

# NYS Cancer Consortium Chronicle

## New York State Cancer Consortium

### **Congratulations to County Executive William R. Steinhaus of Dutchess County!**

Dutchess County Executive Steinhaus was selected to receive the *Exemplary Local Elected Official* award for 2008. This national award recognized Steinhaus' promotion and advocacy of a comprehensive cancer approach. Steinhaus received his award on November 14th at the C-Change Annual Meeting from President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush. Congratulations! To learn more about cancer control in Dutchess County go to: [www.cancerfreedutchess.net](http://www.cancerfreedutchess.net)

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## CNY Comes Back Swinging!

On November 17th, 64 people from Central New York attended "Cancer Control in Appalachian Communities: An Interactive Forum." Participants included representatives from health systems, community-based and public health organizations, and members of the community. Five-counties from NY's Appalachian Region were included: Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie.

This forum, taking place in Oneonta, NY was funded through a grant by the Appalachian Regional Commission and Centers for Disease Control. The goal of this interactive meeting was to show the disparities in Appalachian communities and to

discuss how to address the needs of cancer survivors and healthcare providers in the covered five-county region.

Dr. Lengerich of Pennsylvania State University and the Primary Investigator of the Northern Appalachian Cancer Network, identified the disparities in cancer incidence and mortality in Appalachian counties when compared to non-Appalachian counties.

Leslie Larsen, NYSCC Steering Committee Chair, presented on the NYSCCCP and local implementation efforts occurring throughout the state. She also spoke on types of support for these initiatives that can be provided by the Consortium.

Attendees then broke out into focus groups that were previously identified by the Central New York Cancer Coalition as being important areas of need for this region. Each group is working on addressing specific issues identified within their specific workgroups.

This forum was a big success, re-engaging many members of the community previously involved in CNYCC, as well as bringing some important new voices into the discussion. Great job to all involved!

If you would like to view the presentation from this forum, look on our website at [www.nyscancerconsortium.org](http://www.nyscancerconsortium.org).

## Committee Reports

### Communications

Standing Committee bio forms are being posted on the NYSCC website to assist with networking among members. When these have been collected, bio sheets will be sent to all NYSCC members for website posting. (Optional for members) A

Liaison sheet has been created to document what's going on in each committee. These sheets will be sent to the Communications Committee when completed for posting. This should provide more information to members on what each group is working on and accomplishing.

### Evaluation

Gina O'Sullivan has taken on the role of Chair of the Committee following Kristen Admiraal's departure. New members will be recruited. Copies of the Evaluation Plan created during Ad-

*(Continued on page 4)*

# January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Day	20	21 WNY Sustainability Training	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Western NY Cancer Coalition Roundtable Discussion

WNYCC received a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to hold a roundtable discussion on disparities in Appalachian Communities, covering Allegany, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. This roundtable was scheduled for November 21st, but has been postponed due to attendance issues. Stay tuned for more information about this opportunity now anticipated to occur in the spring of 2009.

## WNYCC Progress Warms the “Hearth”

On October 24th, the Western NY Cancer Coalition met at the Hearth Restaurant in Chaffee, NY. Continuing their incredible momentum, sparked at their inception meeting in May and fanned through the dedicated work of their Steering Committee, the group came together with a purpose: to create tangible action items.

The Steering Committee of WNYCC has met several times since May to create a workplan for the Coalition as a whole. To fuel results and ease evaluation, the Steering Committee decided to be pro-

ject oriented rather than goal area oriented. This means that the SC chose projects that would address the four main goal areas identified as areas of most need: Public Policy/Access to Care, Early Detection, Health Promotion and Research.

Project areas became discussion groups at the follow up meeting with each group charged with creating a focus and tangible action items. These discussion groups included: Public Policy/Access to Care, Palliative Care, the Southern Tier Ini-

tiative and P2 Collaboration. To learn more about the outcomes from these groups check out the WNYCC page on the NYSCC website at: [www.nyscancerconsortium.org/cancer/cancer\\_wnycc.aspx](http://www.nyscancerconsortium.org/cancer/cancer_wnycc.aspx).

35% of attendees were new to the WNYCC, and 98% of attendees agreed that the activities of the WNYCC should continue.

Congratulations to WNYCC! We expect great things!

## Schedule of Events

- January 19— Martin Luther King Day
- January 21— 10am-3pm at the Hearth Restaurant (12249 Olean Rd. Chaffee, NY 14030) WNY Sustainability Training— WNYCC, teaming up with ACS and Susan G. Koman for the Cure, is presenting a sustainability training for all WNY CSP contractors, fiscal agents, Advisory Board Members and other interested parties. It is designed to build a year-round movement to sustain and enhance CSP across the region. RSVP by January 14th (link provided on through [nyscancerconsortium.org](http://nyscancerconsortium.org) or email [jenniferlynn.sullivan@cancer.org](mailto:jenniferlynn.sullivan@cancer.org) for more information.

## Membership Musings:

The NYS Cancer Consortium has welcomed 28 new members in 2008. Of the 225 members, there are 111 individual members and 114 organizational members. Keep on recruiting new members! Our best recruitment strategy is YOU! Application materials can be found at [www.NYSCancerConsortium.org](http://www.NYSCancerConsortium.org). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click “Join Today”.

We wish to thank Terry Albanese, Howard Kaufman, MD and Carol Lindhorst for serving on the NYS Cancer Consortium Steering Committee. Their participation on the Steering Committee helped guide the Consortium through its first two years of existence, and has helped the Consortium to grow. Thank you Terry, Howard and Carol, for your time and dedication to fighting cancer in New York State.

## Schedule of Events

- February 2—Groundhog Day

# February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

**Your event could be listed here! Events are posted both in the NYSCC Chronicle and on the NYSCC website, however, we do not post what we do not know about! Email your events to [nyscccp@cancer.org](mailto:nyscccp@cancer.org) or forward on the invitation.**

Governor Paterson has directed NY state to begin collecting taxes on cigarettes sold at Indian-owned stores. He is also proposing an “obesity tax”. Health care cuts are anticipated. Stay tuned!

## Focus on Steering?

A number of the Steering Committee members are nearing the end of their two year term. This past spring, a group was formed to determine what voices were missing on the SC. As we began considering members to fill the slots being vacated, it became apparent that the SC needed a better-defined focus in order to fill the vacancies appropriately. As these discussions were occurring, the results of a recent NYSCC Membership Satisfaction Survey were compiled. The results showed that, overall, people are satisfied with their participation in the NYSCC, but the role and focus of the Steering Committee is not clear to our members.

The topic of SC focus was discussed at length during their August meeting. It was decided that the SC will focus on policy, advocacy and education. They would focus on initiatives that tie into priorities of our membership, and provide education to NYSCC members about the issues so they can take that information back to their organizations and constituents.

An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to refocus the SC, review the current structure (including standing committees) and update it to support the policy focus of the SC. The majority of the current SC has extended their terms for six months to

allow appropriate time for this restructuring. The Ad Hoc Committee is made up of SC members who have background in policy and advocacy and SC members who do not have that background, and the chairs of the Membership and Communications Committees.

At the December Steering Committee meeting, the work of the AdHoc Committee was voted on. The Steering Committee has accepted the recommendations of this Committee regarding the focus areas. It’s been determined that the four focus areas for the Consortium will be: Tobacco Control, Screening, Palliative Care and Workforce Shortages.

The Policy Committee of the NYSCC is currently writing a white paper. This document will be used to show general support of the NYS Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. Tweaking may occur after the Governor’s budget is announced, but this document is scheduled to be out in January.

Whittling down the four focus areas to allow for manageable workplans will be forthcoming. Stay tuned for more information!



*"Working Together, Reducing Cancer, Saving Lives"*

"Working together, reducing cancer, saving lives"

VISIT US AT:  
WWW.

NYSCANCERCONSORTIUM.ORG

Be sure to check out our toolkit at: [http://nyscancerconsortium.org/resources/resources\\_toolkit.aspx](http://nyscancerconsortium.org/resources/resources_toolkit.aspx)  
AND our WNYCC webpage at: [http://nyscancerconsortium.org/cancer/cancer\\_wnycc.aspx](http://nyscancerconsortium.org/cancer/cancer_wnycc.aspx).

Letter from the Editor:

With all of the changes currently underway both in our Consortium and in the state itself, all should recognize the importance of keeping up the fight even in these tough economic times. Our Steering Committee is setting a course to advocate for continued support of recognized, successful programs and education on other methods to control the cancer burden in NY. This shift of focus provides a wonderful opportunity for members to take a more active role in the Consortium. Currently, our organizational chart is under review and structure might be slightly altered. We will keep you informed of all changes. Please remain aware of these occurrences and feel free to contact [nyscccp@cancer.org](mailto:nyscccp@cancer.org) with questions or if you see a fit for yourself in these newly defined roles.

## Welcome to Gina O'Sullivan!

Gina O'Sullivan joined the New York State Department of Health as an Evaluation Specialist with the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Program in October 2008. In her role as the Evaluation Specialist Gina will be chairing the New York State Cancer Consortium's Evaluation Committee and overseeing evaluation activities related to the consortium. Gina obtained a Master's of Public Health with a concentration in Social & Behavioral Sciences from Boston University School of Public Health. As part of her coursework for the MPH, Gina completed an internship a local Community Health Network Area, a Massachusetts Department of Health initiative, which is a coal-

tion comprised of public, non-profit, and private sectors that collaborate to build healthier communities through community-based prevention planning and health promotion. While completing her degree she also worked full-time at BU's School of Medicine in the Section of Preventive Medicine & Epidemiology managing several grants related to the Framingham Heart Study. Before joining the Department of Health Gina worked in the Research & Evaluation Department with Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth in Canaan, NY. Gina currently resides in East Greenbush, NY with her husband, their three year old son, and two cats.

## Committee Reports (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

miraal's chair should be made available soon. This will be posted on the website when ready.

### Implementation

The NYSCC Local Implementation Toolkit is now up and running on the website ([http://nyscancerconsortium.org/resources/resources\\_toolkit.aspx](http://nyscancerconsortium.org/resources/resources_toolkit.aspx)). The education subcommittee will be reaching out to the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) state office to explore opportunities for collaboration.

### Membership

See Membership Musings box on Page 2.

### Policy

The Governor's budget is anticipated on January 16th and anything of note in regards to Cancer Control will be sent on to the Consortium. The threat to the screening programs is a priority for the group. There is a national proposal to create a cancer trust fund that would fund cancer research. Also, the Palliative Care Act in the state will offer \$4.6 million in grant opportunities.