

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum

Catered by Truly Scrumptious

**From the Board:** Joseph Dvash; Plaza Marquee, Stacey Lyle; Correspondence Secretary, Wynn Gold; Auric, Eileen Hartmann; Cromwell Manor, Ryan Coakley; Merrill Lynch; Scott Teresi; Right at Home, Luann Richards; Creative Gifts, Rich Massimi; Vails Gate Cleaners

**Chamber Members:** Donna Cornell & Jeff Warner; Remote Professionals, Colleen McNulty & Guest; AFLAC, Lynn Peebles; Studio 208, Doug Land; Orange County Land Trust, Paul Stermer; Hudson Valley Food Bank, Tom Bregman; Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, Jim McGee; Black Rock Fish and Game Club, Anna Croce, Christian Trocki, Leonel Soriano; Heidi Schussler; Guest, Cassandra O'Connor; Busy Bee, Tim Vanderberg; Life Coach, Josh Wojehowski; Fresh Catering, John Dolan, Mary Alva; NYMA, Tony Burgess; Cornwall Leadership Institute, Dr. Catherine Agricola ; Altucare Primary Medical Care

**New Members**

Allstate Insurance- Steven Phillips  
Busy Bee Organization and Design- Casey O'Connor

**New Platinum Sponsor**

- St. Luke's Hospital
- Regenbaum Arciero McMillan & Burgess, PC

**Guest Speakers:**

Russ Vernon- Newburgh Armory Unity Center

Russ Vernon has a passion for education and himself along with the Newburgh Armory Unity Center feel that you can solve poverty through education. Most people in jail can't read beyond a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level.

As quoted from an article in The Times Herald Record Cornwall School District rates as one of the top Schools with 69% of graduates can read at grade level, this rate is 31% in Newburgh. It costs 1.5 to 1.9 million dollars to bring an inmate through the courts and jail, but only 10 to 20 thousand dollars and 6 to 8 weeks to teach a child to read.

The Unity Center started with renovated Basketball courts to give inner city kids a place to be safe and keep them off the streets, they gave away free books. Now they have eliminated sports unless you can read. This builds self-esteem. The Unity Center provides 42 academic programs to inspire children to develop a career and it's core value is literacy. All this is provided by volunteers for 2 hours every Saturday. They have between 500 and 600 children from all over Orange County attending these free programs. The Unity center has 2 full time and 2 part time employees. 1/3 of their operating budget comes from rental income.

**Member Spotlight**

**Colleen McNulty- AFLAC**

Colleen has been with Aflac since January, and comes to you for presentation on what Aflac is and how it works. Aflac works with your present insurance with no deductibles. Aflac started in 1955 with 60 employees and now has over

10,000 on 2 continents. They have an A+ rating with the BBB. The average out of pocket expense for medical in 2019 is \$7900 and 20% of those employed that need medical care and end up out of work only have one week of savings to live on. Aflac helps pay these medical and living expenses

### **John Dolan- Superintendent, New York Military Academy**

A lot of transitions over the past couple of months, lost the ROTC program they have 105 students enrolled. John Dolan is encourage at the direction the academy is taking under his leadership. He is a retired NYPD lieutenant.

### **New Business:**

- Financials - \$33167.98
- We have over 150 members
- Cornwall Spooktacular will take place Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> due to the encouraging response from members willing to participate, We will cross promote with the Lion's Club and the Ispy program at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum
- The Chamber received \$2500 from Orange County Tourism to help with expenses of our events

### **Old Business, Continuing Business**

- Holiday Committee (Eileen) Cornwall Spooktacular Oct 26<sup>th</sup>
- Sponsorship Committee (Joe) ST. Luke's hospital is a new platinum sponsor
- Car Show (Luann) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show will be held this year Sunday Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> looking for a couple volunteers and the weather looks great!
- Music at the Park (Joe)
- Fall Festival (Rich) up to 130 vendors so far
- Business Development & Support (Scott/Eileen)
- Recycle Day (Vanessa)
- Golf Outing (Ryan)
- Art Walk (Wynn)

### **Correspondence:**

Wreath Across America - \$150.00

CCMS - \$250 for Outdoor Area for Recess

Food Bank - \$500

### **Upcoming Member Events**

**New York Military Academy** will be hosted their 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> all are welcome to attend

Next Chamber meeting will be Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at Gus's Tavern

### **Roll/Introduction**

Thank you Hudson Highlands Nature Museum for your hospitality and to Truly Scrumptious Catering for a truly delicious meal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luann Richards

Recording Secretary, GCCC