

THE ADVOCATE

A quarterly publication of The Advocates for Upstate Medical University

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Winter 2020

A Message from the interim president

Dear Advocate,

I look forward to serving Advocates for Upstate as your newly-elected interim president.

This pandemic has presented us with many challenges but be assured that members of our Executive Committee and Board of Directors are collaborating to ensure that our mission is not compromised.

We are finding new ways to fundraise and to present our service opportunities, to assist our vendors, and to meet our grant and schol-

arship obligations. The articles inside this issue of The Advocate provide more information on a few of these new initiatives.

I encourage you to contact our office or to reach out to any of our Board members should you wish to join one of our many committees.

Through committee involvement, you'll not only help move our mission forward, but you'll also find friendship and support.

Warm regards,

Doretta Royer, Interim President

Helping to meet needs in our community



Although a few of our service projects were either put on hold or cancelled due to COVID-19, our

committee found new ways to continue with other projects, including our blood drives which are vital to maintaining a healthy supply of blood for our region. Many thanks to Upstate's medical students and staff who helped us to meet our Red Cross goals for our October and January drives at Setnor Hall. They scheduled appointments for blood donors and scheduled volunteers to register donors. Our January drive alone collected 87 units of blood.

We changed course for the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital gift wrapping event in December. Due to COVID-10 restrictions, rather than personally wrap holiday gifts for our hospitalized pediatric patients, Advocate members personally donated \$175.00 to help with the purchase of gift wrap supplies. – Jean Pirozzi and Bertha Jacobs, co-chairs, Service Committee.

Upcoming Blood Drives, Setnor Academic Building, Downtown Campus

Thursday, **April 8, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Friday, **April 9, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Wednesday, **April 21, Noon - 6 p.m.**

Thursday, **April 22, 7 p.m. - 1 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment to donate blood, visit [Redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code Upstate.

Mystery, Malt & Merlot - a success

The Mystery, Malt & Merlot Online Auction, held Oct. 19-24, raised nearly \$45,000 through sponsorships, silent auction, raffles and donations. Presenting sponsor of the event was Summerwood Pediatrics.

"Our online auction allowed us to continue our signature event in a way that ensured the safety of the community," says Advocates Interim President Doretta Royer. "We thank everyone who participated in our event—our sponsors, and the many businesses and individuals that donated auction and raffle items." Proceeds from the event benefit a new Feeding Therapy Room at the upcoming Golisano Cen-

ter for Special Needs and a Professional Development and Enrichment Fund for healthcare providers at the Center.

A highlight of the event were raffles for an exquisite diamond pendant, donated by Egon Ehrlnspiel Jewelers, valued at \$1,700, and a mystery basket valued at \$350 that included wines and gift certificates to area restaurants. Congratulations to Dr. John McCabe, winner of the diamond pendant and to Amber Gray, winner of our mystery basket.



Advocates fundraising efforts go virtual

In late Summer, the Advocates purchased a year-long Greater Giving (GG) Event Software program, offering us the technology and resources needed to host virtual events.

The purchase has resulted in increased revenue and greater awareness of our organization.

Without a software program such as this, we could not have presented our signature fundraising event, Mystery, Malt & Merlot during the pandemic. However, we successfully hosted the event as an online auction that raised nearly \$45,000 through sponsorships, silent auction,

raffles and donations. It also resulted in our Facebook page being visited 2,551 times.

We again used GG to present our organization's first Year-End Campaign. Considering our late start (three weeks before the end of the year), \$1,755 was raised to benefit our Scholarship Program. For this effort our Facebook page was visited 257 times. - Beverly Lauricella, Interim Vice President, Marketing; Barbara LaBarge, Treasurer; Donna Breen, Vice President, Fund Development .



It has been over a year and pre-pandemic, since their Maine vacation. Advocate Marilyn Crosby and friends want to remind us there are good days ahead! Thank you Marilyn!

Meet the Advocate - Anthony Kurec

Tony Kurec brings a great deal of experience in the medical field to the Advocates for Upstate. Currently president of the College of Health Professionals Alumni Board at Upstate, Tony stays current with various healthcare activities and remains active in a number of professional organizations, serves on several editorial boards, and continues to give lectures.

While working in Clinical Pathology at Upstate since 1970, Tony held many positions - Senior Technologist, Supervisor, Assistant Laboratory Manager - before retiring in 2011 as an Administrator in Pathology.

Tony grew up in Syracuse where he graduated from Corcoran High School before attending Onondaga Community College, Empire State College and eventually receiving his Master's degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Tony and his wife, Mary, have been married for over 50 years. They have three sons and their families including their two grandchildren. He enjoys photography, reading, woodworking

and writing.

Since joining the Advocates for Upstate, Tony has been appointed to the Contracts Review Committee. He is impressed with the past accomplishments that the Advocates for Upstate have achieved, especial-



Tony Kurec

ly the number of grants provided at a time when department/staff support and various patient-focused programs are most needed.

We are delighted to welcome Tony to our Board. Tony hopes to be able to play a part in achieving positive outcomes for the Advocates for Upstate as we continue to go through these challenging times. - Jane Forstadt, Chair, Membership Committee.

The pandemic's effect on our vendors

COVID-19, Corona Virus, Sars-CoV-2... no matter what it has been called has clearly devastated the world. The number of diagnosed cases worldwide is almost 92 million with the number of related deaths quickly approaching 2 million. It is no wonder that this pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on lives, families, professions, and just everyday living. And, of the 3.3 Billion global workers, almost 50 percent will lose their livelihoods.

Due to mandated restrictions, most of our vendors have had to limit their hours of operation. Visitor restrictions at Upstate's hospitals

have resulted in less traffic through their businesses and reduced earnings. The Perk Up Café and Café Kubal were closed during the State-mandated Orange zone declaration. However, as the number of infection cases drop and we exit into yellow zone conditions, as of this writing it is anticipated that they will open soon.

Please consider visiting our vendor associates as opportunities allow: Lori's Gifts, Bee Loved, PerkUp, Café Kubal, and Telehealth patient television services. - Tony Kurec, Chair, Contracts Committee.

ADVOCATES FOR UPSTATE

*Supporting healthcare and scholarship
through fundraising and service*

President (Interim)

Doretta Royer

VP Service

Bertha Jacobs

Jean Pirozzi

VP Membership

Jane Forstadt

VP Fund Development

Donna Breen

VP Marketing (Interim)

Beverly Lauricella

VP Contracts

Lisa Schiller

Treasurer

Barbara LaBarge

Secretary

Karen Goldman

Board Members

Ellen Abbott

Larissa Brenner

Theresa Devennie

Debbie Gozzi

Samantha Grossman

Alicia Green

Anthony Kurec

Katherine LaRocca

Beverly Lauricella

Bonnie McCabe

Edward Priest

Sharon Putney

Director Volunteer Services

Kristin Bruce

Administrative Coordinator

Debra Gamble

Advocates For Upstate

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Jacobsen Hall: Room 513

Syracuse, NY 13210

315-464-5610

Upstate.edu/advocates



Nominations sought for leadership positions

The Nominating Committee is starting to work on putting together the slate of officers and new Board of Directors members for election for terms beginning May 2021.

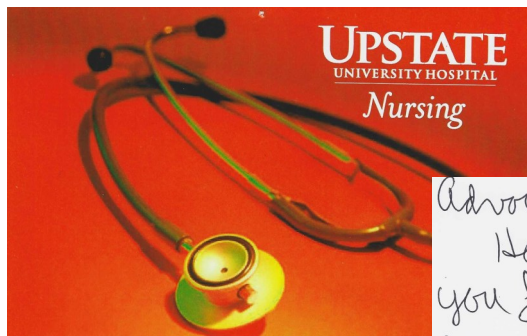
If you know of someone or if you are interested in serving the Advocates either as a Board member or on the Executive Committee, please contact me at 315-445-0437 or putneyse@yahoo.com. I will be happy to answer questions regarding the responsibilities of the above positions.
- Sharon Putney, Nominating Committee.

Congratulations Nursing!

CONGRATULATIONS TO UPSTATE NURSING
FOR ACHIEVING MAGNET® RECOGNITION
FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE!



The Advocates for Upstate would like to congratulate Upstate's Nurses on their unanimous approval of Magnet designation of Excellence at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Read more about the Nursing Magnet Achievement at: <https://www.upstate.edu/nursing/magnet/index.php>



Advocates, 12/20
How do we say thank
you for your contribution to
our Magnet journey?
The Advocates have long been a
part of professional growth for
nursing @ Upstate and for that our
team is, *Sharon Putney*
Chief Nursing Officer