

Ellenville Hospital Celebrates

On Monday, September 13th the **Ellenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary** held its annual luncheon, a highly-successful, enthusiastic gathering of nearly 200 area supporters at the Eagle's Nest in Bloomingburg. Gloria Wintermeyer was named *Auxilian of the Year* by **Auxiliary** President Maggi Heath to an obviously approving audience. The smoothly functioning arrangements by the Annual Luncheon Committee of Carol Lounsbery, Carolyn Kuhlmann, and Blossom Rozman, demonstrated the finely-tuned teamwork that they have developed through the years.

Hospital CEO Steve Kelley spoke at the luncheon, quietly outlining some of the approvals necessary for **Ellenville Regional Hospital's** recovery plan to occur. His talk was conservatively optimistic and was welcomed with much applause.

Later Monday evening, the Board of Directors of Kingston Regional Health Care System voted to accept **Ellenville Regional Hospital** as part of their system as soon as several conditions are met. Since one of the conditions was formal designation as a Critical Access Hospital, which has since happened, optimism got another boost from the Kingston decision, albeit conditional.

On Thursday, September 16th, official written confirmation of **Ellenville Regional Hospital's** designation as a Critical Access Hospital was received by Administrator Steven Kelley from the Department of Health and Human Services. This designation will be crucial in the renaissance of Ellenville's hospital. Even better, the designation is retroactive to July 16, 2004. (see previous article)

A large crowd of **Ellenville Regional Hospital** supporters gathered at the *Hudson Valley Resort* on Saturday, September 18th, for the *Annual Dinner Dance*, this year honoring Robert H. Kuhlmann, Interim President of **Ellenville Regional Hospital's** Board of Trustees.

Culminating a week of positive news, the Dinner Dance was a highly-successful evening, and continued the upbeat, celebratory feeling engendered by the week's events.

Hospital CEO Steven Kelley served as master of ceremonies and kept the program moving smoothly. William H. Collier was the principal speaker and his long friendship with honoree Bob Kuhlmann was obvious in his remarks, which he kept light and humorous. Certificates of appreciation from Senator John Bonacic and Congressman Maurice Hinchey were part of the program, as was a "Pride of Ulster" presentation by Ulster County Legislators Susan Cummings and Joseph Stoeckeler. Assemblyman Kevin Cahill provided a letter of congratulations to Mr. Kuhlmann.

The audience appreciated the scheduling of speakers during the lull before the entrees were served, freeing additional time for dancing and sociability after the delicious dinner was completed.

All in all, September 13-18, 2004, was a joyous week of celebration, continued support and eager anticipation, justifying and encouraging the community's endeavors to save its **Ellenville Regional Hospital!**

FLASH!!! And for an extra kicker, on September 29th, State Senator John Bonacic personally delivered a \$300,000 check from the State Legislature, to be used by the Hospital for a variety of purposes (*Details to come*). 🌟



New AC/Heating units for the O/R, Physical Therapy, and Cardiology sections being delivered to the Hospital September 2nd.

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