



President: Irwin L. Davis

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Capital District: Anthony Capece – Pamela Tobin; **Central New York:** Michael Long – Lloyd Purdy; **Finger Lakes:** Heidi Zimmer-Meyer – Gary Ferguson;

Catskills: Robert Dadras – Jeffrey House; **Mohawk Valley:** Fredrick Miller;

North Country: David Zembiec – Christine Hoffman – Nancy Kin;

Southern Tier: Joseph Moody – Jack Benjamin – Merry Harris;

Western New York: Don Burkel – Lee Harkness – Michael Schmand

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APRIL / MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

On May 7, 2008 the New York State Urban Council brought together our Regional Vice Presidents for the first Board meeting of the year. Urban Council VP Heidi Zimmer-Meyer graciously hosted us in her 19th floor board room overlooking a beautiful and rapidly changing Downtown Rochester. During the meeting I was truly impressed with the quality and quantity of issues discussed and I found myself inspired by the passion and energy displayed by our Board members. As a follow up to the meeting, the Board will be coming together in the next couple months to review our last white paper, [The Blueprint for New York State's Downtowns](#), and discuss the priority issues that should be addressed in the 2008 paper. I encourage all of you to think about and share your ideas and priorities. Thanks. – Ben

LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

New York State:

- **A07935B:** Expanded New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (**Status:** Discussions are ongoing between the Assembly and Senate on a compromised bill).
- **A11107:** Makes changes to the existing Brownfield Cleanup Program (**Status:** Referred to environmental conservation on 05/15/2008).
- **A10234:** Establishes a green roof tax abatement for certain properties (**Status:** Referred to real property taxation on 03/11/2008).
- **A02358:** Authorizes tax increment bonds payable from real property taxes levied by a school district within a blighted project area (**Status:** Referred to local governments on 01/09/2008).
- **A10178:** Directs the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation to make loans for the installation of sprinkler systems in historic buildings (**Status:** Referred to ways and means on 04/16/2008).

NEWS TRACKER

- [City center's comeback unfolds](#) (Elmira)
- [Clarkson University rethinks its use of largely empty downtown campus](#)
- [\\$250M Rensselaer waterfront project gets underway](#)
- [Downtown's New Slogan: Yours to Discover](#) (Ithaca)
- [Sculpture in the Streets returning to Albany June 13](#)
- [Proctors applauded by Preservation League, wins award](#) (Schenectady)
- [Japanese delegation impressed by New Rochelle's BID](#)

INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please visit our [Information Clearinghouse](#) and share your comments and questions on important issues facing New York State's downtowns.
- Want to host a meeting? Have a new member reference? Please let us know.

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