

# THE VISION

## **FOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED TO FOUR-YEAR TERMS**

On April 7, Avoca voters elected four School Board members, each to serve a four-year term. All of the candidates were endorsed by the Avoca Caucus, which was headed this year by Kathy Saitelbach. Since the number of open positions matched the number of candidates, the election was uncontested. The candidates consisted of two incumbents and two seeking their first elected office. Below are short profiles of the four board members.



**William S. Bazianos** – My wife, Patrice, and I are Glenview residents and the parents of two children. Stephan, age 10, is in sixth grade at Marie Murphy School, and Harrison, age 7, is in second grade at Avoca West Elementary School. I continue to coach soccer in the Wilmette Park District and baseball in the Wilmette Baseball Association. I earned my Bachelor's degree from DePaul University and my Juris Doctor's degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. I have been practicing law for more than 16 years. I am a corporate and transactional attorney and a partner in a Chicago law firm. I concentrate my practice in business transactions, including real estate acquisitions, sales and financing, as well as corporate, partnership and limited liability transactions and day-to-day operations and financing. I believe my legal background and my negotiating skills will benefit the School Board. I look forward to working with the other members of the School Board to ensure that the Avoca School District continues to maintain its goal, which is to maximize the unique potential of each child that is served, and taxpayers receive the most for their tax dollars.



**Jeffrey A. Greengoss** – My wife, Donna, and I are 27-year Avoca residents. We have sent four children through the Avoca School system and have been involved in numerous volunteer activities and committees. I am a retired futures, options and securities trader and have been a member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange since 1970. I am currently in my ninth year on the Avoca Board of Education. I have served as chairman of the Finance Committee and Negotiations Committee, vice president and, most recently, was elected board president. I also served on the 2003 and 2007 District Technology Committees that brought so many exciting and effective technology initiatives to Avoca. My desire is for the school district to always maintain the delicate balance of providing the highest quality education for our children while being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.



**Rosanne M. Ullman** – I am beginning my second four-year term on the Avoca District 37 Board of Education and was recently elected to serve as vice-president. On the board, my committee work has included Community Relations, Language Arts Curriculum Development and Food Services. I also participated in the creation of the district's current strategic plan. I have lived in Wilmette with my husband, Keevan Morgan, since 1977 and in District 37 since 1984, where our three now grown daughters attended school from kindergarten through 8th grade before continuing on to graduate from New Trier High School. While my girls attended school in District 37, I was an officer and active member of the Parents' and Teachers' Club, as well as a room mother. Professionally, I am a freelance writer and editor with various corporate and trade publication clients and a faculty member at New Trier Extension, where I teach an adult education class in grammar and business writing.



**Rick Zelinsky** - My wife, Faith, and I are Northfield residents for the past nine years and are parents of two sons, ages eleven and eight. Adam will be entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Marie Murphy and Noah will be entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Avoca West in the fall. I am a technology professional by trade and, for the past twenty years, have been fascinated by the unprecedented growth in availability, adoption and advancement of technology. My initial involvement with District 37 began in 2003 as a parent representative for the District 37 Technology Committee. As a cross-functional team, we established the original long-term technology plan for the district, involving one of the most progressive initiatives (1:1 student-to-laptop) in district history. I look forward to sharing my industry insights around technology to realize its full potential in the educational experience. My priorities for District 37 are quite simple: Continue to provide an excellent education to the entire student body; maintain fiscally responsible spending practices; expand students' potential with innovative teaching methods; use of technology; and an expanded curriculum. Faith and I have been actively involved in many aspects of our children's Avoca experience, and, as a board member, I intend to share my business and parenting experiences to ensure District 37 continues to provide the best possible education.

## **IMPORTANT DISTRICT COMMITTEES FORMING; CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

As a result of specific goals from the 2007-2010 Avoca strategic plan, two important new district committees will be forming next school year. The Community Outreach Committee will focus on enhancing a strong partnership between the district and the community, while the Diversity Committee will seek new opportunities to better understand Avoca's diverse population and use it as a genuine asset to the school community. Both committees seek representatives from the Avoca parent community and the non-parent community. We believe the insights of parents, seniors, empty-nesters, and other residents will effectively complement the viewpoints of teachers, staff, administrators and Board members. Balanced and representative committees will be best equipped to meet the challenges of following committee charges from the Avoca strategic plan:

> Establish a Community Outreach Committee that will research and implement activities that enhance the partnership between the school district and the Avoca community, including, but not limited to:

- Communication vehicles;
- Volunteerism in the schools;
- School finance education; and
- Business partnerships.

> Establish a district Diversity Committee that will research and initiate activities that celebrate, enhance and expand the benefits of diversity at Avoca, and promote an understanding and appreciation of a world community, including, but not limited to:

- Curriculum and instruction;
- Recruitment and hiring practices; and
- Community outreach.

If you would like to serve on either of these two committees, please send an e-mail to Superintendent Dr. Joseph Porto ([porto@avoca37.org](mailto:porto@avoca37.org)). Include your name, address, phone number, and a brief explanation of why you are interested and what you would be able to contribute to the committee. Meeting times will be flexible and set to accommodate the majority of participants. Thank you for your partnership in Avoca's quest for sustained excellence.