

Calendar Highlights

*Study Seminars for
New School Administrators*
Newburgh Clarion Hotel
December 9, 2003
January 27, 2004
February 25, 2004
March 31, 2004

*Fleet Bank & MHSSC
Annual Legislative Brunch*
Hotel Thayer, West Point
February 7, 2004

*MHSSC Executive
Committee Meeting*
Newburgh Clarion Hotel
March 25, 2004

Workshop for District Clerks
Newburgh Clarion Hotel
April 1, 2004

MHSSC's Annual Meeting
Inn at Central Valley
April 28, 2004

MHSSC

**Room 101E, OMB
75 So. Manheim Blvd.
SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz, NY 12561
Tel: (845) 257-2820
FAX: (845) 257-2797
E-mail: doyles@newpaltz.edu
crugerl@newpaltz.edu**

**Website Address
www.newpaltz.edu/mhssc**

Awards Dinner Sets New Attendance Record

In cooperation with the School of Education at SUNY New Paltz and with generous support from Fleet Bank, MHSSC hosted our annual awards dinner on October 15th at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor.

Awards for excellence in school board service, administration, teaching, and support staff service were granted before an audience of 843 people. Individual recognition was given to 29 award winners along with medals of excellence, pins, and award certificates.

While this annual event is usually well-attended by colleagues, friends, and family members of the award winners, the dramatic increase in attendance can be attributed to this year's inclusion of the new category, excellence in support

staff service.

The Awards for Excellence program continues to be a prestigious event for our study council. This positive and rewarding recognition ceremony is an outstanding way to acknowledge the dedication and excellence of our area educators.

*MHSSC President Jason Friedman (right)
with recipients of the Awards for Excellence in
Support Staff Service*

Conference Day Support Staff Workshops

On November 4th, MHSSC hosted concurrent workshops for support staff members at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor.

Education Office Professionals participated in a full day professional development program that included the following agenda topics: *School Law for School Secretaries, Exceptional Customer Service, Dealing With Difficult People, and Women's Health Issues.*

Teacher Aides/Assistants, Monitors, and Paraprofessionals received in-service training on students with special needs, customer service, wellness issues, NCLB, SAVE, FERPA, and confidentiality issues.

The presentations were moderated by a number of experienced and knowledgeable individuals including area school attorneys, two healthcare professionals, a human resource specialist, and a special education professional.

Over 500 support staff members attended the workshop sessions during this worthwhile, valuable conference day.

On election day next year (Tuesday, November 2, 2004) MHSSC will offer another full-day professional development program for the support staff members in our schools.

*Attorneys from the law firm of Donoghue,
Thomas, Auslander & Drohan who partici-
pated in the November 4th program included
Dan Petigrow, Larry Thomas, Stu Waxman,
John Donoghue, and James Drohan*

Panel members MaryAnn Wilson (left) and Charlotte Gregory (right) talk with program participant, Terrence Devine (Valley Central) at the December 9th session.



Four short words
sum up what has lifted
most successful individuals
above the crowd:
a little bit more.
They did all that
was expected of them
and a little bit more.
A. Lou Vickery



Seminar Sessions for New Administrators

For the 2003-04 school year, MHSSC, in cooperation with SUNY New Paltz Department of Educational Administration, is hosting a series of 4 seminar sessions for new school administrators.

The program is designed to give the new school administrator an important opportunity to discuss leadership issues with knowledgeable, experienced school administrators. Each evening will focus on a different topic, and a panel of accomplished school leaders will participate in a panel pres-

entation.

The first session was held on December 9th at the Newburgh Clarion Hotel and focused on the topic, *Supervising Your Former Peers*. Panel members included Jill Ber-cowicz (Spackenkill), Steve Fisch (Pine Bush), Robert Katulak (No. Rockland) Charlotte Gregory (Catskill), and MaryAnn Wilson (O/U BOCES).

Future programs include the following: *Politics and The New Administrator*; *Parent, Guardian & Community Issues*; and *Union-Management Issues*.

The sessions will be held on January 27th, February 25th, and March 31st.

Program participants discussed the need for a more formal, structured approach to mentoring new school leaders in our region, and they reviewed a draft MHSSC proposal outlining a council sponsored mentoring experience for new school administrators.

We expect to continue this dialogue at our future seminar sessions, and we welcome and encourage ideas and suggestions from our member districts.

MHSSC Committees

At the December Executive Committee meeting, President Jason Friedman appointed MHSSC's nominating and budget committees for 2004.

Budget committee members include Donald Andrews, Eileen Casey, Vito DiCesare, Jason Friedman, Ed McCormick, Dean Robert Michael,

Terrence Olivo, Heidi Resk, Ron Smalls, and Joseph Zanetti. The committee is chaired by Treasurer Marilyn Pirkle.

Nominating Committee members include Donald Andrews, Eileen Casey, Terrence Olivo, and Heidi Resk, and is chaired by Ronald Smalls.

Members will vote on

the budget and the proposed slate of officers at our study council's Annual Meeting on April 28, 2004.

The Dues Review Committee presented a proposal to establish a long-range dues schedule for MHSSC. The proposal will be placed on the March 25th executive committee agenda.

Individual Membership Approved

At their December meeting, MHSSC's Executive Committee members approved a proposal for individual membership in the Mid-Hudson School Study Council.

The purpose of individual membership is to allow individuals who have had an association with MHSSC to maintain a relationship with our study council after they leave their district. Individuals may apply for this membership if they have been

employed by or served as a trustee in an MHSSC member school district or related educational organization.

All individual membership requests must be approved the council's executive committee.

While this membership does not include voting privileges, individual members are entitled to the following: mailings of program announcements and reservations forms for all MHSSC conferences/

workshops/dinner meetings; attendance at said functions upon payment of the member registration fee established for each program; copies of council newsletters and annual reports.

Individual membership fees are established each year by MHSSC's executive committee and the membership period is for one year.

Fees for the 2003-04 school year have been set at \$50 per person.

Beyond “Safe” Schools – Part 2

By Rose Rudnitski, Ed.D., SUNY New Paltz

My research and publication as a professor have focused on social justice from the global level down to interactions between students. In a small 1948 A.D.L. pamphlet detailing the steps that led to the Holocaust, Gordon Allport delineated the following steps that he said escalated to the Holocaust.

Antilocution
Stereotyping
Scapegoating
Discrimination
Physical Attack
Murder/Incarceration
Torture/Genocide

The first behavior, antilocution, is negative speech. On reading this, I immediately realized that children engaged in these behaviors and, in 1996, wrote an article for the Social Science Record detailing that theory.

Name-calling/Dissing
Slamming
Stereotyping
Scapegoating
Ostracism
Bullying
Physical Attack

In their everyday “friendly” conversations, students use put-downs and in-

sults as a form of “joking around.” Yet, as adults, if someone were to make a blonde joke to a blonde or even an outright insult in anger, which kids do, we would let that person know that is unacceptable in our school.

Even very young children use words as a form of violence to hurt others when they are angry in our classrooms, hallways, and sports and play areas. We make excuses, saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me;” when, in fact every one of us can remember the names that we were called when we were children. We also use such truisms as, “Children are cruel,” to excuse harmful speech. Under these conditions, antilocution thrives and escalates.

We don’t have to go back in history to illustrate this escalation. The evidence is as close as the practice of writing “slam books,” a popular activity among young adolescents in which a group collects insults and binds them into a book for another adolescent to read and keep as a memento of their contempt.

Violence begins with thought, which is usually first expressed as speech. We need to be more attentive to the speech of our students and our own speech if we want to truly make a difference for our students’ safety both now and in the future. Yes, we need to have the highest expectations for all our teachers, students and communities. Yes, we need to teach to the highest standards and we want our children to exhibit the highest achievement. But let’s not forget that the best predictor of adult mental health is the nature of peer interactions as children and adolescents. If we want our students to live full lives as lifelong learners and contributors to our democracy, we need to model kind, caring behavior and to teach lifelong social and emotional skills as well. A healthy community is based on caring human relationships.

Let’s engage in our work with each other with the knowledge that all that we do occurs in the context of our human relationships and that we will be most successful if we attend to and nurture those relationships.

*Dr. Rose Rudnitski
SUNY New Paltz*

Looking back.....

According to a 1992 MHSSC survey, the key issues facing school administrators were implementing site based shared decision making, the New Compact for Learning, and team building.

For school boards, the key issues were school board training, defining their role, and understanding the responsibilities of the superintendent of schools.

*MHSSC’s Annual Legislative Brunch
sponsored by Fleet Bank*

*February 7, 2004 at Thayer Hotel in West Point
9:30 AM ~ Noon*

*For details about our brunch, please see the article on
the last page of this newsletter.*



<p style="text-align: center;">Legislative Brunch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Meeting</p>
<p>MHSSC and Fleet Bank will host their 19th annual legislative brunch on Saturday, February 7, 2004 at the Hotel Thayer at West Point.</p> <p>Area legislators have been invited to join our school board members and superintendents at this annual event. Beginning at 9:30 am, the study council will present its 2004 platform to our legislators and hear their responses. The council has invited Senator Stephen Saland (Chairman, Senate Education Committee) and Assemblyman Steven Sanders (Chairman, Assembly Education Committee) to address our school personnel at the brunch.</p> <p>All school board members and interested school personnel are invited to attend. While school board presidents and superintendents attend as guests of Fleet Bank, additional registrations may be made for a \$22.00 per person fee.</p> <p>We anticipate a positive and productive morning, and we encourage you to mark your calendars for this important opportunity to dialogue with our elected officials. Registration forms were mailed in early January.</p>	<p><i>Be sure to mark your calendars now for</i> <i>MHSSC's</i> <i>annual</i> <i>dinner meeting</i> <i>at the</i> <i>Inn at Central Valley</i> <i>on April 28, 2004.</i></p> <p><i>Once again,</i> <i>Turner Construction</i> <i>will sponsor our</i> <i>social hour from</i> <i>6:00 pm until 7:00 pm.</i></p>

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.

**MHSSC Executive Committee Members
2003-2004**

President - Jason Friedman, East Ramapo
 Vice President - Edward L. McCormick, Arlington, Dutchess BOCES
 Treasurer - Marilyn Pirkle, Rondout Valley
 Past President - Ronald Smalls, Southern Westchester BOCES

Donald Andrews - Wallkill, Vincent Beni - Irvington, Ann Bogert - O/U BOCES, Anne Byrne - Nanuet, Eileen Casey - Monticello, Lynn Cybulski - Wallkill, Alan Derry - New Paltz, Vito DiCesare - Beacon, Matthew Frumess - Liberty, Mark Lewis - Brewster, Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Joseph Natale - Warwick Valley, Terrence Olivo - Monroe-Woodbury, Heidi Resk - Wappingers, George Vanderzell - Tri-Valley, Jan Volpe - Red Hook, George Will - Roscoe, Dodge Watkins - North Rockland, Joseph Zanetti - Tuxedo, Peggy Zugibe - No. Rockland

Ex-Officio Members
 Steven Poskanzer - SUNY New Paltz President, Martin Handler - Sullivan BOCES, Robert Hanna - Orange/Ulster BOCES, Donald McKenzie - 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

