



## CAS 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION

May 10, 2016

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Donna Schilke, Principal, Smith Middle School, Glastonbury

A year ago I spoke to you about **challenge and change. About the Perfect Storm of SBAC, Common Core and Teacher Eval/SEED.** And here we are a year later....having **SURVIVED** the storm only to face **NEW CHALLENGES** of declining budgets, loss of teaching positions, and still most of the issues that are **beyond our control.**

As I reflected on these end of year words I realized the **ONE issue** we can count on in education is **CHANGE. Change as growth,** that is very good and truly needed for us to move forward and some change that is very difficult to accept and maneuver...but change either way.

I know that as school leaders, education leaders, we need to present **change as positive** ; and the importance of working **through change together** and in concert with others; and that we as leaders need to **make our voices heard**; perhaps these last few years **more than ever before.**

It became crystal clear to me that In the midst of all the change **the one CONSTANT for me throughout all my years as an administrator has been CAS....** CAS....Never wavering in its offer of support.

CAS has kept me **informed** and has given me **clarity** on so many of the issues we must deal with and are facing today.

CAS has given me the **mentorship** of colleagues; people I can trust to ask questions of, to run things by and to just talk through a challenging day.

CAS has taught me about **leadership**, what it takes to be a strong and fair leader and what it means to work collaboratively within a group; how to make **tough decisions** and hold **difficult conversations**.

CAS has offered me a means of **networking** that has given me statewide contacts and colleagues from cities to rural areas....a variety of perspectives....**all good**.

CAS has given me a **forum** to share my stories, to listen and learn from others; a place that gives all of us a **voice at the BIGGER TABLES around the state**.

And, perhaps most importantly, **CAS has given me friendships**; people who are important in my life; who have added something to my journey in education and whom I deeply admire and respect.

This has been a wonderful group to grow with, learn from, share with...and I hope each of you feels the same way...whether you are just becoming involved or a long time member of this wonderful organization.

We really cannot possibly follow our paths in a vacuum; it takes a **village** to raise strong education leaders as well as our children. We need the **resources we can gain from one another** through CAS and this will indeed make the journey a positive one filled with hope for each new day, inspiration to pass on to our teachers and help us keep our passion for education and leadership alive.

Thank you.