

**FROM YOUR AREA DIRECTOR**



Hello to all the 4CSBA members, It was great to see several of you at this year's convention in NYC. We were well represented in Area 2 having over 120 attendees representing approximately 30 districts participating at the convention. For those of you who attended I hope you were able to take advantage of the many educational programs that were offered (80 in all) and to listen to some of the keynote speeches.

I also wanted to take a moment to express my thanks to the Canandaigua Academy for allowing us to use their library on October 4 to host the annual review of the Resolutions that were acted on at this year's annual business meeting.

In closing I wanted to thank all the districts that supported me by nominating me as the Area 2 Director, I'll continue to do my best in representing you so that NYSSBA remains a vital support to you and the children of your districts.

Feel free to pickup the phone and call or drop me an email; my phone numbers and email addresses are provided below.

My email addresses are: [nespeca@rochester.rr.com](mailto:nespeca@rochester.rr.com), or [thomas.nespeca@carestreamhealth.com](mailto:thomas.nespeca@carestreamhealth.com)  
Telephone numbers are: home 585-671-7858, Work 585-724-6252, Cell 585-747-9922 feel free to use any of them and they all have voice mail so leave a message and I'll do my best to get back to you ASAP.

Sincerely,

*Tom*



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Monday, November 24, 2008  
5:45 p.m.

**(Prior to the General Membership Meeting)**

**Agenda includes review of financial reports and the report and recommendations from the 2008 – 2009 Audit Committee; planning for future Four County programs and the Annual Meeting; and appointment of the Nominating Committee.**

**MAKE SURE YOUR BOARD IS REPRESENTED!**



**Website Spotlight**

[www.digitaldirections.com](http://www.digitaldirections.com) – a publication of Education Week that reports on trends and offers advice for k-12 Technology leaders  
[www.taxpayersnetwork.org](http://www.taxpayersnetwork.org) – a source for comprehensive comparative data and public policy news of interest to tax-payers across the nation.  
[www.nyslocalgov.org/pdf/LGEC](http://www.nyslocalgov.org/pdf/LGEC) - for the "Report of the NYS Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness"  
[www.cptr.state.ny.us](http://www.cptr.state.ny.us) – the website of the Commission on Property Tax Relief and their "Preliminary Report of Findings and Recommendations to Governor David A. Patterson"  
(All links available through [www.4csba.org](http://www.4csba.org))

**News**

**NYSSBA**

**Superintendent Search Process Workshop**

November 18, 2008  
Rochester Marriott Airport  
5:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

**Financial Management in Hard Times**

**Legal Conference**  
December 11, 2008

Rochester Marriott Airport  
8:45 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

**State Issues Conference**

March 1- 8, 2009  
Albany, New York

(No cost to all NYSSBA Members)

**NYSSBA OFFICERS RE-ELECTED**

Delegates to the Annual Business Meeting re-elected the current NYSSBA officers to serve a second term. Congratulations to: President **Wayne Schlifke** (Erie 1 BOCES), Vice Presidents **Florence Johnson** (Buffalo) and Area 2 Director **Tom Nespeca** (Webster) and Treasurer **Mike Masse** (Fayetteville-Manlius). Rounding out the leadership group is Immediate Past President **Carl Onken** (Orange-Ulster BOCES).

**Tom**, a frequent guest at Four County programs, was re-elected to a two-year term as the Area 2 representative to the NYSSBA Board of Directors. We look forward to our continued collaborative efforts on behalf of board members in the Four County area.



**MEMBER DIRECTORY PUBLISHED**

The 2008-2009 Four County Membership Directory is hot off the press. They were distributed to those in attendance at the General Membership Meeting on October 29. For all others, they will arrive shortly through the BOCES Bus Mail System. Directories are provided for every Four County board member, superintendent, board clerk and district secretary. If you have not received yours in the next week or so, please check with your board clerk. In addition to contact information for all members, the directory includes committee rosters, Association Bylaws and policies, the 2008-2009 Calendar of Events and contact information for Area legislators and the Board of Regents.

[Http://www.4ba.org](http://www.4ba.org)

**FOUR COUNTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NYSSBA CONVENTION**

In addition to attending "In-Depth Workshops and educational seminars, browsing the exhibit floor, voting at the Annual Meeting, and networking with colleagues, a number of Four County members, superintendents, and school district staff were tapped to preside or present at workshops throughout the weekend. Talking about "Green Technology as a Career" were Wayne-Finger Lakes staffers **James Buck** (Instructor New Visions Renewable Energy program) and **Craig Logan** (Principle Wayne Technical and Career Center) presented the one-year interdisciplinary program where senior explore emerging issues in renewable energy and alternative fuels. Representing the NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, **Rick Amundson** (Superintendent Lyons CSD) presented a seminar entitled "Health, Physical Activity, and Academic Achievement" linking lifestyle behaviors and habits with learning readiness and achievement. Lending their skill as presiders were Canandaigua Board President **Tarry Shipley**, Geneva Board member and Four County President **Tom Scherer**, and FCSBA Executive Director **Sharon Sweeney**. In addition voting delegates participated in the Upstate/Downstate Resolutions Discussion and **Tom** and **Sharon** attended the **Council of Local School Boards Association's (COLSBA)** meeting.

During quiet hours Four County members enjoyed the opportunity to relax and chat with colleagues from across the state in the **Upstate/Downstate Hospitality Suite**. Thanks to the following organizations whose support helps to make that possible in New York City:

**Ashley McGraw Architects**    **Hodgson Russ Attorneys**  
**Nassau Suffolk SBA**        **Turner Construction**



**SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE**  
**Four County SBA**  
**Fiscal Training Seminar**  
*(Fulfilling the mandatory 6 hours)*  
**APRIL 25, 2009**  
**(LOCATION TBA)**  
**REQUIRED BY JUNE 30**  
**FOR ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS,**  
**NEWLY ELECTED**  
**OR RE-ELECTED IN MAY 2008.**

*(Member rate for entire 6 hours - \$90.00)*

**FOUR COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA DISCUSSED**

Representative and Alternates to the Legislative Committee have met for two Saturday mornings to consider the Legislative agenda for the Association. Work on the State Position Paper is nearly complete. Future workshops will review and revise the Federal and Regulatory papers. **David Little**, NYSSBA Director of Governmental Relations and BOCES Superintendent **Joe Marinelli** have served as resources to the group. Thanks to Legislative Committee Chair **Anne Morgan** for facilitating the discussion. See notice for future workshop dates.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE POSITION PAPER WORKSHOPS**

**Saturday – November 22, 2008**  
**Saturday – December 13, 2008**

**8:30 a.m. – Registration and Refreshments**  
**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon – Discussion**

**MAKE SURE YOUR BOARD'S ISSUES ARE CONSIDERED!**



*As this is the last newsletter of 2008...*

**Happy Holidays to All**

*May you enjoy the warmth of family and friends for Thanksgiving & for all of the coming Holiday Season*

*from*  
*Four County Staff - Sharon & Mary*

*&*  
*Steering Committee - Tom, Joyce, Nancy, Jeanne, Anne, Jim, Kathy, and Mike*



**ELECTION RESULTS 2008**

Congratulations to re-elected State Senators from the Four County area:

- **George Winner** (53<sup>rd</sup> District)
- **Michael Nozzolio** (54<sup>th</sup> District)
- **Dale Volker** (59<sup>th</sup> District)

And to re-elected Congressman:

- **Michael Arcuri** (24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District)

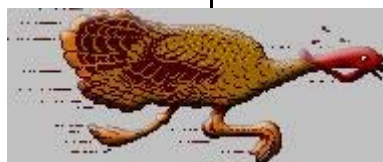
Welcome to newly elected Congressmen

- **Daniel Meffe** (25<sup>th</sup> District) and
- **Eric Massa** (29<sup>th</sup> District)

Four County members look forward to working with them on behalf of public education

**"Recognition is the greatest motivator." ~Gerald C. Eakedale**

November	December	January	February	March
5 Property Tax Cap Hearing (Roch.)	2 Statewide Finance Consortium	5 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting	6 FCSBA Negotiators' Breakfast	10 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting
7 NYSSBA Policy Workshop (Roch.)	9 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting	15 FCSBA Board of Directors'/ Legislative/ General Membership Meetings	16 Presidents' Day Holiday	21 FCSBA Legislative Breakfast
8 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop	11 NYSSBA Fiscal Management Legal Conference	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	16-20 Winter Recess	28 FCSBA Prospective School Board Member Seminar
11 FCSBA Steering Committee Meeting	13 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop	23 Statewide Finance Consortium	23 FCSBA General Membership Meeting	
22 FCSBA Legislative Position Paper Workshop	25-26 Christmas Holiday-Office Closed	29 FCSBA Presidents'/ Vice Presidents' Dinner	27 Statewide Finance Meeting	
24 FCSBA General Membership/ Board of Directors' Meeting				
27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed				



**Four County School Boards Association**  
131 Drumlin Court  
Newark, NY 14513

## November 2008

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Monday, November 24, 2008

Club 86, Avenue E, Geneva, NY

5:30 – Registration/Conversation      5:45 – Board of Directors' Meeting  
6:30 – Dinner      7:30 – Program

### “ARE YOU SMARTER THAN THE AVERAGE BOARD MEMBER?”

Facilitated by

**Barry Entwistle**

Director of Leadership Development, New York State School Boards Association

with use of

**The Audience Response System**

Courtesy of Reese Davis and Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Test your knowledge and experience against that of your Four County colleagues and the experts! We will explore the role and responsibilities of the board vs. those of the superintendent! Help us to identify the difference between oversight and accountability and micro management?

Tom Scherer  
President

Joyce Lyke  
1st Vice President

Nancy Scher  
2nd Vice President

Jeanne Durfee  
Past President

Anne Morgan  
Legislative Committee Chair

Jim Koehler  
Legislative Committee Vice Chair

Kathy Malone  
Program Planning Chair

Mike Ellis  
Program Planning Vice Chair

Sharon A. Sweeney  
Executive Director

Mary Tranelli  
Administrative Assistant

## President's Message



### “Unprecedented Challenges”

There may be more than a few of you who can recall the mid-year givebacks by school districts in the early 90's and the hardships those givebacks created for districts across New York State. By comparison, the givebacks of the 90's will pale against the potential budget cuts that districts are about to face as we prepare our budgets for the 2009-2010 school year.

As if that were not enough, districts will also be facing the pressure of a possible 4% property tax cap on one end and flat lined state aid on the other. Something has to give! Hopefully our legislators will realize the tremendous strain both of those pressures will create and come forth with some realistic solutions and deliver an educationally sound state budget. (How about eliminating underfunded and unfunded mandates or easing the financial restrictions placed on school districts dealing with the complexities of the Contracts for Excellence.....mmmmmm!!!)

The point of this letter is to remind all of our Four County School Board members that we must strengthen our efforts in standing together in seeking adequate state aid for all of our schools. With the decline on Wall Street continuing, our legislators will be under great pressure in their attempts to balance the state budget. So the question is - what can we as board members do to influence our state legislators?

Let me offer two suggestions for your consideration. First, your Four County School Boards Association will be representing your school board's interests at both the State and Federal levels. Our Legislative Committee is already busy at work formulating our State and Federal position papers to communicate our priorities clearly and persuasively. Specifically, your active participation in attending the State Legislative Network to be held in Albany, March 1 – March 3 is an important step. This year for the first time, NYSSBA is eliminating the registration fee for the State Issues Conference. Instead of being appointed to participate in the conference, all school board members are encouraged to attend this important function.

Second, for board members who are unable to participate in the State Issues Conference, I would suggest taking advantage of “Capwiz” which is offered through the NYSSBA website and it's Legislative Action Center. Go to [www.nyssba.org](http://www.nyssba.org), click on Advocacy/Legislation, then click on Legislative Action Center. At the click of a mouse, you can send pre-written messages to your legislators. All you have to do is preview the letter, add your own thoughts if you wish add your name at the end of the letter and click send. When the “Calls to Action” arrive at your computer from your Four County School Boards Association or NYSSBA, use this important tool. It really is that simple and easy. If little Tommy Scherer can figure it out, anyone can do it!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AT CLUB 86 IN GENEVA!**

**TOM**

(Editor's Note – It has been reported by the staff at NYSSBA that Tom Scherer is the most frequent user of “Capwiz” in the entire state!! Thank you Tom!)

