

# New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.

## — ULSTER COUNTY UPDATE —

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### 2022 STATEWIDE CONVENTION UPDATE

Over 150 members and friends of StateWide attended the annual convention in Saratoga Springs on September 12th, 13th and 14<sup>th</sup>. This convention celebrated StateWide's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a grassroots membership non-profit advocacy organization.

- Greetings were sent by Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Attorney General James and Comptroller DiNapoli.
- Guest speakers included Kathleen Otte, Regional Director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Rhonda Schwartz, Regional Director of the Administration for Community Living; Dr. Mary Bassett, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health; Senator Rachel May, the Chair of the Senate Aging Committee and Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, the Chair of the Assembly Health Committee.
- Topics presented for discussion included Building a Caring Economy, Health Care System Transformation and the Consumer Voice, Conquering Medical Debt and a Medicare Update.

On the second night of the convention, StateWide's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with a glittering gala. At the gala, individuals who were nominated by Chapter Presidents for their ongoing commitment to the mission and values of StateWide were honored.

### CONGRATULATIONS

We are proud to announce that three of our Chapter members were honored at StateWide's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. **Helen Edelstein, Mary Ann Hildebrandt & Martha Steuding were nominated for this award by President Claire O'Brien** in recognition of their strong commitment to the work of the Ulster County Chapter.



The convention culminated with the membership reviewing the 2023 State and Federal Legislative Priorities presented by StateWide's Public Policy Committee. Following robust discussion, all priorities were approved by the membership.

To review our current legislative priorities, please go to StateWide's website ([www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)) and click on Advocacy. The 2023 updates will be posted in the beginning of 2023.

For more information call 800-333-4374 or visit our website at [www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)

## THANK YOU ASSEMBLYMAN GOTTFRIED



NY StateWide Senior Action Council bid farewell to Assemblyman Richard Gottfried at their 2022 Annual Convention. After 50 years of public service the Assemblyman is retiring at the end of the year.

Assemblyman Gottfried has been Chair of the Health Committee since 1987 and in that capacity he has been a major architect of New York's landmark managed care reforms and has continually fought for consumers and healthcare providers as well as for universal access to quality, affordable health care. Highlights of his legislative work includes the passage of:

- The Child Health Plus program;
- Family Health Plus;
- The Health Care Proxy Law; the Family Health Care Decision Act; and the
- HIV Testing and Confidentiality Law.

He also sponsors the N.Y. Health bill to create a universal publicly funded single-payer health coverage plan for New York State.



## STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM

Between January and June, 2022, members of the Ulster County Chapter joined a group of 30 other members from chapters throughout the state to participate in StateWide's first Legislative Action Team; two members completed the full term.

The team, facilitated by Maria Alvarez and Gail Myers, met once a month for six months. During that time, participants were introduced to an array of topics designed to strengthen advocacy skills and develop techniques for effective local advocacy. Topics included:

- Identifying and contacting state legislators, tips for speaking with legislators, the legislative process and how to find and follow a bill
- The state and federal budget process
- Telling your story & getting the message out

Advocacy issues that were addressed included:

- The New York Health Act
- Key issues facing Social Security & Medicare
- Hospital Observation Status
- The Elder Economic Security Index

All participants agreed this was a valuable training. If you are interested in this training, let us know – we anticipate recruiting additional members to participate in 2023.





# ULSTER COUNTY UPDATE

## STATEWIDE ULSTER CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The Ulster StateWide Chapter will hold an election of officers at our upcoming October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The nomination committee is soliciting names of members interested in running for the offices of president, vice president and secretary.



If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions please submit a short biography to Martha Steuding at msteuding@hotmail.com by October 12th.

## CHAPTER NEWS

The Executive team of the Ulster Chapter is proud to announce that **Helen Edelstein**, our chapter's current vice president, was **elected President of the StateWide Board of Directors** at the 50th Anniversary Convention.

Helen's two year term will begin in January. Congratulations Helen. We wish you great success in your new role.



Pictured L to R: StateWide Executive Director Maria Alvarez, Board of Directors: Vanessa Birmingham, Ann Converso, Eustene Corbin, Kathlene Lyman, Mario Henry, Helen Edelstein

## HUMAN SERVICES EXPO

The Ulster Chapter will be tabling at the **2022 Human Services Expo** on Wednesday, **Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00 to 2:00** at the **Kingston Plaza**, 151 Plaza Road (Hannaford/ball field parking lot).

Please join us at this event and stop by our table to say "hi."



## PATIENT ADVOCATES TEACH IN:

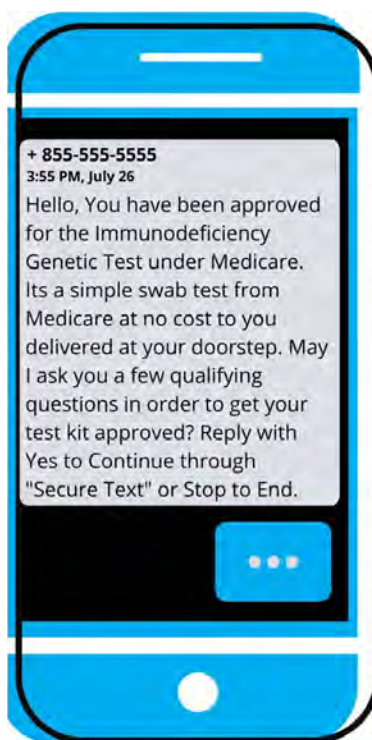
Date: **October 18, 2022, 10 AM**

Topic: **How to Plan for a Funeral**

Speakers: Robert J. Hogan, President, NYS Funeral Directors Association

Michael J. Gorton, Jr., CFSP, Secretary, NYS Funeral Directors Association,

**visit [www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org) to REGISTER**



## Scam Watch: Robotexts

Don't respond to texts offering genetic tests or any other service, covered by Medicare.

**These are scams.**

Report these to the NYS SMP Helpline at **800-333-4374**.



For more information call 800-333-4374 or visit our website at [www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)

NY StateWide  
Senior Action Council's

# ULSTER CHAPTER MEETING

OCTOBER 27, 2022  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM



**RSVP BY OCT 25**

**Ulster County Senior Hub,  
1003 Development Court, Kingston, NY**

## **AGENDA:**

The meeting will include the election of Chapter officials.

Guest Speaker: presentation by Dr. Michael Doyle, Executive Director  
and Chief Medical Officer of the Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley.

Dr. Doyle will be providing updates on the Health Alliance (formerly Kingston Hospital).

**Please RSVP by October 25 to:**

**Claire O'Brien, 908-442-0142 or [claireaob@yahoo.com](mailto:claireaob@yahoo.com)**

**STATE <sup>50<sup>th</sup></sup> WIDE**  
ANNIVERSARY  
1972-2022

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**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**