

President's Corner

It must be a great luxury to be a state legislator. After all, when you're just a lowly school board trustee, you don't really have the time in the summer to argue over who has the key to the board room or whether or not going across the auditorium floor for a cup of coffee amounts to making a quorum. Instead, you look at the calendar and realize that in a matter of a few weeks, hundreds and hundreds of children will arrive on your doorstep, ready to learn. You hope and pray that you'll be ready for them.

The public doesn't really understand what we do as school board members, but that's really it. We see to it that their money is used to educate the children of their communities. What's scary is the very simplicity of that mission, because failure is so easily defined. If the schools aren't open, if the teachers and non-instructional staff are not in place, if there are no books or busses or toilet paper, then we have failed. Pure and simple. Nonetheless, we accomplish this goal each and every year, in good times and bad, and we do it as elected officials who serve without pay. Unbelievable.

Another academic year soon begins, and we'll do it all over again. We'll do it in spite of a legislature that still hasn't passed Wicks Law reform, or a property tax circuit breaker or even a new Tier 5 pension plan. We'll do it even if we remain saddled with nonsensical paperwork which costs our communities time and money, offering nothing in return. We'll do it in the face of crushing mandates that sap our economic strength and literally steal money out of the pockets of our neighbors. We'll do it because we are school board trustees and there are children depending on us to do it; children we see everyday on our streets and in our playgrounds. We'll do it because that's what we promised to do and as school board members, we keep our promises.

Is there a message here? There is. The message is that I am proud to be your president; proud to represent a group of the most selfless individuals I have ever met. As September approaches, hold your heads high. Unlike others, you've done your job well.



SAVE THE DATE

**NASSAU-SUFFOLK
SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

RESOLUTIONS DINNER MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

*N-SSBA V.P. Chairs
NYSSBA Resolutions Committee*

Mary Jo O'Hagan was appointed Chair of the New York State School Boards Association's Resolutions Committee. The Committee is charged with determining "recommended" or "not recommended" designations on the Resolutions submitted for consideration at NYSSBA'S Annual Business Meeting. Area 12 is represented by Mattituck-Cutchogue BOE member **Jeff Smith**. Long Island board members will have the opportunity to review the Resolutions at N-SSBA's Resolutions Dinner Meeting on September 30th.

In Memoriam – FRAN GREENSPAN

N-SSBA is grieving the loss of our Vice President, **Fran Greenspan**. A long-time member of N-SSBA's Executive Committee, Fran served on all major committees, but her enthusiasm and focus was legislative advocacy. She chaired both the Legislation and Finance Committees. A member of the Half Hollow Hills Board of Education for 17 years, she was re-elected as its President for 2009-10. The district's administration building was recently renamed "Fran Greenspan Administration Center".

In 2007 Fran was honored with N-SSBA's Distinguished Service Award. The words on the award pay tribute to her commitment: "FRAN GREENSPAN – for her insight and studious pursuit of school funding and legislative issues; for her untiring efforts to further the goals of public education; for her extraordinary commitment to the Half Hollow Hills School District and Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association that brings honor to all school board trustees".

In Memoriam – RICHARD ORNAUER

It is with sorrow that N-SSBA shares the news of the passing of our former President, **Richard Ornauer**. Richard began his service on the Executive Committee in 1962 and served as N-SSBA President 1977-79. He went on to serve as NYSSBA Area 11 Director until 1987, when he and his wife Rexene (former NYSSBA President) retired to Delaware. As NYSSBA Area Director, he took particular interest in establishing Long Island board members as an active and formidable advocacy group in both NSBA's Federal Relations Network and NYSSBA's State Legislative Network. In 1979 his long service to N-SSBA was acknowledged with its Distinguished Service Award.

Richard Ornauer was a 16-year member of the Merrick Board of Education and a founding member of the Nassau BOCES Board of Education on which he served for 20 years.

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N-SSBA OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2009-2010

OFFICERS

President Suffolk Vice President Nassau Vice President Secretary/Treasurer	Jay Breakstone Vacant Mary Jo O'Hagan James March	Bellmore Baldwin (Chair, Board In-Service) Bayport-Blue Point (Chair, Budget & Legislation Committee)
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NASSAU COUNTY

Lana Ajemian Ronald Ellerbe Dolores Garger Martin Kaye Maryanne Lehrer Mark Masin Patricia Rudd Ronald Walsh Deborah Coates	Syosset Freeport (Vice Chair, Finance Committee) Hicksville West Hempstead Oceanside Rockville Centre New Hyde Park (Vice Chair, Legislation Committee) Locust Valley Nassau BOCES
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SUFFOLK COUNTY

Elizabeth Dragone Juliet Jordon-Thompson Jim Kaden Karen Lessler Edward Murphy Jr. Gregory Nardone Brian Sales Gary Schoer Sandra Townsend John Verdone	Northport-East Northport Amityville South Huntington – Immediate Past President Middle Country Lindenhurst Bay Shore Copiague (Chair, Finance Committee) Harborfields Eastern Suffolk BOCES Sayville
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STAFF

Lorraine Deller Vivian Molitor	Executive Director Office Manager
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N-SSBA 2009-2010 CALENDAR

(Subject to Change)

Check Our Website: www.nssba.org for Updated Calendar

JULY/AUGUST 2009	SEPTEMBER 2009	OCTOBER 2009	NOVEMBER 2009	DECEMBER 2009
<p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p> <p>23 – NYSSBA Law Conf., Long Island</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p> <p>21-22 – NYSSBA New Member Academy, L. I.</p>	<p>10 – N-SSBA Joint Finance/Legislation Committees Meeting, WS BOCES</p> <p>17 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p> <p>24 – R.E.F.I.T. Annual Dinner</p> <p>30 – N-SSBA Resolutions Dinner, Fox Hollow</p>	<p>4-6 – NYSCOSS Fall Conf. Rochester</p> <p>8 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting WS BOCES</p> <p>15-18 – NYSSBA Convention, New York City</p>	<p>12 – N-SSBA Legislation Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p> <p>17 – N-SSBA Finance Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p> <p>19 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting, Western Suffolk BOCES</p> <p>23 – Nassau Region PTA Pres./Prin. Dinner Crest Hollow</p>	<p>1 – N-SSBA Semi-Annual Dinner Mtg. - 50th Anniversary</p>
JANUARY 2010	FEBRUARY 2010	MARCH 2010	APRIL 2010	MAY/JUNE 2010
<p>7 – N-SSBA Joint Finance/Legislation Committee Meeting, WS BOCES</p> <p>10-12 – NYSCOSS Mid-Winter Conference, Albany</p> <p>21 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p> <p>28 – Suffolk Region PTA Pres./Prin. Dinner Windwatch</p> <p>1/31- 2/2 – NSBA Federal Relations Network Washington, D.C</p>	<p>1/31- 2/2 – NSBA Federal Relations Network Washington, D.C</p> <p>4 – N-SSBA Legislation Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p> <p>11-14 – AASA Convention Phoenix</p> <p>25 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p>	<p>2 – N-SSBA Legislation Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p> <p>5-6 – Celebration of Learning, NYC</p> <p>14-15 – NYSSBA State Issues Conference Albany</p> <p>18 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p>	<p>10-13 – NSBA Convention Chicago</p> <p>15 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Meeting Western Suffolk BOCES</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p> <p>18 – Uniform Voting Day</p> <p>20 – N-SSBA Executive Committee Mtg. WS BOCES</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p> <p>3 – N-SSBA Annual Dinner, Woodbury Country Club</p> <p>TBA – N-SSBA New School Board Member Dinner</p> <p>15 – Uniform Revote Day</p>