



# The Steuben County EMS Bulletin

Fall 2006

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## RHCS Announces New Coordinator of Initiaves

Anyone remotely involved with emergency medical services almost certainly knows Art Jones. In the business of providing emergency care, both as a volunteer and as a professional, for more than 30 years, Art has a wealth of information to share. He recently returned from an International Round Table Discussion on paramedicine and rural health care,

held at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he discussed several of the health care issues relavent to Steuben County.

The folks at Rural Health Community Services, a rural health network in Steuben County, recently moved to use all

that knowledge to help



spread the word about emergency medical ser-

vice volunteers by making him Coordinator of Network Initiaves.

It is Art's job to spread the good news about being an EMS volunteer to the world – or at least to the general Steuben County area. A part of RHCS from the very beginning, Art will be instrumental in bringing the organization's message to EMS members as well.

## How Do You Solve a Problem Like...

### *Stragetig Plan To Promote EMS Volunteering*

Across the nation, getting enough volunteers to answer an emergency medical service call is becoming more and more difficult. Commuting to work, family obligations, the need for immediate and short term child care have added to the problem, not just here in rural Steuben County, but nationwide.

Here in Steuben County; the Network Partners at RHCS are going to the source to find posi-

tive ways to "Grow EMS Volunteers in Steuben County".

The first step was a brainstorming session. More than 40 EMS volunteers, community leaders, business people and elected public officials gathered at the Bath Country Club recently to finish the phrase: "To grow emergency care services in Steuben County we need to...?"

The group came up with nearly 100 ideas

that easily finish that sentence.

Results of the session were gathered, put into categories for further analysis and then rated. The gathering even caught the attention of the local media. Soon after the session, The Leader ran a story on the problem of getting EMS volunteers. A final report on the session will be available sometime this fall. This will provide the basis for the

Rural Health Community Systems' Strategic Plan. The network Partners plan to hold a "Town Meeting" to make public the Strategic Plan open to all Emergency Medical Services Volunteers and the general Steuben County community.

It is the hope of this rural health network that once the Strategic Plan is completed all the EMS Volunteers will lend a hand in making the action steps a reality.

# RHCS Profile:

## *Nan Hammes*

Nan Hammes is the Chair of the Rural Health Community Services Inc. Partners.

She is the perfect choice, as the twin concerns of “recruitment and retention” are always at the top of any volunteer service list.

She brings to the table a wealth of knowledge about recruiting volunteers. Outgoing and enthusiastic, she is the perfect example of the skills needed to get others involved. “My connection with Rural Health is getting people involved,” she said.

Nan is project director for Steuben County’s RSVP program, a position she has held since 1998.

Nan holds a degree in elementary education. After teaching for four years, she took time off to be a stay-at-home mom for her four children. With the children all in school, it was time for the people-oriented Nan to go back to work. The lucky folks at the Oneida County Office for the Aging got to enjoy her company. The part-time job soon grew into

a full-time position. Her responsibilities increased until she became project director there. Oneida County’s loss became Corning’s gain when Nan took the reins at the Corning Senior Center. From there came to her job with RSVP, (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). “I really love working with seniors,” Nan said. “I love my job.”

Anyone working with Nan can see that. RSVP and Nan are a perfect fit. “RSVP is a happy organization,” she said. “It’s just such a positive thing.” She brings the same zest to RHCS. “The experience has been awesome,” she said. “I’m working with good people, dedicated people.” “We really, really need them (EMS volunteers), especially in rural areas,” she continued.

Nan has a simple answer for getting more volunteers to the EMS program.

It comes in the form of those already on the job. “We need people to get out there and tell the public this is a good thing,” she said.

## *ID Badges Are Ready!*

For the past few weeks, Art Jones, with the help of the Steuben County Sheriff’s Department Eileen Wolfer and Dave Cole, has been all over Steuben County taking photos of Emergency Medical Service volunteers for new ID badges.

Technical problems slowed the delivery of those important items – until now.

Squads that have had their photos taken will be hearing from Art about delivery soon.

“I’ll call as soon as I get them,” he said. “You’ll hear from me.”

Volunteer EMS personnel who need photos taken should contact Art and make an appointment. The number is 794-0759.

## **First e-PCR Laptop Delivered**

Members of the Tuscarora Ambulance Corps recently accepted a new laptop computer. It is the first step toward giving all 19 of Steuben County’s volunteer ambulance squad’s access to the new e-PCR program.

These laptop computers are provided by Rural Health Community Systems to the transporting

volunteer agencies in the county at no charge to help them get started in the program.

The e-PCR will replace the old method of hand writing each patient care report and then dealing with the stacks of paper and the hassles of maintaining paper files, and will improve security of patient information.

### **Coming Up:**

Watch for information about an upcoming RHCS programs designed with you in mind, including:

*EMS Service Management Program*  
offered by JET this fall.

*Problem Solving Methods for Rural EMS Providers*  
offered by Integral Performance Solutions ~ date TBA

*Money Drives the Ambulance*  
presented by Honti Enterprises ~ date TBA

“How to boost and maintain funding from your own community”.

**For more information about Rural Health Community Systems, Inc., visit our website at [www.rhcsys.org](http://www.rhcsys.org)**

## What is a Rural Health Network?

Rural Health Community Systems, Inc. is a rural health network funded by the New York State Department of Health Office of Rural Health.

A rural health network is an organization that brings together previously separated and independent groups of resources, agencies and associations. Under the auspices of a rural health network, these groups coordinate, combine, and support various administrative activities including identifying, addressing, resolving, and monitoring measures that fill the health care service gaps in their area.

The integration of these discrete, but peer organizations means a commitment of time, personnel, capital, and other resources to the endeavors or projects. Partners in a rural health network agree to abide by planning decisions made jointly or to perform according to externally imposed guidelines.

A rural health network is a formal organizational arrangement among rural health care and human service providers. Rural Health Community Systems uses the resources of more than one existing organization and specifies the objectives and meth-

ods by which various collaborative functions will be achieved.

By formal, we mean explicit and legal. Rural Health Community Systems, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation. We have a Board of Partners composed of a variety of health and human service providers. Rural Health Community Systems, Inc. Partners contribute resources (money, space, time, expertise) to the rural health network. These partners, who are already existing organizations, together create organizations and/or activities of the network.

Rural health networks are purposeful. Rural Health Community Systems is more than our mission statement. RHCS is productive. The network has a plan of action with goals, objectives and activities to meet those outcomes.

The RHCS Partners, like members of any rural health network, come together voluntarily to achieve certain objectives. Each partner retains its autonomy, and the roles and responsibilities of members and the purposes of the network correspond to the health care needs of the local community.

### Current RHCS Partners

**IRA DAVENPORT & TAYLOR HOSPITAL**  
George Bliss, Director of Nursing  
7571 State Route # 54  
Bath, NY 14810

**NEW YORK STATE POLICE**  
Sergeant Gary Whiteman  
New York State Police - Bath  
7237 Route 415 North  
Bath, NY 14810

**INDUSTRY/VOLUNTEERS**  
Everett Ferguson, Paramedic  
5300 Twitthell Rd.  
Rushville, NY 14544

**EMSTAR**  
Bob Rajskey, Director  
1058 West Church Street,  
Elmira NY 14905

**EMS ASSOCIATION**  
Steve Foster  
23 Bennett St,  
Hornell, NY 14843

**STEUBEN COUNTY EMO**  
Michael Sprague, Director  
Tim Marshall, Deputy  
911 Building 6979 Rumsey Street  
Bath, NY 14810

**STEUBEN COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT.**  
Dave Cole, Under Sheriff  
Eileen Wolfer, Deputy  
S.C. Public Safety Building  
7007 Rumsey St. Ext.  
Bath, New York

**AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
Candi Thompson, Director Disaster Services  
123 West Market Street  
Corning, NY 14830-2519

**STEUBEN COUNTY OFA**  
Nan Hammes, Dir. RSVP  
Steuben County Office Building  
3 Pulney Square  
Bath, NY 14810

## Should Someone In Your Squad be a Star?

It takes hard work and dedication to be an Emergency Medical Service volunteer. Most of the time, those efforts go unheralded. No one knows except the EMS volunteer and the people most intimately involved in the situation.

It's time to change that. RHCS is launching an EMS Volunteer of the Month program.

Is there someone in your squad that has done something special recently? Gone that extra mile

to make life easier for his fellow man?

Sure there is. Lots of them.

Now's your chance to give that person and your squad a chance to shine. Simply jot down the volunteer's name, squad name, and why that person is special. We'll do the rest.

Send the nomination to Betsy Stierly, 7421 County Route 112, Addison NY 14801.

And we'll see you in the newspapers.



Rural Health Community Systems  
Post Office Box 209  
Bath, NY 14810

Standard  
Presort/Bulk  
Third Class Permit No. 30  
Bath, NY 14810

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***PROCLAIMING  
THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10th, 2006  
AS***

***“VOLUNTEER FIRE AND AMBULANCE WORKER APPRECIATION WEEK”  
IN STEUBEN COUNTY***

WHEREAS, Steuben County is fortunate to have many of its citizens volunteer their time and talents as volunteers for their local fire and ambulance corps; and

WHEREAS, current New York State and National regulations call for extensive training of these volunteers; and

WHEREAS, all of the residents of Steuben County benefit from the services performed by these volunteers – protecting both property and the lives of all residents; and

WHEREAS, as these volunteers “age out” there is a shortage of citizens willing to make the commitment to join their local corps.

NOW THEREFORE, I, PHILIP J. ROCHE, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE, on behalf of the members of this Legislature, do hereby proclaim the week of September 10th, 2006 as “VOLUNTEER FIRE AND AMBULANCE WORKER APPRECIATION WEEK” in Steuben County and urge all of our residents to take time to personally thank their neighbors who volunteer with their local fire and ambulance corps, and to thoughtfully consider the importance of volunteering with these corps as a way of meaningfully participating in the life of your community.

Dated: August 14th, 2006

PHILIP J. ROCHE, ESQ.  
Chairman  
Steuben County Legislature