



NYSSCA Newsletter

Spring 2011



Long time NYSSCA Executive Board Member, Elizabeth Peters, received a prestigious Award at the NYSUT Convention in NYC on April 8, 2011. Beth was awarded the NYSUT Health Care Professional of the Year recognition at the Convention.

Beth represents school counselors throughout NYS on this NYSUT Committee and has been instrumental in keeping the School Counselor agenda at the forefront of NYSUT deliberations. Congratulations, Beth.

Wayne school counselor named NYSUT Health Care Professional of the Year NEW YORK CITY, April 6, 2011 - Elizabeth "Beth" Peters, a school counselor in Wayne schools, will be honored as New York State United Teachers' HealthCare Professionals Member of the Year. Peters, who lives in Rochester, has worked in schools in Wayne, Rochester and Pakistan since 1989. She has made presentations to the New York State School Counselor Association on collaborative comprehensive development, the use of data and networking.

She was external vice president of the Wayne Teachers Association and serves on the NYSUT Health Care Professionals Council. "Health care unionists are integral to the state's schools, as well as hospitals and health facilities," said NYSUT President Richard C. Iannuzzi. "Beth Peters is a role model for school professionals, students and unionists alike."

Nearly 3,000 NYSUT delegates, guests and staff are in New York City this week for the union's annual policy-making convention. Peters was an effective advocate for the representation of school counselors in the process of NYSUT merging with NEA-New York several years ago. As a Wayne Teachers Association and NEA-New York delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly, she advocated and successfully amended resolutions to broaden national agendas for inclusion of school counselors. She mentors Wayne Central students doing senior projects on mental health topics. Peters established "Wayne's World," the first union newsletter for the Wayne Teachers Association.

"Wherever good decisions are being made about professional development, political advocacy and mental health practices in the area of Wayne County and Rochester, Beth is there," said NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue. "Compassion informs unionism, and Beth's career is a tremendous example." "She's famous for her random acts of kindness throughout the building and the district," added Jason Carter, president of the Wayne Teachers' Association.

NYSSCA Elections

It is our honor to announce the results of the 2011 NYSSCA Elections. The newly elected board members, who will take office on July 1, 2011 are the following:

President Elect: *Ronald Smith*, School Counselor, NYC Dept of Education, Middle School #144, Bronx, NY

Vice President, Elementary Level: *Kristen Kelleher*, Elementary School Counselor, Gananda Central School District

Vice President, Middle Level: *Dr. Dena Roy*, Middle School Counselor, Kingston City School District

Region 1 Governor: *Dr. Barbara Donnellan*, Coordinator of Guidance, Lindenhurst Union Free School District

Region 5 Governor: *Jessica Cooper*, Middle School Counselor, Mt. Markham Middle School

Region 7 Governor: *Cindy Sodeur*, High School Counselor, Harpursville Schools

Thanks to all our candidates who ran this year. Congratulations to our new board members and thanks to all members who voted!

2011 NYSSCA Graduate Student Scholarship Announcement

To help future school counselors fulfill their educational goals, the New York State School Counselor Association awards scholarships to graduate students each year who are currently enrolled in a New York State accredited master's-level school counseling program.

The New York State School Counselor Association (NYSSCA) supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, personal/social and career development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

\$500 scholarships will be awarded to Graduate Students. 15 Applications have been received and awards will be announced in early May.

**The New York State Model for Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Programs:
How it can transform your work
Sandy Braun, Executive Director**

As many districts look to make significant cuts to in personnel this year due to budget constraints, school counselors are once again facing the possibility of losing their positions. I am one of the lucky ones who will not lose their job and I am very grateful. In retrospect, I can't say it was all luck. I firmly believe that one important factor is that I have developed and follow a comprehensive k-12 school counseling program. Is it the only reason my position was not eliminated? Probably not, but I know it certainly was a positive influence on how I conduct myself in my role as a school counselor and how it is viewed from students, parents, teaching colleagues, administration and the community.

Earlier in my career as a school counselor, I was floundering. I was responsible for a large caseload, but I was also hampered by extra duties, such as cafeteria duty, bus duty and various other responsibilities that took me away from actually conducting school counseling. It was easy to blame administrators who didn't understand the role of the school counselor. But over time, I realized my own lack of letting the administration know what I really should be doing in my role. Fortunately, I was able to attend the 2003 NYSSCA Conference in Bolton Landing, NY. At that time, NYSSCA was unveiling their finalized version of the New York State Model for Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Programs. The timing was perfect. From that point, I began my journey with implementing the model into my own curriculum and each year since then, grew into changing how I did my work, and increasing the knowledge of others in education to the important and significant work we do as school counselors.

The best way to understand how the model works is by reading the Executive Summary which is in the forwarding pages of the actual document:

“Executive Summary

The New York State Model for Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Programs provides knowledge and tools to help school district administrators and school counselors examine current school counseling practices and services and align them with the *ASCA National Standards*, the *ASCA National Model*, and the expectations of the New York State Education Department. *The New York State Model* supports the overall mission of the school by promoting student achievement, career planning, and personal social development for every student. School counselors, using their leadership, advocacy, teaming and collaboration, and data driven decision-making skills, will ensure that every student will have access to a quality and equitable education.

The New York State Model consists of four interrelated components: the foundation, the delivery system, the management system and accountability. The design, development, implementation and evaluation of the school counseling program is accomplished through effective collaboration with students, parents, faculty, administrators, and community, business, and higher education partners. *The New York State Model* helps school counselors focus on blending affective development with academic achievement and supports the accountability expectation of the New York Department of Education's school improvement plans and *No Child Left Behind*.

School counselors work with all students, school staff, families and members of the community as an integral part of the education program. School counseling programs promote school success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention and intervention activities, advocacy and social/emotional and career development.

(American School Counselor Association, 1997)”

NYSSCA provides many trainings and opportunities to learn more about developing your own comprehensive program throughout the state, but no where more so than at its annual state conference. There are pre-conference options, workshops throughout the conference itself and countless people who can share their valuable insight. It's there for the asking, you just have to be willing to look at your role as an integral position within your school. This year's conference will be October 27-29 2011 in Rochester, NY. Information is available on our website. As a member of NYSSCA, you can download this document or purchase it from www.booklocker.com. Schools may order it from NYSSCA with a purchase order. Getting it is easy, the true test is actually beginning to incorporate into your actual work.

Now, many of our school counseling colleagues are facing uncertain futures and even those who have been using the model for years may in fact, lose their positions during these tough economic times. But why not put yourself in the best possible position to help prevent this from occurring? I can only speak from my own experience and I know it has been beneficial for me. I wish everyone the best as we weather this economic crisis and continue to move forward in our work with students.



NYSSCA Sponsors Comprehensive School Counseling Plan Workshop

On March 25th, thirty-three school counselors from Finger Lakes area schools in Region 8, came together to participate in a workshop on the NYS Comprehensive School Counseling Model. Sharon Greenwood, high school counselor at Honeoye Central School and NYSSCA vice president-secondary level, led the workshop. Counselors attending the workshop represented schools in varying stages of transforming their school counseling programs by implementing a comprehensive school counseling plan.

The workshop first provided an historical background and evolution of the school counseling field from vocational guidance, through mental health counseling, to eclectic programs responding to changing regulations, standards and community demands. The Model demonstrated how through its implementation, counselors and schools can bring their counseling programs in line with the mission of the school. In the absence of NYS standards for school counseling, participants were introduced to the Crosswalk as an instrument to help them develop a counseling program that integrates the ASCA counseling standards with the NYS Learning Standards. Participants were shown how this process can change the all too often perception of school counseling as an ancillary service to a program viewed as an integral component of student achievement.

The precious commodity of time was then provided so that counselors could break into small groups, either with same district colleagues or similar level colleagues, to begin the Crosswalk process. Counselors at all stages of implementation were eager to take the next steps. For some, that will mean beginning a NYSSCA membership and attending the annual conference, and for others, purchasing books available through NYSSCA to help develop a program reflecting best practices. Many are looking forward to another day in the fall to get together to continue the work.

The Reading-Free Vocational Interest Inventory: Second Edition

For those of you who work with students who can't read or who don't read so well, there is the Reading-Free Vocational Interest Inventory: Second Edition developed by Ralph L. Becker, Ph.D. The non-reading feature of this inventory requires no interpretation of symbols or written statements by the examinees. This is a forced-choice inventory consisting of 55 sets of three pictures each of persons doing job tasks. The examinee is to select only one of the three pictures as the one they like the best or might like the best. There are 11 different vocational interest areas: Automotive, Building Trades, Clerical, Animal Care, Food Service, Patient Care, Horticulture, Housekeeping, Personal Service, Laundry Service, and Materials Handling. In addition to the interest area scores, there are cluster scores which help to further define vocational interests. The R-FVII:2 is published by Elbern Publications, Columbus, OH.

Thomas Ohl, MS, CAS
Residential/Non-Public Liaison

PR and Elementary Vice President

As the Public Relations Chair and the Elementary Vice President of NYSSCA, I found it ironic that events in my own career recently fell within the realm of both of these areas.

I work as an elementary counselor in a PreK-5 building. Historically, my district has supported the work of School Counselors. This is apparent simply by the employment of school counselors at all levels and one at each elementary school. (Many neighboring districts either don't have elementary counselors or have social workers instead.) But with the necessity of schools to make drastic cuts this year, I wondered just how secure my (and the other elementary counselors) positions were.

Taking a proactive approach, I compiled data and/or reported on the 4 School Counseling delivery system areas: Individual Student planning, Responsive Services/Counseling, Curriculum, and System Support. By detailing what services I provide in each of these areas I not only reminded administration in what capacity I functioned, I also showed my value to the overall function of the school. As I'm sure is the same with you, I am present on many committees-often the chair, provide hands-on services to many students, and (as I've overheard people comment) have my "fingers on the pulse of the building".

I also provided the number of classroom lessons I deliver each week, the number of individual students I counsel, the number of groups I facilitate, etc. And while, as an elementary counselor I often struggle to find relevant data that proves my effectiveness, this data (as I was told later) was seriously considered when making staffing decisions. So, yes (!) data helped to save the School counselor position in my building.

Data, along with a little PR, reminded administration that I do many things every day that support the success of students.

Joy Farley

REGION 7 NEWS

Congratulations to the Chenango County and Broome-Tioga Counselors Associations for becoming "official" affiliates of NYSSCA!

Our number one goal in Region 7 for this year and next is to create more opportunities for regional collaboration and professional development. This is a real challenge in an area that covers seven counties and over 150 miles from end to end! However, we are making good progress. We have established a regional leadership committee with representatives from the five school counselor organizations in Region 7, and we will be meeting three times a year to discuss regional issues and in-service needs.

In February, we held our first NYSSCA-sponsored regional in-service program at Broome Community College in Binghamton. We shared best-practices for program evaluation and discussed strategies for increasing the authenticity and scope of our current evaluation efforts. The evaluations of this workshop were very positive, and there will be a follow-up work session scheduled in June.

As this article goes to press, the Broome-Tioga Counselor's Association is making final preparations for their annual spring conference day on April 29th. They have put together an outstanding selection of workshops that address the theme of "The Changing Roles of Today's School Counselors". One of the featured speakers will be NYSSCA President Karen Hall, who will deliver a presentation on the NYS Model for Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Programs. The BTCA has opened up this conference day for regional participation, and is looking forward to meeting some of our colleagues from the other associations in Region 7.

NYSSCA Region 8 News

Join NYSSCA or Renew Your Membership Now!

With budget cuts sweeping the state it is now more important than ever to belong to a professional organization that promotes the School Counseling Profession. NYSSCA teams have gone to school districts in the past to discourage school counseling cuts. NYSSCA promotes and advocates for our profession throughout NYS. NYSSCA works with teachers unions, legislators and individual districts to promote school counseling. Your membership is critical. We need to show that we are a united voice for school counselors in NYS. We believe, as we know you do, Every Child deserves a school counselor.

WNYSCC Conference February 2, 2011

It was snowy cold and miserable out and still, 50 school counselors across the region were able to make it to the conference. Most of us had school closing which made it even more difficult. For those of us who were able to attend, the conference was, once again, an incredible experience. The wealth of knowledge available from our local colleagues made for a wonderful day of renewal and education. A sincere thank you goes out to the conference co-chairs, Karen Hall and Summer Reiner.

Region 8 Free Workshop Opportunity

Since it is such a busy time of year for School Counselors, few are able to attend the workshop on Teen Drug Use scheduled for Friday April 8. We are canceling the workshop, and plan to offer it again in the fall.

Look for information on this free workshop coming this fall. Christian Gascon, Hilton Central School Districts substance abuse counselor will be presenting on current trends in teen drug use. We tried to have this workshop this April but the time of year made it very difficult for school counselors to be able to attend. We are looking into October to offer this workshop opportunity again.

NYSSCA State Conference October 27-29 2011

The NYSSCA State Conference will be held in Rochester this fall! What a great opportunity for area counselors to have this conference locally. NYSSCA members receive discounted registration fees. Join NYSSCA now and you be able to attend this workshop at a discounted rate. The conference theme is school counselors impacting student achievement. With the emphasis on proving the results of school counseling interventions and programs we are sure that there will be many valuable workshops available to help us develop our ability to show how our work impacts our students ability to perform in school .

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable spring break!

Maureen Rundle and Linda Fortin
Region 8 NYSSCA co-governors

Barbara A. Donnellan, Ed.D.
Regional Governor, Region 1

Interesting things have been happening once again in Region 1 this year! Region 1 includes both Nassau and Suffolk counties of Long Island, and I am pleased to report on two professional development activities that were hosted by NYSSCA in our region.

On February 18th a career focused meeting was held at Long Island University's beautiful C. W. Post Campus for all Region 1 school counselors and counselor supervisors. The attendees were greeted by Meghan DeMayo-Dalen, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions at LIU. The guest speaker, Susan Alevas, Esq. of Alevas Consulting Group addressed the group on the topic "How to prepare your students for the world of work in the 21st Century". She offered interesting perspectives on career preparation for today's young people from her experience as a school administrator, as human resources professional and as an attorney.

A special career development presentation followed, given by Jason Cascone who is currently the Director of Career Development at the C.W. Post Campus. The attendees enjoyed a challenging talk by Mr. Cascone on the jobs of the future and how to find information about them. Long Island University provided a wonderful meeting space in their highly acclaimed Tilles Center and a sumptuous breakfast for all.

On March 31st a second career focused meeting took place at the Western Suffolk BOCES facility in Wheatley Heights called "Let's talk about career options for ALL of our students". This event was sponsored by Universal Technical Institute, who made available to us a delightful and healthy breakfast. The speakers included admissions representatives Ernest Lombardo and Frank Taylor from UTI, as well as Karen Schmid of Western Suffolk BOCES who heads up our Guidance Support Services there. We heard interesting "factoids" from Dr. Joe Despres, Professor in the School Counseling Program at LIU on career options for our students. Dr. Despres is a Past President of NYSSCA! We also heard from Suffolk County Community College's James Fogarty, Chef at the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center there, on the many career options surrounding food preparation and hospitality. Jeff Lang, Admissions Director for Suffolk's Selden Campus spoke to the group about the six growing career trends in our region and Dr. MaryKate Brennan of Farmingdale State College described the programs offered through the EOC office where she is the Assistant Dean.

At both events, the benefits of membership in NYSSCA were highlighted and participants were invited to join. Raffle prizes were given out at both events including two free memberships to NYSSCA!

I am currently in discussion with regional counseling experts on a variety of professional development activities for the next school year. I hope to get a "Save the Date" email blast to all NYSSCA members early in the school year.

Another focus in our region this year was developing stronger relationships with our local counseling organizations and with that in mind all members of these organizations received information about our events through their respective listservs. As Regional Governor I attended events in both counties where information about NYSSCA was shared.

This was an active and successful year for NYSSCA in Region 1 and I hope to see it continue. I plan to recruit additional members from our region to assist with planning and organizing our events and increasing our membership in the coming year as well.

Middle School Counselors,

There are many issues facing us as counselors in education today and while we can debate many issues one that seems to be a growing concern is that of Cyber Ethics or Digital Citizenship. The exponential growth of technology has no doubt added many incredible opportunities for education, but it has also brought with it many social, legal and ethical challenges for students and society.

Conversations with and amongst my colleagues certainly point to a rise in technology generated issues spilling over into schools. The questions of how much to take on as a school and what education are we responsible for come up often. New York State has created an Internet Safety Rubric for educators use as a guideline: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/internet_safety/

The challenge for many of us is to use the rubric to collaborate with teachers and administrators to embed curriculum into our schools. The ubiquitous use of technology by our students will continue to fuel the need for this curriculum in our schools. How many middle school students do you see leave your building at the end of the day with an ear bud in their ear and thumbs feverishly texting? The area of technology is a place where we can, as counselors, teach character. Many of our districts are going through cuts and we need to be able to show areas where we can impact students. This area is certainly an area of need that we can help fill.

Fortunately there are a myriad of resources at our disposal to help. Below I have listed many links that can help you create and deliver curriculum to your students. I challenge you to start the conversations in your district if they have not begun. Grapple with the hard questions surrounding law, ethics, boundaries, acceptable use policies and much, much more. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions during your journey.

Curriculum Websites:

http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/techservices/internet_safety_information/?p=17673

<http://www.common sense media.org/digital-citizenship/6-8>

Center for Missing and Exploited Children: <http://www.net smartz.org/>

Internet Safety Rubric http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/internet_safety/documents/InternetSafetyProgram_EvaluationRubric.pdf

Will Richardson's Education/Technology blog: <http://weblogg-ed.com>

Dr. Russell Sabella's Counselor Newsletter, Internet Safety: www.schoolcounselor.com

Regards,
Joe Montemaro
Middle Level VP
VPmiddle@nyssca.org

NYSSCA Annual Awards Banquet NYSSCA 2010 Awards Banquet

At our Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, November 5th at our Annual Conference the following Awards were presented

Outstanding Program, Practice, or Project Award: Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District, School Counseling Division of the Student Services Department. Thomas Wolff, Executive Director, accepted the award on behalf of his department and district.

In the Spring of 2009, the Superintendent of the Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District charged the Department of Student Services with developing a Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Plan. Ken-Ton is a suburban Erie County school district of over 8000 students in 8 elementary, 3 middle, and 2 high schools. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thomas Wolff, the school counseling department established a Comprehensive Planning Committee representing school counselors from all levels including elementary, middle, high school, and the Family support center. NYSSCA Board Secretary, Sharon Comerford facilitated the work of the district through Erie 1 BOCES. Data was collected from all stakeholders on available services through the counseling department. Using this data, and NYSSCA and ASCA models, a Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Program was developed and presented to school counselors, administrators, and the Board of Education. It was very well received by all stakeholders.

Career Achievement Award: Bonnie Harwayne of the Manhattan Comprehensive Day & Night School and the NYU Department of Applied Psychology

Bonnie Harwayne is a veteran counselor of almost 30 years, who continues to work consistently to effect positive change in the lives of her students. The Manhattan Comprehensive Day & Night HS is a unique school working with older, under-credited students returning to HS—many of them immigrants newly arrived to New York with a history of interrupted formal education. She has time and again proven her ability and willingness to work individually with these students to insure their success. Ms. Harwayne has also worked collaboratively with other schools and community based organizations to provide additional services to her students. And, lastly, Ms. Harwayne, has shown her concern for the next generation of school counselors in her work as an adjunct professor at New York University. NYSSCA is pleased to be able present this Career Achievement Award to Bonnie Harwayne.

President's Award to Steve Goldberg

For his vision, for his passion, and for his commitment in his role as the NYSSCA Director of Marketing. In developing this role, Steve has operated in the background for many years developing contacts, supporters, sponsors, and exhibitors for this association and its activities. He has worked tirelessly on many conference committees and supported many Region activities through sponsorships and support. Steve is a wonderful advocate for School Counselors and our profession and has served as a NYSSCA representative to several ASCA Delegate Assemblies.

President's Award to Robert Rotunda

For his effort and persistence in working towards the combination of NYSSCEF and NYSSCA into one non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. He worked diligently, collaborating with advisors from Tuoro Law School, and NYSSCA is now operating as a Non-Profit Corporation. He continues working with our By Laws and Governing Documents to ensure that NYSSCA meets the highest standards for nonprofit corporations. He has also worked diligently with other Executive Board Members as we create a framework for Local Counseling Association Affiliates.

NYSSCA Creates Affiliates

After several months of investigation regarding the concept of creating NYSSCA Affiliate Associations, the Executive Board voted to present a change in our By-Laws to create Affiliate Associations at our October 2010 Board Meeting. This change was presented to our membership at our annual meeting at the conference in November and passed unanimously. Many Local Counseling Associations have approached NYSSCA regarding affiliation and this framework will allow Local Associations to become NYSSCA Affiliates. Local Counseling Associations have been mailed a letter with specifics regarding this relationship.

Our first affiliate application was received from the Chenango County Counselor Association and was approved at our February Board Meeting. Applications from the Broome-Tioga Counselor Association, the SCT Counselors Association (Schuyler, Chemung, Tioga Counties & Corning City Schools), and the Niagara Orleans Counselors Association have been received and approved.

Our By Laws now describe this Affiliate Framework as follows:

Article III: Affiliate Groups

A group which has a common purpose related to school counseling may request recognition as an official NYSSCA affiliate. Affiliate charters may be granted or revoked following processes set forth in this article.

1. Groups wishing to affiliate with NYSSCA must apply to the Executive Board for this status. The Executive Board can accept or reject applications by a majority vote. Affiliates will agree to the following:
 - a. Support and publicize NYSSCA's mission, conferences, activities, publications and programs
 - b. Display the NYSSCA logo and website links on websites and printed materials
 - c. Encourage membership in NYSSCA
 2. NYSSCA will agree to support Affiliates as follows:
 - a. Support and publicize Affiliate conferences, activities, publications, and programs
 - b. Display Affiliate logos and website links on websites and printed materials.
 - c. Encourage Affiliate membership
 - d. Encourage Affiliate leaders to attend NYSSCA leadership development workshops.
 3. The NYSSCA Board can revoke an affiliation by a majority vote for the following reasons:
 - a. Group is no longer considered an active association.
 - b. Group does not fulfill aforementioned obligations.
- c. Any other reason deemed by the Executive Board to be in the best interests of NYSSCA. NYSSCA anticipates that as these Affiliate relationships develop, the various Affiliates, because of their size or geography would have slightly different needs and approaches for communication and collaboration.

NYSSCA looks forward to this initiative and many years of mutually beneficial collaboration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bob Rotunda, Past President at PastPresident@NYSSCA.ORG.

You are receiving this information because you are a current or past member of NYSSCA. If you are a current member, please take advantage of the valuable resources NYSSCA provides with your membership. If you are no longer a member of NYSSCA, please visit our website (www.NYSSCA.org) and see what NYSSCA has to offer with membership.