

December 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Dinah Surh, MPH

NYAAC held its twenty-second Annual Celebration on Wednesday, October 24th, 2007 at 24 Fifth Avenue Ballroom. This year's honoree for "*Significant Contribution to Ambulatory Care*" was presented to LaRay Brown, Senior Vice President, Corporate Planning, Community Health and Intergovernmental Relations of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Ms. Brown's accomplishments for the past two decades have included the implementation of primary care services expansion and managed care, workforce restructuring, community network development and redesigning ambulatory care services network-wide.

The celebratory event was well attended with over 150 national and regional ambulatory care leaders and clinicians. Marlene Zurack, HHC Senior VP Finance and Lynda Curtis, Network Senior VP South Manhattan Health Care Network and Executive Director of Bellevue Hospital Center provided introductory remarks about Ms. Brown. Ellen Rautenberg, President and CEO on behalf of MHRA who received the NYAAC award last year, presented this year's NYAAC award to Ms. Brown. Members of the Honorary Committee including Edward Rappa, Chairperson, HHC Foundation, Larry Gage, President, National Association of Public Hospitals, Barbara Minch, President and CEO, William F. Ryan Community Health Network, Elizabeth H. Swain, CEO, Community Healthcare Association of NYS. A number of HHC staff was present including Joe Schick, Chief Of Staff, President's Office, Arnold Saperstein, MD, Executive Director, Metroplus Health Plan, Evelyn Opoku, MD, Chairperson Pediatrics, North Brooklyn Health Network and William Hicks, Senior Associate Executive Director, North Brooklyn Health Network. Past award recipients Ronda Kotelchuck and Neil Calman were also in attendance.

Special thanks and appreciation to Marilyn Masick and Elissa Macklin, Co-Chairs Celebration Committee, Nina Sporn and Debbie Goldman, NYAAC Executive Director for their innovation to create NYAAC's first "green" eco-friendly journal and their hard work to make the event a big success!

Earlier this year we kicked off 2007 with an Annual Meeting on February 1st, 2007 with NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, Chairperson of the Committee on Health NYS Assembly as our keynote speaker. Assemblyman Gottfried provided his perspectives on the upcoming legislative agenda "*New York Back on Track for Progress in Health Care*". His previous work included the creation of the Prenatal Care and Assistance Program for low income women and the Child Health Plus Program, passage of the Health Care Proxy Law and the HIV Testing and Confidentiality Law and managed care reform. Congratulations and thanks to the NYAAC Board of Directors and Officers for their support and efforts throughout the year: Elissa Macklin, MBA, Vice President, Richard M. Cupelli, MPA, Treasurer, Linda A. Klingos, RN, MPH, Secretary and Jane Fineberg, MBA, Past President and new members David J. Conley and Nina Sporn.

NYAAC has recently expanded its membership category to include a NYAAC Sponsor Member for a company or organizational membership. This effort will promote partnerships activities and information sharing with NYAAC members.

It's been a pleasure being a member of NYAAC for several decades as well as serving on the NYAAC Board of Directors. Thank you for supporting NYAAC and attending our exciting programs. We will be kicking off 2008 with our Annual Meeting on January 31st with Deborah Bacharach, NYS Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) and State Medicaid Director as our keynote speaker. We hope you will join us for the latest update from Albany! On behalf of NYAAC, we wish you good health and all the best of things in the coming New Year!