



NYSAC,  
**Women's**  

---

**LEADERSHIP  
COUNCIL**

## **Meeting of the Minds:**

**Discussions on the Issues Facing  
Women in County Government**

NYSAC Fall Seminar  
September 13, 2017  
3:00-5:00 PM

*Sponsored by:*



**NYSAC**  
NEW YORK STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

# Welcome

Thank you for joining us for this exciting Women's Leadership Council event! The format and topics of the *Meeting of the Minds* workshop were developed through discussions, survey results, and requests from our members. We hope today's conversations are helpful to the important work you do as local leaders.

The primary goals of the Women's Leadership Council are:

- To provide resources for women holding county office,
- To support female county officials, and
- To engage women in seeking leadership positions in their communities and within NYSAC.

The NYSAC Women's Leadership Council offers resources specifically for women in county government and women interested in pursuing county leadership, including:

- Panels, forums, and workshops at NYSAC events,
- Opportunities to connect with women in county government around New York State,
- Articles in the *NYSAC News* magazine,
- Online Resource Center,
- Webinars.

The Women's Leadership Council Executive Committee assists NYSAC staff in planning events and resources that meet the needs of NYSAC's members.

***Special thanks to NYSAuctions.com for generously sponsoring today's Women's Leadership Council events!***



# Roundtable Topics

Each of today's discussions will be led by facilitators who are experts on the topic at hand (learn more about our facilitators on the following pages). The facilitators will introduce the topic, share their knowledge and experiences, and open the discussion about the challenges, solutions, and opportunities around each issue.

NYSAC will collect the key take-aways from each discussion and compile the information in a document to be distributed at a later date.

## 1. Raising Campaign Funds (Even When You Really Don't Want To!)

*Facilitator:*

Janet Duprey, retired NYS Assemblywoman and Clinton County Treasurer

## 2. Reflections on a Career in County Government

*Facilitator:*

Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino

## 3. Managing Conflict: Campaigning and Governing in Heated Times

*Facilitator:*

NYS Senator Pamela Helming

## 4. Mentoring: Finding a Mentor, Being a Mentor

*Facilitator:*

Erin Loos Cutraro, Founder & CEO, She Should Run

## 5. It's Up to the Women!

*The challenges women face in public office and the workplace*

*Facilitator:*

Cynthia Shenker, Esq., founding partner of Shenker Russo & Clark LLP

# Facilitators

**Erin Loos Cutraro** is Founder and CEO of She Should Run, a leading non-partisan organization working to increase the number of women running for office in the United States. Since its founding in 2011, nearly 40,000 women have been encouraged to run for office through She Should Run's efforts, and over 11,000 women have indicated they are preparing for a future through She Should Run's flagship program, the Incubator. Erin is a respected voice on gender equality in elected leadership. She has been featured in the New York Times, The Washington Post, NBC News, and profiled by Vice News.

An entrepreneurial leader, Erin is known for finding innovative solutions to complex challenges, including creating the Incubator, a first-of-its-kind virtual community and series of resources for women considering a run for office. Erin also built a strategic partnership with Mattel to create the 2016 Presidential and Vice Presidential Barbie, and launched an award-winning parody book, See Joan Run, to inspire more female participation in electoral politics.

Before joining She Should Run, Erin designed and implemented a variety of strategic programs for companies, campaigns, and organizations that traverse the public policy, non-profit, and financial business arenas. As the political director of Women's Campaign Fund, Erin advised female candidates at the national, state, and local level. Before that, she served at an educational non-profit and in state government in the Office of Missouri's Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, whom she helped elect statewide as part of Carnahan's campaign team in 2004.

Erin began her career as a teacher and has a life-long dedication to improving the lives of others through learning. She earned an M.A. in Communication from St. Louis University and B.A in Education at the University of Missouri.

It's Erin's two young daughters who motivate her to champion the systematic and cultural change needed to see gender equity for women and girls in our lifetime. Born and raised in Missouri, Erin now resides just outside of New York City.

**Hon. Janet Duprey** is retired from her roles as a New York State Assemblymember and Clinton County Treasurer. In the Assembly she represented Assembly District 115, which includes all of Clinton and Franklin Counties, as well as part of St. Lawrence County. Janet was first elected to the Assembly on November 7, 2006. She is originally from Plattsburgh.

Janet served as the Clinton County Treasurer from 1986 through 2006. Prior to that she was a Clinton County Legislator from 1976 through 1985.

Janet serves many civic organizations, including: Apple Valley Senior Housing Corporation, Champlain Valley Business and Professional Women's Club, Clinton Community College Nursing Division Advisory Committee, William H. Miner Agriculture Research Institute (Board of Directors), North Country League of Women Voters, North Country Honor Flight, Spectrum Advisory Board- SUNY

## Facilitators (continued)

Plattsburgh, Substance Abuse Prevention & Recovery of Clinton County, and The Development Corporation of Clinton County Board of Directors.

Janet's civic engagement and commitment to her community have been honored by many organizations over the years. Just this year she's received the City of Plattsburgh Spirit of Ianelli Award, the SUNY Plattsburgh Distinguished Service Award, and the North Country Planned Parenthood Champion of Women Award.

**Senator Pamela Helming** is the New York State Senator representing the 54th District, which includes parts of Cayuga, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Tompkins, and Wayne counties. Pam and her husband Gary, have been residents of Canandaigua for over 30 years and have raised their two children, Catherine and Evan, in the local schools and community.

Pam has more than 30 years of private business experience. She has worked in commercial building, regulatory affairs, and land use planning. It was immediately after graduating from college when Pam worked with developmentally disabled individuals that Pam recognized her desire to dedicate her life to serving others.

Her desire to make a difference in the community led to public service, first as a Canandaigua Town Board member, later as Canandaigua Town Supervisor, and now as New York State Senator for the 54<sup>th</sup> District. As Canandaigua Town Supervisor, Pam worked hard on behalf of local taxpayers and was successful in her efforts to make local government more efficient and transparent. She fought to reduce property tax rates, cut unnecessary expenses, repair infrastructure, and grow jobs by attracting new businesses and development.

Early on in her tenure as Senator, Lake Ontario flooding ravaged communities along the lake in Cayuga, Wayne, and Monroe Counties. Pam responded with a series of bills to provide relief for the affected municipalities and the people whose homes and businesses were destroyed by the natural disaster. A longtime champion for the vast local natural resources in the region, Pam also helped secure \$110 million in the New York State budget for projects that will preserve drinking water at its sources by conserving lakes, watersheds, and other buffer areas and protecting against pollutants and invasive species.

With agriculture being the biggest industry in the Finger Lakes Region, Pam aims to work with local farmers and residents to bolster the industry. Throughout the NYS budget process, Pam successfully advocated for vital investments that support family farming across the state.

As New York State Senator, Pam serves as Chair of the Legislative Rural Resources Committee and Vice Chair of the Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee. She also serves on the Banks, Children and Families, Consumer Protection, Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Higher Education, and Social Services committees, as well as on the Heroin Task Force and the Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases.

## Facilitators (continued)

**Hon. Kathy Jimino**, Rensselaer County Executive, graduated cum laude from Siena College with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and received her Master's degree in Social Policy from SUNY Empire State College.

After graduating from Siena, Kathy went to work for Rensselaer County in the information technology department where she held several positions prior to being named commissioner of that department.

Soon thereafter, Kathy served as the City of Troy's Budget Director and later City Manager. Beginning in 1996 Kathy served as a Principal Analyst for the New York State Senate Finance Committee, and later was named Assistant Director of the Office of Budget Studies. In 1997, she accepted an appointment and was subsequently elected to the Rensselaer County Legislature.

In 2001, Kathy was appointed County Executive. Six months later the voters of Rensselaer County approved her appointment by electing her by the largest margin ever afforded any Rensselaer County Executive in history. Unopposed, Kathy was subsequently reelected in 2005, 2009 and 2013.

Her administration is known for its consistent drive to assure that county residents benefit from the streamlining of services while at the same time emphasizing that departments adhere to her strict budgetary standards, standards which have accounted for over 43 million in tax dollars saved by paring down departmental spending requests during her fifteen years as County Executive. Kathy is noted for her aggressiveness in advocating new businesses in the county, and encouraging expansion of those that already call the county home, being convinced that community-sensitive economic growth is the proper path for success.

Among other governmental and community responsibilities, Kathy serves as Co-Chair of the Center for Economic Growth's Local Government Council and is on the board of the Commission on Economic Opportunity and WMHT, as well as serving on the Community Advisory Board of the Sage Colleges Academy for Character Education. Kathy is also the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of NYSAC and was recently appointed to the Board of the National Association of Counties.

**Cynthia Shenker** brings significant and deep governmental experience and expertise to her position as a founding partner of Shenker Russo & Clark LLP, having dedicated her entire professional career to New York legislative and regulatory affairs. Because of her intimate knowledge of legislative and regulatory processes, she has a unique edge in helping clients achieve their government-related goals, navigate the legislative system, and resolve their legal issues.

She began her career working for nearly two decades in the New York State Legislature, serving as counsel to three assembly majority leaders. Cindy then joined Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, where she was a founding member of the firm's Albany, NY Government Relations practice.

## Facilitators (continued)

For over 20 years, Cindy has been deeply involved in all aspects of Government Relations. Representing clients from the largest Fortune 500 companies to the smallest not-for-profits, her government affairs practice encompasses a range of industries. Cindy insists on building long-term relationships with each of her clients, enabling her to match them with the resources to best meet their needs. Add to that her doggedness, impeccable reputation and shrewd negotiating skills, and it's no wonder so many state and national associations as well as Fortune 500 companies have turned to Cindy to help them achieve their goals, and have remained clients for many years.

Whether a client is a large company or a small for profit or not for profit, they receive the same unwavering commitment to superior service from Cindy as she mobilizes her exceptional legal acumen, intimate grasp of the legislative process, close relationships with key policymakers, and access to a wealth of resources to address their issues.

---

## Upcoming Events

### **2018 Legislative Conference**

January 29-31

The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center

Albany, NY

***Women's Leadership Council workshop on Monday, 1/29***

### **2018 Fall Seminar**

September 12-14

Lake Placid Crowne Plaza, Lake Placid

Essex County

# NYSAC Women's Leadership Council Executive Committee

---

Hon. MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive - *Executive Committee Chair*

Hon. Claudia Braymer, Warren County Board of Supervisors

Hon. Nancy Buck, Sullivan County Treasurer

Hon. Indy Jaycox, Schoharie County Clerk

Hon. Kathy Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive

Hon. Lucille McKnight, Albany County Legislator

Hon. Martha Robertson, Tompkins County Legislator

Hon. Martha Sauerbrey, Tioga County Legislative Chair

## Staff Contact

---

Nicole Correia

NYS Association of Counties

[ncorreia@nysac.org](mailto:ncorreia@nysac.org)

(518) 465-1473 x229

[www.nysac.org/womensleadership](http://www.nysac.org/womensleadership)

