

2024 Election of NYAPT Officers

Meet the Candidates

Office of President-Elect

Diane Miano

Jordan-Elbridge Central School District



As a member of NYAPT since 2007, I have enjoyed attending all of the Conferences, Winter Workshops, trainings, and all of the opportunities NYAPT has to offer. The learning and growth opportunities that NYAPT provides and the ability to make a difference for the safe transportation for the children of New York State is what makes me want to be a part of this great Association. My goal is to continue to assist in providing high quality transportation education to our members. I would be most honored to continue to serve as your President Elect on the NYAPT Executive Board.

As an active member of NYAPT, I have served as:

- ❖ NYAPT Vice President for 2 years
- ❖ NYAPT Secretary for 4 years
- ❖ Director on the NYAPT Board for 3 ½ years (2014 – 2018)
- ❖ Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee for the past 6 years
- ❖ Served as Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Committee and a member of all NYAPT Committees for the past 2 years.
- ❖ Member of the Central New York Chapter since 2007

I have been in School Transportation for 28 years. My career so far is as follows:

- ❖ 10 years Transportation Supervisor for Jordan-Elbridge Central School District
- ❖ 3 years Dispatcher for Jordan-Elbridge Central School District
- ❖ 15 years total as Bus Driver for Hannibal Central School District
- ❖ 3 ½ years as Head Bus Driver for Hannibal Central School District
- ❖ 19A Certified Examiner since 2006
- ❖ SBDI since 2006

Office of Vice President

John Spacht

Frewsburg Central School District, Jamestown City School District & Southwestern Central School District



John Spacht is a dedicated public servant, with a background deeply rooted in service and leadership. As a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, John honed invaluable skills in discipline, teamwork, and commitment to excellence. Transitioning from military service, John embarked on a career path as a diesel mechanic, showcasing a knack for problem-solving and mechanical expertise. After about 10 years in the private sector, an opportunity came up at a local school district to work as a Head Mechanic. With a passion to always advance and further his career, John began to execute driver training and 19-A duties for the district. Driven by a passion for education and community, John transitioned into the role of Transportation Supervisor at a neighboring district, where he efficiently managed

logistics and operations with precision and diligence.

With a strong desire to make a difference for all students, John ventured into the realm of public service, where he was elected to the School Board in his home district for two consecutive terms. During his tenure, John demonstrated leadership, advocating for educational excellence, fiscal responsibility, and student welfare. His strategic vision and dedication to serving the community led to tangible improvements in the education system. John was elected to the position of Vice President for three consecutive years while on the school board.

John was then asked to become the Shared Transportation Supervisor at two school districts- one of which was his home district- which meant could no longer serve on the school board. However, with his skillset and leadership, John was able to better serve the community by helping to merge services and resources between the two districts. This joint venture was very productive and after two years of shared services, a third district joined in.

Currently, John Spacht serves as the Director of Transportation for three school districts, where he continues to exemplify unwavering commitment to enhancing efficiency, safety and reliability in student transportation.

John is also very involved both at the local and state level advocating for transportation. He has served as both President and Vice President for the Chautauqua County Association for Pupil Transportation (CCAPT). At the state level, John has served on several NYAPT committees and is currently the Legislative Committee Chairman.

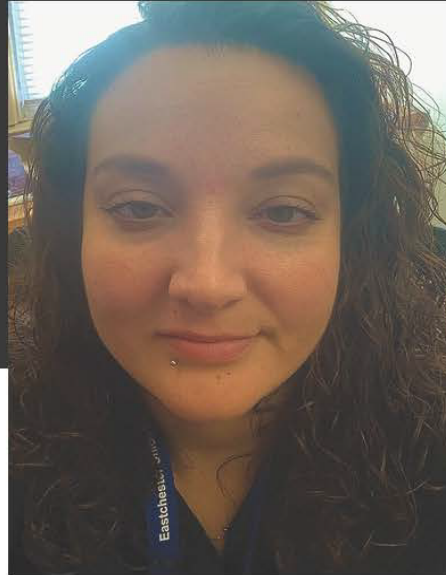
Outside of his professional endeavors, John remains actively engaged in various community initiatives, embodying the principles of integrity, service, and compassion. With a proven track record of leadership and a steadfast commitment to making a positive impact, John continues to inspire and uplift those around him.

John is running for the office of Vice President of NYAPT because he is passionate about improving pupil transportation standards, safety, and accessibility for students across New York State.

Office of Secretary

Nicole Dolce

CANDIDATE FOR NYAPT
SECRETARY



With 17 years of experience in the industry, I have put every effort into learning as much as possible about pupil transportation safety and have obtained many professional certifications. I currently serve on the Executive Team as Secretary for NYAPT. I am currently serving my second term on the NYSED MI/SBDI Committee as well as a Director for the Nassau County Chapter of NYAPT. Over the years I have turned to NYAPT for professional development and learning, and now is my time to give back. As a Master Instructor in NY State I teach multiple SBDI courses throughout the year for NYAPT and have developed and delivered additional curriculum over the years for the association. I would be honored to continue to hold the office of Secretary and assist NYAPT in furthering the mission of the association. I currently work as the Supervisor of Transportation for Herricks Public Schools. I live with my partner of many years and our dog, the kids have left the nest! I also enjoy traveling, cooking, reading and painting.

Office of Treasurer

Colette Furcht

East Hampton School District



Colette Furcht is currently Transportation Supervisor with the East Hampton School District on Long Island. Prior, she was Co-Director of Transportation with the Riverhead School District.

Before working with the school districts, she worked with Eastern Suffolk BOCES and private contractors Atlantic Express and Montauk Bus.

Colette began her career as a school bus driver and rose through the ranks by earning the respect and recognition of her peers and supervisors. She became a 19A Certified Examiner (NYSDMV) and a School Bus Driver Instructor (NYSED).

Throughout her over thirty years of experience she was always involved with professional

Boards and Committees whether it be working on Operation Safe Stop, Stop Arm Cameras, or the School Bus Rodeo to name a few.

She is an active 15-year member of Suffolk NYAPT, she has served on the Suffolk Chapter Board for 9 years as President, Vice president and Treasurer for her chapter. She is currently serving as past president.

Colette is also an active State NYAPT member and serves on various committees including the scholarship committee and the finance committee for the past six years. During her

Chapter term of President and Vice president she also served on the NYAPT Board of Directors.

Colette is active in community organizations. She is currently on the Board of Directors of her local Civic Association, serves on the Audit Committee and has run various fundraisers.

Colette is a Mother to five adult children, Grandmother of eight and lives in Ridge, Long Island with her wonderful husband who is always supportive of her activities.

Because of her personality, experience and track record Colette is an excellent choice for treasurer for State NYAPT.

Office of Treasurer

Brian Trask

Unatego Central School District



My name is Brian Trask, and I am the Director of Transportation at Unatego Central School. I have 20 years of experience in school transportation. Although transportation is my passion, I oversee other departments at Unatego, and I bring a unique combination of technical and leadership skills to this role.

After high school I attended SUNY Canton where I earned an associate degree in engineering studies with certificates in Computer Aided Drafting and Electrical Construction and Maintenance. I graduated from SUNY Canton in 1998 and started my own business. In 2003 I started driving the school bus to obtain health insurance and I fell in love with the yellow bus. I furthered my education with a bachelor's degree in computer art from SUNY Oneonta. I remained self-employed and worked various jobs all while still driving the school bus. In 2009 I accepted the position of Head Bus Driver and my career as a supervisor started.

My dedication to professional development is high priority and continued training is important. In 2010 I joined the NYAPT family, and I have been attending summer conferences, winter workshops and other professional development offerings ever since. Also, in 2010 I became a 19-A examiner and obtained my SBDI credentials in 2011. Fortunately, throughout my career I have had a unique opportunity to look at education through different lenses. I further enhanced my knowledge and obtained a certificate in District Data Administration from Pace University in 2012. As you can see professional development is important to me, in July 2023 I began the journey to become a NYSED Master Instructor. Through the years of working in these distinct roles, I have developed a well-rounded skillset. My responsibility as Transportation Director has taught me patience and problem-solving skills. Transportation is a key element in the educational experience, and it is important that everyone is properly trained and must work as a unified team with a common goal.

In 2018 I became President of the DELCHENOT Chapter of NYAPT and I have been a member on the Board of Directors ever since. With my years of experience on the Board of Directors I have a solid understanding of NYAPT's budget process. It is important that NYAPT remains strong, financially stable and an industry leader, advocating for the safety and well-being of students. My commitment to the mission and values of the NYAPT aligns seamlessly with my personal and professional principles. Running for office allows me the opportunity to give back to the organization that has taught me so much over the past 15 years. I am eager to work closely with fellow board members, members of the association, and external partners to advance the goals and objectives of NYAPT.