



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Brian S. Ridgway**  
NYSACVC President

With the new year well underway and so many important topics making headline news, I feel we have not had a chance to reflect on the accomplishments we made as an Association in 2008.

Having kept focused on our theme of Communications, Partnership and Accountability during the past year, I can report that members of the Executive Committee and all of the various Committees have done an admirable job in serving our membership. Our 100th Anniversary Celebration and Introduction of our Regional Assignments were two key factors contributing to our successful year. If we are vigilant in developing what we have started we will continue to be a solid organization.

Moving into the new year we must be mindful of the importance of sharing information with our membership as we all deal with reduced budgets, and at the same time seek ways to improve our delivery of services to our Communities. The powers of the internet as well as the improved level of communications within each Region will be the keys to this success. Our partnership with NYCOM, OSC, Municipal Finance Officers Board and with our associates in the private sector will result in improved and well developed education offerings that we will all benefit from.

The year ahead might prove challenging. If we all work together by sharing information, and ideas, and supporting each other, we will be stronger than we are today. The Executive Committee wish everyone a successful and safe year.

### 2008-2009 Officers

#### PRESIDENT

**Brian S. Ridgway**  
*Village of Garden City*

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**Louis M. DiDomenico**  
*Village of Kings Point*

#### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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*Village of Akron*

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**Randy Bond**  
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#### DIRECTOR

**Sheila Gillespie**  
*Village of Cobleskill*

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*City of Oneonta*

#### TREASURER

**Bonnie J. Page**  
*Village of Speculator*

#### COUNSEL

**Shawn Cullinane**  
*Village of Lindenhurst*

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**Lisa Copeland**  
*City of Mount Vernon*

### Inside This Issue

*"They said this day would never come"*

Barack Obama  
Iowa Victory Speech,  
January 2008

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# COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

## New York State Association of City and Village Clerks 2008-2009 Committee Assignments

### Audit

**L. Kay Wharmby**, Chairperson, Village of Fairport  
(585) 421-3202 lkw@fairportny.com  
**Robin L. Mitchell**, Village of Camden  
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**Mary Ellen Sims**, Village of Liverpool  
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### Awards

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### Budget

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(516) 504-1000 ldidomenico@villageofkingspoint.org  
**Bonnie J. Page**, Village of Speculator  
(518) 548-7354 speculat@frontiernet.net  
**Sheila Gillespie**, Village of Cobleskill  
(518) 234-3891 sheilagillespie@midtel.net

### Bulletin

**Brian S. Ridgway**, Chairperson, Village of Garden City  
(516) 465-4053 bridgway@gardencityny.net  
All Regional Managers & All Executive Committee Members

### By-Laws

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(631) 957-7504 voladmin@optonline.net  
**Maureen Kemmet**, Village of Victory  
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All Regional Managers & All Executive Committee Members

### CMCI

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**Daniel Borchert**, Village of Akron  
(716) 542-9636 borchert@akronvillage.us  
**Louis M. DiDomenico**, Village of Kings Point  
(516) 504-1000 ldidomenico@villageofkingspoint.org

### Education Development

**Kathie B. Montigelli**, Chairperson, Village of Black River  
(315) 773-5721 villofbr@gisco.net  
All Regional Managers & All Executive Committee Members

### Fall Training School

**James R. Koury**, City of Oneonta  
(607) 432-6450 jkoury@oneonta.ny.us  
**Kathie B. Montigelli**, Village of Black River  
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**Darlene Gunther**, Village of Lake George  
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### IIMC

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(631) 957-7504 voladmin@optonline.net

### Legislative

**Louis M. DiDomenico**, Village of Kings Point  
(516) 504-1000 ldidomenico@villageofkingspoint.org

### Membership

**Sheila Hay-Gillespie**, Chairperson, Village of Cobleskill  
(518) 234-3891 sheilagillespie@midtel.net  
**Patrick E. Farrell**, Village of New Hyde Park  
(516) 354-0022 clerk@vnhp.org  
**Linda M. Margensey**, Village of Port Byron  
(315) 776-4321 pbtreas@hotmail.com

### Nominating

**Shawn Cullinane**, Chairperson, Village of Lindenhurst  
(631) 957-7504 voladmin@optonline.net  
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(914) 665-2351 lcopeland@cmvny.com  
**Kathie Montigelli**, Village of Black River  
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**Daniel Borchert**, Village of Akron  
(716) 542-9636 borchert@akronvillage.us

### RMC Appeals Committee

All Executive Committee Members

### Regional Managers

#### Region 1 - Long Island, Catskills and Hudson Valley Area

**Louis M. DiDomenico**, Village of Kings Point  
(516) 504-1000 ldidomenico@villageofkingspoint.org

#### Region 2 - Central / Albany Area

**James R. Koury**, City of Oneonta  
(607) 432-6450 jkoury@oneonta.ny.us

#### Region 3 - Thousand Island / Adirondacks Area

**Kathie B. Montigelli**, Village of Black River  
(315) 773-5721 villofbr@gisco.net

#### Region 4 - Finger Lakes Area

**Patty Couch**, Village of Skaneateles  
(315) 685-3440 info@villageofskaneateles.com

#### Region 5 - Niagara / Chautauqua Area

**Daniel Borchert**, Village of Akron  
(716) 542-9636 borchert@akronvillage.us

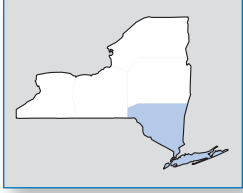
### Scholarship

**Sue A. Davis**, Chairperson, Village of Churchville  
(585) 293-3720 sue@churchville.net  
**Gloria A. Anderson**, Village of Falconer  
(716) 665-4400 falconer@madbbs.com  
**Randy Bond**, Village of Sands Point  
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### Web-Site

**Brian S. Ridgway**, Village of Garden City  
(516) 465-4053 bridgway@gardencityny.net





## REGION 1

Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Broome, Delaware, Greene and Columbia County

**Report by Louis M. DiDomenico**, Village of Kings Point  
 ldidomenico@villageofkingspoint.org

- On Monday, November 10, 2008, the New York State Conference of Mayors held their annual Legislative Meeting in Albany for the purpose of developing NYCOM's 2009 Legislative Program. The Conference also unveiled its new Web site, [www.StopTheTaxShift.org](http://www.StopTheTaxShift.org). The site is intended to help state officials, the media and the public better understand the connection between state actions.
- On February 22-24, 2009, the NYCOM's Winter Legislative Meeting will be held in Albany. It is critical that policymakers in Albany hear our concerns about state taxes and costs to local governments that will hurt the overburdened real property taxpayer.
- The Long Island Village Clerks and Treasurers Association meeting was held on November 12, 2008. The guest speaker was Richard Gibney of Gibney Design Grouping, Inc. and he reported on tree maintenance and presented an overview on DEC compliance on NYS Phase II Storm Water Program.
- I recently attended the Westchester County Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association held on November 18, 2008. The guest speakers were Michael Clenahan and Jack McPadden from the New York State Comptrollers Office of the New York State Retirement System and reported on the projected retirement rates. I would like to thank the Westchester County Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association for having me at their meeting.
- The following individual(s) have earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) and received designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) in November of 2008.

**David Carlucci CMC**, Town Clerk - Clarkstown, NY

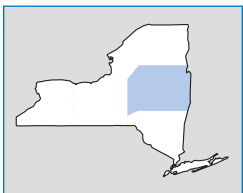
**Louis M. DiDomenico, CMC, RMC**,  
 Village Clerk/Treasurer – Kings Point, NY

**Brian S. Ridgway, CMC, RMC**, Village Clerk – Garden City, NY



### NYCOM'S Election Workshop Held on Long Island

Wade Beltramo, General Counsel from NYCOM was recently welcomed to the Garden City Hotel by LIVCTA President Louis M. DiDomenico at the beginning of the annual election workshop that was attended by over 90 participants. Similar workshops were also held in Syracuse, Albany and Hyde Park

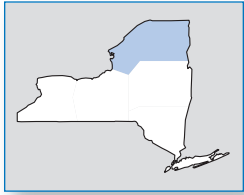


## REGION 2

Albany, Schoharie, Chenango, Otsego, Madison, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratogo, Fulton, Oneida, Lewis, Herkimer, Hamilton, Warren and Washington County

**Report by James R. Koury**, City of Oneonta  
 jkoury@oneonta.ny.us

No new information was available at this time. A full report will be provided in the Spring/Summer Bulletin.



## REGION 3

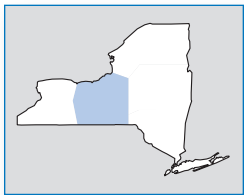
Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex County

**Report by Kathie B. Montigelli, Village of Black River**

villofbr@gisco.net

This winter's tremendous volume of snow that started in November and hasn't taken a break since is taking a toll on already strained budgets. Salt, sand, fuel and overtime costs have resulted in over expended appropriation accounts way too early in the budget year, and with much more winter weather to come, we can only hope that Mother Nature will smile upon us with an early Spring.

Speaking of Spring, on March 26th, Jefferson Community College in Watertown, New York will host the 20th Annual Local Government Conference sponsored by the New York State Tug Hill Commission. This great training event consistently attracts over 600 local government officials from around the region and offers sessions on a variety of topics geared toward town and village board members, clerks, planning and zoning boards, high-way departments and assessors.



## REGION 4

Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland, Tioga, Tompkins, Cayuga, Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Steuben and Livingston County

**Report by Patty Couch, Village of Skaneateles**

skanvillage@adelphia.net

### Central NY Village Clerk-Treasurers Association Elects Slate of Officers

Village of Skaneateles Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Patty Couch reported that the Central NY Clerk-Treasurers Association, comprised of Clerks, Treasurers, Clerk-Managers, and Deputy Clerks from each Village in the Region 4 counties of Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Tompkins, met in October for their last meeting of 2008. The following slate of officers was elected: President Mary Ellen Sims, Village of Liverpool Clerk-Treasurer, Vice-President Debbie Barron, Village of Groton Deputy Treasurer, Secretary Beverly Berry, Village of Homer Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and Treasurer Patty Couch, Village of Skaneateles Deputy Clerk-Treasurer. The CNY Clerk-Treasurers Association meets at various locations in central NY on the fourth Thursday of the months of February, April, June, August, and October of each year to further the cause of local government and to discuss and solve mutual problems. Their next meeting will be in February, 2009.

### Village Hires Director of Municipal Operations

After an extensive search, the Village of Skaneateles selected Skaneateles town resident Bob Lotkowitz to head up the Village's Municipal Operations that includes Electric, Water and Public Works Operations. Bob has earned degrees in Engineering and Business Administration and has 24 years of professional experience in engineering, building maintenance and construction. He'll be responsible for developing annual budgets and equipment replacement programs, overseeing the operations of the waste water treatment facility, managing the

union labor force, planning and forecasting projects involving the village infrastructure and numerous maintenance activities that occur throughout the year. The Village looks forward to welcoming Bob to its staff.

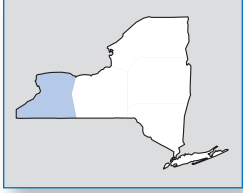
### Village Office Moves to New Location

Village of Groton Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator Chuck Rankin reported that the Village of Groton Clerk-Treasurers Office moved to a new location on October 24, just up the street from where they were. The building purchased for the office is a former Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses and contains about 4,000 square feet of space, about four times what they had available to them in the Municipal Building. The Code Enforcement Office has also moved to this new location. The Village held an open house that was attended by many citizens and the village staff.

### Grant Awards Received

The Village of Clyde recently announced that they have received three grant awards during the past year. A Transportation Enhancement Grant for their downtown streetscape for a total of \$628,000 as well as \$392,000 grant award from the Federal EDI Program with the assistance of former Congressman Walsh. New street lights and sidewalks are being planned for the spring of 2009. In addition, a \$378,000 Small Cities Drainage Grant was received and is also scheduled to begin in the spring.

Congratulations to the Village of Clyde and to Clerk/Treasurer Fran Burt!



## REGION 5

Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Genesee, Erie, Wyoming, Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua County

Report by **Daniel P. Borchert**, Village of Akron  
borchert@akronvillage.us

- I would like to thank everybody from Region 5 (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans & Wyoming County) who have shared various items of concern and question throughout the past year. I hope you continue to reach out to each other as we are all in this together.
- Election day is Wednesday, March 18, 2009 for Village's with March elections and Tuesday, June 16, 2009 for Village's with June election's.
- As you begin to work on our 2009-2010 budget in March, I would like to remind you that the 2009 Cornell Municipal Clerk's Institute will run from July 19 – July 23, 2009 at Cornell University. I have been attending the Institute since its inception in 2003. For more information, please see the link below and if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

<http://devsoc.cals.cornell.edu/cals/devsoc/outreach/cardi/training/cmci.cfm>

- The Village of Lancaster (Erie County) transformed into Christmasville, and each year there are new and exciting attractions to fill your holiday season with joy. If you did attend this year, please make plans to come and join us for Christmasville 2009.
- The Municipal Clerks of Chautauqua County Association meet monthly for a business meeting and a program. Scholarships are presented annually to Village and City members who attend the NYCOM Fall Training School and to Town Clerks attending their State Conference. In addition, a scholarship fund has been set up for college students in Chautauqua County with an interest in government.

## NYCOM Update

Now that Governor Paterson has introduced his Executive Budget and the 2009 Legislative session has officially begun in Albany, be sure to watch for newsletters from NYCOM which will highlight state budget initiatives and the various pieces of legislation being considered that would impact cities and villages. Your timely response to these updates is essential to ensuring that our state leaders know where we stand on these issues. In addition, use NYCOM's web site, [www.nycom.org](http://www.nycom.org), particularly the Legislative Memorandum. Also remember to visit [www.stopthetaxshift.org](http://www.stopthetaxshift.org) web site for information on proposed bills that would shift taxes, costs or revenue shortfalls onto local governments.

**Barbara VanEpps**  
*Deputy Directory*  
*NYS Conference of Mayors*

Following the 2009 Winter Legislative Meeting scheduled for February 22-24 in Albany, NYCOM will have a report for our members.

## NYCOM Welcomes Katie O'Neill

Katie O'Neill joined the NYCOM legal department in the Fall and is serving as NYCOM Counsel. She is a New Yorker through and through, growing up in Albany before attending and graduating from the State University College at Geneseo and the University of Buffalo Law School. Prior to joining NYCOM, Ms. O'Neill served as an Appellate Court Attorney for the New York Appellate Division's 3rd Department.



## Fifty Years of Service

On behalf of NYCOM, Executive Director Peter Baynes made a very special presentation to Virginia Mechener, Village of Suffern, for serving in her capacity as Village Clerk for "50" years.

*Congratulations Virginia!*



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**Shawn Cullinane, NYSACVC IIMC Liaison**

The IIMC Region I Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday March 19-20, 2009 at the Publick House in Sturbridge, MA. The invitation letter and registration information from Region I is attached.

The 63rd IIMC Annual Conference will be held in Chicago, IL May 19-23, 2009. Check recent issues of the IIMC News Digest or go to [www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com) for more information.

All those who are pursuing their CMC or MMC designations can find application and certification information on the IIMC

website. As a reminder, the most effective and productive way to attain the education points needed for certification is to attend the Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy at Cornell University. Check [www.nysclerks.com](http://www.nysclerks.com) for more information. Don't forget that scholarships from the New York State Association of City and Village Clerks are available to attendees to help cover the registration costs.

Please feel free to contact me anytime regarding questions you may have about IIMC.

## IIMC Directors' Update

**Linda Cohen and Bernice Dixon**

*IIMC Region I Directors*

Bernice and I have just returned from the mid-year Board Meeting in Riverside, California. While there, we were able to visit IIMC Headquarters. It is a very nice space, and I think it meant a lot to staff that we took the time to go. We had two very long days. The first was spent on strategic planning. We started this in Atlanta in May, and it will continue for another year or so, until we feel that IIMC is on the right track to take us all into the next decades. At the end of the day, we started part of the Board meeting; knowing that we could not get everything done the next day. We did the Executive Director's evaluation. On Saturday, our Board meeting started at 8:00 A.M. and lasted until about 6:30 P.M. We passed the budget for 2009, which, unfortunately, includes a small dues increase. You will see more about this in upcoming IIMC Digests. IIMC will also be putting the Digest on line for most of the issues, and only mailing hardcopies two or three times a year. This may be a temporary cost saving measure or may become permanent as we look at becoming a more eco-conscious association. The vote was 178 to award the 2013 conference location to Atlantic City, New Jersey. While Bernice and I supported Hartford's bid, I think one of the deciding factors for others may have been the room rates of \$90.00 a night during the week in Atlantic City. We are hoping for good attendance in Chicago in May, 2009. This location has everything anyone could want when visiting another City. We were told that food prices are really inexpensive, and the variety is extensive. If you have not made your vacation plans yet, perhaps you could make Chicago your vacation destination and combine business with pleasure. If you are not yet a member of IIMC, we urge you to join. Information is available on the IIMC website at [www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com) Our Region I meeting is in Sturbridge MA in March. Information will be mailed to all members in January.



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**Association's Executive Committee** (left to right)

James R. Koury, Secretary, City of Oneonta; Bonnie Page, Treasurer, Village of Speculator; Sheila Gillespie, Director, Village of Cobleskill; Randy Bond, Director, Village of Sands Point; Daniel P. Borchert, 2nd Vice President, Village of Akron; Louis M. DiDomenico, 1st Vice President, Village of Kings Point; and Brian S. Ridgway, President, Village of Garden City.



Shawn Cullinane,  
Master of Ceremonies



Past President Maddock expresses  
his thanks to the Association.



**Association Past Presidents** (left to right)

Joyce M. Rauker-Jezewski 1992-1994, Village of East Aurora; Bonnie Page 2001-2002, Village of Speculator; James R. Koury 1999-2000, City of Oneonta; William T. Maddock 1972-1973, Village of Lyons; Robert K. Sweeney 1986-1987, Village of Lindenhurst; Leonard M. Verrastro 1990-1992, Village of Mamaroneck; Shirley Sanfilippo 2002-2004, City of Jamestown; Kathie Montigelli 2004-2005, Village of Black River; Raymond T. Carlo 1989-1990, Village of Akron; and Shawn Cullinane 2000-2001, Village of Lindenhurst.



NYS Assemblyman Sweeney shares  
some insight from Albany.







1908 2008  
 New York State Association of City & Village Clerks  
 Founded 1908  
 100th ANNIVERSARY

One of the key highlights of the Association's 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting was the presentation of the Clerk of the Year Award and Distinguished Service Award by Awards Chairperson Tamara Bonomo.

Each year these two awards are presented to individuals who during the year have put forth extraordinary effort to assist and promote the goals of the Association and support of fellow clerks. At all time doing so with a great deal of professionalism.

The Clerk of the Year Award was presented to **Kathleen L. Santelli** who is Clerk from the Village of Great Neck Estates. The Distinguished Service Award this year was shared by Ann Prince and Rod Howe from the Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute.

**Ann Price** and **Rod Howe** due to scheduling conflicts were unable to receive the awards in person. The awards were later presented in person by Association 1st Vice President Louis M. DiDomenico.



"PianoMan Pat" (Patrick Farrell – Village of New Hyde Park) provided some wonderful entertainment for all to enjoy!



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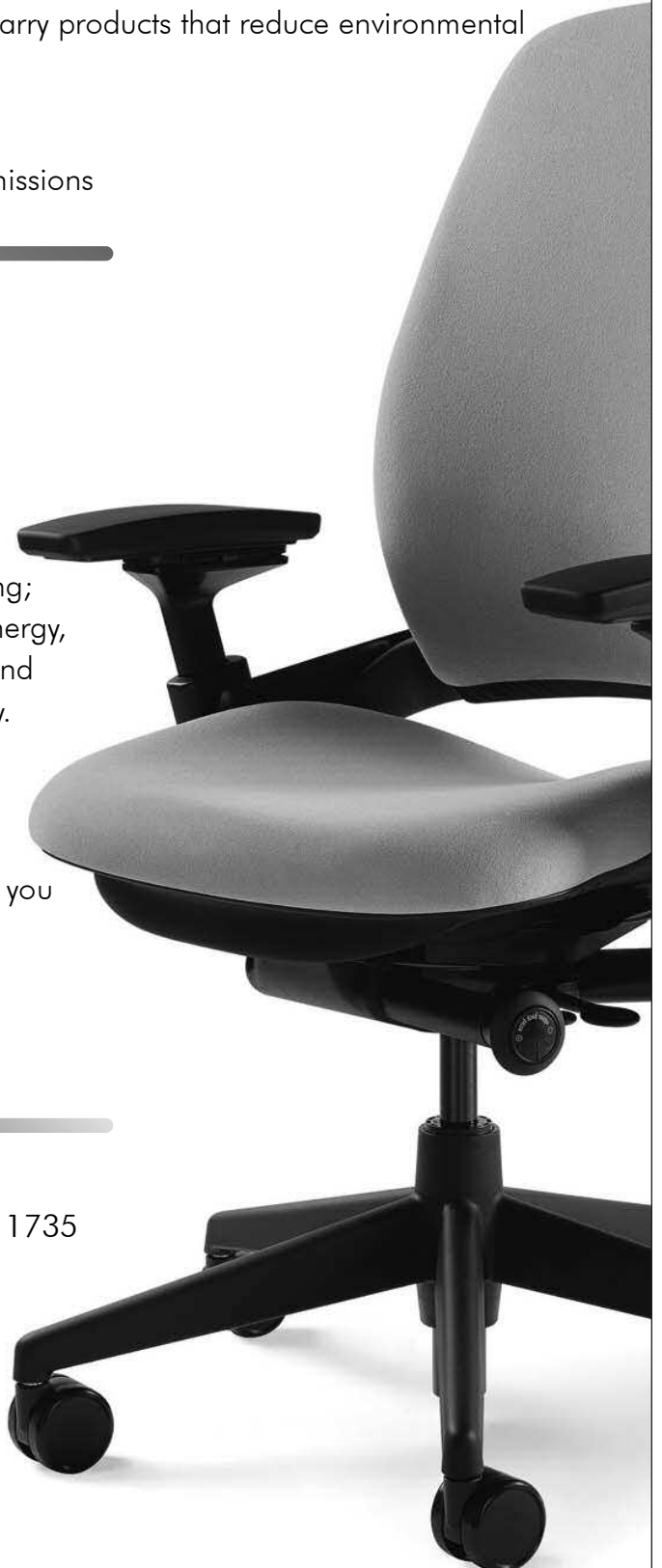
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**Solid Partnerships**

At the Association's Annual meeting special recognition awards were presented to two extraordinary companies – General Code Publishing and PERMA. The partnership that has developed over the years between NYSACVC and these two companies is truly outstanding and shall last for many years ahead.

Our Association is very thankful to all the various companies that have supported our efforts and who share our common goal to best service our Communities in which we work and reside.



**MUNICIPAL CLERKS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY**

**Gloria Anderson**  
*Village of Falconer*  
PRESIDENT

**Karen Bilfaro**  
*Town of Ellington*  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Deanna Crossley**  
*Town of Sherman*  
TREASURER

**Roberta Valentine**  
*Town of Pomfret*  
SECRETARY



Bruce Cadman - General Code.



Tom Augustini - PERMA.



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Nancy Weiss



Deirdre Jordan



# NYSACVC Registered Municipal Clerk (RMC) Program

The RMC Program is administered by the NYSACVC and by the New York State Town Clerks Association. The program was established to recognize educational and professional accomplishments in preparation for a municipal clerk career. The program serves to promote the continued education of municipal clerks to enable clerks to better serve their boards and communities.

The RMC Program was designed to be consistent with numerous certification programs currently established in other states. The benefits of the RMC Program include but are not limited to the following:

1. Elevate the skill level of clerks;
2. Promote the image of the clerk's profession;
3. Enhance performance and status of the clerk;
4. Ensure the public that a clerk who has obtained the RMC designation possesses a minimal level of competence;
5. Enable clerks to make their skills more marketable;
6. Promote the formation of a professional identity;
7. Foster agreement on basic values, ethics and norms of conduct

The RMC Program requires that all applicants achieve a total of 50 points in each of two categories – education and experience. Applicants must also endorse the Code of Ethics for clerks and fulfill other requirements for certification. Applications for the RMC Program may be obtained from the RMC Committee Chair or from any of the Executive Committee members. In addition, scholarship funds are available.

The below individuals were recently awarded their RMC certification by RMC Committee Chairperson Bonnie Page at the Fall Training School held in September in Lake Placid.



*Terri DiGregorio, Village of Fair Haven.*

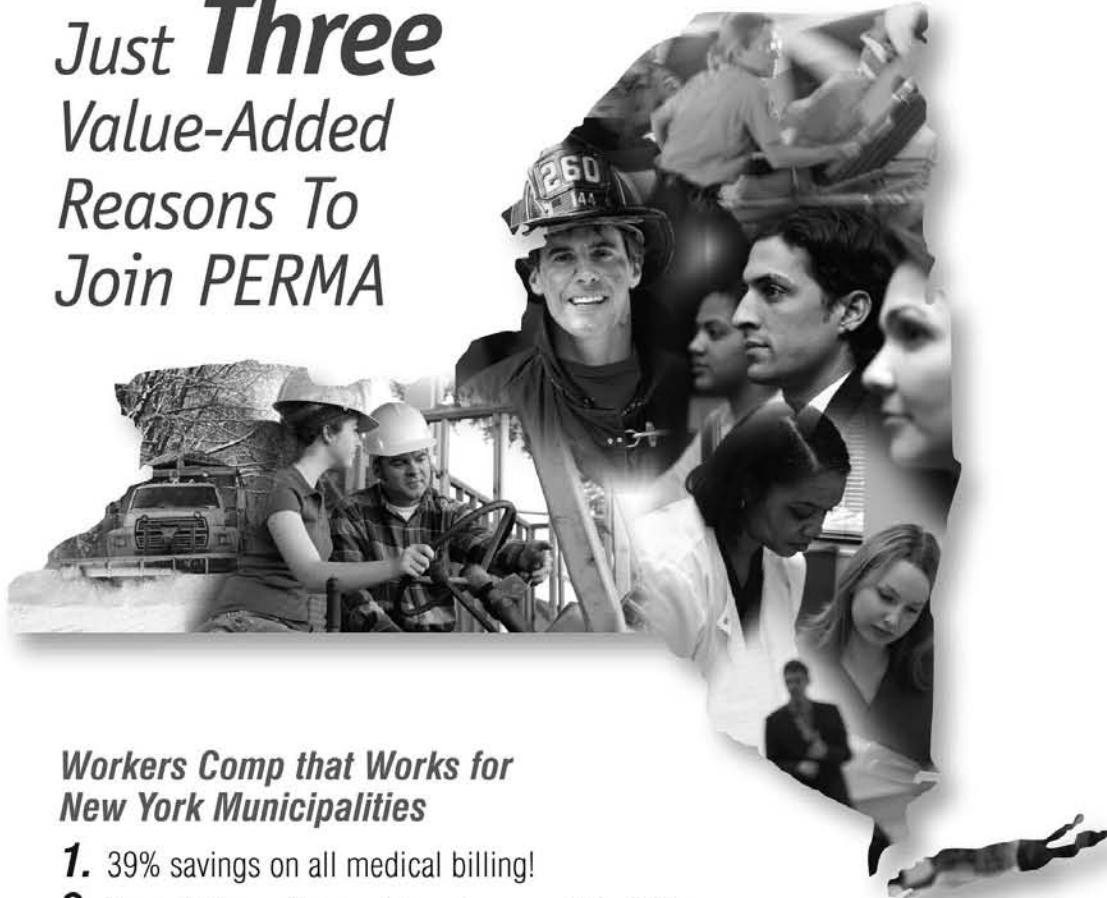


*Donna Perone, Village of Saddle Rock.*



*April Vecchiarella,  
City of Salamanca.*

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Some general topics since our last Bulletin was published include:

## AIM Funding

Under the Governor's current plan, most cities and villages would receive the same amount of AIM funding in 2009-2010 as they did in 2008-2009.

## CHIPS Funding

The Executive Budget proposal will reduce CHIPS funding by a total of \$122 million, or 31%, year to year. Local governments are responsible for 85% of New York's roads, highways and bridges.

## Bidding Thresholds

Proposal to increase bidding thresholds for local government procurement from \$10K to \$20K for purchase contracts and from \$20K to \$50K for public works contracts.

## NYSACVC Executive Committee Agenda Items for 2008-2009

- Educational Development for the future
- Directory and Bulletin going green next year?
- Needs of our Members
- Goals for true shared services between communities

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- Feb. 22-24: NYCOM Annual Legislative Meeting in Albany
- March 19-20: IIMC Region 1 Meeting in Sturbridge, MA
- March 24-26: OSC Basic Accounting School in Broome County
- March 26: "Tug Hill Commission's Local Government Conference, Jefferson Community College, Watertown
- April 21-23: OSC Basic Accounting School in Nassau County
- April 23: NYCOM Village Officials Newly Elected Workshop in Huntington, Long Island
- May 1: NYCOM Village Officials Newly Elected Workshop, Fayetteville
- May 12-14: OSC Basic Accounting School in Onondaga County
- May 19-21: OSC Advanced Accounting School in Albany County
- May 19-23: IIMC Annual Conference in Chicago, Ill
- June 19-23: CMC/MMC Academy at Cornell University in Ithaca



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