

ULSTER COUNTY UPDATE

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Claire O'Brien, President
Ulster County Chapter

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

It is close to two years since we all have been able to gather together and participate in

Chapter activities. As many of you know, during this past year, the Ulster Chapter hosted a variety of virtual events designed to provide information on issues important to Seniors and their families. These events included:

- A presentation by Gail Myers, StateWide's Deputy Director, on public policy issues and how to advocate for legislative initiatives that support the quality of life for Seniors and their families
- A presentation by Cynthia Bell, President of the local chapter of The League of Women Voters
- An educational workshop on "How to use Zoom"
- A presentation by Julia Solow, lead organizer of Hand in Hand and the New York Caring Majority, who presented the results of a study conducted in collaboration with the City University of New York regarding the Home Health Care Crisis

During this year, members advocated for a variety of public policy and legislative initiatives important to Seniors and their families including: EPIC, the New York Health Act, safe staffing levels in hospitals and nursing homes, nursing home compassionate care visits, strategies to address the home care

worker shortage and community-based services. Our advocacy efforts included making phone calls to State Senators and Assembly Members and participating in virtual meetings with State legislators. In partnership with the Albany Chapter, the Ulster Chapter hosted a virtual meeting with State Senator Michelle Hinchey which was facilitated by the Presidents of the Ulster and Albany Chapters. Members of the Ulster Chapter also participated in a virtual Q & A with State Senator James Skoufis.

Our Executive Committee has received approval from StateWide leadership to postpone our Chapter elections until next year due to the pandemic. If you are interested in running for office or participating in a committee, please contact me at 908-442-0142.

The executive team of the Ulster County Chapter wishes you and your family a happy and healthy new year and looks forward to seeing you in 2022.



Please Remember to Renew Your Membership.

Your renewal form can be found on the last page of the Winter 2021 newsletter that you received in early December. The renewal form also can be found online at www.nysenior.org

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StateWide Legislative Action Team

As we enter our 50th year, StateWide will be strengthening our Grassroots Advocacy Campaign to Improve the lives of seniors and families in NYS. As such, we will be conducting an intensive training that will cover:

- The History & Accomplishments of StateWide
- Organizing in Your Community
- Techniques for Effective Local Advocacy
- Re-seeding our Grassroots Efforts for the Future

The meetings will take place every 3rd Thursday of the Month at 3PM from January - June 2022. Those who complete the course will be recognized at our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Requirements: Participants must be members in good standing and commit to attending all 6 sessions.

FIRST MEETING

Date: Jan 20, at 3:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Mike Burgess, former SW Executive Director, former NYS Office for the Aging Director

Meeting Topic: Protecting and Improving the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program



All meetings are via ZOOM using a computer or phone. To register for the meeting visit www.nysenior.org, or call our Helpline at **800-333-4374**.

Ulster County Events

Chapter members participated in StateWide's second annual virtual conference in October. Members heard from Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, State legislators, federal agency administrators and an array of speakers focusing on critically relevant issues.



In October, the Chapter participated in the first in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic. Members of our executive team

tabled at the Ulster County Office for the Aging's Trunk or Treat event offering information on StateWide, its mission and its services.

Approximately two dozen local community based organizations also provided information on their services to the more than 100 attendees. Networking opportunities abounded.

Congratulations Gail Myers

The Ulster Chapter extends our congratulations to Gail Myers on becoming the recipient of the New York State Council of Churches Excellence in Social Justice Award.

Celebrating 50 Years

In 2022, StateWide will be celebrating its 50th anniversary as a grassroots advocacy organization with the mission to achieve through united action the dignity, well being and security of all senior citizens in NYS. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have participated in StateWide's success over the past 50 years including staff, volunteers, members, funders and all those who have benefitted from the work of StateWide.

For more information call 800-333-4374 or visit our website at www.nysenior.org