

NEW YORK STATE
SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY
2011

HONORING THOSE THAT MAKE
THEIR COMMUNITIES BETTER FOR
RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES



NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL
BLUE ROOM

ALBANY, NEW YORK
MAY 24, 2011



“Today we are recognizing a group of dedicated seniors for their outstanding service to their community. They are examples of the power of volunteering and working to make our neighborhoods stronger and our entire state a better place to live. I applaud these New Yorkers for their commitment to service and for helping those less fortunate than themselves. They are a part of why New York is indeed the Empire state.”

--Governor Andrew M. Cuomo



2011 Senior Citizens' Day Ceremony

WELCOME

Greg Olsen, Acting Director
New York State Office for the Aging

POSTING OF THE COLORS

New York State Police Honor Color Guard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REMARKS/PRESENTATION OF
GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE AWARDS

RECOGNITION OF COUNTY HONOREES and
AWARD RECIPIENTS

CLOSING

New York State Office for the Aging

County Awardees

ALBANY

Marie Coleman

Marie's mother taught her to read music and she started playing the piano at age six. She became involved in working with children and choirs in various black churches. At Israel AME Church, Marie started the first liturgical group. Her love for children and music inspired her to rewrite "Tom Thumbs Wedding" and "The First Christmas", and other programs. She received an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education and has worked in four area daycare centers. Marie is one of the founding members of the Albany United Tenants Association, an AmeriCorps worker; she serves as member of the Albany County Department for Aging's Advisory Council, and is a founding member of the Kindred Spirits United (KSU), a senior group in the West Hill, Arbor Hill area of Albany. At KSU, Marie schedules guest speakers, enrolls the group in exercise and nutritional programs, speaks at public hearings to advocate for senior issues, accompanies the group on the keyboard when they visit local nursing homes to sing and entertain the residents.

Richard Reynolds

Richard's volunteer experience includes being a Peer Leader for the Living Healthy Workshops, a New York State trained mediator volunteering at the centers in the Capital Region. He is also an ambassador of RSVP and delivers Meals onWheels. Richard is a volunteer house manager at Capital Rep Theatre and is the head of the Hospitality Committee. He is also a volunteer tour guide and bartender at Proctor's Theatre. Richard is a professional clown and a teacher of

Clowning at Hudson Valley Community College. He was a liaison volunteer in the emergency room at Albany Medical Center Hospital for nine years. Richard has the experience as a volunteer tour guide for 19 years taking people all over the world.

ALLEGANY

Lawrence and Margery Vossler

Larry and Marge have been volunteering for the Allegany County Office for the Aging Meals on Wheels program for 16 years.

Marge also volunteered 16 years for another program at the Office for the Aging, Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program. She has prepared many federal and state income tax forms for seniors, especially those homebound with lower incomes to receive their IT 214 property tax rebates. She has been an instructor for the program in the past. They have also volunteered for years in their church and are leaders in the Allegany County Fair Board.

BROOME

Angelina “Angie” Daniels

Volunteerism comes naturally to Angie Daniels. Angie is an extremely talented seamstress, and she has shared this talent by designing, making, and donating hundreds of afghans and specialty craft items to various Broome County senior centers and community organizations for events and fundraisers. Angie has also used her food preparation skills to train many other volunteers to make and serve meals at the senior centers. She excels in planning and preparing for parties, events, and special meetings.

Florence Melazzo

Florence was one of the original “Stay Well” peer leader volunteers when “Stay Well” started more than 20 years ago. She has led and continues to lead an extremely dynamic chair exercise group at the Broome West Senior Center two mornings each week. Class members

in her chair exercise group report having more flexibility, strength, and energy as a result of these classes. Florence's work has had a positive impact upon our community as hundreds of different individuals have participated in her chair exercise class over the last 20 years.

CATTARAUGUS

Helen Miller

Helen is 81 years old and has been a member of the Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging's RSVP for 17 years. She delivers meals for the Portville Senior Wellness and Nutrition (SWAN) home delivered meal program. During these years, she has volunteered over 3300 hours. In 2004, Helen also began volunteering for the Cattaraugus County Health Department and since then, has contributed an additional 1000 hours. These hours have been targeted toward making care packages and file packets, as well as providing office assistance. Helen's total community support exceeds 4300 hours.

CHEMUNG

Ken Larsen

Ken is an advocate and volunteer for the performing arts. Of his volunteer duties at the Clemens Center in Elmira, NY, he has dual roles. He has been a volunteer for over 15 years including work on mail crews and participates as a newsletter editor. Ken also works as a volunteer in encouraging other community members to become involved in the Clemens Center. He is a strong supporter of the Clemens Center's Resident Companies including Thursday Morning Musicales. Over the last 16 years, Ken has been an integral part of this organization, as a member and also as an officer and volunteer Facilities Director for the Musicales. He was also involved as a major planner for the 100th birthday of the Musicales. He has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Musicales' high school scholarship competition. Ken is a volunteer

with Elmira AARP, Chapter 276. He has been the Vice President, Program Chair and Corresponding Secretary and also serves on other numerous committees related to the Chapter. He also volunteers on the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce and is a member of RSVP. He has donated over 1,080 lifetime hours. He has served on the Board of the Senior Notebook, a weekly TV program for seniors and is instrumental in developing a new brochure for the program. Ken has been President for the past two years of the George Bragg Towers Tenant Association. He also serves in a variety of capacities at his church. |

Eva “Annetta” LeFevre

Annie joined RSVP in 2005 and has donated 4,114 hours serving the community. She sews bags for a program called “Books at Birth” for every baby born at the Arnot Hospital to promote reading right from the beginning. Annie has also served meals at the Glider City Work Camp; has volunteered for the reenactment of the Civil War at the Chemung Valley Living History and participated in the Family Services fundraiser. She donates from 25 to 90 hours per month for the American Red Cross, where she is a member of the disaster action team locally and through the armed forces 24 hours a day every day. Through the Armed Forces Program, she works with military families when a family death occurs in the states. She works to find service men and women and makes arrangements to get them home for the funeral services. Annie is presently learning to become a manager client caseworker for the American Red Cross and has also volunteered for the American Cancer Society. She also manages the Frog Club which is a group that sews stuffed frogs for young fire victims. In 2010, Annie was the recipient of the Mildred Parfitt Award.

COLUMBIA

Nancy Bryant

Nancy has been an active member of Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) organization since its inception serving on the Board

for the last several years. Nancy is often the first person to hear of someone in need. She drives people to doctor's appointments, takes an active role in fundraising events, organizing the packing and delivery of holiday baskets, calling a senior's relatives when a senior is in trouble, and at Thanksgiving, she organizes the production of turkey dinners for families who would otherwise not have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Her service extends to civic engagement as a volunteer member of the Town of Ancram Communications Committee and she readily lends her considerable skills as an editor to a range of projects.

James Dunham

For over 40 years, Jim has provided extraordinary service to the community through his involvement in a wide range of civic projects and settings. As a volunteer with the Northern Columbia Little League, he can be found grooming the baseball field, as well teaching the virtues of sportsmanship, teamwork, dedication, and leadership as a coach. He is a volunteer fireman, served on the Planning Board, prepares the ice skating rink each winter, actively participates in parish activities and takes those without transportation to doctor's appointments. Jim was the Mayor of Kinderhook from 2002-2006. He remains engaged volunteering many hours to the Village of Kinderhook. As a retired engineer, he has generously donated his professional expertise to a number of important projects including the Sidewalk Link Project which will connect the Villages of Kinderhook and Valatie allowing people to safely bike, walk, or run between the villages and the Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Trail Feasibility Study that will result in a trail eventually linking other counties.

Arlene Sweeney

Long known as the unofficial mayor of Elizaville for her years of volunteer service, Arlene personifies both successful aging and community service. Her distinguished record of involvement includes serving as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman, representing the Town of Livingston on the Office for the Aging's Senior Advi-

sory Council for 24 years, holding every office in the Twin Lakes Property Owners' Association, crocheting capes and lap robes for nursing home residents, organizing craft classes for seniors, helping plan for the Chatham Fair and serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals where she is actively involved in helping preserve the character of the town. Last year, Arlene provided the leadership to organize and establish a new 60+ Food and Friendship Center, which has been a huge success. She is also a stalwart member of the Garden Club.

CORTLAND

Charles Dellow

Charlie started a business 40 years ago selling and servicing dairy equipment out of a garage. He has developed a long standing involvement with residents of a skilled nursing facility. At breakfast, he is noted as the "toast maker," as it allows him to spend special individual time with the residents. Charlie was also instrumental in securing a duet bike for the facility which enables him to take residents on bike rides.

DUTCHESS

Edward and Mary Lou Koziol

Ed is the Executive Director of the Dutchess Interfaith Council, an organization that works to promote understanding and respectful relationships among the diverse religious communities of Dutchess County. Mary Lou has been a nurse for over 40 years. They are both active in Cursillo, a Christian ministry and on the Boards of Greystone and Greystone Endowment, a program that provides enriching opportunities to people living with Autism and other developmental disabilities. Mary Lou organizes spiritual weekends at Mt. Alvernia for the seriously ill and Ed is a talented singer who entertains regularly at many not-for-profits and nursing homes. Ed is also involved in Residents Encounter Christ, a Greenhaven Prison program. Ed and Mary Lou have been married for over 51

years. They were awarded the “Married Couple Senior Citizen of the Year Award” by the Dutchess County Division of Aging Services in May 2011.

ERIE

Melanie Pawlik

Melanie is 98 years old and is a member of the Autumnwood Senior Center. She collects clothing for a Nicaraguan mission, knitting winter mittens which then get distributed through the Salvation Army. Melanie designs and maintains floral displays to welcome visitors to the senior center. She is a member of the senior center’s book club. She also started a Scrabble Club for seniors which is now going on its 12th year and is also an active member of the First Friday club. Melanie worked until age 84 and has cared for her husband of 59 years.

FRANKLIN

Marjorie Miller

Marge has been a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program since 1990 and has clocked endless volunteer hours. She is a member of the Golden Age Club, Rotary Club and Alice Hyde Medical Center Auxiliary serving on their Board. Marge is an advocate of Literacy Volunteers the Emmaus Soup Kitchen and the YMCA in Malone. Marge has devoted much effort and time to all of these organizations and never hesitates to do all she can to support the cause.

FULTON

Deacon Richard Solar

Deacon Dick Solar began volunteering as early as the 1960’s as he advocated for rural Kindergarten bus transportation. Over the years, he actively participated in PTA’s, Lion’s Club, Boy Scouts,

Volunteer Fire Department, local Woodworker's Association, the creation of Holy Trinity Parish Faith Formation banners and offered a wide array of help and support to that parish, volunteers in the Fulton County Office for Aging's Home Delivered Meals program, local Department of Social Services Food Pantry and food bag delivery and was ordained a permanent Deacon in the Albany Catholic Diocese. He has also provided transportation to medical or other appointments. Deacon Dick Solar helps with household repairs, equipment malfunctions and emergency situations.

Victoria Solar

Vicky has more than 15 years as a Faith formation teacher and 25 years with the Johnstown Food pantry. She also assists her husband with food delivery, stocking shelves, Department of Social Services bags and is very involved with her faith community at St. Anthony's including: Eucharistic Minister, baker for church events, firehouse, PTA, Bereavement Committee, member of Christian Women and Rosary Society events, works at Holy Trinity festival, coordinates and assists at parish social functions and visits shut-ins and adult care facilities. Vicky also works with the Blood-mobile.

GREENE

Florence "Flo" Hohenstein

Flo is involved in a number of projects affecting the community youth through the Catskill School District. She initiated and participated in an oral history project between residents of senior housing and the elementary and high school students. She is involved in the high school Interact Club and is the driving force behind the JellyBean reading program. Flo also helped initiate the elementary Student Government daily delivery of home delivered meals to the senior housing. She is the catalyst for a collaboration which permitted students to work with theater professionals producing two full length productions. Flo hosts a weekly radio show, "Arts Alive" and has worked with CSD media students in the summer film class.

Marie Kadlick

Marie is 88 years old and is currently the president and a member of the Coxsackie Garden Club. She maintains flower barrels and a pocket park in the village, teaches gardening to Girl Scouts and decorates for Christmas. She has been a home delivered meals volunteer for 20 years and is Vice President of the Coxsackie Senior Citizens Club. Marie is a member of the Greene County Historical Society. She also is a volunteer at St. Mary's Church as a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Community Life Committee, the Pastoral Council and the Parish Liturgy Team. She is involved year-round in the Church's special activities and fundraisers. In addition, Marie takes friends and neighbors to doctor's appointments, shopping and errands.

JEFFERSON

James Walsh

James is a graduate of Franklin Academy and Potsdam University. He spent four years serving his country in the United States Navy as an Aviation Electrician and crew member on a sea plane before becoming a manufacturer's representative for National Gypsum and later for the John Sexton Food Service Company. James is an active member of the local chapter 346 AARP, the President and member of the Jefferson County Office for the Aging Advisory Council, Past Commander of Post 61, Life Member of the Elks Club and American Legion, Past President of the Brownville-Glen Park Senior Citizen's Group, Jefferson County Fair Board Member, former School Board member for St. Patrick's School and volunteered as a VA Veterans' van driver for five years.

Barbara Webber

Barbara is an active volunteer for many organizations, including the Canton College of Technology, Past Miss NYS Pageant Board of Directors, Community Action Planning Council Board of Directors and has been a member of the OFA Advisory Council since 2001. Mrs. Webber is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho; the

Fort Drum Officers Wives Club; is an Honorary Sgt. Major; Board Member of the Thousand Islands Girl Scout Council; a Past member of the Jefferson County Legislator Executive Board Member; Fort Drum Regional Liaison Committee, Board member of the Jefferson Community College Foundation; and Board Member Samaritan Hospital Foundation of NNY, and a member of Eastern Star.

LIVINGSTON

Reverend Paul Metzger

Reverend Paul Metzger is Pastor of the Geneseo Assembly of God Church for over 45 years. He remains dedicated to helping those in need. He is an active member of his community; contributing and participating on the Mental Health Community Services Committee, DDSO Mental Health Committee, Counsel on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and is a 33 year member of the Geneseo Rotary where he has been Chairman of the Good Neighbor Committee for the past 15 years. Reverend Metzger has been dedicated to the mission of jail ministry and for the past 33 years, has served as Pastoral Coordinator for the Livingston County Jail. He continues to oversee weekly church services, coordinates volunteers, respond to emergencies and provide counseling to those incarcerated. He and his wife Marjorie have been foster parents for 42 years raising a total of 91 children, six of whom have been adopted.

MONROE

Guy Kittelsen

Guy graduated from Clarkson College with a degree in Chemical Engineering. While attending Clarkson College, he participated in the Army ROTC Program. He was commissioned as an officer and served during the Korean War. During his service, he was a part of the testing of nuclear devices. This became a passion of study for Guy and discussion of the dropping of the first atomic bombs. He actively participates in church, volunteering at the Rotary Club and is a board member of the Retired Professional Society.

NEW YORK CITY

Richard Brunken

Richard is 69 and is a member of the New York City Department for the Aging's Foster Grandparent Program. He volunteers at the Northside Center for Child Development's Head Start Program. At the Center, he provides mentorship and support to more than 200 pre-school children. Richard helps the children with reading, math and participates in gym sports. He is also participating in the city's Fatherhood Initiative which creates opportunities to help fathers be a part of their children's lives. Richard is also a foster care parent working closely with the Administration for Children's Services.

Estrella Caban

Estrella is 60 years old and has raised her two grandsons for the last three years. She fought to get kinship foster care after her grandchildren were placed in a foster home. Estrella is a leading advocate at the New York City Department for the Aging's Grandparent Resource Center and volunteers at public school 40 in Queens where her grandchildren attend school.

NIAGARA

John Lukasik

John is a member and Chaplain of the Niagara County Sikora Post, visiting hospital patients and nursing home residents. He helped raise more than \$8,000 toward the WWII Monument in Washington, D.C. As a World War II Veteran, John is known as the "Flagman," strongly promoting America. He sells American Flags, with \$1.00 of every flag sold being donated to the Boys and Girls Club of the Northtowns. John is involved with several organizations, including: President of the North Tonawanda Senior Center, Chairman of Niagara County's ROTC, and member of Sweeney Hose, Gratwick House, the Elks, and the Sunrise Exchange Club.

Fern Reed

Fern is 86 years old and a retiree from Medina Memorial Hospital. She continues to volunteer in the operating room every Friday. Fern is a member of the Hartland United Methodist Church, and its Woman's Society, Bible Study Group, Women's Group and Choir. Each Sunday she ensures flowers and the altar are prepared for worship. Fern is a member of the Hartland Senior Citizens Group and is the "Sunshine Girl" in charge of mailing cards to persons who are ill, having birthdays, etc. She regularly visits nursing home residents and shut-ins.

ONEIDA

Philip J. Cornacchia

Philip is 95 years old and is very active in the community. From 1953, he has participated in Christ the King Retreat House. Since 1984, the Internal Revenue Service has given recognition to him for his participation as a volunteer instructor helping seniors prepare tax returns. He has also been awarded accolades for his unending services to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Masonic Home. Philip is the oldest member of his church and continues to volunteer as an usher at weekly masses and is always working at its annual festival. As a retired New York Central Railroad employee, he shares his knowledge with colleagues and families regarding entitlement to retirement funds and benefits.

ONONDAGA

Mary Jackson

Mary is 98 years old and came to Syracuse in 1949 where she worked at General Electric as a union steward, quality control specialist and group leader. She retired in 1975. Ms. Jackson has witnessed 98 years of the African-American journey. Ms. Jackson is a long time member of the Dunbar Association family. She plays a major role in volunteering at Dunbar, which she began doing when she was 82. She places hospitality calls when other Dunbar

program participants are absent to make sure they are not in need of assistance, volunteers at the Fresh Food Giveaway and assists with special events and fundraisers. She volunteers, as needed, as a receptionist at Dunbar. Mary is a true ambassador for the Dunbar Association making sure all in the community know about the programs and services Dunbar offers.

ORANGE

Philip Chase

Phil has served on the Upper Delaware Council for over five years. In addition to this service, Phil has been a strong advocate for the preservation and beautification of the Tri-State area for many years. He works with agencies and community groups to alleviate the serious flooding problem faced by residents of the Delaware Valley and is also active in safety and emergency preparedness education for this population. He has been recognized by national publications for this work.

William Uszenski

William has delivered meals to the homebound elderly since the 1970's. He is involved in coaching youth sports and is active in his local volunteer fire department since 1966. He has been honored four times. In addition, he serves on the Executive Committee of his senior club and is active in his church.

ORLEANS

Don Goodwin

Don Goodwin is 90 years old and is still very active in his church, his community and his interests. Don has been a member for over 50 years of the Medina Rotary Club. The Rotary Club, the Masons and the Medina United Methodist Church and other local organizations have all benefited through the years from his leadership. Don has been a member of the MUMC Choir and the MUMC

Folk Choir traveling to skilled nursing facilities and adult care facilities throughout the area to provide music to the residents. Don continues his ministries of Bible Study and visitation to local health care facilities reading to residents and visiting with them.

Gary Kent

Gary Kent's passion is looking out for the welfare of his fellow senior citizens. In the past several years, he has initiated Wednesday morning gas-pumping assistance program, paying 5 cents per gallon rebate to customers out of his own pocket; buying and delivering bird seed for shut in older citizens; paying social calls on many lonely neighbors and offering help for any of their needs; speaking to officials on behalf of our older population locally, as well as statewide, regarding any subject which may provide seniors a better quality of life; and installing and maintaining bird feeders at The Villages Nursing Home.

OTSEGO

Edward Gifford

Ed retired to southwestern Otsego County after spending 30 plus year in industry and local government in Illinois. In 2007, he became active with the local food pantry and took over as Director in 2008. Three days a week he is charge of the food pantry's operation. Ed, along with other volunteers, travels to a food distribution point monthly to pick up supplies. He was the first to seek and be awarded grant funding for the food pantry. He is currently President of the Evergreen Hill Cemetery Association and has been a trustee for five years where he oversees general operations and maintains records and maps. As a member of Rotary, he started the Unadilla Farmer's Market in 2010. They held an indoor Holiday Market which has led to the market being open throughout the year. Ed is also involved with the Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Unadilla Historical Association and has recently added the role of Treasurer. He also maintains the websites for the organizations. Ed was selected as this year's "Good Neighbor" by the Chamber of Commerce.

C. David Smith

Dave is a retired farmer and building contractor who has been a member of the local Fire Department for 63 years presently serving as fire police. He has served as a Fire Commissioner and spends time keeping the Fire Department buildings in good repair. Dave and his wife are involved with their church overseeing fundraisers and maintenance of the church. Dave and his wife are Home Delivered Meals volunteers. He is always help with small chores and tasks as possible. Dave transports other seniors to card parties and visits a local nursing home to play cards with residents. He has served on the board of the local cemetery association helping to assure upkeep and fiscal responsibility. He served on the board of education working on policies to keep the both children's and tax payer's best interest in mind. He also served on the Cooperative Insurance Board working to make affordable insurance available.

PUTNAM

Kenneth Foran

Kenneth served in the Navy in both World War II and the Korean War. He was a Grand Knight and District Deputy from the Father Mooney Council in Mahopac. In 1988, he joined the Senior Citizens of Carmel and the Mahopac Seniors and volunteered for RSVP. Kenneth became President for one senior citizen group and is on the Board of Directors for the other. He has been on the Carmel Recreation Commission for over 15 years representing seniors. Kenneth is also on the RSVP Advisory Board and in the past, has volunteered for the Salvation Army. He also volunteers for the Community Action Program. He attends county meetings and writes letters to public officials advocating on behalf of the seniors. In working with Frank DelCampo, Deputy County Executive, they were shocked to learn that the ambulance in Mahopac was charging \$500 a trip to the hospital. They worked together for almost a year and finally were able to arrange payment by Medicare for those ambulance trips. Currently, Kenneth has been helping at Putnam Hospital Center for 21 years in the Transportation

Department, delivers supplies and also takes patients around. He also works summers on Saturdays with the staff of the Carmel/Mahopac Chamber of Commerce, manning the information area for visitors. He is a member of the St. James Senior Club and works at their fair.

Edward Hallisey

Ed is a volunteer at the Kent Senior Club escorting seniors on trips. Ed worked for many years as a civil engineer at Boehringer Ingelheim pharmaceutical company. Ed joined the Lake Carmel Fire Department and has been an active firefighter for 46 years. This RSVP volunteer and 58 other RSVP volunteers help seniors arrive safely at their doctor's appointments. He gave 224 hours of service in 2010 making 82 trips driving the frail elderly to their appointments as a Demand Response Medical Transportation volunteer. He is being honored for his outstanding commitment to the Demand Response Medical Transportation Program through the Putnam County Office for Aging. The seniors who have rode with him claim that the program has helped meet their transportation needs and helped them keep their independence. Ed is one of 568 Putnam County RSVP Volunteers.

RENSSELAER

Marjorie Littlejohn

Marge volunteers daily in the senior center kitchen at the Grafton Senior Center. She drives the swimming class weekly to and from the community pool. If a neighbor needs anything, Marge is the first person called. Outside of the senior center, Marge is an active member of the Grafton Rescue Squad and is a very valuable member to them.

ROCKLAND

Diane Adele Pomeroy

Although Diane is disabled and uses a wheelchair to get around most of the time, she is an active volunteer almost seven days a week. As an Ombudsman, she has been certified to act as a liaison and advocate for the residents of nursing homes. She has also taken training as a Shalvah volunteer for Northern Services Group, a not-for-profit organization which operates an assortment of living styles for senior citizens, including three nursing homes. Diane also visits terminally ill residents. She is a mentor to other new Shalvah volunteers. She is an active participant in Statewide Senior Action Council of the Hudson Valley.

Oscar White

Oscar will be 90 years old in July and is still very active in volunteering and leadership positions. He serves on the RSVP Advisory and was the breakfast soup kitchen chef for 18 years. He also chaired fundraising for Clarkstown School's American Field Service student exchange program and ran "International Night" for three years and participates with the RSVP "Clowns R Us" program that performs at hospitals, nursing homes, special day rehab programs, etc. and special causes i.e., cancer research and mental health programs. Oscar served in the Pacific Theater in World War II.

ST. LAWRENCE

Mary Jane Barnes

Mary Jane is an active advocate for senior citizens and low income people. As the current President of the North Country Chapter of New York StateWide Senior Action Council, her goal is to share the information generated by this grassroots organization by meeting with many groups throughout the North Country. She co-chairs the annual Seniorama that provides a forum for informational speakers, a vendor fair and entertainment for those attending. She is an active member of the AAA Advisory Council, a member of

the Canton Senior Citizens Club, and is a trained volunteer Ombudsman and HIICAP counselor. Mary Jane is not “just a member” of these organizations/committees: she actively participates to further the knowledge of seniors regarding programs, laws and legislative bills that will impact the lives of New York’s elderly population.

Gail Bisonette

After 31 years of service with the Department of Social Services, Gail retired and quickly became involved in many volunteer activities that have enhanced the lives of senior citizens and her community. She became a Hospice volunteer in 1997 and has logged 577 hours of service since 2007. For over 13 years, she has volunteered at the Canton-Potsdam Hospital logging 903 hours of service. She is an active member of the local AARP Chapter currently serving her third year as President. She coordinates making and distributing garment protectors, lap robes and tote bags to the nursing homes and disabled people in the county and is an active advocate informing members of changes in local, state and federal laws. She is secretary for the Sandstone Senior Club and St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens and is a member of the New York StateWide Senior Action Council.

SCHENECTADY

Robert L. Diedrich

Robert’s outreach to the sick has become his passion. Since 2003, he has worked with Home Instead as a caregiver for several people. He joined the Mended Hearts and has been an active member since 1988. Robert volunteers at Ellis Hospital and Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, giving 25-30 visits per month to patients who have had cardiac surgery. He has also been making wooden wheelchair arms for Sunnyview stroke patient’s that slide over the arms and provide arm rests. Since 2002, Robert has been a volunteer at the Schenectady Rose Garden. Since 2001, Robert has delivered roses to various places within Ellis Hospital. He is an

active member of the Capital District Rose Society. Robert also volunteers for the Lutheran braille workers, making bibles for the blind, SICM, and helps with the summer lunch program for children. He is a Trustee for his church.

John “Jack” Shiely

In 2003, Jack retired from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. He served 20 years in the Audit Department and 17 years as Manager of the New York State Wide Call Center. After 911, Jack worked double shifts for six months to aid in the support of New York residents. For the last 45 years, Jack has volunteered his services. For over 30 years, he has been an active member of the United Way of the Greater Capital District, serving on the Fund Raising and Allocation of Funds Committees. Jack has been an active committee member of the Rotterdam Elks, Lodge 2157, for 35 years. He has been the past Exalted Ruler of the Rotterdam Elks, and served on Schenectady’s Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors for many years. He is also on the Board of Directors of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance’s alumni group. In 2009, Jack became President of the Rotterdam Senior Citizens’ Association. Under his leadership, he has worked diligently to increase the level of senior involvement. Jack is very active within his church. He is a member and past president of the St. Gabriel’s Church Parish Council. Jack also is the Director of Tours for the Rotterdam Senior Citizens’ Center, planning both weekday and weekend trips for seniors. He also is assisting in raising two of his grandchildren on a daily basis.

SCHOHARIE

Barbara T. Dorn

Barbara has been a Long Term Care Ombudsman since completing the 36 hours training in 2004. She has been assigned to the local nursing home during the closure process and was also assigned to an adult home and served the facility during its closure process. Barbara has been serving at her 36 bed adult home since 2007.

She is a active resident advocate and has also attended the Ombudsman Awareness Day for the last three years. She also volunteers at a meal site.

Doris Ann Miner

Doris Ann completed the 36 hour mandatory Long Term Care Ombudsman training in 2006. Since that time, she has been very active in visiting the 36-bed facility advocating for residents' needs. She is an invaluable Long Term Care Ombudsman. She is active in her church and volunteers for their food pantry. Doris Ann makes sure that each resident at Christmas receives a present. She has also been a volunteer with the Chaplin's associates at Cobleskill Regional Hospital since 2004. Until recently, Doris Ann volunteered as a driver through the Volunteer Medical Transportation Program.

SCHUYLER

Annabelle Specchio

Annabelle is well known in the community for her dedication to the Schuyler Hospital Auxiliary which she joined about 20 years ago. In the mid-1990s, she took on the role of Gift Shop Manager, a role historically held by the Auxiliary. Around 2001, she was named Director of Volunteers, a post she held until 2007. After all this time, she is stepping down from her position as Gift Shop Manager. In addition to her role with the Hospital Auxiliary, Annabelle supports the efforts of her husband's own volunteer activities through coordination, scheduling and secretarial assistance for the Elks and the American Legion. Over the years, she has held various volunteer positions at her church which includes the Church Directory Committee. Much of Annabelle's early volunteer years were accomplished while simultaneously raising her seven children and working full-time at a local bank. She was also a member of the Zonta Club and the Professional Business Women of Schuyler County, now known as Southern Finger Lakes Women, a Chapter of New York State Women, Inc.

STEUBEN

Josephine “Jo” Brzozowski

Jo was nominated by the American Red Cross for 23 years of service with their blood drives. However, she began her volunteering many years before that under FEMA, when she would pack up and leave town to assist those in disaster after floods and hurricanes in our nation, specifically in the Midwest and Puerto Rico. Closer to home, Jo has been an RSVP volunteer and has worked at McAuley Manor Adult Day Care Center in the Activities Department and as a Eucharistic Minister for the past 23 years. Also, she was actively involved as a Faith in Action volunteer driving seniors to medical appointments for nearly eight years. Additionally, Jo has been a member of St. James Women’s Auxiliary where she assisted with food and bazaars and with St. Ann’s School where she was a playground and lunchroom monitor.

John Roy

John’s nomination is based on years of service to his church and in the area of education. He has volunteered for the Chorus and Food Ministries at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, delegate to various church conventions, Education Committee for the Corning-Painted Post Historical Society, Curtiss Museum and the Steuben County Historical Society. John has also served as Treasurer of the Campus Ministry Advisory Board at Corning Community College, Executive Board Member and Treasurer as well as 2010 Convention Committee for the Corning Area Retired Teachers Association, the Steuben County Hall of Fame Selection Committee, a member of the Bi-Centennial Committee for the County, and a member of the chorus of the orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes for the past 15 years, as well as the Board of Directors, to name but a few of his many affiliations.

SUFFOLK

Xina Nair

Xina started with RSVP in April 2008 and she has logged more than 1,000 hours of community service at many different sites that she volunteers at on a weekly basis. She volunteers at the Parkinson's Therapy Center, helping Parkinson patients with their physical exercises. She also visits homebound seniors in the community. Xina holds sessions at libraries on various topics such as caregiving resources, medication management and decluttering your home. She is also a peer leader co-leading six week workshops in Living Healthy with Better Choices, a series devoted to empowering people with chronic conditions from the University of Stanford.

TIOGA

Neil C. Hall, Jr.

Neil was one of the founders of the Tioga Center Alumni Association and helps organize the class reunion each year. He is a long time member of the Lounsbury Methodist Church serving on many committees and assisting with fund raisers and food drives. Neil is a dedicated volunteer with the Community Care Network of Nichols, providing transportation, facilitating the assembly of the CCNN newsletter and also serving on their Board of Directors. He has served as President and on the Board of Directors for the Riverside Cemetery Association. He also works with the Girl Scouts in a host of community service projects.

TOMPKINS

Fred Antil

For the past decade, Fred has worked weekly on Senior Time, a local radio show for seniors in Tompkins County produced by Lifelong. He has facilitated and conducted hundreds of interviews,

on the topics of advance care planning, Alzheimer's services, nursing home options, alcohol and substance abuse treatment options, nutrition services, transportation options, hospice services, housing options for seniors, caregiver services, home care options, services of the Office for the Aging, and many more. In addition to planning and recording interviews for the weekly program, Fred has been one of the show's senior co-hosts and written the scripts. Writing the script, timing it for recording, editing and recording the show has been a labor of love for Fred. His volunteer labor has supported practically every program and service for seniors over the past decade. In addition to Fred's work on Senior Time, he has been a member of Lifelong's Board of Directors and Development Committee, has worked as a volunteer to create an oral history of the Ithaca Rotary Club, has been an officer and is currently Secretary of the City Club, has been a volunteer with Cornell Association of Professors Emeriti, and currently serves as their Secretary and Treasurer. He is a past President of the Friends of Ithaca College.

Ardie Bennett

Ardie is an active member and volunteer at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. She sews sleeping bags for the homeless with a group called My Brother's Keeper. She volunteers with Wonderful Wheelchairs, repairing and refurbishing poorly operating manual wheelchairs and making them available to those who need them. Ardie is a member of the Ithaca College Toastmasters, as well as participating in Longview's Mad Hatter Kazoo Band, the Intergenerational Choir, and Quilter's Dream-- a group which brings together Longview and Ithaca College student quilters. She has also served on Longview's Independent Resident Council on the food service committee. She is the "unofficial parking protector" at Longview, ticketing cars if they are parked where they are not supposed to be. Ardie gives her friends who no longer drive rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other errands. She also makes regular visits to area nursing homes.

ULSTER

Esther Coppola

Esther has been involved throughout Ulster County for decades. Esther was on the Plattekill Planning Board for over 20 years and an Ulster County Community College trustee for 10 years. She has participated in the Red Cross, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Highland Cemetery, Highland Chamber of Commerce, Ulster County Mental Association, National Recycling Coalition, St. Augustine's Schol Teacher/Volunteer, Milton/Marlboro PTA, Plattekill Civic Association and Plattekill Community Action. Esther is involved in many senior groups and currently sits on several Town of Plattekill committees including their Veterans Committee, Recreation Committee and Senior of the Year Committee. She visits with other seniors, takes them shopping and to doctors, local activities and outings.

Rafael Diaz

Rafael was the former president of the Highland Rotary Club. He has served as translator for Rotoplast, a rotary project to repair children's cleft palates. He has also served as a translator in El Salvador for a clean water project. Rafael is a member of the Board of Directors for the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, is editor of a newsletter and is a leader of the Learn-to-Run classes. He is a member of the Highland Landing Park Association and serves on the Board of Directors handling their press releases. Rafael is a member of the Town of Lloyd Ethics Board and the Mid-Hudson Senior Citizen's club of Highland. He has served as President of the Town of Lloyd Historical Preservation Society handling their press releases.

WARREN/HAMILTON

Reinfried Hoenigmann

Fred is a true asset to the community of Chestertown and the surrounding areas. He has been delivering meals for the Chestertown nutrition site for 24 years. He can always be counted on to lend a helping hand.

Laszlo “Lou” Lizak

Lou is active in a variety of things including the Wells Volunteer Ambulance and Fire Corps, the Wells Historical Society and the Wells Rod and Gun Club. In the past, he has served as a board member for the Adirondacks Speculator Regional Chamber of Commerce, Fire Police Captain, President of the Wells Volunteer Ambulance Corp. and President of the Algonquin Snow Blazers.

Maureen Mihalic

Maureen is an active member of the Warren County Council of Senior Citizens and serves as their Vice President. She took over this responsibility upon the unexpected death of her husband who held the post. She and her husband were members of the Council for many years and he was honored in 2009 as Warren County Senior of the Year. She is involved in the planning of council activities and events including her work at the Warren/Hamilton Counties Office for the Aging picnic and the Annual Senior Awards luncheon, which is essential to the success of these events. In addition to her work with the Warren County Council, she is also involved with the Bolton, Warrensburg and Queensbury senior groups.

YATES

Herb Goodman and Raymond Welker

These two individuals are the moving force behind the establishment and operation of a county –wide community equipment loan program know as the Dresden loan closet. This equipment loan program connects a faith community and the residents of Yates County with free equipment to be used to preserve health, independence and community living. The Dresden loan closet expanded their services and customer service area when Yates Office for the Aging could no longer maintain an equipment loan program for seniors. Through our NY Connects Program, we refer customers of all ages and incomes to the program to help them maintain their independence. Ray Welker and Herb Goodman worked tirelessly for the establishment, relocation and expansion of this program.



ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

GREG OLSEN
ACTING DIRECTOR

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON AGING