



NEWS RELEASE

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REGIONAL LEADERS JOIN FRIENDS OF BASSETT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COOPERSTOWN, NY... At a recent meeting of the Friends of Bassett Board of Directors, Amanda C. May, executive director, welcomed the regional philanthropic organization's incoming president Charles T. Hage. "As past vice president of the Friends, Mr. Hage has made many valuable contributions through his astute leadership both to the Friends and to the Bassett Heart Care Campaign," Ms. May said. A former Ford Foundation Scholar, Mr. Hage is director of business development for Eastman Kodak Company and earned degrees from Lafayette College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He and his wife Ursula live in Cooperstown.

Eight new board members, all of whom are regional community and business leaders, also were welcomed. "The Friends' board is a volunteer-driven group that is highly committed to supporting Bassett Healthcare's initiatives. In 2002, the Friends organized the Bassett Heart Care Campaign to support Bassett Healthcare's introduction of accessible cardiac care services and programs to central New York. Karen M. Elting, who was president of the board at that time, also assumed the position of Campaign Chair, which she still holds. To date, the fund drive has raised \$8.7 million for the Bassett Heart Care Institute," said Ms. May. "We're proud that our board members are local people who offer different perspectives on the health care needs of their communities, provide advice and support, and help raise funds."

"Campaign contributions already are at work," said Ms. May. "Since March 2003 to the year's end, there were 103 cardiac surgeries, 165 angioplasties and 581 cardiac catheterizations performed in Cooperstown. A dedicated cardiovascular operating room has been added to Bassett Hospital and a new fifth-floor contains a state-of-the-art, 25,000 square-foot Critical Care Complex, which will soon be opened."

The addition of new board members gives impetus to the Campaign as the Friends continues to reach out to individuals, businesses and foundations throughout the region to close the gap, raise the beam, and achieve its \$12 million goal.

New Friends of Bassett board members for the 2004-2007 term are:

Frank J. Annese, chairman and chief executive officer of Annese & Associates, Inc., located in Herkimer, is a member of the advisory council, University of Notre Dame's College of Arts & Letters. Mr. Annese is past president of the university's Alumni Club.

Charles Carrier, former president and chief executive officer of Wescar Petroleum Co., graduated from Colgate University and is a past president of the Cooperstown Country Club.

Christopher A. Franck, is a principal of Archstone Consulting, located in N.Y.C. Mr. Franck specializes in strategy and operations consulting and serves major clients in the life sciences and health care industries. He has served as a director on the boards of the Wharton Health Care Alumni Association and the University of Pennsylvania's Health Care Management Alumni Fund since 1997.

Barbara Harrison Mulhern, an alumna of Smith College, is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America. Presently, she is chair of the Committee for Planned Giving at Smith and a member of the National Council for the Glimmerglass Opera, of which she was a former board member.

p. 2 Regional leaders join

Jamie A. Reynolds, vice president and regional sales manager of NBT Bank in Oneonta, is a graduate of Cornell University.

Maureen Hage Schuermann, partner and business manager of Hage Capital, is a longtime Cooperstown resident and a graduate of Cornell University. She is co-founder of the SSPCA Annual Festival of Trees Fundraiser.

Carol Spinelli, sales associate of Coldwell Bank and Timberland Properties, is a member of the Otsego-Delaware Board of Realtors. She also serves on the board of trustees of O'Connor Hospital and is president of Angels of Delaware Count. In 1994, Ms. Spinelli opened the Main Street Bovina Café and General Store.

Albert Weiss is the principal of Hop Haus Consulting, a market consulting company in Cooperstown. After 37 years in advertising/marketing, he retired from Mercedes-Benz U.S.A. LLC. Mr. Weiss is a board member of the New York State Alliance for Arts in Education (Albany).

Returning to the Friends board are: Ralph L. Blanchard, Herkimer; Thomas J. Cleary, Fly Creek; James T. Dalton, M.D., Cooperstown; Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., Cherry Valley; Walter P. Dolan, Cooperstown; Arnold M. Drogen, Oneonta; Mary E. Dunkle, Cooperstown; Karen M. Elting, Oneonta; Elizabeth McCray Godley, Morris; Charles T. Hage, Cooperstown; Peter J. Hamilton, Delhi; John M. Herlihy, Cooperstown; Charles B. Kieler, Cherry Valley; Erna J. McReynolds, Oneonta; William J. Moseley, Frederick, Md.; Henry J. Nicols, Cooperstown; Michael W. Otis, Cooperstown; Albert Pylinski Jr., Edmeston; Paul B. Raeder, Cooperstown; Ellen H. Sanford, Cooperstown; Robert B. Schlather, Cooperstown; Gwen L. Schuster, Oneonta; Gayle S. Smith, Cooperstown; Patricia M. Smith, Norwich; Janet H. Snyder, Fly Creek; Edward W. Stack, Glen Head; Bruno A. Talevi, Cooperstown; Dennis A. Tallman, Fly Creek; Albert K. Weiss, Cooperstown; and Elizabeth C. Wright, Cooperstown.

Complementing Mr. Hage as officers are: Dennis A. Tallman, vice president; Peter J. Hamilton, regional vice-president; Robert B. Schlather, treasurer; Ellen H. Sanford, secretary; Sue E. Andrews, assistant treasurer; Richard C. Vanison, second assistant treasurer; and Amanda C. May, executive director. Ex officio officers are William F. Streck, M.D., President & Chief Executive Officer, Bassett Healthcare; Nicholas J. Nicoletta, Corporate Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Bassett Healthcare; and Michael Stein, Vice President, External Affairs, Bassett Healthcare

Call the Friends office at (607) 547-3928 to learn more about the philanthropic organization and the many ways you can make a donation to the Bassett Heart Care Campaign. Corporate sponsorships are still available for many Friends' special events, such as the Bassett Invitational. The popular golf tournament will be held at the Leatherstocking Golf Course in Cooperstown on June 1.

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