored by Macmillan McGraw-Hill and HSBC Bank. Representatives of both firms were in attendance to ex-

tend their congratulations and assist in bestowing the awards. We appreciate their support, and we thank them for their generous contributions to this study council effort.

The office of the Dean of Education at SUNY New Paltz grants the awards for excellence in teaching. Nominations are submitted to the Dean of Education in early spring.

MHSSC receives nominations for all other categories during June and July. During the summer, the council's selection committees meet to review the nominations and make their decisions. Notification letters are mailed in late August prior to the opening of school.

We extend sincere congratulations to this year's winners and thank them for their outstanding service to our children.

## 2008 Awards for Excellence

### PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

- Nancy Ference, Sullivan West
- Eileen Fletcher, Ulster BOCES
- Fred McCormack, Orange/Ulster BOCES

### SUPPORT STAFF

- Victoria Bergman, Kingston
- Maria Bressler, Pine Bush
- Maria Cruz, Monticello
- Gloria Frenza, Rondout Valley
- Sylvia Glassey, Newburgh
- Pat Marchionni, Orange/Ulster BOCES
- Lars Olenius, Brewster
- Denise Palermo, Washingtonville
- Josephine Perrino, Hyde Park
- Lee Ransley, Pawling

### TEACHING

- Debra Calvino, Valley Central
- Anita Cappell, Newburgh
- Mark DeLorenzo, Orange/Ulster BOCES
- Susan Gaetano, Wallkill
- Karen MacLeod, Wappingers
- Elizabeth Olivo, Goshen
- Sandra Walker, Wappingers

### ADMINISTRATION

- Mary Bloom, Orange/Ulster BOCES
- Maureen Chiasson, Ulster BOCES
- John Hunter, Valley Central
- Aviva Kafka, Hyde Park
- Ralph LaRocca, Pine Bush
- Maureen Peterson, Washingtonville
- Lorraine Poston, Sullivan West
- Jeffery Rouse, Dutchess BOCES
- Karen Simon, Monticello

### SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE

- Michael Bello, Orange/Ulster BOCES
- Ralph Chimento, Spackenkill
- Ian Horowitz, Kingston
- Pasquale Iorlano, Valley Central
- Sarah Keenan, North Rockland
- Anthony Percoco, Ellenville
- Tom Yager, Tri-Valley



Excellence in School Board Service Award Winners



Excellence in Administration Award Winners



Excellence in Support Staff Service Award Winners



Excellence in Teaching Award Winners

# Snapshots from the Law Conference

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*August 1, 2008*



Presenters Louis Patack, David Shaw, and Monte Klein



Jay Worona with MHSSC President Christopher Como



Over 250 attendees gathered at our 53rd annual law conference



Point-Counterpoint speakers Julie Gaughran and Michael Lambert



Chris Como is flanked by presenters Jim Drohan and Stuart Waxman



David Shaw with BOCES administrative leaders

## Collective Bargaining Forum

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MHSSC will host its second annual regional forum on collective bargaining on December 9, 2008, at the Newburgh Ramada Inn on Route 300. The afternoon/evening session is scheduled to begin at 4:30 with a buffet supper at 6:00 o'clock. After dinner, the program will continue until approximately 8:00 PM.

School attorneys John Donoghue and Stuart Waxman (Donoghue,

Thomas, Auslander & Drohan) and David Shaw (Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert) will address those in attendance.

Agenda topics will include what's new in negotiations and area trends and settlements. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions of current issues and concerns.

School board presidents and vice presidents, superintendents, school

business officials, and district negotiators have been invited to attend. Notices were mailed in early October, and the registration deadline is December 1st.

Since last year's program was very well-received by our attending members, it was decided to host this event again this year.

We hope you plan to join us and participate in this year's session on collective bargaining.

## Annual Legislative Brunch Set For February

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Our annual legislative brunch is set for February 7, 2009, at the Hotel Thayer in West Point. This annual breakfast meeting with our elected officials traditionally has seen very good representation from our school districts and our area legislators.

Following a delicious brunch hosted by the Hotel Thayer, we discuss with our elected officials issues of current concern to our schools. In advocating for public education, we try to present information to our legislators about the effects their legislative actions have

on our schools, students, district budgets, employees, and local taxpayers.

At last year's brunch, Terrence Olivo (O/U BOCES) delivered an outstanding presentation addressing the following issues: equitable and timely aid to our schools, property tax relief, unfunded mandate relief, collective bargaining, local control, and the Taylor Law.

On the federal level, Terry spoke about NCLB and IDEA (Public Law 94-142). He addressed the federal government's encroaching role in our schools and the underfunding of

federal mandates. U.S. Congressman Maurice Hinchey was present to hear and respond to our concerns.

Considering the recent election results in New York State and the current financial crisis, our upcoming brunch should prove to be a very important, informative, and interesting event.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend our 2009 legislative brunch. With probable significant power shifts in Albany and New York's economic turmoil, it is vital that our schools be well-represented at this annual event.

## Research Update

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### *Finance Study Returns*

Last year we were unable to complete our annual finance study for our member districts because SED did not release the data that was needed for the report.

Since then we have been working to obtain the information we need without relying on SED. Based on the information we requested from our districts last spring, it is our understanding that almost all financial software currently in use will generate a report that replicates ST3 data reported to the State Education Department. This will allow us to complete our finance study. We are

working now with the RIC to determine the most workable method of submission. We expect to provide our districts with this information soon.

MHSSC's survey results on internet safety and usage were mailed in September. Thanks to the survey responses we received, we were able to assemble and disseminate valuable data for our schools.

Our requests for organizational charts received an excellent response, and we are now putting together a booklet that contains the charts. As soon as this project is completed, it will be mailed to our member superintendents.

Recently, we mailed a survey form on collective bargaining. Returns are coming to our office now, and we will collate the results and discuss them at our Collective Bargaining Forum on December 9th at the Newburgh Ramada Inn.

We are now collecting information from our annual data requests for true tax rates, enrollment, and general fund expenditures. We expect to generate these reports and mail them before the winter break.



## Ed Admin Moves Forward



by Dr. Edward J. Sullivan  
Chair, Department of Educational  
Administration, SUNY New Paltz

The vitality of the Faculty in the Department of Educational Administration (Ed Admin) is evident in the scope of the programs underway this semester. Serving approximately 395 graduate students, Ed Admin offers programs for those pursuing a Master's degree, interested in being a building or district administrator, and for those planning on becoming a district business official.

To help our students achieve their professional goals, the Educational Administration Depart-

ment conducts the following programs:

- \* *Masters of Education*
- \* *School District Building Leader/School District Leader on campus and at 4 regional sites (Certificate of Advanced Study)*
- \* *Transition D program for those in full-time employment in districts and who are seeking certification (Certificate of Advanced Study)*
- \* *Doctoral cohort in collaboration with SUNY Albany*

Our courses adhere to standards established by a national accrediting agency (NCATE: National Council Association of Teacher Education) and prepare students for the State Leadership Assessments that were administered for the first time in October 2008. Contemporary "buzz" issues of NCLB, audits, gaps in achievement scores, change, technology, motivating personnel, etc. are presented in course

content. Each course requires a capstone project that guides the student in applying skills, developing competencies, and fostering attitudes identified with being a successful administrator.

It is reported that nearly 85% of the administrative positions in the Mid-Hudson region are staffed by those who completed a SUNY New Paltz Educational Administration program. This fact speaks to the effectiveness of our program while placing major expectations for Ed Admin to continue its preparation of leaders who respond to the communities and are well qualified to lead complex organizations of schools and districts.

As the Chairperson of Ed Admin, I appreciate the MHSSC invitation to inform readers as to our programs and the outstanding resources known as the Department of Educational Administration.

Dr. Sullivan is Chair of the SUNY New Paltz Department of Educational Administration.

## Election Day Workshops

Anthony's Pier 9 hosted over 250 support staff members at our annual election day workshop on Tuesday, November 4th. Two program strands were offered - one for education office professionals and one for all support staff members.

Our school secretaries attended workshops throughout the day on dealing rationally with the irrational, developing a positive balance in your life, communicating effectively and assertively, and office communications. Educational consultant Brenda McGuire, Interim Superintendent Charlotte Gregory, and Susan Doyle presented during this full day conference.

Our paraprofessionals, aides, monitors, and other support staff members worked with retired special education educator John Kane during the morning session. He reviewed special education issues/definitions and addressed how to enhance the role of support staff members in our schools. Brenda McGuire joined the support staff members during the afternoon program.

According to the evaluations we received, our attendees found the day valuable and interesting. MHSSC expects to host a program of professional development for support staff members on election day 2009.

## Save The Dates

*Forum on Collective Bargaining*  
**December 9, 2008**

*Annual Legislative Brunch*  
**February 7, 2009**

*Workshop for District Clerks*  
**March 5, 2009**

*Legal Update for School Administrators*  
**March 12, 2009**

*MHSSC Executive Committee Meeting*  
**March 19, 2009**

*Panel Presentation on GASB 45*  
**March 25, 2009**

*Annual Meeting at Inn at Central Valley*  
**April 30, 2009**

## **MHSSC Officers and Executive Committee Members 2008-2009**

President - Christopher Como, Dutchess BOCES

Vice President - Anne Byrne, Nanuet

Treasurer - Richard Hooley, Valley Central

Past President - Debra Lynker, Retired

Eileen Camasso - Rondout Valley, Valencia Douglas - Nyack, Richard Feller - Monticello, Carmine Giangreco - Roscoe, Roberta Greene - Washingtonville, Lloyd Jaeger - Millbrook, Ivan Katz - Fallsburg, Edward McCormick, Arlington/Dutchess BOCES, Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Brian Monahan - North Rockland, Martha Murray - Minisink Valley, Carl Onken, O/U BOCES, Frank Pepe - Arlington, Joseph Phelan - Rhinebeck, Jane Sandbank - Brewster, Joseph Sciortino - Pawling, Mark Silverstein - Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls, Mark Vilanti - Haldane, Lisa Wiles - Ellenville, Joseph Zanetti - Tuxedo, Peggy Zugibe - No. Rockland

### Ex-Officio Members

Steven Poskanzer - SUNY New Paltz President

Terrence Olivo - Orange/Ulster BOCES, District Superintendent - Sullivan BOCES

John Pennoyer - Dutchess BOCES, Martin Ruglis - Ulster BOCES

District Superintendent - Southern Westchester BOCES

Honorary Member - William F. Moran

### Staff

Eileen Casey - Legislative Director

Lynne Cruger - Assistant to the Director

Terrence Olivo - Research Director

Susan Doyle - Executive Director

