

Hospital Report

ERH Fundraiser Dinner a Success

More than \$22,000 – double the goal – was raised at a fundraising dinner to benefit **Ellenville Regional Hospital** hosted by the “Save Our Hospital” committee on May 15.

Close to 185 persons attended the event held at **Unity Hall** in Napanoch, including County Legislators Joseph Stoeckeler, Susan Cummings, and Gerald DePew as well as town officials, hospital personnel, representatives of local churches and businesses, and school board members. Students from the National Honor Society and the *Key Club* at *Ellenville High School* waited tables.



“The community showed its support for **Ellenville Regional Hospital** through their generosity surrounding this event” **ERH** CEO Steven Kelley said. “A special thank you goes out to Rev. Mary Savage, Willie Mae Grant, Mildred Resnick, (left to right in above photo with Kelley; photo by Debbie Briggs), and Sylvia Kalipolites for their hard work in producing this fundraising dinner.”

County legislators awarded the *Pride of Ulster County* award to Mary Sheeley, president of the **Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce**; Maggie Heath, the president of the **Ellenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary**; Mildred Resnick; and Willie Mae Grant, for their successful efforts in gathering community support for the hospital. Rev. Mary Savage and Sylvia Kalipolites were also recognized for their help in organizing the dinner.

Kelley said that more fund-raising events are planned, including a golf tournament and a fall gala.

For information on the services provided by **Ellenville Regional Hospital**, please call 647-6400.

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Men's Health Week June 14-20

Each year, the week leading up to Father's Day is celebrated as “Men's Health Week.” This year, Men's Health Week is observed from June 14-20.

Ellenville Regional Hospital wants you to have the facts about men's health. Dr. Frank Lancellotti says: “Many men continue to have a lack of awareness about their health. Poor health education and poor health behavior patterns in the personal and work lives of men continue to contribute to a growing crisis in men's health.”

“Many men continue to put their own health last in their priorities. Yet many causes of illness and death are easily preventable. Routine screenings for prostate cancer, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, colo-rectal cancer, and body fat are an important part of staying healthy. Unfortunately, some men resist seeking routine medical care,” he said.

Dr. Lancellotti points out that “From childhood on, men are taught to minimize their health concerns. When an 8-year-old boy skins his knees, he's told, “Big boys don't cry. Take one for the team.” When a man is 50 and having chest pains, he's going to say “It's just indigestion” – because he's been taught his whole life to ignore the physical symptoms of his body. These attitudes need to change, because early detection and treatment is the best way to prevent health problems from becoming more serious.”

While women tend to see their physicians regularly, men are typically more disconnected from the health-care system. This reflects the stereotype that men are expected to be self-reliant.

“Men,” Dr. Lancellotti says, “are often almost cowardly about going to the doctor. They tend to be reluctant to admit that there might be anything wrong.”

This reluctance is a contributing factor in the growing health disparity between men and women. The difference in life expectancies between the genders is now almost seven years. Men tend to have higher blood pressure and dangerously high cholesterol levels, problems that are often treatable... If they are detected. And, of course, there are problems such as prostate cancer and testicular cancer that are unique to men.

“Men should take the occasion of Men's Health Week to make an appointment with their doctor or health care provider,” says Dr. Lancellotti.

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