



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EIGHT NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR FRIENDS OF BASSETT

Cooperstown, N.Y. - Dennis A. Tallman, the newly elected president of the Friends of Bassett, announced eight additions to the organization's board of directors. "The professional experience and years of community involvement that our newest members bring to the board broaden our organization's perspective on regional health care needs and strengthen our fund development activities," said Mr. Tallman. "I'm proud to welcome these individuals who will be instrumental in helping to shape the focus and the future of the Friends."

The Friends, a nonprofit support group, comprises civic and business leaders, physicians and health care professionals. The organization raises funds for The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, Bassett Healthcare's 23 regional health centers and Bassett affiliates, including Bassett Hospital of Schoharie County in Cobleskill and O'Connor Hospital in Delhi.

Joining the Friends of Bassett board as new members for the 2006 to 2009 term are:

Karen M. Elting, past president and vice president of the Friends, rejoins the Friends board. Ms. Elting served as chair of the Bassett Heart Care Campaign and was an ex officio member of the Bassett Healthcare Board of Trustees. She is an accomplished artist and past president of the Foundation Board of the State University College at Oneonta (SUCO), president of Planned Parenthood of Delaware & Otsego Counties, board member of the Catskill Symphony, and vice president of Family Planning Advocates/Albany.

Harry J. Enea, president and chief executive of Enea Family Funeral Homes & Monument Co., was elected by the Little Falls Rotary as Citizen of the Year – 2005. Mr. Enea currently is chairman of the Little Falls Community Chest and president of the Compassion Home of Herkimer County. In 2005, he was chairman of the Valley United Way (Herkimer) and is a past president of the Little Falls Civic Club.

Douglas C. Gulotty is president and chief executive of The Wilber Corporation and Wilber National Bank, Oneonta. Mr. Gulotty is treasurer of the Oneonta Family YMCA, a director of the New York State Bankers' Service Corporation and past chairman of the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce. He was graduated summa cum laude from State University of New York at Oneonta and magna cum laude from the University of Delaware's Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

Beth Ann Hutcherson has organized activities in the Cooperstown area for 20 years in support of the Catskill Area Hospice, Cooperstown Central Parent Teacher Organization and the Susquehanna SPCA. She was a member of the Friends Gala Committee, director of the Bassett Junior Volunteer Program and coach of the Cooperstown Soccer Club. Beth Ann is a graduate of Hollins College, Roanoke, Virginia, and Sarah Lawrence College.

William M. McCartan of Fenimore Asset Management, Cobleskill, is serving his local communities as president of the Boys & Girls Club of Schenectady and secretary of Schenectady's Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital. Mr. McCartan is past president and past director of Eddy Senior Care (Northeast Health). He earned his bachelor's of arts degree at Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.) and his master's of public administration degree at The Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany.

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H. William Michaels, vice president of Fly Creek Cider Mill and Orchard, Inc., received his bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1989, specializing in hospitality and tourism management. Mr. Michaels is a member of the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association, the American Business Association, the New York State Hospitality Association, the New England Apple Society and the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills. He was a board member of the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce and director of the AAA Tri-County Motor Club of Oneonta.

John Mirabito, chairman of the board of Granite Capital Holdings, Inc., of Sidney, received a bachelor's of business degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's of business administration degree from Syracuse University. Mr. Mirabito is director of the Southern Tier Chapter of the American Red Cross, director of the Otschodela Council, Boy Scouts of America, and director of the TCA Vision 21, Inc. He is past chair of the Village of Sidney Zoning Board of Appeals and past director of the United Methodist Homes for the Aging. John was also past president of the Rotary Club of Sidney.

Renee Shevat, Ph.D., is president of Herkimer Diamond Mines, Inc., and Unlocked Legends, Inc., among other businesses. Dr. Shevat serves on the New York State Council of Waterways, the board of directors of UNYTA, the Upstate New York Tourism Alliance and the Advisory Council for Friends of Congressman Sherwood Boehlert. She is a trustee of the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill and was a board member of the SUNY Cobleskill Foundation, which fosters private-sector investment in school's students, programs and plant.

Members returning to the Friends board are: Ralph L. Blanchard, Herkimer; Charles L. Carrier, Cooperstown; Thomas J. Cleary, Fly Creek; James T. Dalton, M.D., Cooperstown; Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., Cherry Valley; Mary E. Dunkle, Cooperstown; Christopher A. Franck, New York; Peter J. Hamilton, Delhi; Charles B. Kieler, Cherry Valley; Frank J. Maloney, Cooperstown; Leonard W. Marsh, Laurens; Erna J. McReynolds, Oneonta; William J. Moseley, Frederick, Md.; Barbara H. Mulhern, Cooperstown; Albert Pylinski Jr., Edmeston; Paul B. Raeder, Cooperstown; Jamie A. Reynolds, Oneonta; Mary-Margaret E. Robbins, Cooperstown; Robert B. Schlather, Cooperstown; Maureen H. Schuermann, Cooperstown; Gwen L. Schuster, Oneonta; R. Carsten Sibbern, Sharon Springs; Gayle S. Smith, Cooperstown; Janet H. Snyder, Fly Creek; Carol Spinelli, Bovina Center; Edward W. Stack, Glen Head; Dennis A. Tallman, Fly Creek; and Albert K. Weiss, Cooperstown.

In addition to Mr. Tallman as president of the Friends, officers are: Leonard W. Marsh, vice president; Peter J. Hamilton, regional vice president; Robert B. Schlather, treasurer; Patricia M. Smith, secretary; Sue E. Andrews, assistant treasurer; Richard C. Vanison, second assistant treasurer; and Scott A. Barrett, executive director.

Ex officio officers are William F. Streck, Bassett president and chief executive; Bertine Colombo McKenna, Ph.D., Bassett executive vice president and chief operating officer; Nicholas J. Nicoletta, Bassett corporate vice president and chief financial officer; and Charles T. Hage, immediate past president of the Friends.

Mr. Barrett acknowledged the recent death of board member Elizabeth (Betty) C. Wright of Cooperstown. "The Friends of Bassett greatly appreciates the years of service that Betty, our friend and neighbor, devoted to our philanthropic organization. Her many contributions greatly enhanced our mission," he said.

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Photo Caption:

On Feb. 6, Dennis A. Tallman (second from right), president of the Friends of Bassett, Bassett Healthcare's volunteer-driven philanthropic support group, held a seminar for new members of the Friends board of directors at Harrison House. Members (l. to r.) are: Douglas C. Gulotty, John Mirabito, Beth Ann Hutcherson, Harry J. Enea and Renee Shevat, Ph.D. (Not present: Karen M. Elting, William M. McCartan and H. William Michaels.)