

NETWORK IN AGING

OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC
EST 1981



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Network in Aging
of Western New York, Inc.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Virtual raffle!

More details to follow!

NETWORK IN AGING - 40 YEARS STRONG

“Learn from YESTERDAY, Live for TODAY, Resilience for TOMORROW”

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020 • 9AM-11:30AM

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

- **Richard Gehring**, PAST EXEC. DIRECTOR, MEALS ON WHEELS FOR WNY
- **Robert “Bob” Blancato**, NATIONAL COORDINATOR, ELDER JUSTICE COALITION
- **Greg Olsen**, ACTING DIRECTOR, NYS OFFICE FOR THE AGING



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Network in Aging
of Western New York, Inc.

OFFICERS

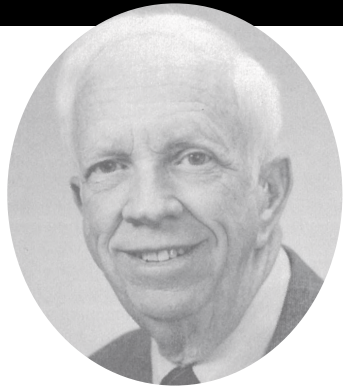
- President**
Angie Crawshaw
The Dale Association
- V.P. — Professional Development**
Beth Donner
- V.P. — Community Relations**
Pamela Pace
Amazing Home Care
- Secretary**
Sharon Plant
People Inc.
- Treasurer**
Suzanne Desfosses-Gilliam
Touching Hearts at Home
- Past President**
Kristin Surdej, LMSW, CMC
Laping, Surdej Associates LLC
- Founding President**
Dr. Evan Calkins

BOARD MEMBERS

- Courtney Bauer**
Family Choice of NY
- Anne Binga, LMSW**
Center for Hospice & Palliative Care
- Jenna Bichler**
Presbyterian Senior Care of WNY
- Kashia Brosius**
Absolut Care
- Margie Cannon-Zdrojewski**
Simplified Solutions of WNY, LLC
- Audrey Fitch**
iCircle Services
- Matt Gardiner**
Oasis Senior Advisors
- Beverly A. Kubala, RN, CCM**
Geriatric Care Managers of WNY
- Thomas Lang, JD, MBA**
Magavern Magavern Grimm, LLC
- Nancy Maira**
- Bonnie McMorrow**
FeedMore WNY
- Laurie Menzies, Esq.**
Pfalzgraf Beinhauer & Menzies LLP
- Chip Mussen**
Catholic Cemeteries
- Stephanie Mruzek**
Solstice Senior Living at East Amherst
- Jane Nogowski**
Park Creek Senior Living
- Darlene Polak**
Briarwood Manor
- Dot Swift**
Elderwood Health Plan



In Memory of Dr. Evan Calkins
Founder of the Network in Aging
1920 - 2020



**Honoring Our Past,
Inspiring Our Future**

Dr. Calkins passed away January 24, 2020, shy of his 100th birthday which would have been July 15, 2020. He will be featured soon in the "Laura's Garden Memorial" on our website and in the Bee Newspaper July 15th issue.





Don't miss out on taking advantage of your MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

- Submit an article in our quarterly newsletter
- Submit a business card size ad in the newsletter

Looking for ARTICLE AND AD SUBMISSIONS for the Oct-Dec 2020 edition!

Call Lisa Boron at 829-3712 or email lisa@networkinaging.org to reserve your spot.



PLATINUM MEMBERS!

Don't forget to take advantage of your promotional email blast!



Emailed to the entire membership!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ANGIE CRAWSHAW (FORMERLY BLACKLEY)



It seems like forever since I wrote a President's message. We all have been through some traumatic events and changes in our lives. I thought it would be appropriate to highlight some of the feedback I have received on how our members have adapted to Covid-19 in our workplaces, at home and in our daily lives.

The Network in Aging itself has truly changed with all meetings and events taking place on Zoom allowing us to safely social distance ourselves while keeping in contact.

The Networking Committee recently hosted a virtual Bingo event that was a huge success. Members were able to win prizes and enjoy each other company while safely participating from the comfort of their own home

with a beverage of choice.

Membership Committee surpassed their goal of membership's renewal as well as obtaining several new members. Kudos!!

Nominating Committee acquired several new members to serve on the board of directors. Welcome Matt Gardiner - OASIS Senior Advisors, Jenna Bichler - Presbyterian Senior Care of WNY and Audrey Fitch - iCircle Services. Please reach out to congratulate them.

Education and Special Events Committee members are busy planning a virtual educational Annual Meeting while celebrating our 40th anniversary. Stay tuned for more details.

Communications Committee has implemented the new membership directory, Unsung Heroes spotlight on Facebook and a Membership Forum that will be accessible to our entire membership soon.

Thank-you to all our committees for the diligent work you do during the 'pause' we are all facing.

The Network in Aging was recently featured on WECK radio. I had the pleasure of being the guest speaker to highlight our organization and talk about the wonderful things we do to benefit our senior population as well as how we are coping with COVID in our daily work environments. You can catch the interview on our website as soon as it is available.

I thought I would talk a bit about what some of the membership agencies are doing to cope during this period of uncertainty.

-Independent Living Facilities: Implemented essential visiting policies, social distancing, and face coverings in the common areas.

-Senior Living/Assisted Living: Not allowing visitors at this time. Residents have been doing video chats or window visits with loved ones. New admissions need to quarantine for 2 weeks in a room before they can join the general population. Temperatures are taken of all the staff prior to entering the building. No communal meals or activities. Disinfecting is constant.

-Non-Profit Organizations: have adapted by offering virtual programs while maintaining access to vital services, while many are working from home.

-Insurance Carriers: Most insurance carriers are waiving copays for PCP visits, behavioral health visits, and telemedicine. Other services that have changed include waiving cost-sharing for Covid-19 tests, treatments in doctor's offices or emergency rooms and services delivered via telehealth as well as removing prescription refills limits, and prior authorization requirements. Benefits may vary by insurance company. Check with your carrier for details.

I hope that this gives you a sense of just some of things that our members are doing to cope and can only hope that this event will soon relax to a point that we can all see each other, in person and enjoy once again the networking socialization we once had and enjoy about the Network in Aging.

Remember: Don't lose Hope. When the Sun goes down, the Stars come out.

- Angie Crawshaw- Network in Aging President

THE NETWORK WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBER AGENCIES



**Accountable Health Community
DBA Sloan Comfort Care House**





MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR NETWORK MEMBERSHIP BY JOINING A COMMITTEE TODAY

ALL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM AT THIS TIME

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS & MEETING INFORMATION

Please be sure to verify meeting date, time and location as there are occasional changes!

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Establishes and directs the Network's print and online communications with its members and the public. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00am at the Bee Group Newspaper Office, 5564 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14221.

CHAIR

Pamela Pace (pamela@amazinghc.com) (716) 863-9035

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Plans and carries out educational programs/workshops on aging related issues, along with planning and preparation for the annual meeting. Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 8:45am at Meals on Wheels for WNY, Inc., 100 James E. Casey Drive, Buffalo, NY 14206.

CHAIR

Beth Donner (bethcdonner@gmail.com) (716) 848-7600

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Reviews and recommends changes in membership dues and benefits; coordinates ongoing membership recruitment efforts. Meetings are on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8:00am at Panera Bread, 1593 Niagara Falls Blvd, Boulevard Consumer Square, Amherst, NY 14226. No meetings in August and December.

CHAIR

Jane Nogowski (jnogowski@park-creek.com) (716) 632-3000

Dot Swift (dswift@elderwood.com) (716) 807-9708

NETWORKING COMMITTEE

Plans and carries out member-to-member functions, including Network with the Network events. Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 8:30am at Panera Bread, 1593 Niagara Falls Blvd, Boulevard Consumer Square, Amherst, NY 14226.

CO-CHAIRS

Stephanie Mruczek (eastamherstdsm@solsticeseniorliving.com) (716) 688-7880

Nancy Maira (nlmaira@verizon.net) (317) 727-7532

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Plans social functions for the Network, including the January Social, Taste of the Network and annual meeting venue. Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30am. Locations vary, so contact Co-Chairs for more info. No meetings in January, July and December.

CO-CHAIRS

Sharon Plant (splant@people-inc.org) (716) 817-9223

Suzanne Desfosses-Gilliam (sdg@touchinghearts.com) (716) 898-8566

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This committee solicits and accepts nominations for positions on the Network in Aging Board of Directors and presents a slate of officers and directors to the membership for their consideration.

CO-CHAIRS

Anne Binga, LMSW (annebinga@gmail.com) (716) 209-0999

Kashia Brosius (kbrosius@absolutcare.com) (716) 652-1560



Congratulations to all of our Unsung Heroes!

Denise Brown, Dining Director at Wheatfield Commons

Outpatient Team at Brothers of Mercy

Samad Choudhury – Intake Coordinator at Amazing Home Care

Michael Efthemis – Culinary Director at Tennyson Court

Erie County Transportation (dispatchers and drivers),

Department of Erie County Senior Services

FeedMore of WNY Staff

Margaret Kleinmann, Executive Director at

Solstice Senior Living at East Amherst

JoAnna Merletti, RN, Admissions Nurse at Niagara Hospice

Beverly O’Brien at National Parkinson Foundation

Jessica Park – Brooks, RN at ECMC Burn Unit/PACU Unit

Erin Riker – Center for Elder Law & Justice

Daizi Schiano, RN, BSN – Case Manager at Niagara Hospice

Tennyson Court Senior Care Community Staff

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Jenna Bichler
Presbyterian Senior
Care of WNY



Audrey Fitch
iCircle Services



Matt Gardiner
Oasis Senior Advisors

THANK YOU TO JANUARY SOCIAL SPONSORS:



NETWORKING OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC
EST. 1981

WELCOME NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

EDWIN GRZANKOWSKI
Retired Chiropractor

COLLEEN OSBORN
Fidelis Care NY

ROSE SYNOR
Art Expressions

Join a committee



WHY?

We have fun!

Make a difference!

Share your ideas and thoughts!

Meet new people & build relationships with other members!

Expand your experiences!



PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

Taking Steps in Beating Parkinson's

by Chris Jamele, Development Director
Parkinson's Foundation New York & New Jersey

We have all been cooped up for weeks, and the need to do something fun grows by the day. What better way to break out than taking a walk, especially one that helps beat Parkinson's disease? Come join Moving Day Buffalo and have fun making a difference for our Parkinson's community!

The prevalence of Parkinson's disease (PD) is rising - drastically. Long a relatively little known affliction, the past twenty-five years has seen PD rates increase nearly eight times faster than Alzheimer's. Still considered a condition equated with aging, the greying baby boomers are often cited for the rapid increase in diagnoses. However, recent research indicates a significant drop in the average age of diagnosis. Where that average was 65 as recently as a decade ago, some researchers now put that age at 50, indicating younger generations are increasingly affected as well.

Parkinson's already affects tens of thousands of people locally. The need for PD related therapies, nursing services, counseling, legal guidance, and myriad other services is

steadily growing. These demands will only increase until the elusive cure is found. Though much work is being done, that mystery is far from being solved. These are all great reasons to help support the battle against PD.

The Parkinson's Foundation is here to support and to educate the PD community of patients, care partners and family members. We also provide information and education to service professionals who work with our PD community. Learn more about PD and how we can help you address the challenges this disease poses. Your participation in Moving Day helps us provide essential services while we strive to defeat this disease. 🌸

Join the effort at www.movingdaybuffalo.org. You can also call (716) 449-3795 or e-mail cjamele@parkinson.org. We look forward to walking with you.



Moving Day Buffalo
A Walk to Beat Parkinson's
September 26th 9 AM - 1 PM
Family Friendly - Teams Welcome
Register today!!!
716 449-3795
www.MovingDayBuffalo.org



CENTERS HEALTH CARE



A Healthy Hispanic Community

The history of the Hispanic community in Buffalo begins in the latter part of the 19th Century when migrants from Central and South America, Mexico, Spain and the Caribbean first came to the region. Like many immigrant groups before and after, they came in pursuit of the American Dream.

For many, that pursuit required a great deal of heart and hard work. They worked on farms, in foundries and factories, at the rail yards and on the waterfront. But now, in the 21st Century, Buffalo's Hispanics are represented throughout the public and private sectors - in medicine, the law, education, marketing, business and the arts.

As WKBW.com reports "We see an enormous surge in the Latino population here. A study done by New American Economy shows non-native residents of Buffalo have helped carry the economy, push entrepreneurial growth, and keep the healthcare sector booming." A prime example of that boom

is unfolding very near the same waterfront where many of the original Hispanic immigrants found employment.

In partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, Ellicott Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing has created the only dedicated Hispanic Care Community in the Buffalo region. The Center has developed a holistic approach to the healthcare and culture of Buffalo's thriving Hispanic community.

The program features a Spanish-speaking staff, a menu influenced by neighborhood Hispanic restaurants, and events and celebrations inspired by Hispanic tradition. Ellicott Center is a member of the Centers Health Care family, the largest post-acute healthcare network in the Northeast.

Jennine Sauriol, Regional Director of Admissions says, "This is one more example of Centers Health Care's outreach and dedication to the diverse communities we serve." 🌸

Ellicott Center • 200 7th Street, Buffalo, NY 14201
(716) 847-2500



FAMILY CHOICE INDEPENDENT HEALTH

Independent Health offers plan for those who reside in long-term care/assisted living facilities

For more than a decade, Independent Health's Medicare Family Choice® HMO I-SNP plan has been providing an extra level of care and support to residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Western New York.

Members enrolled in this special needs plan receive regular visits from specially-trained nurse practitioners/physician assistants, who are affiliated with Family Choice of New York and on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Their responsibilities include:


- Working in collaboration with the member's physicians and the nursing facility's staff to identify potential problems before they become serious.
- Minimizing unnecessary and disruptive emergency room visits and hospital stays whenever it's safe and appropriate.
- Keeping in close contact with the member's family, making sure they are involved in the care-planning process and bringing them peace of mind in knowing that their loved one's quality of life is being maintained at the highest

level possible.

Other key features of the Family Choice plan

- Additional care
- Open enrollment is year-round
- You don't have to be a current Independent Health member to qualify for the plan
- No out-of-pocket costs for Medicaid participants who have eligible subsidies
- Low out-of-pocket costs for non-Medicaid participants

To speak with an Independent Health Medicare Family Choice plan representative, call (716) 635-4900 or 1-800-958-4405 (TTY users call 711), October 1 - December 7: Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; December 8 - September 30: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Independent Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract offering HMO, HMO-SNP, HMO-POS and PPO plans. Enrollment in Independent Health depends on contract renewal. This plan is available to all Medicare eligibles that are entitled to Medicare Part A and enrolled in Part B, except those with ESRD unless already enrolled with Independent Health. Members must reside in a participating facility in Western New York. Members must receive all routine care from participating providers. 

TRUSTED CHOICE HOMECARE




Trusted Choice Homecare

Could you imagine if you needed homecare services today? Where would you start? It is estimated that 7.6 million people in the US alone have the need for homecare services. When it comes to your loved ones, who do you trust to take care of them? Building trust with a caregiver can often be one of the hardest obstacles to overcome. But it doesn't have to be.

At Trusted Choice Homecare, we do the hard work for you. We are a fiscal intermediary for the Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP), which allows recipients to hire friends and family as their paid caregivers. Who could be a better choice than a family member to take care of those you love? CDPAP is currently offered to almost anyone who receives Medicaid. Upon calling Trusted Choice, our representatives will explain the requirements to join the program, determine if you qualify and if you do, quickly and efficiently begin the onboarding process. After working with you and

your aide to complete the required paperwork, you can begin receiving care with minimal delay.

What makes Trusted Choice different than most homecare companies out there today, is that you will never feel on your own. You become part of our family. We look out for you - taking the time to call out regularly and check in on you to ensure your services are being provided up to your standards. We will always make sure to put you first and your satisfaction is our primary goal!

Receiving homecare should be stress and worry free, and with CDPAP, it can be. Call Trusted Choice Homecare today. You can trust us - it's in our name! 

Phone: **(716) 431-5550** (Buffalo, NY area)
(585) 785-3004 (Rochester, NY area)
Email: **cdpap@trustedchoicehomecare.com**

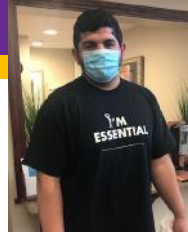


TENNYSON COURT

Tennyson Court

When you look up the meaning of Essential, the definition you will find is: **absolutely necessary; extremely important.** Who does not like to hear that about themselves or the job they do? In a world of “easily replaced” and “easily forgotten” the value of our health care workers has never been greater. Heroes we have been called! Is that a true word to describe us as employees performing a job we were employed to do prior to the pandemic? The answer is yes! Truth is that the world and our facilities have been battling an enemy that we cannot see, and we cannot hide from. All we have been able to do is protect our most vulnerable residents and patients. Just like a soldier, we have asked our staff to leave their families and protect those we care for. Our staff has had to deal with the stress of this pandemic at work as well as at home. Their families need them more and residents need them to be family. As I write this article, I am thankful that our community has stayed covid-19 free. Do we have a magic bubble around our community, of course not! We continue to have the normal day to day issues of Assisted Living. We continued to admit and discharge and take every precaution necessary to keep our residents and staff safe. We know that at any time our community could be dealing with the crisis in-house. We have stayed vigilant and have mourned for those facilities and communities that have had to work under very unsettling circumstances. Our communities and facilities are filled with fearless caregivers that understand the importance of being essential.

Tennyson Court would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone from the Environmental Service team that has maintained the integrity and sanitation of our building both



inside and out. Thank you to the Culinary team for making the effort to make the meal service more personal and pleasing to our residents. Shout out to the Activities team for the energy and love shown to the residents during their time of loneliness and isolation. The care team, our frontline, our boots on the ground. It is because of **ALL OF YOU** that our families can be assured that their loved ones are being taken care of.

I would be amiss to not thank the managers of Tennyson Court. The hours have been many, the worry and concern has been great, but the pride we have for coming together as a team and understanding the task at hand has been very rewarding. The gratitude that we have experienced from our families has been overwhelming and so appreciated.

The battle is not over, but hopefully soon we will all be able to open our doors, embrace our residents and shake the hands of our colleges once again.

Stay Healthy! #Tennysonstrong 

WHEATFIELD COMMONS



Wheatfield Commons


Since Wheatfield Commons began welcoming residents at its well-appointed location in North Tonawanda three years ago, the DePaul Senior Living Community has become a popular choice for providing assisted living and memory care accommodations to families in and around Niagara County. It's not difficult to see why!

Offering gracious, single-floor living, spacious, furnished private and semi-private suites with a choice of floor plan and fully equipped bathrooms in every resident room, Wheatfield Commons is nestled in a park-like suburban setting with inviting grounds and courtyards, close to shopping, restaurants and places of worship.

A covered front porch greets residents and visitors as they enter a warm and inviting community. Welcoming living areas with fireplaces and beautifully decorated dining areas

are all part of an accommodating, enriching atmosphere where residents receive the highest quality services and care. A cozy family dining room is available for private use and special occasions and individual mailboxes are also provided.

“At Wheatfield Commons, we strive to enhance each residents’ quality of life by providing engaging activities, a supportive and caring staff and personal care services that promote independence and dignity,” said Administrator Kathy Hyland-Dion.

The real secret to the community’s popularity goes beyond four walls. It’s the dedicated staff who work closely with residents and family members to develop a personalized approach to delivering support and services which appropriately meet each residents’ needs that helps Wheatfield Commons set the bar for senior care in the area. 



OASIS SENIOR ADVISORS BUFFALO

Through Sickness and Health...

Oasis Senior Advisors Buffalo plays a unique role in the health care industry. Our specialty niche of helping families navigate senior living options has proven to be a valuable resource for area social workers as well as seniors and their families.

Several months ago, we received a referral from an area social worker regarding a couple who was having difficulty managing on their own at home. She suggested to them that Oasis Senior Advisors could support them in their planning.


We immediately connected with the family who was looking for an assisted living community for their parents. Unfortunately, the couple contracted COVID 19 and had to be hospitalized, along with their son. The son's condition became grave, but he did pull through and recuperate well.

His parents went to Garden Gate Health Care Facility to recover and rehab from their hospitalization. We stayed very close to the team at Garden Gate and the family to offer our support and guidance throughout the three-month process.

Thankfully, the couple rebounded well, and the amazing Garden Gate team with Oasis were instrumental in helping this stressed family move the parents into an assisted living

community in Williamsville. Keeping a couple who have been married 60-plus years together and supporting a family under extreme stress was our focus.

Oasis Senior Advisors Buffalo held this family's hands from beginning to end over the course of the three months. We were in constant contact with the team at Garden Gate, the family who live out of town and the assisted living community that was their end goal. Please check out their amazing journey that was featured on several area news media outlets including WIVB:

<https://www.wivb.com/news/wny-couple-in-their-late-80s-are-reunited-with-family-after-battling-coronavirus/> 

Oasis Senior Advisors Buffalo is a FREE service that helps families navigate Assisted Living/Memory Care/Skilled nursing/and all senior living. We can be reached at (716) 717-3664 or visit our website at: OasisSeniorAdvisors.com/Buffalo

OASIS CAN HELP

We Are:

COMMITTED throughout the care journey



LIBERTY HOME CARE



Liberty Home Care is One Stop for Western New Yorkers' Home Health Needs


Liberty Home Care is a nonprofit that has been serving the home health care needs for all ages of Western New Yorkers since 2001. The organization is a New York State-licensed home care agency and durable medical equipment provider for people with a variety of medical needs and chronic conditions.



The agency is a one-stop shop for home care needs. Liberty Home Care provides personal care aides (PCAs) who help people with daily living activities, is a durable medical equipment supplier and delivers and sets up all equipment at no cost. The delivery technicians provide free training to ensure all equipment is operating effectively and safely.

The organization also specializes in providing equipment for people who need CPAP & BiPAP treatment to address sleep apnea as well as personal emergency response systems (PERS) and installs ramps and grab bars that address mobility needs. Liberty Home Care accepts most insurances for medical equipment and supplies and private pay options are available.

The organization's Pathways palliative care program manages symptoms and provides social work and spiritual care for individuals with chronic illnesses. The care team works with members' physicians to coordinate individualized services and provide relief from distressing symptoms. A nurse is always just a phone call away, and it is covered by Medicare Advantage Plans, such as Univera, IHA and BCBS of Western New York.

All services contribute to helping keep people healthy, comfortable and independent in their homes while easing the stress on families worrying about loved ones. For more information, visit **LibertyHomeCare.org** or call **(716) 274-500**. 



NIAGARA HOSPICE



Niagara Hospice Summer Events Support Patients & Families

Niagara Hospice hosts a variety of fundraisers throughout the year that support patients and families faced with late-stage illnesses across Niagara County. These special events are organized with community members and local businesses. Below is an overview of two signature summer events that are fun for all ages.

Niagara Hospice Gran Fondo - Sat., Aug. 1, 2020

The term "Gran Fondo" originated in Italy and translates to "Big Ride." Known as a party on wheels, our Niagara Hospice Gran Fondo is a bike ride along the Niagara Wine Trail that offers food and refreshments along the route. Following the ride is a post-ride party that includes live music, draft beer, wine and food. Participants will ride some of WNY's most beautiful bike routes. For more information, visit HospiceGranFondo.com.

Mighty Niagara Half Marathon and Hospice 5K Dash - Sat., Sept. 19, 2020

Our Mighty Niagara Half Marathon and Hospice 5K Dash race is a premier fundraising event that brings in people from around the world. The race committee goes to great lengths to make this the one race runners don't want to miss. It offers a pre-race concert, live music along the route, historical sites, beautiful views of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, and post-race celebrations with live music. Runners receive high-quality racing shirts, race medals, food and drinks. For more information, visit MightyNiagaraHalfMarathon.com.

Visit NiagaraHospice.org/SpecialEvents for a complete list of events. If you are interested in sponsoring one of Niagara Hospice's fundraisers, contact Special Events Coordinator, Allison Bolt at (716) 280-0766.

SURDEJ WEB SOLUTIONS



You're risking a lawsuit if your website is not ADA compliant

by Jeff Surdej

Do you own a website? If so, is it ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant? If it's not, it needs to be asap, or you might be at risk of a lawsuit.

ADA compliance makes a lot of sense when it's applied to access to public places such as stores, restaurants and theaters, but now such laws are being applied to websites as well. If you publish a website, there are certain standards that must be followed to allow equal access to your site for individuals with disabilities such as vision or

hearing impairment.

So what can you do to ensure that your website is ADA compliant? Well, you can start by making sure that all photos have captions and "alt tags" that accurately describe the picture, videos have closed-captioning or subtitles, and avoid use of smaller fonts that may be difficult to read.

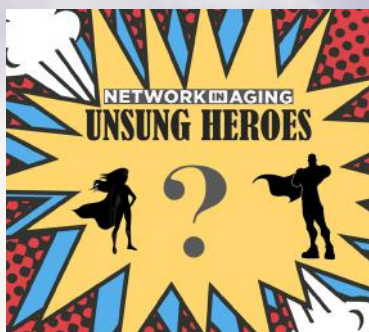
Additionally, all companies, organizations or individuals with websites should add an accessibility statement to their site. For example, give the public a way to contact the web manager directly to report any difficulties with the content on your site, ask questions or express concerns. Finally, add an accessibility menu to help all users better navigate your site.

As you might expect, compliance laws are known to evolve periodically, so it's best to keep up to date with ever-changing requirements. For more information, please contact an experienced web developer to help guide you through the process and ensure compliance. It's far more affordable than dealing with an unexpected lawsuit.

Jeff Surdej is owner of Surdej Web Solutions, a web solutions company.

Surdej Web Solutions • (716) 404-9343 • www.surdej.com

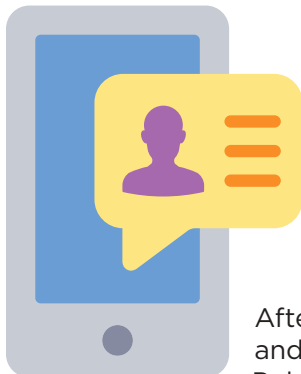
WHAT'S HAPPENING!



UNSUNG HEROES CAMPAIGN

This campaign, which launched in April, is geared towards recognizing those we know and work with who are going above and beyond their day to day activities – especially now during the challenging times the world is facing. Member agencies and all of their employees are encouraged to nominate someone they know – colleague, family member or friend! Simply fill out the nomination form that can be accessed on our home page **networkinaging.org**. We will proudly share their story on our social media and give them the recognition they deserve.

Nominate someone TODAY!!!!



NIA Membership Business Directory

After several years of discussion and months of hard work, the Public Membership Directory on the website is ready to go. This feature will allow other members and the general public to search by name or by a specific service category which member organizations they may be seeking information from.

Members will get the opportunity to specify how they want their listing to appear as well as what categories they want to be associated with. Look for your automated Directory submission form to come via email. Contact Lisa Boron at lisa@networkinaging.org if you have any questions. This directory can be accessed on our home page.

NIA Forum

Looking for a place to chat with other members, looking for info on a senior or NIA



related topic, or maybe your organization is looking to expand and you want to spread the word about a new job opportunity? Look no further. The NIA Members Only Forum is NOW ACTIVE. NIA Forum can be accessed on our home page **networkinaging.org** (must be logged in). You will be able to reply to topics of interest, follow and post your own.

Laura's Garden

The Network in Aging has been around nearly 40 years. We have been graced with many wonderful and dedicated professionals as part of our organization over the years. Some individuals have awards named after them, but we wanted a way to remember and honor more individuals who had a special place with this organization and are no longer with us on this earth.

A memorial page on our website seemed like a good place to preserve and capture the essence of these special individuals. The memorial page is established in loving memory of Laura A. Mondello, a long time member, past president and supporter of the Network in Aging. Laura's commitment to the Network in Aging for over 25 years was nothing less than extraordinary. Her expertise, innovation and passion played a huge part in molding the strategic direction of the organization. It is the Network in Aging members like Laura we honor on this memorial page. Check out Laura's Memorial Garden page when you have a chance to read and learn more about some awesome individuals and a stroll down memory lane for those who knew these individuals personally.

Laura's Garden can be accessed on our home page. We start off the memorial garden featuring...

Karen Andruschat
Jerry Flashner
Michael Maloney
Laura Mondello
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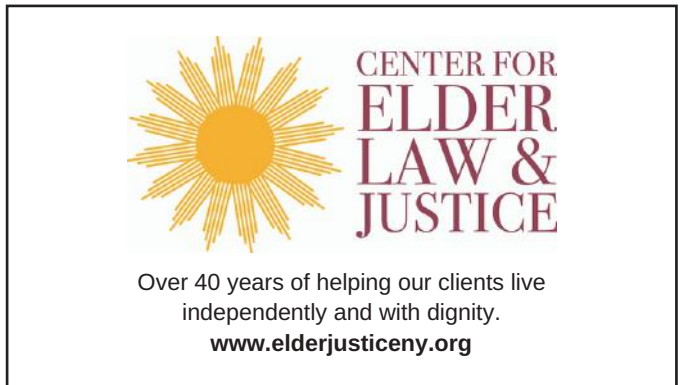


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This is your invitation to share your stories to members and others via Network In Aging's Facebook page. We are in need of human interest and feature stories to share.

Please include photos and/or videos as you are able and send to Lisa at lisa@networkinaging.org.

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TO ALL OF OUR MEMBER AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS THAT RENEWED FOR 2020!



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Contact Lynn Westcott at Lwestcott@alz.org or (716) 241-0357 for information.



On behalf of the Staff of the Amherst Center for Senior we would like to wish Pamela Krawczyk a wonderful retirement with great joy and relaxation. Her contributions to the older adults in our community will always be appreciated.

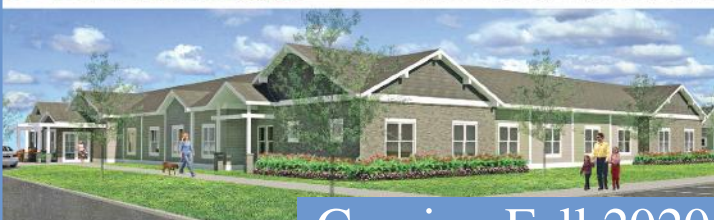
With big shoes to fill, we welcome Brian Bray as the new Director of the Center. Prior to joining the Center in June, Brian served as Special Assistant to the Commissioner for the Erie County Department of Social Services. We hope this position brings him great challenges and opportunities. If you would like to contact Brian, he can be reached at bbray@amherst.ny.us.

We would also like to congratulate Melissa Abel for her well-deserved promotion to Deputy Director of the Center. Melissa has been a dedicated employee of the Town of Amherst for the past 20 years.

We wish them good luck as they begin their new chapters.

~Amherst Senior Center Staff

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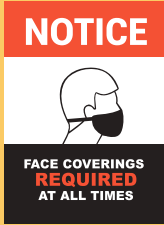
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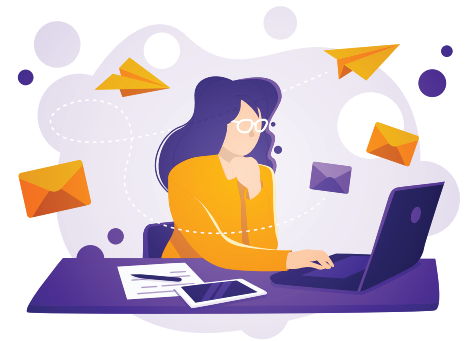


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The Network in Aging of Western New York, Inc. is a non-profit, voluntary corporation, which brings together individuals and organizations involved in aging and long-term care. Our diverse membership includes educators, health and social service professionals, community leaders, government agencies and area businesses. **Our mission is “To help our members by providing opportunities for resource exchange, professional development and interdisciplinary collaboration through networking events, educational programs, strategic partnerships and promoting public awareness of the organization and its mission.”**

For more information about the Network in Aging of Western New York, Inc., call Lisa Boron, Network in Aging Coordinator, at (716) 829-3712 or for more information about the Network in Aging, you can go online to www.networkinaging.org

With the uncertainty of COVID-19 status, we do not have any scheduled Network events at the time of printing this newsletter. We will communicate with the membership if or when we are able to schedule any events.

For more information, go to www.networkinaging.org or call the Network office: (716) 829-3712