

Hospital Readout

Ellenville Hospital Pensions Secured by Cahill and CSEA

Members of CSEA's *Ellenville Regional Hospital Local* are thanking Assemblyman Kevin Cahill (D- Kingston) for his efforts in securing a state workforce and retention grant to fill a \$300,000 shortfall that occurred when hospital employees' pension plan was never funded. The announcement was officially made to the media and the public in the *Hospital* lobby on March 4th.

Upon learning that the pensions had not been funded, CSEA *Ellenville Regional Hospital Local* President John Gavaris (photo, third from left) and CSEA Political Action Coordinator Jason Haenel reached out to Assemblyman Cahill for help. Assemblyman Cahill (photo, second from left), a member of the state Assembly Health Committee, quickly secured the funding from state budget monies.

"I have been working diligently since the onset of *Ellenville Regional Hospital's* financial difficulties to help preserve this institution and the vital health care services it provides to many of our area's rural dwellers," Assemblyman Cahill said. "I am pleased to announce this workforce recruitment and retention grant of \$300,000. This is a final piece in *Ellenville Regional Hospital's* complete recovery. By eliminating a significant liability and recognizing staff for their valuable role in the hospital's mission, these monies will lay the groundwork for a stable, dependable health care institution in Ellenville."

"My members and I realize that had Assemblyman Cahill not stepped in to help, any of the financial progress made recently at the hospital would be lost," said Gavaris, whose unit represents 88 members at the hospital. "His hard work has given *Ellenville Regional Hospital* employees the peace of mind that they'll have a secure retirement."

"We are truly grateful to Assemblyman Cahill for his efforts in assisting *Ellenville Regional Hospital* and its employees," said Steven Kelley, President and C.E.O.

"The ability to fund a pension plan will help us tremendously in our retention and recruitment of qualified health care personnel. As we emerge from bankruptcy this month, this will greatly assist us in our plan to move forward and to provide additional healthcare services to our community members. We thank the Assemblyman for his sincere commitment and concern for keeping quality health care available in this area," said Kelley. (photo, left)

Finances at the rural hospital have been on an upswing since Kelley and his team from the Kingston Regional Healthcare Corp. took the helm. Workers at the hospital organized under CSEA in early 2003, after realizing that the facility was at risk for closing.

CSEA – New York's largest union – represents more than 265,000 public and private employees in New York.

"This is a great example of what can be done when organized labor and our elected officials come together to work for the common good," said CSEA Southern Region President Diane Hewitt (photo, at right). "We can only hope that other elected officials will follow Assemblyman Cahill's lead in making the right decisions to boost our healthcare system." Also present and congratulating the efforts was Interim Chief Executive Officer Michael Kaminski of Kingston Hospital, whose parent company is looking to assume full management of the ERH before the end of the year, pending final negotiations. 🌱



ERH's Reorganization & Recovery Plans Approved by Courts

Ellenville Regional Hospital received approval for its reorganization and recovery plans from the US Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of NY, on March 16th.

"This is a big step for the hospital, and the administration is looking forward to proceeding with its reorganization and recovery plan," said Steven Kelley, President and CEO of *Ellenville Regional Hospital*.

Ellenville Regional Hospital declared bankruptcy in November 2003 and has been working to recover financially for the past year and a half.

"The hospital administration would like to thank the New York State Department of Health, Westchester Medical Center, the Kingston Regional Healthcare System, Ulster County, the Town of Wawarsing, the Village of Ellenville, the hospital medical staff, CSEA, our Board of Directors, the hospital donors, and all our employees who stayed with us through difficult times," Kelley said.

"We are also grateful to our elected officials – Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Senator John Bonacic, and Assemblyman Kevin Cahill – for their support and confidence which enabled our hospital to continue to move forward in its mission to provide quality healthcare to our patients, friends, and neighbors."

Kelley said the hospital is now looking forward to completing several new initiatives in the coming months, including a swing bed program, expanding surgical services, and constructing a new emergency department.

The swing bed program, which will open shortly, will provide transitional care for patients who have had an acute hospital stay and are not yet able to live independently. The program will provide skilled nursing services, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy to these patients until they are ready to return home. 🌱

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