

The 2010 New York State annual conference held at the Radisson in Utica, New York was held from June 9th to June 11th. The immediate overall impression of the attendees was that this was a great conference. The Conference was led by co-chairs Jeanne Carangelo (Central) and Paula Flisnik (Mid State) who did an outstanding job. Jeanne and Paula extended their thanks to their entire committee for all their hard work.

For those that arrived early there was a session held by Paul Wyckoff. "Evidence Based Volunteering". The official opening of the conference was Wednesday at noon where our keynote speaker, Mary McCormick presented "Gems from the Heart, How to Live a Joy-Filled Life Everyday". Mary has a well versed background in the field of volunteering and used many of her own life experiences during her presentations. Other key topics presented throughout the conference dealt with Risk Management in Volunteering, Health Care Reform in Healthcare, Advancement of Volunteering for the Future, Online Orientation programs, Interpreter Service volunteers and National & New York State Initiatives in Volunteering. Some of our very own members, Patricia Choi (GNY) and Josie Dominquez (GNY) were presenters this year. Our closing keynote speaker was Leslie Gibson, RN with "The Healing Power of Humor" a most entertaining presentation. With the permission of our presenters some of their presentations will be placed on the website.

Wednesday night the attendees had a night out at the Saranac Brewery. A great evening of dinner, dancing, a tour of the brewery and some sampling of the different beverages made there. It was a special evening to network with all your friends across the state. When the bus arrived back at the hotel some members even practiced emergency exiting of a bus through the back door.

At the Annual Meeting on Thursday, a new Executive Board was sworn in. Susan McNeil will lead the association through the next two years with the assistance of Vice President , Bob Hess; Secretary Sue Bock; Treasurer Kathleen Dalton; and Nominating Chair, Arlene Martin. A special thank you to Maria Burns for all her leadership through some very tumultuous financial times.

This year the Marketplace took place through the entire day on Thursday. This gave the attendees and the vendors more time to discuss their merchandise. Thursday evening the raffle prizes were drawn. A special thank you to all members that supplied prizes for this year's event. Julie Chrysler (Mid-State) did a wonderful job organizing all the prizes and helped to raise close to \$2000 for the association.

I think all would agree the accommodations were great, the food superb and the hotel staff very accommodating. Everyone looks forward to the 2011 conference being held in Long Island, June 1-3rd. Those concerned about traveling to the city may have their concerns answered. The Association is investigating hiring a bus that would start in western New York, travel across the central state, and down to the city. More details to follow, but if you are interested in this concept let your chapter president know.

See you all in Melville at the Huntington Hilton, June 1st, 2011.