



Healthcare Trustees
of New York State

Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award Profile Book

***Congratulations
to our 2026
awardee
and nominees!***

Thank you to our 2026 reviewers:

Pamela R. Knecht

President and CEO, ACCORD LIMITED

Laura Orr

Senior Partner and Global Board Advisory
Leader, WittKieffer

Sue Ellen Wagner

Founder and CEO, Wagner Governance
Consulting LLC

Past award winner:

2025

Françoise Dunefsky

Vassar Brothers Medical Center
and Nuvance Health,
part of Northwell Health

Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award

ABOUT THE AWARD

HTNYS' Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award, established in 1985, recognizes hospital and health system board members who exemplify leadership in the boardroom, dedication to improving healthcare for their community and excellence in the governance of their organization. Nominations are submitted by either the facility's board chair or CEO.

HTNYS is pleased to present the first edition of our *Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award Profile Book*. We know that our member trustees have been working tirelessly, navigating complex new challenges and pressures facing healthcare organizations. This publication was developed to highlight the winner and recognize all of the incredible nominees. Each profile was written by the nominator as part of the nomination process.

We are honored to recognize all 2026 nominees and thank them for their dedication and commitment to their hospital or health system.

Questions about HTNYS' Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award?

Kristen Phillips, director, trustee education and community health policy
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htnys.org/awards

Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 AWARD WINNER



Michael (Mike) Nuccitelli

**Rochester Regional Health
Director**

Mike Nuccitelli has served as a dedicated healthcare trustee for nearly 40 years, providing exceptional leadership through multiple system mergers, governance transformations and sustained organizational growth. He led the landmark 2014 merger of Unity Health System and Rochester General Health System to form Rochester Regional Health, including the establishment of a governance model designed for long-term success.

Throughout his service, Mike has brought integrity, strategic insight and a steadfast commitment to mission-driven care. He also serves as co-chair of the RRH Foundation's Transform Tomorrow Together Campaign, where he is a visible and passionate ambassador for investing in the future of healthcare.

His vision, credibility and dedication exemplify the very best of trustee leadership.

NOMINATED BY: **Richard (Chip) Davis, PhD, CEO**

2026 NOMINEES

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Joyce Barber

**O'Connor Hospital
Secretary**

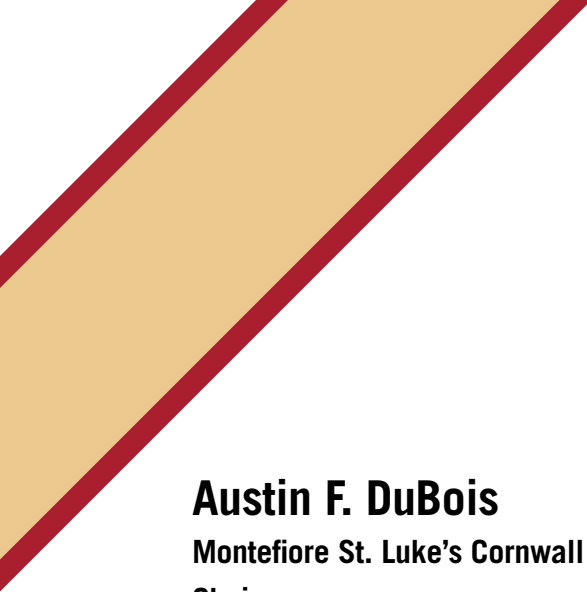
Joyce “Joie” Barber is a dedicated community leader, philanthropist and advocate for rural healthcare whose lifelong commitment to service has positively impacted the residents of Delaware and Schoharie counties. She is widely respected for her generosity, personal touch and steadfast belief that rural communities deserve access to compassionate, high-quality healthcare.

Since joining the O'Connor Hospital Board of Trustees in 2021, Joyce has been a passionate advocate for ensuring that high-quality healthcare remains accessible close to home for rural residents. Serving as board secretary, she has played an instrumental role in advancing major hospital initiatives, including fundraising efforts that helped bring a state-of-the-art CT scanner and advanced patient monitoring technology to O'Connor Hospital. Her personal outreach, donor engagement and unwavering commitment have helped strengthen the hospital's ability to provide exceptional care to the communities it serves.

Joyce's dedication to community service extends far beyond healthcare. Over the years, she has volunteered and provided leadership with numerous organizations.

Through her volunteer leadership, philanthropy and service to O'Connor Hospital, Joyce exemplifies the spirit of community stewardship and remains a driving force in strengthening the health and well-being of the region she proudly calls home.

NOMINATED BY: Susan Oakes-Ferrucci, President and Chief Hospital Executive



Austin F. DuBois

**Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital
Chair**

Austin DuBois exemplifies outstanding trustee leadership through vision, integrity and unwavering dedication to community health. As board chair of Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall, he has guided the organization through leadership transition, strengthened governance and implemented a five-pillar performance framework that drives accountability and quality improvement.

Under his leadership, the organization expanded access to care, achieved financial stability for the first time in over two decades and significantly increased board engagement and effectiveness. His commitment to mentorship and succession planning ensures continued strength in governance.

Beyond the boardroom, he is a dedicated community leader, contributing to economic development, supporting local organizations and advancing initiatives that improve quality of life.

His ability to align mission, strategy and community impact, combined with his humility and sense of responsibility, make him exceptionally deserving of the HTNYS Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award.

NOMINATED BY: Daniel Maughan, President and CEO



Joseph J. Fennessy

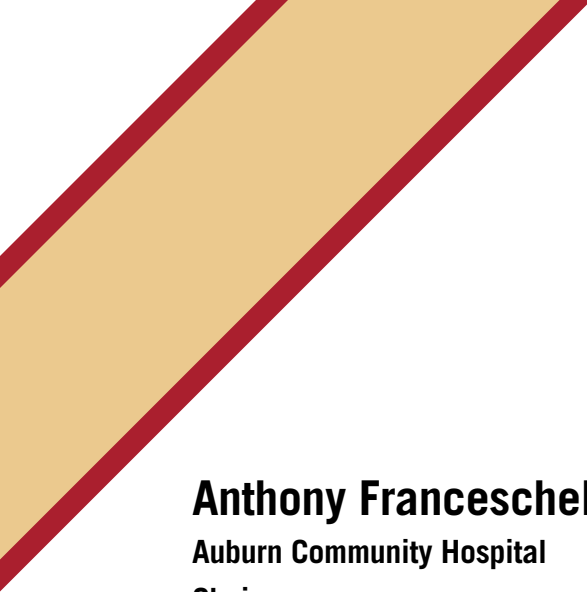
Mount Sinai South Nassau

Co-chair

In defining the role of the board chair, BoardSource says the chair leads the board by facilitating strategic direction, governing oversight and acting as a primary liaison with the executive director, ensuring that the board works cohesively, focusing on governance rather than management. As chair and co-chair of the Mount Sinai South Nassau (formerly South Nassau Communities Hospital) Board of Directors from 2012 to 2023, and co-chair of the Mount Sinai South Nassau Advisory Board, Joseph Fennessy definitively exceeded the expectations of a board chair.

His acumen for hospital finances and economics and artful leadership, humility, and spirit of collaboration paved the way for Mount Sinai South Nassau to scale economic uncertainty and shifting shortages in the healthcare workforce to become a regional medical center offering the advanced specialty care services based according to the needs of the residents of the South Shore of Nassau County.

NOMINATED BY: Adhi Sharma, MD, MHA, President and Anthony Cancellieri, Co-chair



Anthony Franceschelli

**Auburn Community Hospital
Chair**

Anthony “Tony” Franceschelli is most deserving of the HTNYS Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award because of his commitment to accessible healthcare for rural residents. Tony’s leadership of the Auburn Community Hospital Board of Trustees has positioned ACH as a small, independent hospital that has now transformed into a comprehensive rural healthcare delivery system.

He is a proponent of the idea that lifesaving services shouldn’t be defined by a person’s ZIP code. Since taking leadership of the ACH Board of Trustees, Tony has worked tirelessly to ensure that Cayuga County residents and our neighbors can receive outstanding care close to home. He has led the board through challenging financial times, a pandemic and now expansive growth. He does not shy away from tough decisions or tough conversations, as long as they lead to a stronger ACH.

Tony’s advocacy for ACH, his commitment to its mission and his unwavering support of ACH staff make him a healthcare champion. Tony Franceschelli’s legacy is a strong and vibrant Auburn Community Hospital for generations to come.

NOMINATED BY: Scott A. Berlucchi, FACHE, NHA, President and CEO



Dr. Fredrick Gilbert

BronxCare Health System

Chair

Dr. Fredrick Gilbert, Chair, BronxCare Board of Trustees, is a leader and role model, as well as team builder and inspirational force for the BronxCare family. His dedication to BronxCare is absolute and unwavering.

As a safety net hospital, BronxCare provides critically needed services to a population with severe health disparities and high disease incidence rates. Dr. Gilbert's leadership efforts have resulted in the implementation of major capital projects and initiatives that are achieving successful outcomes for BronxCare's patients and the community. He takes special pride in BronxCare's soon to be completed 33-bed medical-surgical unit and 20-bed adult psychiatry unit, which will enhance its ability in responding to the health needs of the community, among the poorest in the nation.

These projects, in addition to others moving forward, will solidify BronxCare's community service mission. It is a mission linked to Dr. Gilbert's own mission regarding the importance of bridging gaps in the delivery of quality and accessible healthcare services to communities in need.

Educational advancement is also at the core of Dr. Gilbert's existence. He is taking a pivotal role in linking Lehman College's nursing and career programs to those at BronxCare. Dr. Gilbert is also continuously exploring opportunities to expand these programs.

In summary, Dr. Gilbert is a most valuable asset for the BronxCare Health System, well deserving of the HTNYS Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award.

NOMINATED BY: Miguel A. Fuentes, Jr., President and CEO



Dale Hunt

University of Rochester Medicine – Thompson Health
Immediate Past Chair

Dale Hunt is the type of board member any hospital CEO would be thrilled to have. He became involved in our community health system after reaching out to express gratitude for the excellent care a loved one received, and although that was close to 20 years ago, he remains just as passionate about Thompson Health now as he was then — possibly even more so.

After years of dedication to the F.F. Thompson Foundation Board, he joined the health system board, serving as chair from April 2024 through 2026. During this time, he briefly stepped down from the Foundation Board, although he continued attending all of its meetings!

In recent years, Dale took on the added responsibility of joining the board for University of Rochester Medicine and affiliated committees. This deepens his understanding of health-care in our region, benefiting our community health system. It also means this man who is so well known, well liked and well respected is actively forging new working relationships on Thompson's behalf with other key stakeholders in our region.

Even now, when he is no longer the health system's board chair (although he remains on the board), Dale is one of Thompson's biggest cheerleaders, and we are one of his!

NOMINATED BY: Michael F. Stapleton Jr., President and CEO



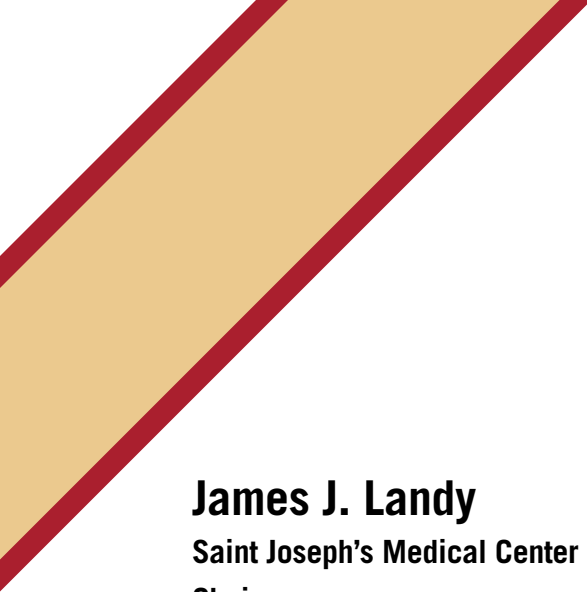
Mark Jacobs

**Montefiore Nyack Hospital
Chair**

Mark Jacobs ticks all the boxes in profound and meaningful ways:

- his effective lobbying activities are an example of his advocacy for healthcare, MNH and the Rockland County community;
- he has been a champion of the MNH Transformation Project, which is leading growth, innovation and expansion/modernization at MNH in meaningful ways;
- as a board member, he helped steer the organization through our affiliation with Montefiore Health System, which has led to the MNH Transformation Project — redefining how we do business and putting us on a path toward sustainability;
- his extensive relationships with other CBOs in the community have helped us forge external partnerships and a network of care with them and others;
- he is firmly committed to good board governance, actively mentors board colleagues and is developing young board members to be future leaders; and
- he participates in HTNYS educational and other activities continually pursuing knowledge, and as mentioned above is truly providing outstanding contributions in grassroots advocacy to support MNH and healthcare generally.

NOMINATED BY: Mark Geller, MD, President and CEO



James J. Landy

Saint Joseph's Medical Center
Chair

James Landy joined the board of trustees at Saint Joseph's Medical Center in 1985 and was appointed chair of the board in 1991. With his oversight and leadership, he has guided Saint Joseph's into becoming one of the largest and most highly regarded medical centers in Westchester County. With his support and through his professional expertise and personal example, James has enabled Saint Joseph's to successfully fulfill its mission of healthcare excellence under the most challenging circumstances.

From the construction of the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Family Health Center to the development of high-quality senior and supportive housing to the acquisition of St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester, James has been instrumental in the continued success of Saint Joseph's.

James is a veteran banker who has spent 34 years with Hudson Valley Bank, holding various senior and executive management positions. He was named president and CEO of Hudson Valley Holding Corp. and the bank in October 2000. At the same time, he was also appointed director of Hudson Valley Holding Corp's board.

NOMINATED BY: **Michael J. Spicer, President and CEO**



Scott Levy

Blythedale Children's Hospital

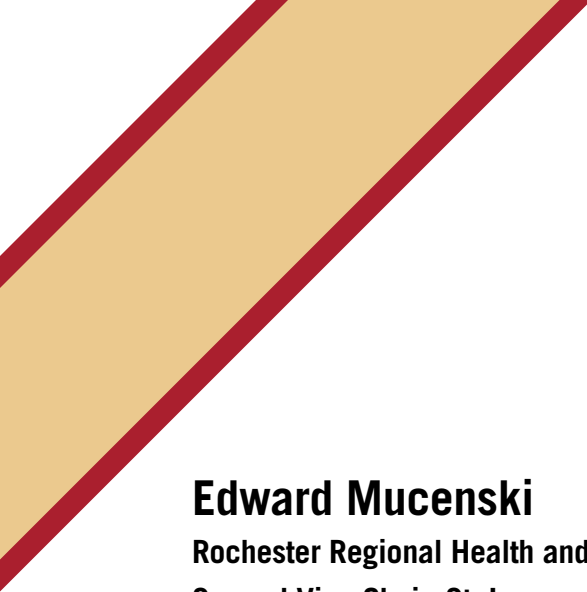
Immediate Past Chair

Scott Levy exemplifies the highest standards of healthcare trusteeship through his exceptional leadership, steadfast commitment to mission and deep dedication to the children and families served by Blythedale Children's Hospital. A member of the board since 2013 and chair from 2020 to 2025, Scott has helped guide the organization through some of the most significant moments in its history, including the COVID-19 pandemic, a CEO transition and the evolving challenges facing independent healthcare institutions.

Throughout his tenure, Scott has provided thoughtful governance and strategic oversight that has helped strengthen the hospital's financial and operational foundation while preserving its mission as one of the nation's few remaining freestanding independent children's hospitals. His commitment to this mission is especially meaningful given that nearly 80% of Blythedale's patients rely on Medicaid coverage, underscoring the hospital's vital role in serving medically complex and vulnerable children.

What distinguishes Scott most is his ability to combine professional expertise with authentic compassion and service. In addition to his leadership, he and his family have volunteered directly with patients and remained personally engaged in supporting the hospital. Scott has also remained actively engaged in his community as evidenced by his service on his local school board with three years as president.

NOMINATED BY: Nathaniel Beers, MD, MPA, FAAP, President and CEO



Edward Mucenski

Rochester Regional Health and St. Lawrence Health

**Second Vice Chair, St. Lawrence Health Board of Directors and
Director, Rochester Regional Health Board of Directors**

Ed Mucenski is a truly deserving recipient of the HTNYS Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award, reflecting a lifetime of service, integrity and community impact. Recognized with honors such as SUNY Potsdam's Leadership through Service Award, SUNY Canton's Distinguished Citizen Award and designation as a Paul Harris Fellow through Rotary International, Ed has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others. His decades of active involvement as a Rotarian since 1987, along with recognition as a community builder and leader among his peers, speak to both his character and his influence.

Ed's extensive board service — including healthcare, educational, civic and faith-based organizations — reflects both the breadth and depth of his dedication. He brings that same thoughtful leadership, collaborative spirit and strong sense of responsibility to his role as a healthcare trustee, where his guidance has helped strengthen governance, support critical decision-making and ensure continued access to high-quality care. His lifelong commitment to service and his ability to inspire others make him an exemplary leader and a fitting choice for this honor.

NOMINATED BY: Mark Cornett, St. Lawrence Health Board Chair



Thomas Richards

University of Rochester Medicine – Strong Memorial Hospital

Member, Board of Trustees

Tom Richards is a demonstrated leader not only within the University's health system but the community. He has extensive leadership skills as CEO of major Rochester corporations, legal expertise as partner of a major Rochester law firm and extensive public service as mayor of the City of Rochester and as board member of numerous charitable organizations. This experience has been invaluable to driving the vision and strategy needed to serve the healthcare needs of our community and to fulfill our goals to help people live their best and healthiest lives.

He serves on more board committees than any other member, consistently advancing our Meliora values across all missions. He challenges the status quo, is a proven problem solver and excels at bringing together high-performing teams and thought leaders to address our most complex challenges — from mergers to improving health equity outcomes.

NOMINATED BY: David C. Linehan, MD, CEO, University of Rochester Medicine



Virginia Rizzo

Garnet Health

Chair

Ginny Rizzo has elevated the board and the Garnet Health System through her presence, contributions and leadership over two decades of service. As a result of Ginny's efforts, Garnet Health has:

- started the first (and only) open heart surgery program in Sullivan and Orange counties;
- started the first (and only) Level 2 trauma program in Sullivan and Orange counties;
- started the first graduate medical education programs in Sullivan and Orange counties, now home to seven Accreditation Council for Graduate Education-accredited programs, training 114 future physicians each year; and
- helped to charter the first (and only) medical school in Sullivan and Orange counties.

Each of these are monumental undertakings that would individually represent a capstone to any tenure. Taken collectively, they have helped to transform access to high-quality healthcare services in the Catskills and Hudson Valley.

NOMINATED BY: **Jonathan Schiller, President and CEO**



Danielle Rollmann

MJHS Health System

Board Chair Emeritus

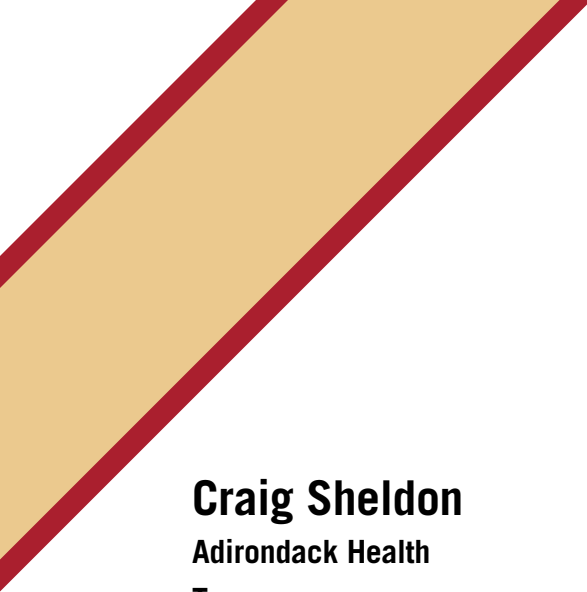
Danielle Rollmann's leadership in developing and implementing the MJHS Health System five-year strategic plan is the strongest example of why she merits this recognition. At a time when not-for-profit healthcare organizations across New York faced unprecedented disruption, she established a disciplined, strategic framework that guided the organization through crisis, set a clear vision for the future and set a path for long-term growth, all while remaining firmly grounded in mission.

Danielle joined the board of directors in 2014 and was elected chair six years later, reflecting the respect and confidence she earned. She stepped into the role in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic began, providing steady leadership during a time of uncertainty for patients, families and staff.

She led a focused strategic planning process that defined a clear path forward. Under her leadership, MJHS expanded community engagement through retail offices, implemented a new electronic medical record system and strengthened customer experience efforts. She also prioritized workforce development, leading to creation of the MJHS Academy.

Danielle's leadership ensured MJHS Health System did more than withstand a period of crisis; her commitment allowed the system to plan for the future and evolve to ensure that it is well positioned three, four or five years out. Her contributions reflect the very best of healthcare trusteeship and set a lasting standard for board leadership across the state.

NOMINATED BY: David Wagner, President and CEO



Craig Sheldon

Adirondack Health

Treasurer

Craig Sheldon's impact on Adirondack Health cannot be overstated and will be felt for countless years to come. The systems, standards and culture Craig helped build will continue to guide Adirondack Health's success and stability long into the future. His leadership has strengthened the organization's financial foundation and long-term viability, ensuring the hospital remains able to serve our community despite ongoing challenges in the healthcare environment.

Craig exemplifies trustee leadership rooted in mission, governance excellence and community stewardship. As secretary, treasurer and chair of the finance committee, he helped guide Adirondack Health through a successful post-pandemic financial turnaround while maintaining unwavering focus on quality care and long-term sustainability.

Craig's leadership is defined by discipline, preparation and respect — qualities that have strengthened board effectiveness and reinforced trust across the organization. His contributions were so vital that the board of trustees exercised a rare bylaw provision to extend his service beyond the three-term limit.

Blending deep financial expertise with humility and rural sensibility, Craig has ensured Adirondack Health remains resilient, community-centered and mission-driven. He is deeply deserving of the HTNYS Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award.

NOMINATED BY: J. Timothy Reilly, Board Chair



Joseph Stagliano

UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital

Chair

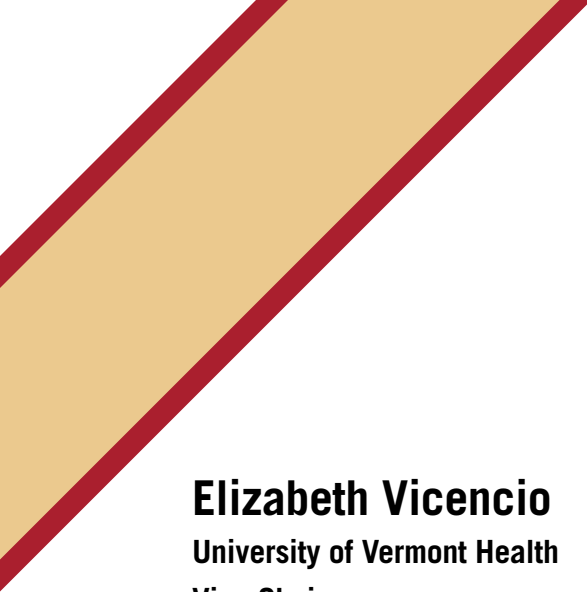
Joe Stagliano exemplifies the best of healthcare trustee leadership: strategic, steady and deeply mission-driven. Over eight years on the UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital board, and as board chair, he has helped guide more than \$100 million in capital investment to modernize facilities and strengthen care delivery for a rural community.

He led the organization through its first CEO transition in more than two decades, bringing uncommon insight into leadership character, building consensus, and ensuring continuity and confidence during a pivotal moment.

Joe was also a stabilizing force through the COVID-19 crisis, helping the hospital respond decisively and emerge stronger. He does not shy away from the hardest decisions; when service changes were necessary, he insisted they be carried out with compassion — most notably ensuring individualized support and placement assistance for every nursing facility resident.

Beyond CMH, Joe serves on the UHS board and is a trusted ambassador for rural health-care, strengthening alignment between system strategy and local needs. He is also a dedicated community partner and mentor who elevates board culture through accountability, preparation and constructive dialogue. For his transformative stewardship, courageous governance and enduring advocacy for quality care and community well-being, Joe Stagliano is richly deserving of the HTNYS Healthcare Trustee Leadership Award.

NOMINATED BY: Cecil Miller, President and CEO



Elizabeth Vicencio

University of Vermont Health

Vice Chair

Elizabeth “Betsy” Vicencio exemplifies the leadership, integrity and commitment that define an extraordinary healthcare trustee. A strategic thinker with deep roots in the North Country, Betsy consistently goes above and beyond in service to University of Vermont Health.

She has served our health system board since 2022, following nearly a decade of service on the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital board, including a term as chair. While chairing a board or committee would be a substantial commitment for most trustees, Betsy continually lends her expertise to additional task forces, workgroups and listening sessions to ensure the organization’s work is done thoughtfully and well.

She brings patients, employees and community members to the forefront of every decision, regularly refocusing discussions on downstream impacts and long-term trust. Betsy encourages healthy debate, invites dissenting voices into the conversation and is generous with convening her extensive regional network to strengthen the health system’s relationships.

Through her service, Betsy embodies principled stewardship, collaborative leadership and unwavering dedication to mission.

NOMINATED BY: **Stephen Leffler, MD, CEO**



Michael F. Young

Lewis County General Hospital

Board President

Michael Young's commitment to the Lewis County Health System and Lewis County General Hospital as a trustee on the Board of Managers began in December 2008. During his tenure, he has diligently served as secretary, vice president and president. His involvement extends to numerous hospital board committees, including executive, quality council, medical staff, finance, ethics, buildings and grounds, joint conference and planning.

Mr. Young supported the process of achieving Critical Access Hospital designation to improve access to healthcare in under-served areas. In addition, Mr. Young was instrumental in the planning for a \$32 million capital project that enhanced the financial stability and increased services for the health system.

Beyond his contributions to the health system, Mr. Young actively serves on the boards of directors for Lowville Academy and Central School and the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, Children's Home of Jefferson County, Lewis County Agricultural Society, Lowville Recreation Commission and Snow Belt Housing Inc., an organization dedicated to assisting income-eligible homeowners in Lewis County. He also holds the position of president for the Lewis County Hospital Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Young is deeply respected for his passion and unwavering dedication to supporting and enhancing our rural health system. His leadership and commitment have been transformative for the Lewis County Health System and Lewis County.

NOMINATED BY: Gerald "Jerry" Cayer, CEO



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