



NYSAC
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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News Release

January 28, 2008

NYSAC and the Dennis A. Pelletier County Government Institute Hold Orientation Session for Newly Elected and Appointed County Officials

More than seventy new county officials went back to school Monday...*this time* to learn the finer points of being a local public servant.

County legislators, commissioners, supervisors and administrators were among the local leaders who came from counties across New York to attend the Orientation for Newly Elected and Appointed County Officials at the 2008 Legislative Conference of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). Several of those attending included members of the new class of more than 175 county officials elected last November and began serving earlier this month.

"County government can be a complex organization, and this orientation is a great way for our new officials to learn the basics. It's also a great opportunity for county leaders to meet their peers and share good ideas," said Lucille M. McKnight, NYSAC President and an Albany County Legislator.

The seven-hour orientation program is offered by the Dennis A. Pelletier County Government Institute, which is a structured educational program established for elected and appointed county officials. The Pelletier Institute grew out of a partnership between NYSAC and Cornell University, and is named for a widely respected Monroe County legislator and former member of the NYSAC Board of Directors.

"This program is an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of county leadership," said Stephen J. Acquario, NYSAC executive director. "It covers a wide array of issues county officials face in New York State, and directs them to information and resources that will help them fulfill their increasingly challenging positions."

Over 300 newly elected and appointed officials have participated in the annual orientation session since it was established by NYSAC and the Pelletier Institute in 2003. Other courses offered by the Pelletier Institute include Foundations of County Government and Public Sector Labor/Management Relationships and are offered as part of NYSAC annual conferences. A Certificate of Achievement is awarded to each county official who completes the Institute's core requirements.

The New York State Association of Counties is a bipartisan municipal association serving all 62 counties of New York State including the City of New York. Organized in 1925, NYSAC's mission is to represent, educate and advocate for member counties and the thousands of elected and appointed county officials who serve the public.

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