

REGION II NEWSLETTER

January 2009

**-Region II Serves-
New York
New Jersey
Puerto Rico
U.S. Virgin Islands**

The Region II Newsletter is circulated to our resource and lending partners as well as to other members of the small business community.

Michael Pappas
Regional
Administrator

Christine Glassner
Regional Advocate

Natale Goriel
Regional
Communication
Director

Denise Galgano
Regional Resource
Coordinator

Helping small businesses
start, grow and **succeed**.



Your Small Business Resource

SBA Administrator Sandy Baruah Welcomes Nomination of Karen Mills



WASHINGTON – U.S. Small Business Administration Acting Administrator Sandy K. Baruah issued the following statement on President-Elect Barack Obama’s nomination of Karen Mills to be the next SBA Administrator: “I applaud, and welcome, President-Elect Obama’s selection of Karen Gordon Mills to serve as the next Administrator of the SBA.

Karen Mills

“Karen Mills has been a friend and professional partner over the years in both my roles as the assistant secretary of Commerce and the head of the SBA. She is ideally suited to lead the agency. Mills’ background is a combination of management, venture capital, and public policy, three elements key to leading the agency successfully. In addition, Mills has a record of bi-partisanship which is important to SBA and the small business community the agency serves.

“I am proud of the Agency’s record of reform, which has opened opportunity to small business owners throughout America, achieved record loan volume to small businesses, and ensured that communities affected by disaster have the resources to rebuild. Mills will head an agency that has vastly improved its delivery of services and has a dedicated team of civil servants to help carry out the agency’s mission.

“Along with the entire SBA team, I am committed to ensuring a smooth and collaborative transfer of power to the new Administration. Mills will have my full support in her new role during the transition and beyond.”

Karen Mills’ picture provided from smallbiztechnology.com.

Region II Remembers Rochester Branch Manager John Marino



Rochester Branch Manager John Marino died on January 1, 2009.

When John first joined the SBA team in 1992, he was responsible for the delivery of the loan programs in the New York District Office and also served as the portfolio management chief. In 2008, John took the position as the Rochester Branch Manager.

Before joining the SBA, John had a successful career as Controller of a Consulting Engineering Firm on Long Island. He also served for four years in the U.S. Navy.

John was a doting grandfather, avid golfer, SBA finance expert and a friend to many.

John will be dearly missed.

The Regional Advocate's Corner Christine Glassner



Christine Glassner
Region II Advocate

The rumors are true—Advocacy staffers are in the grip of an outbreak of blogomania.

Whether scribbling their thoughts about the latest small business economic research, fielding comments from small businesses on proposed rules, or pointing readers in the direction of interesting news items, Advocacy's staff has been posting like mad on our new blog.

"The Small Business Watchdog" blog focuses on regulatory issues, small business research, and more. We encourage all small business stakeholders to check out the blog and leave us a comment.

Advocacy also has a Facebook fan page (non-official, posted by fans of the office). Join with us in using social media to help spread the word about the importance of small business to our economy and reducing burdensome regulations on America's job creators.

Visit the "Small Business Watchdog" at <http://weblog.sba.gov/blog-advo>.

The Regional Administrator's Corner Michael Pappas



Michael Pappas
Region II Administrator

As I wrap up my last days as SBA Region II Administrator, I look back at the wonderful experiences I have had with the SBA family and its partners.

I have been with the Agency for eight years now when I first served as Region II Administrator back in October 2001.

I was later appointed Associate Administrator for Field Operations in May 2003 until November 2007.

As Associate Administrator, I provided executive direction to over 1,000 SBA employees throughout the Agency's 10 regional and 68 district offices across the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Marshall Islands.

This was an incredible experience as I was able to work closely with many outstanding SBA employees and partners across the country.

However, serving as the Region II Administrator has been a special experience for me considering I grew up in the New York City area and now reside in New Jersey. The relationships I have developed serving at the SBA are very important to me.

It has also been a pleasure meeting the outstanding men and women who make up our small business community.

Witnessing the entrepreneurial spirit first hand in Region II has been exciting. The hard work, passion and commitment of small business owners should never go unnoticed. It is the small business community that helps drive our economy and helps to create jobs.

I value my time serving as the Region II Administrator and the Associate Administrator. This has been an incredible experience and I take with me many positive and productive memories.

I look forward to reconnecting with you again in the near future. Please contact Regional Communication Director Natale.Goriel@sba.gov for my contact information.

I wish you all the best of luck in the future and thank you for helping to strengthen our small business community.

Sincerely,

Michael Pappas
Region II Administrator



Health Savings Accounts

Whether you are a small business owner or an employee of a small business, Health Savings Accounts are an important part of the portfolio of health care options that are now available to Americans.

Features of an HSA include:

- Your own Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions are tax-deductible.
- Interest earned on your account is tax-free.
- Withdrawals for qualified medical expenses are tax-free.
- Unused funds and interest are carried over, without limit, from year to year.
- You own the HSA and it is yours to keep – even when you change plans or retire.
- Your HSA is administered by a trustee/custodian.

Visit www.sba.gov for more information on Health Savings Accounts

SCORE COUNSELOR OF THE MONTH (PUERTO RICO)



development and training for Puerto Rico Telephone Company, from which he retired. As SCORE counselor, Humberto devotes an average of 10 hours a week in advising, mentoring and training aspiring and existing small business owners.

“I love helping develop new entrepreneurs, to see how they fulfill their dreams of accomplishing a project,” Humberto says. “I also enjoy helping train people and contributing to their business by working together as a team.”

For the past three years, Humberto Cuebas has selflessly dedicated his time and efforts to helping entrepreneurs start and expand small businesses in Puerto Rico, as counselor of SCORE Chapter 200.

Since Humberto joined SCORE, more than 20 entrepreneurs and/or businesses have benefited from his expertise, including restaurateurs, recycling plants, scrap-booking shops and faith-based organizations.

A born manager, Humberto occupied various executive positions throughout his career in the private and public sectors, such as vice president and general manager for Coca Cola Bottling Company of Puerto Rico, National Can Company of Puerto Rico, and Cable TV of San Juan, as well as director of human resource

Humberto obtained a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Puerto Rico in 1957, where he later underwent post-graduate studies in Public Administration. He is also a retired Puerto Rico Air National Guard Major and a former choir director and orchestra member. He continues to enjoy his passion for music as a church pianist.



H
A
P
P
Y

N
E
W

Y
E
A
R



NEW YORK DISTRICT OFFICE LENDERS AWARDS



The New York District Office held its Lenders Awards ceremony in December where it honored top lenders in the district. New York Acting District Director Rachel Baranick hosted the event and Regional Administrator Michael Pappas (Top) and Associate Administrator of Field Operations Bill Manger (Bottom) spoke at the event. Guests included lenders, SBA resource partners, congressional representatives and other members of the small businesses community.