



## **DR. LAWRENCE DEBELLIS Ed.D**

### **EDUCATOR**

Dr. Lawrence DeBellis is an ex-patriot from the hills and valleys of Pennsylvania who migrated to the flat lands of the Jersey shore during the expansion era of the 1950's. Dr. DeBellis, a native of Easton, Pennsylvania, attended Easton High School where he was an honor student, a member of Hi-Y, a national honor society, and the Physics Club. In addition, he was a member of the Latin and Spanish Clubs and wrote for the school newspaper and yearbook. He attended Churchman's Business College for a short period and worked in the retailing and manufacturing fields gaining vocational experience invaluable in his later career of school administration. He later attended East Stroudsburg State Teachers College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with academic majors in mathematics, science and education. In college he was a member of the Euclidean mathematics club and was an active contributor to the college newspaper.

DeBellis graduated from ESSTC in 1942 and then enlisted in the Army Air Force. He spent four years in the service and attended various military schools. He received a commission in the Quartermaster Corps and was assigned as company training officer in Camp Lee, Virginia.



He began his professional career as a science teacher in Pemberton and Burlington High Schools and was later supervising Principal of the Lindenwold schools. When a teacher, he was awarded a GE Science Grant and studied for a summer at Rensselaer College, NY. He continued his graduate studies at Temple University where he received his Master's and Doctor's degrees in Educational Administration.

In 1951, he was appointed supervising Principal/Superintendent of the Point Pleasant School District. His 37 years of service saw the growth of the district into three elementary schools and a high school. He readily recalls the Boro's struggles during this period of many regionalization studies, community battles for more services and financial pressures of defeated school budgets. He says the Point Pleasant Schools are well poised for the twenty-first century having a dedicated staff and administration as well as a supportive Board of Education.

Dr. DeBellis has been active in the community serving on numerous fund drives and committees. He is a founding member of both the Lions and Rotary Clubs. He served on the original Community Project Committee, which provided funds for school activities. He is a member of the Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church and serves on the Endowment and Emergency Committee. He is a member of the Durand Lodge, Fraternal Order of Masons, the local ELKS, BPOE and serves on the Handicapped Children's Committee.

Professionally, he is a member of the Ocean County Retired Educators, a life member of the National Education Association, and the NJ Schoolmasters Club. He was on the original committee to spearhead the establishment of the Little Carpenter School, Point Pleasant's and the state's first attempt to educate learning challenged students.

Dr. DeBellis lives in Point Pleasant and closely monitors the many school activities. He was married to the late Melita C. Curry and has two children, Laurie Barbieri and Melita Ann DeBellis, both of whom have attended the Point Pleasant schools as have his grandchildren, Lynne Barbieri Council and John Barbieri.