

NIAGARA ERIE REGIONAL COALITION

275 OAK ST. SUITE 150
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203
PHONE: 716-856-6525 x121 FAX: 856-6754
E-MAIL: tkniazuk@ecidany.com
www.erie.gov/regionalcoalition

Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster
Hon. Kathy Konst

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tod A. Kniazuk, 716-856-6525 x121

Members:

James Allen
Dr. Ruth Bereson
John Cappellino
Dr. Deborah Curtis
Hon. Paul Dyster
Hon. Wright Ellis
Samuel Ferraro
Robert Gower
Hon. Michele Iannello
David Lacki
Celeste Lawson
Gregory Lewis
Joe McMahon
Hon. Peter McMahon
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Hal Morse
Hon. Jason Murgia
William Murray
Hon. Sean O'Connor
Christina Orsi
John Percy
Hon. Edward Rath III
Hon. William Ross
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Laura St. Pierre Smith
Hector Titus
Peter Wendel
Arlene White

Niagara Erie Regional Coalition Celebrates 10 Years of Bi-County Collaborations

The Niagara Erie Regional Coalition Friday celebrated 10 years of bi-county collaborations in the fields of economic development, government affairs, tourism & culture, and transportation.

Founded in 1998 as the Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership by the two county legislatures, the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition is a partnership between government, private, and non-profit agencies committed to thinking and acting regionally for the betterment of Erie and Niagara Counties, linking multiple organizations and initiatives, and also serves as a catalyst to identify and pursue opportunities to grow the region.

"There is no other organization in the area like the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition where agencies from so many sectors come together for the common good," Co-Chair and Niagara County Legislature Vice-Chair Clyde Burmaster said.

Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale
Matthew Enstice
Melinda Rath Sanderson
Lawrence Witul

The Coalition's projects have ranged from a public transportation-job access policy to projects aimed at improving the region's economic development process. Most recently the group acted as project manager for the "Arts & Economic Prosperity III" not for profit economic impact report, and for "The Big Easy in Buffalo" music education and concert series.

Executive Director:

Tod A. Kniazuk

"It's the diversity of projects and people that makes the Coalition so unique and effective," Co-Chair and Erie County Legislator Kathy Konst added.

The Coalition holds quarterly general meetings where they gather to engage in roundtables with other area leaders. The topic for the 10 Year Anniversary meeting was the impact of higher education on the region, featuring a panel of seven college and university presidents and senior administrators.

Current and past members gathered for the anniversary, and the annual Distinguished Service Award was presented to former co-chair and Erie County legislator Barry Weinstein, MD. Also honored were three members who have served for the entirety of the group's existence – Burmaster; Niagara County Center for Economic Development Director Samuel Ferraro; and Wendel Group President Peter Wendel.

"The dedication of these – and all – our members are the key to why the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition has been here for a decade and will be around for many years to come," Coalition Executive Director Tod Kniazuk concluded.

More information on the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition can be found at www.erie.gov/regionalcoalition.

Member Organizations

Amherst Industrial Development Agency
Arts Council in Buffalo & Erie County
Binational Tourism Alliance
Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau
Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (ad hoc)
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Canisius College Women's Business Center (ad hoc)
City of Niagara Falls
Empire State Development
Erie County
Erie County Association of Local Governments
Erie County Industrial Development Agency
Erie County Legislature
Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
Niagara County
Niagara County Building Trades
Niagara County Center for Economic Development
Niagara County Legislature
Niagara County Supervisors Association
Niagara Frontier Transportation Agency
Niagara Tourism & Convention Corporation
Niagara University Hospitality Training & Research Center
The Peter Wendel Group
University at Buffalo Arts Management Program



10 Years of Service: L to R – Former Co-Chair Gerald Meal, Co-Chair Kathy Konst, Member Samuel Ferraro, Member Peter Wendel, Co-Chair Clyde Burmaster, Executive Director Tod A. Kniazuk – Ferraro, Wendel, & Burmaster honored for 10 years of service to the Coalition.



Distinguished Service Award – L to R – Former Co-Chair Gerald Meal presents Former Co-Chair Barry Weinstein, MD the Distinguished Service Award (Meal was the inaugural winner in 2006).