

Campaign '23 In Full Swing Meet The Candidates For Ulster Co DA

Democrat Emmanuel Nneji and Republican Michael Kavanagh, the two candidates for Ulster County District Attorney this fall, will talk about their experience and the issues at the Chamber's next Breakfast Meeting on Sept. 26. The winner of the Nov. 7 election will succeed current DA David Clegg, a Democrat who is not seeking re-election after one four-year term.

The breakfast is scheduled from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Ave. in Kingston. The sponsor is Nuvance Health.

Kavanagh, a non-enrolled voter running on the Republican line, said his priorities, if elected, would be fighting the opioid epidemic; protecting the elderly; supporting a holistic approach to mental health; preventing domestic violence; and prioritizing school safety.

"My primary focus is to restore faith in the criminal justice system in Ulster County," Kavanagh said. "Right now, there seem to be some significant issues that need to be addressed, both with relationships between the DA's office and law enforcement, as well as competence in terms of holding people accountable who need to be held accountable. When I take office as DA, I will certainly address both those issues right up front."

Kavanagh, who lost a close race to Clegg for DA in 2019, is a 20-year prosecutor and criminal defense attorney and the former chief prosecutor under former DA Holley Carrnright. He serves on several task forces related to elder abuse, opioids and animal abuse.

A graduate of Fordham University and law school at Widener University, Kavanagh now

works as an attorney with the Kingston firm of Mainetti & Mainetti and part time with the Ulster County Public Defender's Office.

"This is an important decision for an important job," Kavanagh says on his campaign website. "When choosing an attorney, relevant experience and qualifications are what matter. With two decades of experience practicing criminal law as a prosecutor, defense attorney and civil litigator, I have the experience necessary to be the next District Attorney of Ulster County."

Born in war-torn Nigeria, Nneji is known in local legal circles as "Manny" and has served as a prosecutor for 32 years under both Republicans and Democrats. He worked his way through SUNY New Paltz and the University of Buffalo Law School and is Ulster County's current Chief Assistant DA.

Nneji's priorities would be to "tackle violent crime with everything we have," "deliver justice with compassion," "prevent crime before it starts, 'build the next generation DA's office' and prosecute those who prey on seniors. He also promised a politics-free office.

"I intend to continue the vigorous prosecution of violent criminals, as I have always done," he said. "I intend to continue to use kindness, compassion and discretion regarding



Emmanuel Nneji (D)



Michael Kavanagh (R)

individuals who are first-time offenders, young people, and people who do not commit violent crimes. Not every offense or every offender is a nail simply because the DA has a hammer."

In 1990, Nneji volunteered as an intern in the Ulster County DA's office. Former DA Michael Kavanagh, his opponent's father, offered him a job as a prosecutor. Nneji said his humble background as a dishwasher and janitor shaped him into the man he is today and prepared him to be DA.

"I want to see that Ulster County citizens are safe, and I want to continue the work I have done with youths in Ulster County for a better future for them and a better society for all of us," Nneji said.

The winner of the Nov. 7 election will take office in January and serve a four-year term.

Chamber President Ward Todd thanked both candidates for agreeing to speak in front of chamber members and also thanked Cindy Bell and other volunteers from the Ulster County

September Breakfast
Sept. 26
7:30-9:00 am
The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus
503 Washington Ave.
Kingston, NY
Sponsor:

League of Women Voters, who help facilitate all Chamber 'Meet the Candidates' events.

Chamber Breakfast Meetings are a great way to stay on top of current events and connect with other local business leaders. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door for Chamber members (\$40 for non-members). For more information, contact the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or go online to: www.ulsterchamber.org.

Nuvance Health Will Be The Breakfast Sponsor

Nuvance Health wants to help our community members live their best lives and maximize wellness in this post-pandemic era.

Nuvance Health has primary care locations throughout Ulster County and now offers online appointment scheduling. Visit the Nuvance Health website to search for the best time and day to be seen by our many physicians and providers, including those at the Nuvance Health-Kingston multispecialty center at 1240 Ulster Avenue.

The multispecialty center is a one-stop shop for many of your healthcare needs. Our specialists and services make it convenient to get the quality care you deserve without having to go between different offices at different locations. Medical specialties with office hours include neurology, general surgery, bariatric surgery, breast surgery, medical oncology and endocrinology, among others. The center also features comprehensive imaging (inclusive of 3-D mammography, CT, MRI, and X-ray services), blood draw, physical therapy, urgent care and more.

The Kingston Nuvance Health-GoHealth Urgent Care center



Nuvance Health

at 1240 Ulster Avenue provides Ulster County residents with elevated levels of in-person and virtual care, including a convenient "save your spot" tool.

Nuvance Health-GoHealth Urgent Care offers patients aged 6 months and older a wide array of services for non-life-threatening conditions, including flu, fever, earaches, insect bites, sprains, simple fractures, eye injuries and cuts requiring stitches. It also provides X-ray services, onsite lab and COVID-19 testing. The center is open every day, including holidays. Regular hours are Monday through Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Patients seeking care can walk in or use Nuvance Health-GoHealth's new online "save-a-spot" tool, which allows patients to save time by securing their spot in line, checking in and completing registration before arriving.

For details about all Nuvance Health-GoHealth locations or to save a spot online, visit <https://www.gohealthuc.com/nuvancehealth>.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and time to think

about this important screening. Request a mammogram online if you need one of these vital exams. Worried about your heart health? Nuvance Health has an alliance with Cleveland Clinic's Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute — a collaboration that enhances opportunities to provide new treatments and therapies to patients, as well as explore cutting-edge technologies and techniques.

Across the Hudson River, Northern Dutchess Hospital excels in bringing quality healthcare to the region. The hospital was "High Performing" in knee replacement in the U.S. News and World Report Best Hospitals national rankings.

With more than \$4 million raised in philanthropic support, Northern Dutchess is expanding its emergency department to include additional triage and patient rooms. Renovations and upgrades were also recently completed in its Birth Center and are underway in its radiology department.

Learn more about Nuvance Health services at nuvancehealth.org and visit the health system on social media @NuvanceHealth.

We're Off To See Oz Farm Saugerties Venue Hosts September Mixer

Oz Farm in Saugerties bears no resemblance to the 1939 Kansas farm Dorothy and Toto called home in the "Wizard of Oz," but it sure is a place where the owner tries to make all your dreams come true.

You'll be able to see for yourself as you follow the yellow brick road to 280 Malden Turnpike. Oz Farm is hosting the monthly Chamber Mixer on Sept. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union is sponsoring the free networking event.

One of the first things visitors will see is a photo of Warner LeRoy, the father of Oz Farm owner Jennifer Oz LeRoy, on the set of the epic film.

"My father was 4 years old when my grandfather produced the movie," LeRoy says. "People do bring it up from time to time. My middle name is actually Oz, which is obviously why the farm is called Oz Farm."

LeRoy's grandfather was the famous Hollywood director and producer Mervyn LeRoy. Her great-grandfather was Jack Warner, one of the founders of Warner Brothers Studios.

The whole farm venture took a lot of brains, heart and courage to pull off, especially for a city girl with roots in the hospitality business.

LeRoy grew up in Manhattan and worked at two iconic restaurants owned by her parents: The Tavern on the Green in Central Park and the Russian Tea Room on West 57th Street.

An avid horse rider since age 4, LeRoy first came to the Hudson Valley in 2006 to ride at Horse Shows in the Sun (HITS) and fell in love with the area. Oz Farm, an 82-acre working horse farm about five minutes outside the village of Saugerties, gives her a chance to combine two of her great loves—riding horses and event planning.

"I've turned one of the barns into an event venue for weddings and birthdays and other events," she said. "It was an original barn that we renovated so it's got that really great 'barn' feeling."

The farm also features a horse barn with a rider and guest lounge, an indoor riding arena and a field for tented events.

"We have beautiful show horses on the property that are a backdrop to the cocktail hour, or sometimes the ceremony at the wedding," she said. "I love event planning. My family was in the movie industry and that sort of translated over to our creativity. My father transferred it into restaurants, and I passed that along to my event planning to make it a magical experience."

While LeRoy's specialty is weddings, she can plan smaller events too, all of which allow her to use the experience she gained in two of the most recognizable restaurants in the world.

"We can do everything from small farm-to-table dinner parties to a big wedding," she said.

"The farm is a great place for locals and for people from out of town to come and have events. It's just so beautiful. With my experience, the more elaborate and detailed they want, the more fun I can make the event."

Working as an event planner and owning a farm is a horse of another

color for LeRoy, who began working at the Tavern on the Green when she was just 16.

"I grew up working there," she said. "It was my parents' restaurant. I worked every position there."

At the Russian Tea Room, she worked in the front of the house as director of operations at a mere 19.

"I've really seen it all when it comes to events," she said. "We fed the runners for the New York City Marathon and would feed 18,000 runners in six hours."

"I've done hundreds of weddings. We would have as many as two weddings a day going on, so I have a lot of wedding and event-planning experience."

LeRoy bought the "very special" Saugerties property several years ago and has worked hard to make Oz Farm a merry old land indeed.

"I'd like people to come and experience our farm and see everything it has to offer," she said. "People are welcome to come and visit and see if their kids would like to come here and ride horses."

Between running the Tavern on the Green and coming to Saugerties, LeRoy planned events in the Hamptons. While she loves that area, too, the Hudson Valley now has her affection.

"I really love the Hudson Valley," she said. "I love the people here. I love the whole feeling here. Obviously, I miss being in a restaurant every day because it's in my blood, but planning events helps me pacify my missing of the restaurant business. Weddings are high-pressure situations ... and I love to rise to the occasion and create a great experience for a bride and her family. It's really special for me."

As for hosting the September Mixer, LeRoy said she can't wait and she reminds fellow Chamber members that this is their chance to behold the great and powerfully fun Oz.

"The Chamber is a great group of people," she said. "They've been absolutely terrific."

Oz Farm, located at 280 Malden Turnpike in Saugerties, can be reached at (917) 816-4333 or ozfarmny.com.

Mixer
Sept. Mixer
Thurs., Sept. 7
5-7 pm
Oz Farm
280 Malden Turnpike
Saugerties, NY
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FAIR-RITE PRODUCTS

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Commitment to the Community Award
YWCA ULSTER COUNTY

Emerging Young Leader
ALEJANDRO DURAN SANCHEZ VOLNA UNALIGN

Chamber Champion
CHERYL BOWERS RONDOUT SAVINGS BANK

Len Cane Heart of Ulster County Award
REV. CHARLES STICKLEY

Ten Broeck Named Business Of The Year

Nine Honorees In The Spotlight Oct. 26

Ten Broeck Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, a senior living facility in Lake Katrine that employs 300 workers, has been named Business of the Year by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce. The company, along with eight others, will be feted at the annual Ulster County Business Awards Recognition Dinner at Diamond Mills Hotel & BLACKBARN Hudson Valley on Oct. 26 from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

"The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff want to congratulate all the honorees for their extraordinary accomplishments," said Chamber President Ward Todd. "These awards are peer-driven and a great way for the business community to recognize outstanding efforts."

"We are so excited and honored," said Tara Hogan, the administrator at Ten Broeck. "We do so much for our residents and staff every day, and it's very nice to be appreciated. Everybody is here because we love what we do. We're here for the residents, and that's what makes Ten Broeck so special."

Ten Broeck Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing at 1 Commons Drive is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The facility offers long-term and short-term post-surgery rehabilitation as well as dementia care and complementary and alternative medicine.

Hogan said the center cares for 258 residents and has consistently been named a 5-Star Medicare and Medicaid certified facility.

"We treat the residents like our family, and our staff is passionate about what they do. When people come here, they can sense our warmth and that we care deeply for the residents. We know their families. They're not just a number on door. We also support our staff and make sure they know they're appreciated," she said.

Formerly known as Ten Broeck Commons, the nursing home was purchased in 2018 by Infinite Care, a Brooklyn-based firm that specializes in the care of the elderly. Hogan said the company has made many positive changes, including renovating the building and adding a café and rehabilitation gym. She said plans are underway to add a daycare center for employees' children.

"We're here for our staff every step of the way," Hogan said. "We think of ourselves like a team that is there for each other and for the people we serve."

Other honorees at this year's Business Recognition Awards Dinner include:

Small Business of the Year: Catskill Art & Office Supply
Paul Solis-Cohen first opened the niche store known for its retail art supplies and custom picture framing services in Woodstock 45 years ago. The success of that store prompted him in 1986 to open a second location at 328 Wall St. in Kingston, which he occupied for 33 years, and later, a third store in Poughkeepsie. In recent years, he relocated his Wall Street shop to an even larger space at the Kingston Plaza. Catskill Art Supply has earned sterling reviews and countless awards for its quality products and exceptional customer service and has been a fulcrum for creativity and community networking in the Hudson Valley for more than four decades. "I was obviously thrilled for the recognition for my staff and that the Chamber felt it appropriate to recognize us in such fashion," said Solis-Cohen. "I think the length of our tenure serving the community here was probably a motivating factor. We've been grinding it out and serving the needs of the community for more than 45 years. It's been a good, steady run. We've been consistent, and people know that they can rely on us for our services, which are highly regarded—those being custom picture framing and our graphics services. "It's a very unusual business in that it mixes services with product. Retailers tend to stick with product, but we wanted to better service our customers by branching out, and we've been rewarded for the effort," Solis-Cohen said.

Entrepreneur of the Year: Jeremy Robinson-Leon, founder of Moonburger
The former public relations executive introduced his vegan fast-food drive-thru at 5 Powells Lane in Kingston in October 2021. Unlike any other establishment in the area, the restaurant features plant-based burgers, secret-recipe fries and oat milkshakes. It's been such a sensation that Robinson-Leon opened a second location at 87 Main St. in New Paltz in April and is in discussions to open additional locations in other parts of the Hudson Valley. Prior to debuting Moonburger, Robinson-Leon worked at Gordon Group, a communications firm in New York City. He relocated to Ulster County from Manhattan during the pandemic.

Tourism Business of the Year: Catskill Mountain Railroad

The popular heritage attraction, with themed rides from spring through the holidays, just hit its 40-year anniversary and another milestone—close to 50,000 passengers in 2022. Eighty-

seven percent of riders came from outside the area, spending their money not only on train tickets, but at local restaurants, hotels, shops and other attractions. The economic impact to small businesses, according to railroad officials, was about \$4.7 million in 2022. Each year, CMRR features themed events like the Easter Bunny Express in the spring; Catskill Flyer Summertime Rides; Pumpkin Express in the fall; and Polar Express, which drew almost 30,000 passengers during the 2022 holiday season.

The Heritage Award: Fair-Rite Products

In 1952, Richard Parker, a pioneer in the ferrite industry, founded the business in the hamlet of Wallkill. By 1955, the company was supplying products used in the entertainment electronics industry. It quickly expanded into the rapidly growing EMI suppression market, manufacturing ferrite shield beads, and later into the medical, lighting, automotive, communications, aero defense, smart energy

and industrial markets. In 1996, Parker's wife, Carole was named president, and in 2014, the couple's daughter, Rachael, became Fair-Rite's vice president. Eight years later, she was named president, continuing the legacy family business by expanding the company's product lines across a broad spectrum of new markets.

Commitment to the Community Award: YWCA Ulster County

This nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace and justice has been going strong in Ulster County for 100 years. Led by Athena Fliakas, the YWCA at 209 Clinton Ave. in Kingston prioritizes early childhood education programs, along with childcare at three sites in Kingston, parenting classes, healthcare, employment and lifelong family services, according to its website, ywcaulstercounty.org. Much of the work being done centers on advocacy and providing programs for women who have historically been marginalized, the website says. This summer, the YWCA held a block party to mark its centennial and its work over the decades to build a more inclusive society.

Emerging Young Leader: Alejandro Duran Sanchez of Volna Unalign

Duran Sanchez founded the digital marketing company in 2022, offering an array of services that includes digital marketing, business strategies, photography and videography. His clients range from Home Plate Deli and O'Connor & Partners to Wiltwyck Golf Club and the Benedictine Health Foundation. He also works with SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge. Duran Sanchez, who is in his early 20s, is a first-generation college graduate. He was raised in Kingston and graduated from Kingston High School in 2017. He attended SUNY Ulster, earning a degree in marketing and later attended the University at Albany, graduating in 2021. He is building his business from the ground up and recently hired a team to help him take Volna Unalign to the next level.

Chamber Champion: Cheryl Bowers, President & CEO of Rondout Savings Bank

Bowers made local history when she became Rondout Savings Bank's 14th and first female president and chief executive officer, succeeding James Davenport in 2018. The Kingston native holds a

leadership certificate from the Wharton Business School and is a high-honors graduate from the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Pennsylvania. She also is a founding member and co-chair of the New York Bankers Association Women's Leadership Conference. Bowers has served as past board chair of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce and continues to support it through sponsorships and as a Corporate Partner. Bowers additionally has served on the boards of the Kingston Boys and Girls Club, Kingston Lions Club, SUNY Ulster Foundation and Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She was named the Chamber's Honorary Irish Person of the Year in 2016 and has received many other notable awards for her civic participation and volunteerism.

Len Cane Heart of Ulster County Award: The Rev. Charles Stickley

The beloved Hurley clergyman is set to mark his 60th year in 2024 as an ordained minister in the Reformed Church of America. After graduating from Western Theological Seminary and earning his master's degree in theology, he was ordained in 1964. Stickley began his ministry in Michigan, serving as the pastor at the Eastlawn Reformed Church in Muskegon. Nine years later, he arrived at the Hurley Reformed Church at 11 Main St., where he served for 33 years before retiring in 2006. Over the years, Stickley has given of his time and talents to several area organizations, including the former Kingston Hospital, American Cancer Society, YMCA and Office for the Aging. Additionally, he has held leadership positions within the Reformed Church of America. Stickley has also been a staple on 1490 WKNY radio, where he has hosted "Morning Meditations," a show focused on Bible readings, prayer and music, for more than 50 years.

For more information about this year's celebration, or to sponsor the event, contact Chamber President Ward Todd at (845) 338-5100 x2 or Ward@UlsterChamber.org.



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Networking Mixer @ Oz Farm
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There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members. Reservations are required.
Sponsor: Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

Wednesday September 13 | Noon - 5:00 pm

27th Annual Buy Local Expo
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Tuesday September 26 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting
Meet the Candidates for Ulster County District Attorney
The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus
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\$30 Members-Advanced Pay • \$35 Members-At The Door
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Sponsor: Nuance Health

Wednesday October 4 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Buttermilk Falls Inn & Spa
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Dave Amato - Owner
 Category: Restaurants
 Description: *Brickmen Kitchen + Bar offers modern dining that puts a global spin on local Hudson Valley flavors. Founded by restaurateur Dave Amato, we offer lunch, dinner, and drinks in a warm atmosphere with a vintage vibe.*

CATSKILL MOUNTAIN HIGH LLC

308 Plaza Road
Kingston, NY 12401
www.catskillmtnhigh.com
Jeanette Wolfe - Co-Founder
 Category: Cannabis, Hemp, CBD; Retail
 Description: *CBD Retail Store*

THE COOP CONCEPT

thecoopconcept.org
Tina Dierna - Founder, Managing Director
 Categories: Non-Profit Organizations; Education/Tutoring
 Description: *501c3 sponsored, serving Kingston Youth and local businesses. Educating through Hands-on carpentry and gardening projects.*

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL POLLOK, PLLC

44 Main Street, Suite 8
Kingston, NY 12401
www.crimdef.com
Michael Pollok - Principal Attorney
 Category: Legal Services
 Description: *Attorneys providing DWI, Criminal Defense, Traffic Violation legal services in Ulster County and the entire Hudson Valley. Attorneys Michael Pollok and John Clarke have over 60 years combined experience in defending criminal charges in local, state and federal courts. We understand that being charged with a crime creates anxiety and stress for our clients and their family members. Thus, our focus is to obtain the best possible results for our clients so they can get on with their lives. That means we will thoroughly investigate every avenue to seek dismissal of the charges, while exploring possible plea bargains and/or hearing and trial to realize the best results possible based upon the law and facts of your particular case. We provide free consultations by telephone, video or in person at our offices in Kingston and Red Hook.*

TEG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

1 Commerce St.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
TEGFCU.com
Michael Mazzuca - Business Development Officer
 Categories: Financial Services; Credit Unions; Mortgages
 Description: *Founded in 1969, TEG FCU is a full-service financial cooperative for individuals and businesses who live, work, worship, or attend school in the New York counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester. As a member-owned and not-for-profit organization, TEG always puts the financial needs of its members first. TEG offers a wide range of financial services including deposit branches in Poughkeepsie, Beekman, Hyde Park, Middletown, Newburgh and Wappinger Falls as well as through a topnotch digital banking system. Insured by the NCUA. Equal Housing Lender. For more information, visit TEGFCU.com.*

THRIVE ON! NETWORK

65 Saint James St.
Kingston, NY 12401
www.thriveon.network
Keyvius Avery - Organization Lead/Founder
 Categories: Non-Profit Organizations; Economic Development; Education/Tutoring
 Description: *Systemic change organization that empowers youth to become community stewards.*

ULSTER COUNTY AREA TRANSIT

1 Danny Circle
Kingston, NY 12401
ucat.ulstercountyny.gov
Toni Roser - Director, UCAT
 Category: Transportation
 Description: *Ulster County based Public Transportation system, offering FREE fixed route Bus and Para Transit Services. Currently we offer 13 fixed Bus Routes and serve most of Ulster County. Select runs offer transit into Orange and Dutchess County.*

Anniversaries:

- 70 Years**
Lions Club of Kingston
- 15 Years**
Record Storage Solutions
Sawyer Motors
- 5 Years**
The Culinary Warehouse
Hill and Markes
RBT CPAs, LLP
Roberti Automotive, LLC
- 1 Year**
Blue Devil Dairy Bar & Grill
Charles River Laboratories
Michael Roach Creative
Saugerties Chamber of Commerce

~ These Members Have Renewed ~

- 850 Rt. 28 LLC
- ALL THAT JAVA
- Blue Devil Dairy Bar & Grill
- Brad's Barns & Gazebos
- Camping World of the Hudson Valley
- Charles River Laboratories
- Clapper Structural Engineering
- Clear Channel Outdoor
- Community Foundations of Ulster County
- Corcoran Country Living
- Glacier Point Enterprises, Inc.
- Hill and Markes
- Hotel Dylan
- Kingston Fine Jewelry
- Kingston Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab, PC
- Lions Club of Kingston
- Michael Roach Creative
- Mohonk Preserve, Inc.
- Mother Earth's Storehouse
- Nana's Angels Day Care
- O'Connor & Partners, PLLC
- Perfect Flow, Inc.
- PLUGPV Solar
- Roberti Automotive, LLC
- Saugerties Chamber of Commerce
- Sawyer Motors
- Shadowland Stages
- Star Gas Products Inc.
- TeamLogic IT
- The Culinary Warehouse
- The Kingstonian Project
- Ulster County Department of Economic Development
- Ulster County Farm Bureau, Inc.
- Uniforms USA, Inc.
- United Way of Ulster County
- Wiltwyck Golf Club
- Woodstock Chimes
- Wraparound Services of the Hudson Valley