



THE

BULLETIN

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SPRING/SUMMER 2008

Volume 55, Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Brian S. Ridgway
NYSACVC President

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of our Association Bulletin publication! There have been a few style updates made to the Bulletin that I am sure you will be pleased with.

We have formatted the Bulletin in a way that will provide you with a quick and easy to read summary of the wide range of events and informational material that are related to our Association's activities that have occurred within the past few months.

As I stated at our Annual Meeting last fall, I feel it is very important that our ability to effectively communicate and to share information with each other will be a key element toward our Association's overall success. Over these past few months, representation by our Executive Committee to various events around the State has proven our commitment toward improving our partnership with the wide range of State agencies as well as with other Associations.

Until we gather again at the 2008 Fall Training School, the Executive Committee and all Committee members will working on the following projects:

- 100th Anniversary Celebration
- By-Law Review
- Membership Drive
- Budget Review & Proposal
- Regional Communication Development
- Education Review and Development (RMC, CMC and MMC)

I welcome comments and suggestions regarding any aspect of our Association. So please send me (bridgway@gardencityny.net) or your Regional Manager a note. Remember the Executive Committee represents you – our members.

2007-2008 Officers

PRESIDENT

Brian S. Ridgway
Village of Garden City

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Village of Kings Point

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Village of Lindenhurst

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Lisa Copeland
City of Mount Vernon

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"The government closest to the people serves the people best"

Thomas Jefferson

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REGIONAL REPORTS

Regional Assignment Mission Statement

While keeping busy on the day-to-day activities of our various communities, I am pleased to report that all members of our Associations Executive Committee remain focused on the three words that I spoke about at our last annual meeting held in Albany last September: Communications – Partnership and Accountability.

The regional reports that follow are a key beginning toward our overall goal to communicate to our members. I encourage you to read each report so that you may have more knowledge about activities throughout our State. In addition, please feel free to contact your Regional Manager and seek their assistance on a matter of interest to you or to simply share some information or to begin a friendly conversation.



REGION 1

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

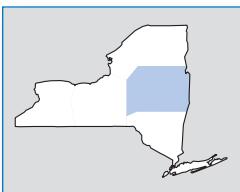
Report by Louis M. DiDomenico

ldidomenico@villageofkingspoint.org

- The Village of Floral Park, which is located in Nassau County, Long Island is currently celebrating their centennial. The Village of Floral Park was Incorporated in 1908.
- The Long Island Village Clerks & Treasurers Association has approved for its members nine (9) scholarships toward the 2008 Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute. Six (6) of the scholarships will be for Certified Municipal Clerks (CMC) and three (3) will be for Master Municipal Clerks (MMC). The 2008 Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York on July 20-24, 2008
- The New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) 2008 Fall Training School will be held the week of September 15-19, 2008, Lake Placid, New York. The New York State Association of City and Village Clerks will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at the Annual Luncheon meeting.

- Mr. Harry L Weed, Superintendent of Public Works for the Village of Rockville Centre was named a 2008 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA). APWA honored 10 of the most outstanding public works professionals from across the U.S. and Canada for their professionalism, expertise and career-long dedication and service. Marking the 49th year of the award, the distinction is among the most coveted and prestigious presented by the Association.

- The Long Island Village Clerks & Treasurers Association has scheduled the following workshops for its members:
 - Nassau County Civil Service – The Civil Service Law, Procedures and Requirements on Tuesday, July 8, 2008.
 - The process of tax assessments on Wednesday, October 1, 2008.



REGION 2

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

Report by James R. Koury

jkoury@oneonta.ny.us

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



REGION 3

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

Report by Kathie Montigelli

villofbr@gisco.net



- The North Country Association of Clerks & Treasurers is a regional professional association with members from Jefferson, Oneida, Oswego and Lewis counties. NCAVCT members met in Watertown on May 15th for the Association's quarterly meeting and listened to a presentation from the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) relating to recreational liability for municipalities. Officers of the Association are: Brenda McConnell, President, Village of Brownville; Sylvia Bush, Vice President, Village of Theresa; Robin Mitchell, Secretary, Village of Camden; and Kristin Burroughs, Treasurer, Village of Black River.
- In news from the Adirondack region, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and the Adirondack Energy \$mart Park Initiative (E\$PI) held the North Country Woody Biomass Conference at The Wild Center in

Tupper Lake. Sloane Crawford, project leader, noted that "A community-based model for biomass utilization has strong potential for application throughout the region."

- For those of us living in the North Country, the Fort Drum military installation has an enormous impact on our local communities. It is the single largest contributor to our local economy and an excellent neighbor in general. The military families that have settled in the surrounding communities graciously volunteer their time for many community-based programs and bring a wonderful diversity of ideas and backgrounds to the North Country. As part of the Fort Drum Centennial Celebration, a Military History Timeline presentation will be held on June 14th & 15th at the Heritage Center on Fort Drum. The event is open to the public.

REGION 4

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

Report by Patty Couch

skanvillage@adelphia.net

- Angela D'Arduini retired as Clerk/Treasurer after 30 years of service to the Village of Manchester. Rita J. Gurewitch is now the Village Clerk/Treasurer, a NYSACAV member for 9 years and Debra A. Gulvin-Chase is Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and a member for 8 years.
- The Village of Tully announced that they have a new Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Charlene Bell. Charlene who lives in the village, comes from the Environmental Science and Forestry College at Syracuse University where she has just recently retired.
- The Central NY Village Clerk/Treasurers Association will be having their annual CNYVCTA Alumni meeting at the end of June. Attendees always enjoy seeing former members and hearing how they are keeping themselves busy now that they are retired.
- The Village of Cayuga has been very successful in getting a grant from the NYS Council on the Arts for a series of Waterfront concerts and Arts Workshops which promise to be great fun. They have a Historic Railroad Depot as their offices and collaborate with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railroad to provide a series of community events which reflect our unique

history as a Village on the Canal, the Railroad and of course, beautiful Cayuga Lake. Scheduled activities include:

- Celebrate Independence Weekend on July 5** in the gazebo at 7 pm with a mix of Jazz, Rock and Pop. Bring your chairs and relax as the sun sets on the water while listening to Bo Piorun playing with a three piece ensemble.
- Waterfront Music Festival on August 9** from 12-9 at Harris Park Cayuga
- Speedy Car Special Event on August 16**

To obtain information on these and other scheduled events, Email seharris@localnet.com or call 315-889-5073.

- The Village of Savona recently announced that their Water Project is well underway after thirteen years of preparation. The system is scheduled to be up and running by the end of July or early August of this year! In addition, as a result of the March election, Brian Scott was elected to Trustee and Michael Horton was elected Village Justice.





REGION 5

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

Report by Daniel P. Borchert

borchert@akronvillage.us

- In conjunction with Cattaraugus County's Bi-Centennial there will be a Wagon Train and Stage Coach Run from August 9-22, 2008. The Wagon Train & Stage Coach Run will begin in Ellicottville, wind around the county, and conclude in Little Valley.
- The National Arbor Day Foundation as Tree City USA has again honored the Village of Gowanda.
- 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 and they are very excited that the first scholarships will be awarded this fall.
- The Municipal Administrative Officials Association of Erie County has recently installed its new officers for the current year. They are as follows: President – Cynthia Schilling (Gowanda), Vice-President/Secretary - Deborah Habes (Williamsville) and Treasurer – Elizabeth Melock (Depew).
- The Village of Williamsville is proud to announce that Lynda Juul has been promoted to the position of Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer and Judy Kindron as Deputy Treasurer.
- The Village of Hamburg is proud to announce that Donald P. Witkowski has been appointed to the position of Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer. Mr. Witkowski previously worked as the City Clerk for the City of Tonawanda.
- The Village of Angola won 3rd Place in the NYCOM Picture Perfect Photo Contest. Their Main Street Clock Photo will be a part of NYCOM's front page for all of 2009. The Village of Angola is also working on a John D. Rockefeller Memorial, which is based on "The Great Angola Horror". It was a train wreck that occurred in the Village back in the 1800's and they are putting together plans for a Depot and a Park/Memorial.
- The Village of Bergen, along with the Town of Bergen is embarking in a joint venture to rehabilitate a historical building to be used for shared government offices.

Executive Committee Meeting Report

Three Executive Committee meetings have been held over the past few months. These meetings have all been productive and action plans have been established in order that the Executive Committee remains focused on the objectives that were stated at our last annual meeting. Below is a summary of each meeting.

November 18, 2007 – Albany

- Introduction and overview for new Executive Committee
- Review of Committee assignment
- Insurance Coverage
- Calendar of Events
- New design idea for the Bulletin

February 24, 2008 – Albany

- Membership summary and ideas to increase membership
- IIMC – RMC and CMC school updates
- Guidelines and thoughts for Regional Managers status
- Calendar of Events

April 25, 2008 – Skaneateles

- Proposed Budget
- 100th Anniversary overview and suggested plans
- Scholarship applications
- CMC School
- Bulletin timetable – Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter
- Membership update



VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES 175th Anniversary

The Village of Skaneateles celebrated their 175th Anniversary with a celebration dinner attended by approximately 200 people at the Skaneateles Country Club. The following history of the Village was prepared and presented by Village Historian Patricia Blackler.

On April 19th – the Village of Skaneateles, the day in 1833 that we were incorporated as a Village, separately governed from the town. But April 19th is also a day well known in the country. It is Patriots Day. “*On the 18th of April in '75, hardly a man is now alive that remembers that time and day and year and the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.*” In Massachusetts today it is a state holiday. To go further, it was Daniel Kellogg’s birthday—one of our first settlers; a wealthy jurist from Massachusetts who lived on the corner of Onondaga and East Genesee Streets. His portrait now hangs in the Bank of Auburn of which he was president. A portrait painted by the well-known portrait painter, Charles Loring Elliot; also a one time Skaneateles resident.

Twenty five years ago today we celebrated our sesquicentennial, the banquet was held at the old country club while eight inches of snow piled up outside-April 19th mind you. There are a lot of people here who remember that night—the DPW was busy pulling out cars in the parking lot.

The 150th sesquicentennial was a year long celebration, chaired by David Chase and Mrs. Blackler’s predecessor historian Don Stinson. They and their committee produced a wonderful souvenir booklet filled with old pictures, write ups, and stories of events of the history of Skaneateles. Historians use it as their “Bible” – a complete and concise history of our village. All who love Skaneateles should have one on their bookshelves.

Today the Village and the Fire Department (they also share this memorable year) are celebrating the QUARTO-SEPT-CENTENNIAL. Now that is quite a word!

Looking back on the last 25 years, (since 1983), we’ve accomplished much. We have a new Fire Station—a new school building—a new post office—the Creamery Museum (which is now going to expand)—the Packwood House—the Thayer House (both named after early residents)—the expansion of the Stone Mill (and preservation of the old building)—the Creekside Bookstore—the S.A.V.E.S. building—the Athenaeum—a new Genesee Street Bridge—the Gazebo (given to us by David Chase during the Sesquicentennial, dedicated to his wife Margaret)—and of course the Skaneateles Community Center.

Let me close with a quote from a speech by John Dodgson Barrow, an artist we have always claimed as our own, whose work can be seen at the Barrow Art Gallery. This is the end of a talk he gave to the Village of Skaneateles on the day that the Centennial of the United States was celebrated.

“It is not ours to begin but the hard task to carry on faithfully what they began, and while we today pledge ourselves anew that the great work shall still go on, that no measures of our fathers’ work or hope shall fail. Let us not be said of us that we let the shadow of time go backward, or that we were even willing to leave our heritage as we found it. Let us especially remember the beauty of our lake and its shores, and resolve, that present beauty, and in some measure at least, the restoration of the old shall ever be in our thoughts and among the constant and zealous efforts to our lives. May we all do something to this end, so that in another hundred years, our successors shall meet together and rejoice, and thank us for what we may have done for the pleasure and honest pride in their lives; when Skaneateles Lake shall be, as nature intended it, the loveliest and the most alluring of all our inland waters.” July 4, 1872



Members of the Executive Committee in Skaneateles.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK

100th Anniversary

The Village of Floral Park located in Nassau County, is celebrating 100 years of Incorporation. The Village was founded in 1908 by seed catalogue entrepreneur John Lewis Childs whose flower and vegetable fields once blanketed the area, thus the name Floral Park. Today, the Village is home to almost 16,000 residents.

As part of a year's worth of activities to celebrate the Centennial, the Village recently hosted a grand parade followed by an old-fashioned fair. The parade was led by the famous Clydesdale Horses and featured many bands, neighboring fire departments, antique vehicles and homemade floats.



Village of Floral Park Officials

VILLAGE OF SANDY CREEK

130th Anniversary

The Village of Sandy Creek, the first Village to Incorporate in Oswego County, will be celebrating their 130th year of Incorporation this summer. A full story will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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2008 Fall School Planning Session

On March 14th Lou DiDomenico, Dan Borchert and I represented our Association at the NYCOM/OSC Fall School Planning session held in Albany. The meeting was attended by the NYCOM staff, State Comptrollers Office and representatives from the Finance Officers Association.

Several days prior to the meeting, detailed summary reports of the 2007 Fall School were sent to us in order that we were prepared to offer suggestions and ideas in an effort to improve the 2008 session. The areas that were used in determining the overall value of a class included: the topic, length of the class and presenter.

Each class from the 2007 session was reviewed and ranked as to their overall educational value. In some cases classes will be combined in order that maximum amount of education can be provided.

CMC Announcements!

The following members of our Association have recently received Certified Municipal Clerk designation by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.



Angela Arasim	Village of Fishkill
Joan M. Brenon	City of Utica
Patricia Carley	Village of Babylon
Louise S. Glasso	City of Rome
Mertie Pozzi	Village of Newark Valley
Lynette Schlicher	Village of Riverside
April Vecchiarella	City of Salamanca

By obtaining this certification, these individuals have clearly proven their high level of commitment and dedication toward their profession.

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62nd Annual IIMC Conference – Atlanta, GA

May 18-23, 2008

Shawn Cullinane, NYSACVC IIMC Liaison

Approximately 750 delegates from across the United States, Canada and 14 nations from around the world attended this year's conference. An excellent program of educational sessions, as well as social activities, were prepared by the Atlanta Conference Committee, comprised of Atlanta City Clerk Rhonda Dauphin-Johnson, the Georgia State Clerks and the Clerks of IIMC Region III. Particularly well received were the four General Sessions, each featuring a dynamic and engaging motivational speaker. In addition, a wide variety of educational classes on records management, finance and audit, personnel management, ethics in government to leadership training, customer service, computer training, and more were presented throughout the week.

Once again, the Opening Ceremony was a dramatic event, featuring a parade of flags from all participating states, Canadian provinces and foreign nations. The keynote speaker was former UN Ambassador Andrew Young who encouraged Clerks to be part of the process of "... turning red tape into a red carpet ..." in our dealings with local constituents and the business community. A surprise appearance was made by American Idol winner and Atlanta native Ruben Studdard who nearly brought the house down with his all too short musical presentation.

Our new President is Dyanne Reese, Clerk of Council for the City of Savannah, Georgia, who will serve until May 2009. In addition, for the first time, the election of Vice President was conducted by mailed ballot only. Adopted last year as a Constitutional amendment, this process now empowers the entire membership to be involved in the election of our leadership, not just those that attend the annual conference each year. Sharon Cassler, Clerk of Council for the City of Cambridge, Ohio was elected over Ronny Frederickx, City Secretary of Essen, Belgium and will ascend to the Presidency of IIMC in May of 2010.

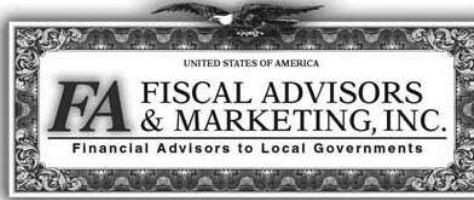
During the Conference, each of IIMC's 11 regions held a separate meeting. The Region I meeting was conducted by Region Directors Linda Cohen of Maine and Bernice Dixon of Connecticut who reviewed the activities of IIMC during the past year at length. In general, IIMC appears to be stabilizing its financial condition after several years of concern. Our membership total continues to be stalled at just over 10,000 as it has been over the past few years. One of the major concerns raised by a number of individual clerks was the continuing frustration they have been experiencing with the processing of their CMC applications by IIMC headquarters. Others have had problems receiving the MMC credit they were expecting for certain

educational sessions. Our Region Directors stated they would be working hard to help resolve these matters.

On a personal note, I am honored to have been selected by outgoing President Chuck Tokar to be one of five members to serve on the newly organized IIMC Ethical Standards Committee.

Finally, it is a pleasure to announce that during the Opening Ceremony former Region I Director Pattie McCoy, MMC, Town Clerk and Treasurer of Poultney, Vermont was awarded the prestigious IIMC Quill Award. The award is presented to those members of IIMC who have demonstrated a long and distinguished record of service to the clerk's profession, their fellow clerks, their State and or regional associations and to IIMC. Pattie is truly a worthy recipient of this award. She becomes the 8th person from Region I, and the first since 2000, to receive this honor. Congratulations Pattie!

Next year's Annual Conference will be in Chicago, IL, May 19-23.



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NYSACVC 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Louis DiDomenico, 100th Anniversary Chairperson

This year the New York State Association of City and Village Clerks will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary at the NYCOM Fall Training School during the week of September 15-19, 2008, in Lake Placid, New York. The Annual Meeting Luncheon of the New York State Association of City and Village Clerks will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. At the Annual Meeting, the State Association will recognize the Past Presidents, Clerk of the Years, Honoraries, and make special presentations. A State Association 100th Anniversary Journal is being prepared and will be presented to each State Association



100th ANNIVERSARY

member who attends and will include the history of the State Association and various vendors will be displayed as supporters of the 100th anniversary. The 100th Anniversary Celebration entertainment will be provided by Patrick Farrell on Tuesday evening, September 16, 2008. The State Association looks forward to its 100th Anniversary Celebration and looks forward to seeing you all in September!

NYCOM Annual Meeting

Brian S. Ridgway

I had the opportunity to attend this years 99th NYCOM Annual Meeting which was held June 8-11 in Saratoga Springs. This year's conference was very well attended and informative. Each day began with an "early bird" session at 8AM and was then followed by a selection of ten various topics. Some of the topics included – "Strategic Planning", "Measuring & Managing Performance", "Smart Growth", "Making Shared Services Work for You", and "Pension Eligibility & Service Credits".

The schedule included three key speakers who were:

Robert Danzig – Keynote Speaker and former CEO of Hearst Newspapers

Thomas P. DiNapoli – State Comptroller

Thomas R. Suozzi – Nassau County Executive & Chairperson of Commission on Property Tax Relief



Keynote Speaker Robert Danzig

Congratulations to Barbara VanEpps!

At the NYCOM Executive Committee meeting that was held on Sunday, June 8th the recommendation of NYCOM Executive Director Peter A. Baynes to promote Barbara to the additional position of NYCOM Deputy Executive Director was unanimously approved.

Barbara will continue to be responsible for all areas of municipal finance which include budget development & implementation. Prior to joining the NYCOM Staff in 2006, she worked in the Office of the New York State Division of Budget as a Principal Budget Examiner. During her thirteen years there Barbara focused on local government issues and programs, including local taxation, public sector compensation/benefits and the AIM Program.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Binghamton and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Albany, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

On behalf of the NYSACVC we offer our congratulations and success to Barbara.



Barbara VanEpps

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State Budget: The New York State Budget of \$121.7 Billion will include aid to municipalities. Increases in Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) vary between 3 and 9%. A \$51 million increase in CHIPS (Consolidated Highway Improvement Project Systems) funding. The total CHIPS funding is \$363 million.

Property Tax Concern: Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi as Chair of the Commission on Property Tax Relief presented his Commissions finding at the NYCOM Annual Meeting. It was made clear that the high level of property taxes in New York State is not a local but state wide problem

which needs to be addressed. It was reported that currently New York State property taxes are 79% above the national average. For more detailed information regarding this issues refer to www.cptr.state.ny.us

Wicks Law: After years of effort and request for changes, reform to the Wicks Law was approved and is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2008! The threshold associated with multiple bidding requirements increased from \$50,000 to \$1.5 million from project of Long Island/Westchester and level increase to \$3 million for NYC and \$500,000 for the rest of the State.

NYSACVC Welcomes New NYCOM Members

NYSACVC welcomes the two newest members to the NYCOM staff. They are:

Richard J. Sinnott, Counsel
and
John A. Mancini, Counsel

"Thank You" Mayor Strada

NYSACVC wishes to thank Mayor Ernest Strada for his year of service as President of NYCOM. His leadership and professionalism guided us all through a very exciting year. The many achievements this past year were largely because of his efforts and those of Executive Director Peter Baynes and his entire staff.



Ernest Strada, NYCOM Past President



MUNICIPAL CLERKS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

Gloria Anderson
Village of Falconer
PRESIDENT

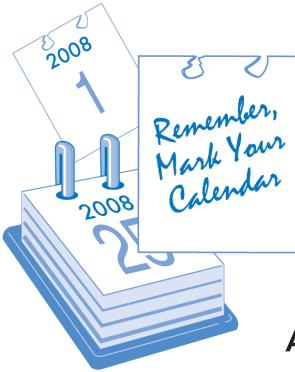
Karen Bilfaro
Town of Ellington
VICE PRESIDENT

Deanna Crossley
Town of Sherman
TREASURER

Roberta Valentine
Town of Pomfret
SECRETARY



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- July 17:** NYCOM Planning & Zoning Session – SUNY New Paltz
- July 20-24:** CMC/MMC Training Session – Cornell University in Ithaca
- July 23:** NYCOM Planning & Zoning Session – Quesbury Town Hall
- July 31:** NYCOM Planning & Zoning Session – SUNY Geneseo
- August 7:** NYCOM Planning & Zoning Session – Hamilton College
- August 26-28:** OSC Local Government & Accounting – City of Kingston
- September 15-19:** Annual Fall Training School – Lake Placid

The Fall/Winter Bulletin is scheduled to include information on the following subjects:

- 2008 Cornell Municipal Institute
- Regional Area Updates
- General News Updates
- Association Committee Assignments 2009-2010
- Fall Training School Summary & Photo Highlights!
- Village of Sandy Creek - 130th Anniversary



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