

Jim Becker the majority shareholder of Access Office Technologies today endorsed the following candidates for seats on the Stroudsburg Area School District.

- Bob Yarnell
- De-Ana Susinkas
- John DeVivo
- Rick Chandler

“Having attended a majority of the school board meetings over the past year I believe that there needs to be more rational cooperation amongst the members of the board in order to make good decisions and save the taxpayers’ money. I believe the candidates endorsed are knowledgeable and will work with the administration, teachers and staff to effect knowledgeable and timely decisions. With the renovation project and related expenses scheduled to affect our taxes over the next several years the school board will need to make educated decisions and these candidates would bring/maintain a wealth of knowledge to/on the board.”

Jim Becker – Access Office Technologies

## ***STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT***

### ***SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES***

#### **Bob Yarnell**

Robert, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher, and his wife Lois, a teacher at East Stroudsburg South, have four boys who have actively participated in the art, music, and sports programs in Stroudsburg. Robert believes that these programs are important and that his leadership experience will bring our community together to deal with our complex fiscal issues without jeopardizing the quality of education one expects from Stroudsburg School District.

Robert graduated with honors from Boyertown High School and Berks Career and Technical Institute (carpentry) in 1986. He became a Logistics Specialist and spent the last 23 years proudly serving his country in the United States Marines, which included a combat tour in the Persian Gulf. In 1999 Robert transferred into the Marine Reserves, and he enrolled at East Stroudsburg University to obtain a degree in secondary education social studies graduating Summa Cum Laude in December of 2005. His education was interrupted in 2004 when he was summoned to active duty via Presidential Recall for the War on Terror where he served as a Family Readiness Officer and Base Realignment Commission researcher. In January 2006, Robert began teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade social studies at Monroe Career and Technical Institute. In September 2006, Robert was again recalled to active duty for eighteen months with the Marine Corps History Division in Quantico, VA. While serving with the History Division, Robert wrote a book, The Battle of Fallujah 2004.

Robert continues to teach at MCTI while serving as a Master Gunnery Sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves as a Critical Incident Stress Management Counselor. Additionally,

he travels around the country conducting readiness assessments for reserve units preparing for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Robert's motto is "service above self" and that is evident in his community and charitable involvement. Robert started the Monroe County Toys for Tots program in 1998, a program that has brought more than 250,000 toys to over 20,000 local children in the last ten years. In 2001, Robert organized the Pocono Detachment of the Marine Corps league and served as the Commandant for five years. He has served on the Cancer Relay Committee and helped Stroudsburg become the first relay in NEPA to raise over \$100,000. He has also served on the Zoning Hearing Board in Stroud Township for the past four years.

At MCTI, he began and serves as the advisor of the Interact Club which links the students with local Rotary Clubs to teach leadership, community service, and international understanding. The Chapel of Four Chaplains, Salvation Army, U.S. Marine Corps, MS Society, the Education Department at East Stroudsburg University and the Monroe County Bar Association have recognized Robert for his community service with awards and scholarships.

Robert is a nineteen year resident of the Stroudsburg area and the proud father of four boys. He is currently in his fourth year as a social studies teacher at Monroe Career and Technical Institute. He earned his teaching certificate in 2005 as a Summa Cum Laude graduate of East Stroudsburg University. A twenty-three year Marine, Master Gunnery Sergeant Yarnall is a veteran of Desert Storm and has been activated for two and a half years during the War on Terror. Robert's motto is "service above self" and that is evident in his community and charitable involvement. He has served or continues to serve in a wide array of organizations including MS Society, Cancer Society, Toys for Tots, Stroud Township Zoning Hearing Board, and Rotary Interact Club. Robert believes that his leadership experience will bring our community together to deal with our complex fiscal issues without jeopardizing the quality of education one expects from Stroudsburg School District.

### **De-Ana Susinskas**

De-Ana has resided in Stroudsburg since she was five years old. She is a graduate of Stroudsburg Area School District and Cedar Crest College where she earned a Bachelors Degree in accounting with a minor in economics. She has worked in the banking industry for the past eleven years. She is currently the relationship manager and vice president in the Manufacturing Lending Group at KNBT Bank.

Serving on the school board will allow her to give back to the community. With experience financing building projects, De-Ana's educational and professional background will be an asset to the school board. She has witnessed the enormous growth in the area and understands the importance of academics. Her goal is to cultivate the district's traditions of excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, and community involvement, while maintaining fiduciary responsibility. "It is important for us to make responsible decisions that affect the community today, and show foresight to meet the needs of the continued growth of the area."

De-Ana and her husband Joseph have been married for eight years and have two young boys, Nicholas Rocco and Jack Joseph. Her husband works for Stroud Area Regional Police Department. In their free time, they enjoy the beach and lounging at home in their pool. "I really enjoyed growing up in this area. The school district offered me many opportunities. I knew early on math was my strength, so accounting and banking was a natural progression for me. I tried many clubs and sports as an adolescent, but in high school found my comfort in the music department. My memories are fond; I enjoyed practicing, spending time with my friends, competing and going to every football game."

De-Ana has participated in the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Communities in Schools, Robert Morris Associates, SCORE and NAAGL. Through SCORE she offered free advice to small business owners and entrepreneurs. "Typically the SCORE recipients had a great idea, but did not know where to start with a business plan, permits, financing, etc. It was a great opportunity for me to use my background and offer something back to the members of the community."

De-Ana has resided in Stroudsburg since she was five. She and her husband Joseph have two boys, Rocco and Jack. De-Ana has a Bachelors Degree in accounting with a minor in economics. She has been in banking for eleven years and currently is the relationship manager and vice president in the Manufacturing Lending Group at KNBT Bank. She believes her educational and professional background will be an asset to the school board. She believes schools and education are the foundation of every community, and that the quality of the academics must be balanced by making sound financial decisions that impact the community today and set the foundation for the future.

### **John DeVivo**

John DeVivo, a Stroudsburg native and graduate of Stroudsburg High School, studied music education at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana and received a Masters in Education from Wilkes University. He has been teaching elementary music for the past sixteen years in the Pleasant Valley School District. John is the chair for the music department and has been active in bringing award-winning performers to Pleasant Valley.

In addition to his activities as a music teacher, John is a professional musician and published author. He performs regularly with the Allentown Symphony and the Reading Symphony on the French horn. John also performs outside of the Philadelphia area with various instrumental groups. As a testament to John's love and good humor about teaching, he co-authored a book, *The Smell of Diesel in the Morning*, about his fifteen years experience having bus duty.

John and his wife, Robin (Seip) have been married for eighteen years. They have two daughters who currently attend Stroudsburg School District and participate in band and basketball. "I believe Monroe County is one of the nicest places to live. My parents, my siblings, and my wife's entire family all live here. We all went through the Stroudsburg school system and now work in the area. I think a community's success could be

defined by the number of people who decide to live, work, and raise a family where they grew up.”

John is a school board candidate because he is concerned about the district. He is open minded, an excellent listener, and able to keep his composure in the most trying times. He believes education is the backbone of all successful societies. John feels that the school board should serve as the link of communication between the community and its school. His experience as an educator and his temperament are well suited to make the important decisions that will affect the community in which we live. He would consider it a privilege to serve the district and community.

John DeVivo and his wife Robin (Seip) have lived in the Stroudsburg area their entire lives. Their two children attend school in Stroudsburg. A graduate of Stroudsburg High School, John went on to study music education at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. He received a Masters in Education from Wilkes University and has been teaching elementary music for the past sixteen years in the Pleasant Valley School District. John is the department chair for their music department and has been active in bringing award winning artists to perform for the school.

John is a candidate because he is concerned about the district. He is open minded, an excellent listener, and able to keep his composure in the most trying times. He believes education is the backbone of all successful societies. John feels that the school board should serve as the link of communication between the community and its school. His experience as an educator and his temperament are well suited to make the important decisions that will affect the community in which we live. He would consider it a privilege to serve the district and community.

### **Rick Chandler**

Rick was born and raised in Northeast Pennsylvania. He resides in Stroud Township with his wife Adriana and daughter Laura. He has served on the Stroudsburg Board of Education for the past six years and is seeking a third term. He currently holds the position of Treasurer of the board and chairs the Finance and Negotiations Committees. He is also active on the Curriculum and Technology Committee. He chairs the Joint Operating Committee of the Monroe Career and Technical Institute. He was recently inducted as an honorary member to the National Technical Honor Society recognizing his dedication to education.

In August, 2008, he earned a doctorate in education degree from East Stroudsburg University finishing first in his class. He also has an MBA from Xavier University. He was a classroom teacher for ten years in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has twenty years of Fortune 100 business experience including such positions as director of strategic planning, program manager, development manager, and director of financial systems development. He is the recipient of four Significant Achievement Awards from NCR and Kutztown University.

Captain Rick Chandler is currently stationed at the Military College of Pennsylvania in Valley Forge. He commutes, rather than living on the base, so he can continue to serve

the Stroudsburg community. He is a professor of mathematics and teaches calculus and statistics to future 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants of the United States Army.

For the past nine years, he has been an adjunct instructor at Northampton Community College. He also teaches in the Upward Bound Program at ESU, which is a program for at-risk students who want to attend college. He is the recipient of the Rose I Kelly Award from University of Scranton for outstanding teaching. He was named an "Ambassador of Learning" at Kutztown University recognizing his valuable contributions to learning for students with disabilities.

Rick is active in numerous local, state, national and international research and teaching organizations. He has also served on the boards of Tippecanoe Main Street, the Knights of Columbus, the McGowan School of Business, the Boy Scouts of America, and the South Community YMCA and in the Leadership Circle of the United Way.

"I bring to the board a unique blend of teaching and business experience. I have owned my own business and worked in the corporate world. My experience as a classroom teacher enabled me to have a better understanding of how students learn. I consider myself a life long learner who would like to see Stroudsburg continue to improve academically and to develop graduates of high character."

Rick is a college professor who resides in Stroud Township with his wife Adriana and daughter Laura. He teaches algebra, calculus, and statistics to future 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants of the United States Army and is currently stationed at the Military College of Pennsylvania in Valley Forge where he has the rank of Captain.

He has served as a school board member for the past six years. He currently holds the position of Treasurer of the board and chairs the Finance and Negotiations Committees. He is also active on the Curriculum and Technology Committee. He brings to the board a unique blend of teaching and business experience. He has owned his own business and worked in the corporate world. His experience as a classroom teacher has given him a better understanding of how students learn. His goal is to see Stroudsburg continue to improve academically and to develop students with high character. He would welcome another opportunity to continue to move the district forward.