**Thomas M. Bongiovi**

We are happy to introduce our recent addition to the Board of Directors at the Black Bear Film Festival; his name is Thomas M. Bongiovi.

Tom is a resident of Hawley, Pennsylvania and comes to us with a vast array of leadership experience, public speaking, and fundraising. He lives with his wife of 29 years Lisa, and their children, Nicholas, age 24 , and Olivia, age 22.

Tom is the youngest of 7 children and was born and raised in Seaford, NY, located in Nassau County on the south shore of Long Island. Tom attended St. William the Abbot Grammar School and graduated with a Regents Diploma from Seaford High School in 1984. He pursued his Bachelor’s Degree at LeMoyne College, located in Syracuse, NY and graduated in 1988. Tom also received a Master Degree in Secondary Education from SUNY Stonybrook located in Stonybrook, NY in 1993, and a Master Degree in Educational Administration from Dowling College, located in Oakdale, NY in 2000.

Tom taught High School Social Studies on Long Island from 1988-2000. He moved his family to the Wallenpaupack Lake Region and started at Port Jervis City School District in fall of 2000. He spent the next 17 years as an administrator at Port Jervis in the following positions: High School Assistant Principal, Middle School Principal, High School Principal, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Superintendent of schools. In 2017, Tom accepted the position of Superintendent of Highland Central School District, located in Highland, until his retirement in 2021.

Tom has been very busy in retirement working as an Administrator/Leadership mentor, an Interim High School Assistant Principal in Kingston, NY, an Interim Superintendent at Catskill Central School District, and currently the District Superintendent of Orange-Ulster BOCES located in Goshen, NY. In addition to his service to the Black Bear Board of Directors, Tom stays busy serving his community. He is a former Girl Scout Leader, a volunteer at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, a 4th Degree member of the Hawley Council of the Knights of Columbus, President of the Lake Teedyuskung Community Association, and works part-time at Woodloch Pines Resort.