

# CONVENTION SLATE

## SLATE OF NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

**Annual Convention October 13, 2020**

The following members in good standing of New York StateWide Senior Action Council have been nominated to serve as Officers of the Board of Directors. Officers will be elected to serve a two-year term, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, under the Bylaws adopted at the Annual Convention on October 9, 2012. Brief biographies of the nominees follow below.

OFFICER	NOMINEE	REGION
PRESIDENT	<b>Mario C. Henry</b> (Queens County)	New York City
1st VICE PRESIDENT	<b>Ann Converso</b> (Erie County)	Western NY
2nd VICE PRESIDENT	<b>Susan Schrader</b> (Franklin County)	North Country
SECRETARY	<b>Wilma Lawrence</b> (Tompkins County)	Finger Lakes
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	<b>Nelsa Selover</b> (Cayuga County)	Finger Lakes
TREASURER	<b>Robert Sinacore</b> (Albany County)	Capital
ASSISTANT TREASURER	<b>Sharon Murray-Cohen</b> (Ulster County)	Hudson Valley

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Nominations Committee, *Susan Schrader (Chair)*

### BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

#### **President: MARIO CATTANO HENRY** (Queens Co., NEW YORK CITY REGION)

Mario Henry is our current President. He joined New York StateWide Senior Action Council in 2010. He served as Secretary for the New York City Chapter (2012-2015), Chapter President (2016-2018) and is the current Chapter Treasurer. Mario was elected Secretary to StateWide's Board of Directors in 2016. He was elected to the position of the President of the StateWide Board of Directors in 2018. He received the Rose Kryzak Advocacy Award in 2013 as an outstanding advocate on issues of greatest concern to seniors. Mario worked at the NYS Department of Labor from 1971 to his retirement in 2005. He continues to be active with his union, the Public Employees Federation, as a professional staff retiree. Born and bred in NYC, he attended school in Queens and graduated from Queens College (CUNY) with a Master's Degree in Political Science in 1971. The defining condition of his life for over 40 years was his mother's struggle with Multiple Sclerosis. From age 9, family caregiving became a focus of his life and that experience shaped his understanding of the importance of 'safety net' programs for survival and his political views.

## **First Vice President: ANN CONVERSO** (Erie Co., WESTERN NY REGION)

Ann Converso is our current First Vice President. Ann has attended StateWide's Convention and Grassroots Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. She is a registered nurse worked for 30-plus years as an acute medical/surgical and an I.V. therapy nurse at the VA Western New York Healthcare System at Buffalo. She has retired from many leadership positions in nurses unions both on the state and federal levels where she was active in advocacy for legislation and nurse and patient rights. She has also worked in the Buffalo office of the Communications Workers of America District 1. Ann continues to be a strong advocate for safe patient handling policies and safe nurse to patient staffing ratios. Ann is also active in the Western NY Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans.



## **Second Vice President: SUSAN SCHRADER** (Franklin Co., NORTH COUNTRY REGION)

Susan Schrader is our current Second Vice President. She is a lifelong resident of Northern New York and is active in the North Country Chapter of NY Statewide Senior Action Council. For the past 16 years, she has been involved with assisting the seniors in Franklin County. She was RSVP director for four years and then appointed as Executive Director of the Association of Senior Citizens until October of 2016. She is presently Program Director of the Community Friendship Volunteer Program through the Community Health Center of the North Country. The CFVP extends friendship, spiritual care, assistance, and health education to older adults living in their own homes. Susan was appointed to the Alice Hyde Hospital/ University of Vermont Medical Center Board of Directors for Five Years. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Red Cross and the Industrial Development Agency of Franklin County. She served on the Advisory Council to the Franklin County Office for the Aging for five years and still attend their meetings. Susan is a certified REST (respite, education, support tools) trainer providing respite for individuals and their families.



## **Secretary: WILMA LAWRENCE** (Tompkins Co., FINGER LAKES REGION)

Wilma Lawrence has been a member of StateWide since 2016. Wilma is President of the Tompkins County Chapter of StateWide and a member of the Board of Directors. She is a retired engineer and has held various leadership positions in community organizations including secretary positions and projects requiring technical writing. Wilma has spearheaded the Age Friendly movement in her community and is deeply committed to ensuring responsible access to telecommunications for all communities (including rural communities) in New York State.

## **Assistant Secretary: NELSA SELOVER** (Cayuga Co., FINGER LAKES REGION)

Nelsa Selover is our current Assistant Secretary. Nelsa has been a member of NYSWSAC since 1994; She has been a board member of our organization since 2005. Nelsa is retired as Director of the Cayuga County Office for the Aging 13 years ago. She has been a Medical Social Worker in Nursing Home for 14 years and serves on several Community Boards related to senior services including:

- Bluefield Manor Retirement Community (President) (Since 1999)
- Boyle Senior Center (President) (Since 1994)
- Cayuga County Council of Senior Citizens/Finger Lake Chapter of NYSW (Since 2005)
- Melrose Park Senior Club Member (10 years) Governing Committee - 1 year.
- Human Services Coalition of Cayuga County (Life Time Member)

She is a Volunteer Mentor with the S.C.O.R.E (Senior Core of Retired Executives), Auburn Chapter and Lay reader and chalice bearer at her church. As a mother of two and grandmother of four, she considers this her most important role.



## **Treasurer: ROBERT (Bob) SINACORE** (Albany County, CAPITAL REGION)

Bob Sinacore is our current Treasurer. Bob is a longtime resident of Albany and served as the Vice President of the Albany chapter of Statewide when it was formed, then was elected President. He's had a longtime interest in services for seniors both in his career in State government and as a retiree. He worked with seniors as an outreach worker with Jewish Family Services, and is volunteering with Community Caregivers. In addition, he's been involved with advocacy for seniors at the State Capitol. He is currently serving as a regional representative to the Board of Directors of NYSWSAC. Bob would like to continue with his desire to improve & expand services for seniors.



## **Assistant Treasurer: SHARON MURRAY-COHEN** (Ulster Co., HUDSON VALLEY REGION)

Sharon Murray Cohen is our current Assistant Treasurer and has served as Treasurer for New York StateWide Senior Action Council since 2012. She has been instrumental in facilitating meetings in Kingston for StateWide members who have formed a new Ulster County Chapter.

She brings a strong background in community organizing, program development, grant writing and fund development. She is the Executive Director of Jewish Family Services of Ulster County, a non-sectarian agency that provides a wide array of services to individuals in the latter half of their lives. As a Licensed Masters Level Social Worker, Sharon has spent her professional career working in human services, health care and education. She developed and implemented housing and support services programs for special needs populations. She is skilled at matching community needs to funding sources.

Sharon has taught Social Policy Courses on both a graduate and undergraduate level at Mount Saint Mary College, Marist, Adelphi, and Fordham. She developed a very successful Grant Writing Certificate program for Mount Saint Mary College.