

THE BEACON

The monthly newsletter of Leadership Cattaraugus

Shine the leadership light

A message from ...

John Stevens, Leadership Cattaraugus board chairperson



John Stevens

Welcome to the inaugural “quarterly” edition of the Leadership Cattaraugus *Beacon*.

This publication, and this program, would not be here today if it were

not for many wonderful people. I’d like to share with you the genesis of a program that I believe has tremendous potential to be a positive force in the greater Cattaraugus County region.

It all began in the office of Dave Ferguson, Vice President of Public Relations at St. Bonaventure University. It was early in 2003 and Dave was sharing with me his experience in a program called Leadership Columbus.

As we talked a light bulb went on. Why not start a similar program in Olean? The original idea was Leadership Olean, which quickly became Leadership Cattaraugus.

Dave and I knew this would only work if it had the broad support of the community and key agencies willing to participate in its creation.

I called Jesse Gugino and Kathy Welch at JCC and shared our idea. As you might expect, they were enthusiastic and excited. The collaboration continued when I talked to John Sayegh at the Greater Olean Chamber of Commerce and he immediately pledged the support of the chamber.

This group, along with Dave, helped form our organizing / steering committee.

We approached a group of business and community leaders and asked for their input.

Jim Stitt from Alcas pledged a considerable amount (in our eyes) and before

we knew it we had the financial backing to proceed.

Next we had to figure out how to pull a program like this together. That is when Susan Warren Russ, then Executive Director of Leadership Buffalo, invited our steering committee to meet with her and learn how their program started.

Susan gave us critically important advice and wonderful support.

She deserves our recognition as the patron saint of Leadership Cattaraugus. When I accepted a position at The ReHAbilitation Center in early 2004 the four founding members had become: St. Bonaventure University, Jamestown Community College, The Greater Olean Chamber of Commerce, and The ReHAbilitation Center.

There are many more names that should be recognized as early and enthusiastic supporters. You know who you are, and we do appreciate your help and guidance.

So, in my book, these are the people who deserve recognition for the creation of this program. They helped us bring an idea into reality by sharing their encouragement, support and wisdom. Isn’t that what leadership is all about?

Shine the light of leadership in Cattaraugus County. See what role you can play in helping us grow Leadership Cattaraugus.

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Recently in Class ...

The class of 2006 has hit the half-way mark and are the groups are beginning their second round of presentations. (*Each class is split into four small teams, and each team is responsible for preparing two day-long presentations over the course of the year.*)

After charging their batteries with a "Leadership Day" prepared by board members and director Kathy Welch in August, the class attended a "health and medical services" prepared by classmates in September.

Their day took place in the Olean General Hospital, and began with a Wellness presentation from The ReHAbilitation Center's **Kathy McCoy** and **Jill Delaney**. They discussed the agency's novel Wellness plan, its staggeringly high participation rate, and the community wellness consortium.

Next was **Barb Hastings** from the Cattaraugus County Health Department, with a sobering talk on emergency preparedness and readi-

ness.

OGH chief executive **Tim Finan** gave a frank and enthusiastic overview of the hospital – financially, historically, and in terms of new innovations. He followed up later with a fascinating tour of the hospital's new imaging technology, its "Telemedicine" equipment for stroke victims, and the dialysis center.

Olean Medical Group CEO **Brian Carlson** gave a both enlightening and alarming presentation on the challenges to small, rural areas (like Olean) in attracting and retaining a sufficient number of qualified physicians.

A final information-jammed panel discussion rounded out the day. After giving brief presentations, the class was able to ask questions of **Maureen Mooney-Myers** from The Pines, **Carol Mahoney** from HomeCare & Hospice, and **John Bartimole** from Southern Tier Health Care Systems.

Casino tabbed as 'critical issue'

Way back in March, the Class Of '06 was asked to identify some key issues facing leaders in Cattaraugus County. Many of these identified issues have been tackled during the

monthly sessions, and one has emerged as the sole topic of the session for November 28: the Seneca Allegany Casino. Much, much more to come on this topic. . . .

Winner of 'name the newsletter' contest

This is the second edition – and first quarterly four-page version – of *The Beacon*, Leadership Cattaraugus' newsletter.

The board of directors is hoping that this publication will keep class participants, both current and past, informed and engaged about Leadership Cattaraugus. They also hope that the quarterly version will find an audience of prospective participants and supporters in the community.



They proposed a "name the newsletter" contest among current and former cohorts to give them a chance to flex their creativity. The marketing committee fielded a few dozen ideas and settled on the name featured on the masthead.

The name was proposed first by Class of 2006 participant Darrell Klute and also a short time later by fellow Class of 2006 participant Bob Smith. The winners received a deep sense of satisfaction and, undoubtedly, the admiration of their peers.

Class of 2006

Dan Antonioli
Cutco Cutlery Corporation

Jill Ballard
Jamestown Community College

Scott Brechbuehl
Community Bank, NA

Jeanne Finch
Jamestown Community College

Robert Forness
Olean General Hospital

Jodi Fuller
Cattaraugus Community Action

Jill Gray
St. Bonaventure University

Emily Hunt
Dresser-Rand Company

Ryan Hunt
Dresser-Rand Company

Robin Hurlburt
St. Bonaventure University

Lugene Inzana
Olean General Hospital

Darrell Klute
The ReHAbilitation Center

Scott Kruse
Alcas Corporation

Risa Michienzi
Alcas Corporation

Jackie Norton
Meridian Professional Services

Nancy Phillips
Catt Co. Council on Alcoholism

Pam Witter
Home Care & Hospice

Joni Simcick
Cattaraugus County Bank

Robert Smith
MJW Technical Services

Judy Styles
The Chuckwagon Restaurant

Melody Zampogna
Home Care & Hospice

Darrell Klute, editor

Profile in leadership: Joann McAndrew

Modesty and humility are admirable traits in a leader – and JoAnn McAndrew possesses both in spades.

A graduate of the inaugural Leadership Cattaraugus Class of 2004, Ms. McAndrew wears many “leadership hats.”

“Shortly after graduation, I was approached by the Democratic party to run for a political position,” she said. “I had never thought about doing that before, but I wanted to give the Portville voters a choice.”

Otherwise, the race for village justice would have gone uncontested. The 26-year incumbent was retiring, and two “newbies” were running.

“I threw my hat in the ring. That’s just one example of how this class has changed me – before, if somebody wanted me to run, it would have been a quick ‘no.’”

Ms. McAndrew said one lesson she learned was to seriously consider all potential leadership opportunities.

“Somebody has to step up to take on these leadership roles. ‘Win or lose’ is not the issue,” she said. “If you have strong convictions, you stand up and offer your services.”

Running for office is just one facet of the leadership spectrum.

“You can take a leadership role on many levels. You can be president of the PTO [Parent-Teacher Organization], but just joining the PTO – that’s leadership in itself,” she said. “So many people go to work and then go home and never consider joining a



Joann McAndrew

group, let alone lead one.”

Ms. McAndrew’s main leadership roles these days are as executive director of Literacy Volunteers of Cattaraugus County (“my day job”) and as co-owner of In Focus on North Union Street in Olean.

In Focus has been open for five years and has provided countless learning opportunities.

“We looked at the needs of the community and thought we had products and services that people would want,” she said. “Now we’re doing things we never dreamed of five years ago. You have to stay attuned to what the changing needs [of your custom-

ers] are.”

Ms. McAndrew has been with Literacy Volunteers for eight years.

“It’s my bread and butter, and a job I can really sink my teeth into,” she said. “I have always loved reading and realize its importance in day-to-day living.”

She said the organization has gone through more than one “funding crunch” in its 37 years, which has reinforced the idea of adaptability to continue to meet the community’s needs.

Ms. McAndrew sheepishly admitted to no less than three community honors: a Good News Award; a YMCA “Salute to Olean” recognition and JCC–Catt. County Campus’ first-ever alumnus of the year distinction.

One of her proudest leadership accomplishments has to be founding the Gift Tree program.

“It was like *I* had been given a gift,” she said. “To be the conduit between people willing to give and those in need. The rewards far outweighed the challenges that the gift tree presented. That program is a true testament to the generosity of our community.”

Ms. McAndrew led the program for twelve years before passing the torch. “It’s not always your turn to lead. It’s just as important to be able to step back and let others lead for the sake of the project.”

And she wonders why she was picked for the first spotlight?

Class / Alumni news

Stu Smith, national administrative manager for Vector Marketing Corp, [Class of 2004] joined the board of directors of the Cattaraugus County United Way.

Brian Carlson, Olean Medical Group chief executive officer, [Class of 2004] has joined to board of directors of the Cattaraugus County United Way.

If you have some news or information you’d like to share with your Leadership Cattaraugus colleagues in The Beacon, please use the contact information on the bottom of page one.



Alumni, community invited to open house

Leadership Cattaraugus will be holding its annual open house for prospective Class of 2007 students on Monday, October 23 from 5 to 7 pm at Jamestown Community College's Olean campus.

Current class members, Leadership Cattaraugus alumni, board members and all interested community members are invited for a reception in JCC's Magnano reception room, adjacent to Cutco Theater.

"It's a great chance for anybody interested in the program to hear directly from those who have actually gone through it," said director Kathy Welch. "And I really hope we have a good representation of our current and former cohorts."

Upcoming events

Leadership Cattaraugus Open House

Oct. 23 – 5 to 7 pm

JCC Olean's Magnano reception room

2006 Honors Satellite Seminar Series – "Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power"

Money Talks: Lobbyists and the Power of Money in Washington; presented by Jeffrey Birnbaum

Oct. 24 – 7:30 pm

JCC Jamestown campus - CARN Theatre

Lessons Learned From My Grandfather; presented by Arun Gandhi

Nov. 14 – 7:30 pm

JCC Jamestown campus - CARN Theatre

Leadership Cattaraugus board of directors

Leadership Cattaraugus Board of Directors

John Stevens	<i>The ReHabilitation Center</i>
John Sayegh	<i>GOACC</i>
Larry Sorokes	<i>Jamestown Community College</i>
Kimberly Young	<i>St. Bonaventure University</i>
Craig Maguire	<i>Dresser-Rand Company</i>
Timothy O'Keefe	<i>Cutco Cutlery Corporation</i>
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Peter Dandrea	<i>Mazza Sheet Metal</i>
Bonnie Welch	<i>Olean General Hospital</i>
Tina Zerbian	<i>Cattaraugus Community Action</i>

Leadership Cattaraugus Staff

Kathryn Welch *Director*

Our Mission

The mission of Leadership Cattaraugus is to grow a network of informed, active leaders who work collaboratively to build a better community.

Our Vision

Our vision is that Leadership Cattaraugus will be recognized as the resource for agencies and organizations to access emerging leaders and as a developmental resource for future leaders.

Leadership Cattaraugus
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