

August 2011

Certification Corner

Note: *This month, we're taking a slightly different approach with Certification Corner. Recognizing the value of seeking input from members of the National Government Affairs Committee, Jo Colacci asked Steve Maley, President of the New York State Association of Central Service Professionals, to respond to the following questions. Maley serves on the National Government Affairs Committee and represents New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Delaware.*



Q: *What do you think of the National Government Affairs Committee and how it is working on certification efforts in the various states?*

A: When IAHCMM stepped up its support and formed the National Government Affairs Committee -- and hired Jo Colacci as Government Affairs Director -- certification efforts nationwide took a giant step forward. Jo has provided experience and knowledge in consolidating and directing our efforts. It has been an enlightening experience working on the National Government Affairs Committee. I believe we are making an impact on the legislative process in many states by bringing knowledge and awareness to our elected officials.

Q: *What are your thoughts on the efforts underway to pass the New York certification bill?*

A: New York is a difficult legislative state. The NYSACSP has been involved in pursuing a certification bill for nine years. This year, with Jo's enthusiasm and experience, and the state association's continuing efforts, we have made the most progress to date. Acting on Jo's advice and guidance, we retained a lobbying firm that has extensive knowledge of the legislative landscape. If it wasn't for the limited legislative session time, I believe we would have had a successful effort this year.