

# THE ADVOCATE

*A quarterly publication of The Advocates for Upstate Medical University*

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Spring 2021

## Membership votes needed on updated bylaws

Over the last few months, a committee comprised of Advocates' Board members held virtual meetings to update our Bylaws. Their efforts led to a more streamlined document that did not change the scope of our mission, but whose guidelines are more clearly defined.

The updated Bylaws were approved by the Advocates Executive Board and Board of Directors during April meetings. The Bylaws will be mailed to those members who do not have an email address. All votes on the updated Bylaws by general membership should be received in the Advocates Office via email or mail by Wednesday, June 23.

"Our Bylaws were last updated in 2014 and not fully updated in more than 12 years," said Committee Chair Theresa Devennie. "Since then, lifestyles have changed. People are seeking volunteer positions that require shorter lengths of time and a more convenient way to meet."

Highlights of the proposed bylaws include:

- A simplified mission statement: "The Advocates is a membership organization comprised of volunteers whose mission is to support initiatives at SUNY Upstate Medical University and its campuses through fundraising and service."
- A Student category added to class memberships.
- Paring the number of people serving the Executive Board from 9 members to President/Co-President, Senior Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Paring the number of Directors from 20 to 15 with no more than 25.
- Paring the term length of Board members from 4 years to 3 years
- Board meetings may be held virtually. Email is an acceptable means of communication.

Members may comment on the proposed Bylaws by emailing [advocates@upstate.edu](mailto:advocates@upstate.edu) or calling 315-464-5610

## Advocates provides nearly \$62,000 in grants

Programs supporting parents following the loss of their infant, providing activities to hospitalized elderly patients isolated from family and friends, and helping to fund outpatient pharmacy assistance to patients in need are a few of the ways that Advocates for Upstate will support the community through its 2021-2022 Grants program. Nearly \$62,000 was awarded to 29 Upstate Medical University programs that directly benefit the people of Central New York. The grants will be available to the programs beginning June 1, 2021.

According to Grants Committee Chair Barbara LaBarge, this dollar amount is significantly less than that of previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Comfort Care Cart serves patient

"Our funding is made possible through partnerships with our vendors who provide retail, food, beverage and television services at Upstate's hospitals. The pandemic forced some of these businesses to close for much of last year, causing a negative impact on their cash flow and ultimately, ours. However, we are very proud to support these 29 vital programs that will benefit our family, friends and neighbors."

LaBarge says that the average amount funded in previous years ranged anywhere from \$100,000 to \$120,000. (continued on back cover)

# Meet Our Youth Scholarship Recipients



Celine Paliakkara

Celine Paliakkara and Olivia Voltz each received a \$1,500 Youth Scholarship from Advocates for Upstate. Advocates for Upstate annually awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are pursuing careers in healthcare and who have completed 175 hours or more of volunteer service for the Upstate Medical University

hospitals. Celine is from Manlius, will be graduating from Fayetteville-Manlius High School, and will be attending Adelphi University with the goal of becoming a doctor. She says of her volunteer experience at Up-

state that “learning to communicate with patients could make all the difference to them.”

Olivia Voltz will be graduating from Westhill High School and attending Onondaga Community College to

take prerequisite courses to be able to enter the Upstate Medical University Nursing program. She says “My dream job is to be a registered nurse in the pediatric emergency department at Upstate.”



Olivia Voltz

## Membership Renewal

We are grateful to our members for your continued support during these challenging times.

Membership renewal letters were mailed in early May to members who are due for renewal. Prompt return of the dues and updates to contact information are encouraged in order to keep our lists current. If needed, a reminder letter will be mailed in early June. Those due

for renewal who have not responded by Sept. 30 will be removed from our membership list.

During their April meeting, the Board of Directors voted to change membership dates to June 1 to May 31 of the following year to coincide with the Advocates’ fiscal year.

## Advocates Renews Contract with Café Kubal

In April, Advocates for Upstate renewed its contract with Café Kubal for an additional 5 years to provide food and beverage services at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital. Once fully open, Café Kubal will operate on a 24/7 schedule. “Like other restaurants across the nation, Café Kubal is experiencing a staffing shortage due to the pandemic,” says Contracts Chair Tony Kurec. “The Cafe at the children’s hospital is using a phased-in approach to become fully operational.”

The pandemic forced Lori’s Gift Shop, Bee Loved Gift Shop and Perk Up coffee bar, in addition to Café Kubal, to close at times during the pandemic,

causing a negative impact on their revenues. “We are pleased that the gift shops and Perk Up are now fully



Noel Chang (l) and Manager Elizabeth Gilvin-Cox of Café Kubal

open for business,” said Kurec. “We encourage everyone to patronize these businesses that serve as our partners. Proceeds from their sales directly benefit clinical programs at Upstate’s two hospitals. We also want to thank our partner, American Food and Vending for its services, and our partner Telehealth for its success in providing television service to our patients – a service that proved vital during a time when patient visits were restricted.” (continued on p. 3)

# Meet The Advocate— Jennifer Speicher

As Administrator of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, Pediatric and Community Services, as well as Interim Administrator of Ambulatory Service for adults, Jennifer Speicher is responsible for daily operations of all ambulatory clinics and Children's Hospital initiatives.

Jennifer grew up in Midland, Ontario, before attending Syracuse University on a swimming scholarship. She is a proud SU alum (BS '97 and MPA '11). Her twin sons are seniors at Westhill High School, where they play lacrosse and look forward to making college decisions for next year.



Payne, Jennifer & Cael Speicher

Besides her very busy duties at Upstate, Jennifer is on the board of the Ronald McDonald House of CNY, and President of SU-CNY Alumni Club. She regularly donates blood at our Red Cross Blood donation clinics and is an active member of Women United, within the United Way of CNY.

Being an Advocate brings a sense of pride to support her daily work in a personal way. Several years ago, as a guest at an Advocates spring luncheon, Jennifer learned of the wonderful programs, fundraising efforts, and the support that Advocates for Upstate brings to the staff and patients at Upstate's two hospitals.

We are grateful that Jennifer actively supports and participates in Advocate events.

## Contracts (*continued from p. 2*)

In other contract news, Advocates for Upstate continues its efforts to comply with a SUNY ruling that names its Faculty and Student Associations (FSA) as the only organization selected to provide auxiliary services to its campuses. The Advocates is negotiating with Upstate's FSA to become a subcontractor of the organization, while not compromising its own standing as a non-profit 501 (c)3 corporation.



### Upcoming Blood Drives:

#### Setnor Academic Building, Downtown Campus

Thursday, July 15, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, July 16, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### At Upstate Community Hospital

Monday, July 26, Noon - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 27, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A big thank you to the medical students who have worked hard at keeping the blood drives open during the pandemic. For more information on the upcoming drives including a link to registration, go to <https://www.upstate.edu/specialevents/blood-drive.php>



# ADVOCATES FOR UPSTATE

*Supporting healthcare and scholarship  
through fundraising and service*

## **Interim President**

Doretta Royer

## **VP Service**

Bertha Jacobs

Jean Pirozzi

## **VP Membership**

Jane Forstadt

## **VP Fund Development**

Donna Breen

## **Interim VP Marketing**

Beverly Lauricella

## **VP Contracts**

Lisa Schiller

## **Treasurer**

Barbara LaBarge

## **Secretary**

## **Board Members**

Larissa Brenner

Theresa Devennie

Samantha Grossmann

Alicia Green

Anthony Kurec

Katherine LaRocca

Bonnie McCabe

Edward Priest

Sharon Putney

## **Director Volunteer Services**

Kristin Bruce

## **Administrative Coordinator**

Jonathan Adler

## **Advocates For Upstate**

750 E. Adams St.

Jacobsen Hall: Room 513

Syracuse, NY 13210



## Feeding Therapy Room

The Upstate Golisano Center for Special Needs received \$43,000 as the beneficiary of the Advocates' Mystery, Malt & Merlot Online Auction held last October. Of this amount, \$25,000 was used to create a new Feeding Therapy Room at the Center. An additional \$18,000 was placed in the Center's Professional Development and Enrichment Fund. Photographed at the Golisano Center for Special needs are Henry Roane, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, Division Chief, Center for Behavior, Development and Genetics; and Heather Kadey, M.S., BCBA, Instructor of Pediatrics, Center for Behavior, Development and Genetics.



## Congratulations Judy Carr



Congratulations to Advocate Past President Judy Carr for having her poem "Alzheimer's A to Z" selected for inclusion in The Healing Muse, the annual journal of literary and visual art published by Upstate's Center for Bioethics & Humanities. To learn more about The Healing Muse go to <https://www.upstate.edu/bioethics/thehealingmuse/excerpts/index.php>

## Advocates awards \$62,000 in grants

(continued from front)

2021-22 funds will also provide for:

- Educational materials for patients with heart failure and those who are at risk, giving them tools needed to manage their condition at home.
- Everyday necessities to low income or financially strained patients at Upstate's Inclusive Health Services Clinic.
- The purchase of religious literature and other sacred scripture requested by hospitalized patients, religious literature and recordings for the Center for Spiritual Care library.
- Support of several events, including: Donate Light the Night ceremonies, Employee Recognition Day and National Hospital Week celebrations, and the annual Volunteer Appreciation celebration.

For a complete list of 2021-22 grant recipients, visit [upstate.edu/advocates](https://upstate.edu/advocates).