



Calendar Highlights

MHSSC Executive Committee Meeting
Newburgh Ramada Inn
September 22, 2005

Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Administration, School Board Service, Support Staff Service, and Pupil Personnel Services
Anthony's Pier 9
October 19, 2005

Concurrent Workshops for Support Staff Members
▶ *Paraprofessionals, Aides, Monitors, and other support staff members*
▶ *Education Secretaries*
▶ *Teaching Assistants and Classroom Aides*
Anthony's Pier 9
November 8, 2005

Mentoring Sessions for New Administrators
Newburgh Ramada Inn
Nov. 15, 2005, Dec. 13, 2005
Jan. 12, 2006, Feb. 8, 2006

MHSSC

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2005 Awards For Excellence

Bank of America, SUNY New Paltz, and MHSSC will honor the recipients of the 2005 Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Administration, School Board Service, Support Staff Service, and Pupil Personnel Services on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor.

We are pleased this year to include a new awards category, *Excellence in Pupil Personnel Services*. Guidance counselors, school social workers, school nurses, speech therapists, school psychologists, and occupational therapists are included in this awards category, and we are delighted this year to recognize seven outstanding individuals from this field.

This year we will honor 39 awards for excellence winners - the largest number of award winners to date! Colleagues, friends, and family members are invited and encouraged to join the award winners at this prestigious dinner at Anthony's Pier 9. We hope you plan to join this celebration in October as we recognize this year's outstanding Hudson Valley educators.

Registration forms were mailed to the office of the superintendent in early September.

This year's award winners are listed below.

Administration

Gladys Baxter, Monticello
Deborha Brush, Pine Bush
Shirley Cannelli, Rhinebeck
Dianne Matos Craig, Ulster BOCES
Virginia Ferri, Rondout Valley
Carol Gannon, Clarkstown
Valerie Hannum, Kingston
John McHale, O/U BOCES
Walter Niemiec, Dutchess BOCES
Anibal Velez, Newburgh

Support Staff

Mary Lou Botsford, Newburgh
Joanne Coladangelo, Pine Bush
Sonnia Ferb, Wallkill
Suzanne Hichak, Washingtonville
Judith Pugh, Monticello
Lee Riley, Spackenkill
Ronald Ryerson, Port Jervis
Michele Smith, Ulster BOCES
Eleanor Varian, Monroe-Woodbury
Gaila Weisberg, Tri-Valley

Pupil Personnel Services

Audrey Carey, Newburgh
Susan Moore, Pine Bush
Fereshte Nikfetrat, Ulster BOCES
Mary Ann Prior, Clarkstown
Sharon Schroeder, Eldred
Leonard Singer, O/U BOCES
Regina Wagner, Sullivan BOCES

Board Service

George Dean, Tri-Valley
David Grammerstorf, North Rockland
Ralph Pizzo, Newburgh

Teaching

Frances Bennett, Newburgh
Valorey Cassidy, Clarkstown
Diane Gonzalez, East Ramapo
Gordon Hardy, Brewster
James Krupp, Livingston Manor
Alison Miller, O/U BOCES
Michele Palmer, Rondout Valley
John Vassak, North Salem
MaryAnn Williams, Rhinebeck

MHSSC President Marilyn Pirkle with law conference presenters Ed Sarzynski, Vanessa Sheehan, Mark Reinharz, Craig Olivo, and Jay Worona

School of Education Dean Robert Michael presents the anniversary cake at our law conference.



Knowledge is power, but enthusiasm pulls the switch.

Ivern Ball



Very few burdens are heavy if everyone lifts.

Sy Wise

MHSSC's 50th School Law Conference

MHSSC celebrated the 50th anniversary of our annual school law conference on August 5, 2005. The Lecture Center on the SUNY New Paltz campus hosted our event.

With support from a number of school law firms, SUNY New Paltz, and the School of Education at New Paltz we were able to present a celebratory conference with commemorative embossed programs, specially designed tote bags, book marks, an anniversary cake, and an

extended program.

Our presenters delivered expert presentations on the current legal issues facing our schools. Our keynote speaker, Jay Worona (NYSSBA), reviewed the significant legal decisions that have impacted our schools during the past 50 years. Vanessa Sheehan (Guercio and Guercio) addressed the recent decisions of the Commissioner and the courts. Craig Olivo and Mark Reinharz (Bond, Schoeneck and King PLLC) gave

the historical and current significance of the Taylor Law. Following lunch, Ed Sarzynski (Hogan, Sarzynski, Lynch, Surowka & DeWind LLP) delivered a presentation on the reauthorization of IDEA. All attendees received copies of the presentations.

Almost 200 superintendents, school board members, administrators, and school attorneys attended this special anniversary conference.

Mentoring Sessions for New Administrators

MHSSC's mentoring sessions for new school administrators begins on November 15, 2005, at the Ramada Inn in Newburgh.

At each of the four afternoon/evening sessions, a panel of experienced school leaders will address specific topics with our attending members. Dealing with difficult parents and difficult teachers will be the topic at our first session in November. Other topics during the 2005-06 school year include the following: time management 101 for

new administrators, politics in school administration (pitfalls and predicaments to avoid), and getting the best—keeping the best (strategies for recruiting, interviewing, and retaining quality personnel).

With venerable school administrators serving as panel presenters, our new school leaders will have excellent interactive opportunities during each session.

Previous year's seminars have been productive, informative, and interest-

ing. MHSSC is again looking forward to offering this unique mentoring opportunity for new administrators and administrative interns.

Information and reservations forms will be mailed at the end of September. Also, you may register online by going to our website (www.newpaltz.edu/mhssc). In the calendar section find the mentoring sessions and register according to directions.

MHSSC at NYSCOSS and NYSSBA

MHSSC will join the study councils from New York State in presenting a concurrent session on Tuesday, September 27th during the NYSCOSS fall conference in Saratoga Springs.

The Study Council Alliance of NYS is composed of 6 regional councils af-

filiated with major colleges and universities. They offer a wide range of cost-effective professional development activities. The session on September 27th will highlight a number of council programs that are offered in the different regions of NYS.

At the NYSSBA annual

convention in Rochester, MHSSC joins area school boards associations and the law firm of Donoghue, Thomas, Auslander & Drohan in sponsoring a hospitality suite at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel.

We will announce the suite's location in October.

AASA President-Elect Address

by David Gee, Ed.D., SUNY New Paltz and
AASA President-Elect

The following excerpts were taken from the address of AASA's President-Elect David Gee delivered on February 20, 2005, in San Antonio, Texas.

Several years ago, during a period of time when public education was under constant attack and major reforms were being initiated, a master theme that provided the impetus and agenda for our association was developed under the leadership of John Lawrence. That theme, *Stand Up for Public Education*, became our association's call to action.

As I contemplated the enormous leadership challenges before me, I devoted considerable time and thought to what I would propose as our agenda during my term as President. After reflecting with pride on our past efforts to be the *voice in the dark* proclaiming that our children (all our children) are our most important resource, I quickly realized that while we have made great progress, our work is far from over and greater challenges demanding our attention lie ahead.

Now more than ever, we must join forces and remain vigilant in our efforts

to defend and support the needs of our children. There are still too many who rush to criticize public education and demand that public education and its leaders must change. Our critics continue to support more and more reforms, but fail to adequately evaluate the reforms that have been recently put into place. More importantly, those same critics have failed to explain how these new reforms will benefit all children.

Therefore, as your president, I have decided to continue and expand upon the initiative started several years ago, and focus my efforts (OUR efforts) on the fact that public education is the very foundation of our freedom. Public education has been and will continue to be the foundation of our American society. Providing a quality education to all our children is one of our country's greatest responsibilities and the best way to ensure that we maintain our freedom and democratic way of life.

As states experience ongoing budget shortfalls, schools are expected to do more with less. No longer can we succeed by think-

ing of ourselves as individual school districts and communities. Public education is stronger when we are all of one mind united in achieving the same goal. School administrators, working with parents, business and community leaders, and our elected officials, can succeed in making our schools the best they can be. Race, family income, or where a child lives should not be a factor when determining the quality of education that a child receives. Our children should expect nothing short of excellence from all of us. It is their right and our responsibility.

Our national association must *stand up for public education, the foundation of our democracy* by playing a leadership role in providing you, the educational leaders of our country, with the tools and skills that you need in order to successfully implement change and continuous improvement initiatives.

I urge you to play an active role in our national organization and to continue to *stand up for public education, the foundation of democracy*.

*David Gee, SUNY New Paltz,
and AASA President-Elect*

Remembering When

*Ewald B. Nyquist
was New York's
Commissioner of Education*

*State Senator
D. Clinton Dominick
from Newburgh (R 37)
was Chairman of the
Joint Legislative Committee
on Revision and
Simplification of the
Education Law*

*William Hageny
was
Executive Secretary
of MHSSC*

*William F. Moran
was President of MHSSC*

*The year was
1970*

Reminder...

*MHSSC Research Fees are due in September.
If you have not already done so, please remit your payment today
so that you may continue to enjoy the benefits and privileges
of our study council without interruption.*

Support Staff Conferences November 8, 2005

*Now you can
register online
for all
MHSSC workshops
and conferences.*

*Visit our website
and open the calendar
to the specific event.
Send the e-mail,
and you are registered!*

On election day 2005, MHSSC will offer three separate professional development programs for the support staff members in our schools. Anthony's Pier 9 will host this full day of in-service training for our education office professionals, teaching assistants, and paraprofessionals.

Program topics for our paraprofessionals, aides and monitors include the following: demonstrating a positive attitude, projecting a professional image, managing conflict, identifying bullying behavior, learning skills and intervention techniques for teasing and bullying, and ergonomics and stress related injuries.

Education office professionals will begin their day with a school law update on NCLB, FERPA, student records, and confidentiality issues. Ergonomics and stress related injuries will conclude the morning program. Following lunch, the afternoon session will focus on personal planning and include the following topics: dealing with major time wasters, saying 'no' gracefully, becoming your own manager, appropriate use of e-mail, simplifying your life and reducing stress.

A school law update by an area school attorney is on the agenda for the teaching assistants enrolled in this conference. They will also learn skills to identify bullying and teasing behavior. The afternoon segment of this program will focus on classroom management issues and concerns.

Notices for these concurrent sessions will be mailed in September. Members will have an opportunity to take advantage of a cost discount for multiple registrations. Be sure to register early as this conference fills quickly.

MHSSC Executive Committee Members 2005 - 2006

President - Marilyn Pirkle, Washingtonville
Vice President - Joseph Zanetti, Tuxedo
Treasurer - Mark Lewis, Brewster
Past President - Edward McCormick, Arlington

Ann Bogert - O/U BOCES, Anne Byrne - Nanuet, Eileen Casey - Monticello, Christopher Como - Dutchess BOCES, Lynn Cybulski - Wallkill, Alan Derry - Sullivan West, Vito DiCesare - Beacon, Jason Friedman - East Ramapo, Matthew Frumess - Liberty, Richard Hooley - Valley Central, Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Walter Milton - Fallsburg, Joseph Natale - Warwick Valley, Carl Onken - O/U BOCES, Frank Pepe - Arlington, Mark Silverstein - Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls, Marilyn Terranova - Carmel, Dodge Watkins - North Rockland, Lisa Wiles - Ellenville, Justine Winters - Onteora, Peggy Zugibe - No. Rockland

Ex-Officio Members

Steven Poskanzer - SUNY New Paltz President, Martin Handler - Sullivan BOCES, Robert Hanna - Orange/Ulster BOCES, James Langlois - Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, John Pennoyer - Dutchess BOCES, James Ryan - Rockland BOCES, Martin Ruglis - Ulster BOCES, Ronald Smalls - Southern Westchester BOCES

Honorary Member - William F. Moran

Staff

Chris Bergner - Research Associate
Lynne Cruger - Assistant to the Director
Ed Stoddard - Legislative Director
Susan Doyle - Executive Director

*Visit our website
www.newpaltz.edu/mhssc
to learn more about us,
get calendar updates,
see our schedule of events,
and review
our newsletters.*

*Remember ...
from our site
you can download the
notices and reservation
forms for our programs
and workshops.*