

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Education, Culture & Economic
Affairs Committee

DATE: January 20, 1998

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Ulster County Community College,
Stone Ridge, N.Y.

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Dunn and Legislators
Felicello, Every, J. Naccarato,
Donaldson, Magarelli & Provenzano

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislator Gerentine

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislator Sinagra

OTHERS ATTENDING: Lee Reidy, Cornell Cooperative
Extension; Gerry Davidson, UCDC;
Assistant Dean Stoutenburgh,
UCCC; Peter Carofano, Ulster
County Tourism; Tina Iapoce,
Ulster County Tourism

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M. with a quorum and recognized Peter Carofano, Director of Ulster County Tourism, and Tina Iapoce, Deputy Director of Ulster County Tourism, to give their report.

Ms. Iapoce reported that there will be ongoing exhibits in the tourism information center located on the first floor of the County Office Building. Currently being exhibited is a display for Belleayre which also includes information on Frost Valley and cross country skiing at Lake Minnewaska. During November and December 1997 there was a photographic exhibition on the Ashokan Reservoir which was very well received. She also reported that there will be a new carpet installed, which will improve the room greatly.

Mr. Carofano reported that the joint ad with Belleayre that ran full page on December 30 in the New York Times was a huge success. He also discussed the progress of the travel guide-1998 which will go to print in April.

There will also be a Government Action Day on Tuesday, February 3, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. The Ulster County Tourism Office, along with the other Catskill region tourism offices, will have a strong presence there. The key issue will be the Tourism Funding Act of 1998.

Chairman Dunn recognized Lee Reidy, Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. She stated she has been in her position for nine years. A legislative report is given four times a year, along with an annual report. There are 57 co-op extension programs in NYS, focusing on agriculture, production, safety and the environment. Ms. Reidy noted that Warren Smith is retiring and is currently working part-time. Cornell is doing a nationwide recruitment for his position. Salary starts at \$34,000. It is an Agent Level 3 and requires a Masters Fruit Production. Ms. Reidy is hoping to fill the position by April. There will be a Fruit School February 3-4 at the Holiday Inn. It has the reputation of being one of the best. A major grant was received from the FSNEED program totaling \$168,000. It is designed to give nutrition education to food stamp eligible families who are coming out of the Social Service system. It is a voluntary program for individuals to make a successful transition. Ulster County is one of the pilot counties to do this. There is also a family budget counseling program with 10 counselors to provide help to those having financial difficulty. June Strand depends on volunteers for this program and is looking to train individuals who are interested.

Chairman Dunn then recognized Gerry Davidson, Director of Ulster County Development Corp. Mr. Davidson distributed the 1997 year-end list of results. There is still a concern over too many entry level jobs which makes it difficult to rebuild an economy on those type of salaries. He discussed legislation that would enable firms who come to IDA for manufacturing can also come to the Ulster County Legislature for tax exempt bonds. Legislator Donaldson made a motion to have the tax bonds go through the Legislature. Legislator Felicello seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Chairman Dunn recognized Assistant Dean Stoutenburgh representing UCCC for Dean Howett. He presented changes in

reports from the college that would show information on grants. Legislator Provenzano moved to accept the additional statement. Legislator Donaldson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Assistant Stoutenburgh reported that the college is down 82 full time students to meet the budget. There will be focus on the Summer Express sessions, classes being held in Ellen-ville and talks regarding class sites in Kingston.

There being no further business, on motion made by Legislator Naccarato and seconded by Legislator Magarelli, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Dunn, Chairman
Education, Culture & Economic
Affairs Committee