

2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue Sources

Federal & State Grants	\$595,965
Allegany, Cattaraugus, & Chautauqua Co's	\$ 74,630
Other Local Share	\$246,444
TOTAL REVENUE	\$917,039

Program Expenditures

Payroll, Leave, & Fringe Benefits	\$453,653
Program Operations	\$463,386
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$917,039

STAFF MEMBERS

Donald Rychnowski

Executive Director

Richard Zink

Assistant Director

Thomas Barnes

*Sr. Regional Economic Development
Coordinator*

John Buzzard

Information Services Associate

Brenda Farnham

Maintenance

Ginger Malak

Sr. Regional Development Coordinator

Brian Paschen

Community Assistance Specialist

Sarah Phearsdorf

Publications Associate

Daniel Reynolds

Regional Environmental Analyst

Eileen Weishan

Community Assistance Specialist



2008 CORPORATE SPONSORS



BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman, James Cooper

Supervisor, Town of Poland

Vice Chairman, Robert Keis

Supervisor, Town of Mansfield

Secretary, Susan Myers

Allegany County

Curtis Crandall, Ex-Officio

Allegany County Legislative Chairman

Theodore Hopkins

Allegany County Legislator

John Margeson

Allegany County Administrator

Brent Reynolds

Allegany County Legislator

Jerry Scott

Councilman, Town of Cuba

Crystal Abers

Cattaraugus Co Legislative Chairwoman

Charles Couture

Cattaraugus County

Joseph Eade

Cattaraugus County

William King

Cattaraugus County

William Daly

Chautauqua County IDA

Gregory Edwards

Chautauqua County Executive

Shaun Heenan

Chautauqua County Legislator

Allan Hendrickson

Chautauqua County

Lucille White

Seneca Nation of Indians

LEFT DURING THE YEAR

Sebastian Baggiano

Chautauqua Institution

Louis Drago, Jr.

Chautauqua County Legislator

Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board



Southern Tier West

NEW YORK
STATE

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DONALD R. RYCHNOWSKI



The Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was established by an action of the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany County Legislatures and the New York State Legislature in 1969. At that time the organization was established in response to the need for: addressing federal requirements regarding funding opportunities; taking actions on a broader scope other than counties and localities enhancing entire regions; and coordinating planning processes for all aspects of government. Regional planning and development was not thought of as being a permanent institution by many players in the early years. Now, forty years later, most of the Regional Planning Boards created in New York State are still in existence and thriving through the support of their counties and local governments. The role of Regional Planning Boards has changed over the years from initially being one of pure comprehensive planning in various areas to that of implementation of development projects.

Southern Tier West was designated as one of the 72 districts of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in 1969, which brought requirements for additional planning in virtually all aspects for the quality of life in this region. The organization studied population decline and poverty; needs associated with transportation, economic development, infrastructure, health, dental, and education; and a variety of aspects of life in our three-county region. While many of these studies ended up being shelf documents; much good came out of the early planning processes for both ARC and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Literally hundreds of millions of dollars were invested in our three-county region. Many federal and State supported projects were initiated through Southern Tier West and its Board of Directors.

We can point with pride to - -

The designation of Route 17 as part of the ARC Area Development Highway System (ADHS) and as Interstate 86.

We can point with pride to - -

The fact that our organization was able to resurrect a dying railroad that spanned 150 miles through our region that recently only 40 miles was operable. We can say that our efforts have resulted in saving the rail line and its resurrection as a major transportation network for new shippers and new jobs in our region.

We can point with pride to - -

Educational institution improvements and curriculum enhancements, health care centers, and economic development initiatives - - all have improved the quality of life in our region by creating and retaining jobs.

Although it is good to remember the accomplishments of an organization, it is the people that make a good organization. During Southern Tier West's forty-year history, there have been numerous staff and hundreds of people who served on the Board of Directors and contributed to the many successful projects and programs of the organization. Many of the Board members who served as officers of the organization in the early years are not with us today, however they deserve mention.

RURAL REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

In 2008, Southern Tier West continued planning activities under its two-year contract with NYS Department of Transportation to develop a **Rural Regional Transportation Plan** for the three counties covering highways, public transit, rail, and aviation. This regional transportation plan is being developed in cooperation with and the participation of NYS Department of Transportation, county and local governments, and the Seneca Nation of Indians.



MULTI-MODAL FREIGHT TRANSFER FACILITY

In 2008, Southern Tier West continued work on the **Multi-modal Freight Transfer Facility and Manufacturing Center Feasibility Study Project**, a planning initiative funded by the Economic Development Administration and NYS Department of Transportation. Building on the success of the regional railroad initiative, this project involves the evaluation of the feasibility of a transmodal freight transfer facility and manufacturing center (business park); the evaluation and identification of the best site in the region for such a facility and business park; and preliminary engineering and strategic planning for the subsequent development of the facility and business park.

ROUTE 219 INITIATIVE

Southern Tier West continued its advocacy role in support of the **Route 219 Construction**. Southern Tier West supports the four-lane limited-access freeway plan alternative. The Route 219 Corridor Development Association of Southwest New York, a private sector advocacy group, has been formed and is now working toward state and federal funding for additional construction phases of the highway. In 2008, Southern Tier West received funding from ARC for a **Route 219 Corridor Development Impact and Safety Analysis**.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

During 2008, Southern Tier West continued its emphasis on development of the region's **Railroad Transportation System**, focusing on line rehabilitation and providing additional freight shipping options for the region's employers using the Southern Tier Extension and Buffalo railroad lines. Southern Tier West also continued to provide administrative support to the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA). Southern Tier West also assisted STERA with managing and completing the ongoing construction project that began in 2006. Southern Tier West helped STERA secure an additional \$500,000 of NYS Department of Transportation funding to expand the ongoing rehabilitation project, which was completed in 2008.



CENTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The mission of the **Southern Tier West Center for Local Government & Community Services** is to increase the effectiveness of governance of our region's municipalities. The program has evolved into one of the most comprehensive local government in-service training and technical assistance programs in New York. The Center works with communities and community-based institutions to establish sustainable foundations for community and economic development.

The cornerstone of the Center's training - **the Annual Local Government Conference** - celebrated its 15th year of excellence in 2008. The Conference again reached its historical maximum attendance of 420 individuals, with fifty programs ranging from Code Enforcement in-service credit classes to leadership, planning, and technology topics. The Conference also featured 32 exhibitors and a record 50 speakers from 25 different State agencies and area businesses.

Also in 2008, Southern Tier West held the **7th Annual Planning and Zoning Conference** at the Radisson Hotel in Jamestown with over 120 attendees representing towns, villages and cities. The programs presented included land use, planning and zoning basics.

E-GOVERNMENT

In 2008, Southern Tier West continued the **E-government Program** for local municipalities. The program focuses on the creation of websites for each municipality within the region as well as technical assistance in the area of networking. Southern Tier West creates a static front page for Community Assistance Program (CAP) member municipalities that do not have a web presence and works closely to create fully functional web pages for those joining the CAP program in Tiers 2 & 3. Links to the websites can be accessed from the Southern Tier West website.



RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Begun in 1991, the **Records Management Program** is still providing quality services to local governments in the records field. In 2008, Southern Tier West received funding for Website Creation for ten municipalities including fully functional and interactive municipal websites. Southern Tier West was honored to receive the Paquin Award from the New York State Association of Local Government Records Officers in recognition of the work done in the field of Records Management.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

In 2008, Southern Tier West made a series of **Wind Energy Development** presentations to municipalities and special interest groups. Participants included the Jamestown Rotary Club, the Town Board of Cherry Creek, and Seneca Trail RC&D. Southern Tier West also hosted three conferences on wind energy developments featuring speakers with specific areas of wind energy expertise. These conferences were geared toward different groups with a stake in wind energy development, land owners, municipal officials, and highway superintendents.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Martin E. Cobb from Chautauqua County was Southern Tier West's first Chairman who served on the Board for 17 years. Mr. Cobb was instrumental in initiating discussions with federal and county officials to identify and obtain administrative funds for Southern Tier West's staff. Through his leadership the counties worked together, for the first time, to accomplish regional goals.

In addition to Mr. Cobb, we should remember Maynard Boyce from Allegany County who served as Chairman from 1985 to 1989 and was an original member of the Board in 1969; and Steve Smith from Cattaraugus County who served from 1989 to 1991. Other notable past Chairmen of the Board who are with us today include: Joseph Eade 1995-1997 and Robert Keis 2002-2008 from Cattaraugus County; and Walter Martelle 1993-1995 from Allegany County.

All of our Board members are responsible for the success of Southern Tier West, including these past members: Steven Carlson (former City of Jamestown Mayor) and Stanley Lundine (former Congressman and Lieutenant Governor) from Chautauqua County; Pat McGee (late NYS Senator) and Torrance Brooks from Cattaraugus County; and John Hasper from Allegany County.

Over the past 40 years, Southern Tier West as an organization and staff has grown in terms of numbers and philosophy. The original purpose was to initiate studies and prepare plans in numerous disciplines on a regional basis. Now Southern Tier West has become an implementer, facilitator, and partner in many economic development ventures within the region. Through the years, we have learned that planning cannot exist through a vacuum - - there has to be tangible results. During the latter years, we formed partnerships with many municipal governments through our Community Assistance Program and have established numerous local government training programs. Through these partnerships, we have become responsible for creating among the largest local government training center in New York State.

We have been able to forge partnerships with State and federal elected officials and can point to specific projects that we received direct help from such notables as Former Congressman and Lt. Governor Stanley Lundine, NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Young, Congressman Amory Houghton, and more recently Congressman Eric Massa.

The success of this organization is also measured in terms of our local partners from educational institutions, hospitals, economic development agencies, cultural organizations, municipal planning boards, and departments of NYS, especially Department of State and Department of Transportation.

It has been written, that it takes a region and all of its constituent organizations and people to collectively improve the quality of life. While we can point to many accomplishments during the past forty years, there is still much to do. I am sure that we can continue to maintain our diversity as counties, municipalities and organizations, and still come together to persevere in our efforts to make this a showcase region in the U.S.

C E D S A REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The current state of the national and local economy calls for a coordinated effort to plan and prioritize projects and actions to stimulate recovery and sustain future growth. Southern Tier West was able to respond quickly to federal and state requests for infrastructure projects for the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** (stimulus package) thanks to the Annual Comprehensive Regional Planning Process. The Guiding Principles of the stimulus package is to 1) spend quickly to save and create jobs, 2) ensure transparency and accountability, 3) thoughtfully invest one-time funds, and 4) advance effective reforms. Projects must be “ready-to-go” and “shovel ready”.

Southern Tier West prepares an annual **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** (CEDs) to coordinate economic development activities and identify regional issues, goals, priorities, and implementation strategies. CEDs qualifies the region for grants through the Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission, and other funding agencies.

The annual CEDs contains a wealth of information including demographic data, county and regional goals, recommended projects, and priorities for action.



ARC AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The focus of the Appalachian Regional Commission is economic development. Projects funded by ARC either support direct economic development efforts or indirectly stimulate job creation and retention. The **Area Development Program** includes eligible activities such as infrastructure, business development, job training, child day care, and health care projects. Special Initiatives of the ARC include Entrepreneurship, Energy, and Telecommunications. In 2008, seven projects in the Southern Tier West region were awarded ARC funding. Water District Number 7 in the Town of Portland received \$150,000 (total cost \$1,650,000). The Village of Brocton received \$150,000 (total cost \$3,715,000) for their Water Pollution Control Plant. Water Systems Improvements in the Village of Delevan received \$150,000 (total cost \$810,000). The Village of Cuba received \$20,000 (total cost \$40,500) for a Comprehensive Economic Development Plan for the Village and Town of Cuba. Jamestown Community College received \$130,817 (total cost \$333,516) for Enhancing Entrepreneurial Activity. Southern Tier West received three awards: \$90,000 (total cost \$180,000) for the Route 219 Corridor Development Impact & Safety Analysis, \$75,000 (total cost \$150,000) for the Asset Management GIS Inventory, and \$55,000 (total cost \$140,000) for the Broadband Inventory Study.

EDA PUBLIC WORKS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

In 2008, Southern Tier West provided technical assistance to project sponsors in developing potential projects that could be funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). As a result, Chautauqua County submitted the **Progress Drive Improvements Project** to EDA for funding, and as of the end of 2008, the project was pending approval. Two EDA-funded projects sponsored by Southern Tier West were underway in 2008, the **Broadband Study** and the **Broadband Inventory Study**.

CENSUS 2010

In 2008, Southern Tier West, as a New York State Data Affiliate, continued participation in activities preparing for the **2010 Census**. NYS Empire State Development contracted with Southern Tier West for a third straight year, this time to aid in recruiting participation in the Complete Count Committees Program and the Census In Schools Program. Southern Tier West provided training and technical support to municipalities on general Census activities and will continue to do so in 2009. Southern Tier West also agreed to participate in the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) on behalf of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties, for which Southern Tier West began the review and editing process of Census Tract and Block Group Boundaries. The PSAP will continue into 2009.

community gis

COMMUNITY GIS

The **Community Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** Program has been one of the most successful programs that Southern Tier West offers. The program completed its eighth year in 2008 and saw continued expansion. Southern Tier West continues to serve member community data on GIS-enabled websites. One new member, Salamanca Calvary Cemetery Association, was added to the Community GIS Program in 2008. This new membership was a result of Southern Tier West's effort in expanding the types of Community GIS members. All previous members retained their membership in the program, bringing the total membership to 28 communities. GIS-based infrastructure system asset management has also become recognized as an important governmental function. Community GIS has proven to be a perfect tool to help manage water, sanitary, storm sewer, and other systems owned and operated by municipalities.



DISCOVERSOUTHWESTNY.COM

In 2008, Southern Tier West continued to host the www.discoversouthwestny.com website, a regional marketing site that contains information about living, recreation, and business in the Southern Tier West region. Southern Tier West assisted Seneca Trail RC&D with a marketing effort concerning agri-tourism businesses within Cattaraugus County. For this project, Southern Tier West designed a web page within the Discover website that promotes farmers' markets and other agri-tourism based businesses throughout the county. A separate url: www.wny-agritourism.com was also established for marketing purposes. New pictorial tours of each market and business were added into the Pixearth mapping tool.

