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Roberta Byron-Lockwood

BY CRYSTAL TWEED

Education:

Masters in Business Administration and a Degree in Public Administration.

Place of employment:

Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association.

Current title and duties:

President & CEO of the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association. I oversee and direct my team in all day-to-day activities.

Years of experience: 40 years

Why did you choose this career:

While my initial career trajectory pointed toward corporate America after completing my MBA and Public Administration degree a pivotal opportunity arose through my congressman's sponsorship. After excelling in the Federal exams, I was presented with a chance to lead tourism efforts across a nine-county region. What began as an exploratory role as Executive Director of the Central New York Leather Stocking Region evolved into a passionate commitment to destination management and tourism development. I then went on to serve as Deputy Director of the iconic I Love NY campaign and now as President/CEO of the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, I've dedicated four decades to positioning the Sullivan Catskills and New York State as a premier destination. This unexpected path has allowed me to leverage my business acumen and public administration expertise to drive economic growth through tourism.

Favorite part of your job:

My greatest satisfaction comes

from strategic collaboration and relationship building that drives our region's growth. I take pride in orchestrating partnerships across multiple sectors – from local entrepreneurs to international tourism stakeholders. My executive role involves crafting and executing comprehensive destination management strategies that not only promote the Sullivan Catskills but also ensure sustainable economic development for our community. Under my leadership, we've achieved unprecedented growth by identifying and capitalizing on our region's unique value proposition. I particularly enjoy mentoring my team and watching them innovate and excel in their roles. The transformation we've achieved in positioning the Sullivan Catskills as a world-class destination has been incredibly rewarding."

Most challenging part of your job:

"As CEO in today's rapidly evolving tourism landscape, my primary challenge is maintaining our competitive edge in a global marketplace. This requires strategic foresight and constant innovation in our approach. My team and I must navigate complex market dynamics, from emerging travel trends to technological disruptions. We're continuously analyzing market data, adapting our digital strategies, and optimizing our resource allocation to maximize our destination's appeal. Leading organizational change while maintaining operational excellence demands careful balance. Additionally, ensuring our growth strategies align with community values and environmental sustainability requires thoughtful leadership and stakeholder management."



Roberta Byron-Lockwood

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory:

During COVID we ran programs to try to help our businesses stay open. When we were all shut down and everyone was shuttered, we thought it would be important to let everybody know on a daily basis, what businesses were open where you could buy food, and take-out. Everything was changing. We put together a gift certificate program and we inspired everyone to buy a gift certificate for local businesses. For every \$100 you spent we would incentivize it with an additional \$25. We did this through the entire shutdown, and it was amazing to see the support from outside the area, from people who traveled here in the past, and even our locals. We kept track of that, and we made sure that those funds went to our individual businesses on a weekly basis. I also enjoy mentoring my team and watching them innovate and excel in their roles. The transformation we've achieved in positioning the Sullivan Catskills as a world-class destination has been incredibly rewarding.

How do you manage your time:

Effective time management as a

CEO requires strategic prioritization and exceptional delegation skills. I've developed robust systems to balance high-level strategic planning with day-to-day operational oversight. My leadership approach emphasizes empowering our talented team members while maintaining clear accountability structures. I ensure our organizational goals cascade effectively through all levels, allowing us to meet critical deadlines and exceed stakeholder expectations. Regular strategic reviews and adaptable planning processes help us stay agile and responsive to market opportunities. The key is maintaining focus on initiatives that drive the most value for our destination while building a culture of excellence and innovation."

What advice do you have for someone entering your field:

"Success in destination management and tourism leadership requires a multifaceted approach. First, develop strong business acumen and strategic thinking skills – understanding market dynamics, financial management, and organizational development is crucial. Second, cultivate emotional intelligence and active listening skills; our industry thrives on relationships and understanding stakeholder needs. Stay current with industry trends, technology, and sustainable tourism practices. Most importantly, develop your leadership philosophy early – focus on building high-performing teams and fostering innovation. Remember that destination management is about creating long-term value for both visitors and the community. Network extensively, and always remain adaptable to change."

Who inspires you:

My children are my greatest inspiration. I feel incredibly fortunate to have such hard-working, value driven kids. Their unwavering support means the world to me. Every day they motivate me in countless ways. They are my

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6W

Jean Dermer

Education: BFA - Media Arts w/ focus of Graphic Design

Place of employment: Barbanti RE, Associate Broker; Liberty Blooms, Co-Owner

Current title and duties: As co-owners of Liberty Blooms we pretty much share duties in running our office, ordering, marketing, etc. We clean, deliver, and take out the trash! lol. pretty much everything, keeping Joseph designing the flowers!

Years of experience: Past: 25 years Catskill Shopper - GM; 10 Years - Barbanti RE; Associate Broker and my new endeavor since May 2024, Co-Owner Liberty Blooms.

Why did you choose this career: This new career chose me and Tami; the closing of Hillside Greenhouse left a void in the area that needed to be filled right away!

Favorite part of your job: Bringing joy to people

Most challenging part of your job: Balancing time

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: A sweet little boy came in to buy flowers



Tami VanLeuven, left, and Jean Dermer

for a holiday called the “Sweetest Day”. He came in several times, pricing and making sure we had the flowers he wanted in stock. He saved his money. In the end he was \$1.80 short. I gave him an IOU and didn’t expect to get the \$1.80 back. But, he came in the next week and paid it, with allowance money. He is sweet, honest, and bright. A hope for our future! Definitely made an impression on both of us.

We have young men who clearly do not have much extra money that will buy a single flower for their girlfriends just to say, “you are special”. I also love it when young men come in to impress their girlfriends and their mothers. They will buy a bouquet for

their girlfriend and one for the mother as well. Hoping to steal the girl’s heart! So sweet.

How do you manage your time: Best we can... put out fires where needed.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Follow your heart. Sometimes it’s not just about the career. At some point take a leap of faith and try something new.

Who inspires you: My Aunt, Loretta Saltzman. She is 104 years young! Lol

She beat COVID-19 as well as a broken femur and several hospital stays recently.

She is a BROOKLYN Dodgers fan and LA Dodgers by default. She knows the players, their stats, etc. and watches all the games.

She rode on the O&W from NYC with her son and has a bench on the rail trail honoring her. There is an inscription, “The only lady who could stop the train.”... (photo attached, and a cute story I could share.) Having just recently returned home from a hospital stay, I watched her finish her dinner, and turn around in her chair to do her exercises, determined to get stronger and improve her walking! If she can do all she does, with a smile... we can do anything. She is who I am most inspired by.

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Congratulations Jean Dermer!
 Your commitment, integrity and countless talents are clear in everything you do.
 Thanking you and Tami for bringing Liberty Blooms to the community.
 Love, Shauna & Rhea

Tami Van Leuven

Favorite movie/TV show: When Dreams May Come..

How do you spend your spare time: Hiking, fly-fishing, kayaking and occasional artwork. And that was before the flower shop! lol

Favorite vacation spot: A cabin in the Adirondacks with no cell service.

Family: My partner Dave and my little Havanese Herbert. Plus a sister-in-law and niece that are my true sisters, nephews and their partners, and a new little great nephew that stole my heart! ... And our Rhea, who has been everything to my entire family through the years. And there is my Barbanti Family who keep me always motivated!

Civic or volunteer affiliations: Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce, Board of Director, Past Board of Realtors.

Favorite quote: "If you want something done, ask a busy person." - Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Education: A.S. Business

Current Title:
Co-Owner of Liberty Blooms

Duties: Deliveries, bookkeeping, sales, marketing, basically everything but the flowers themselves.

Years of Experience: None in the flower industry itself

Why did you choose this career: It chose us. The opportunity arose and Jean and I rose to the challenge

Favorite part of the job: The effect that flowers have on our customers

Most challenging part of the job: Trying to juggle two full time jobs

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory?: A young boy that came in to buy flowers for his friend and mother. That young man saved his money and came in three weeks prior to needing the flowers to see how much it would be . He has since come in again.

How do you manage your time: The best that I can. It is basically do whatever needs to be done right now, as things can change at a moments notice.

What advice do you have for someone in your field: I don't feel that I have been doing this long enough to give any advice. See me in 10 years

Who inspires you: My mother, my brother, and my children

How do you spend your spare time: there really isn't much but it would be spent with friends and family.

Favorite vacation spot: Charleston SC holds many memories as it is the place that my daughter and I vacation together

Family: Mother Etta Barbanti
Brother, recently deceased, Scott Simpson
Sister-in-law Debbie Simpson

Partner: James Corless
2 Children Matthew and Rachael
2 Grandchildren Quinten and William



Tami and Jean

Wishing you all the best as you embark on this exciting journey. May this new chapter be filled with joy, growth and endless opportunities.

I also wish to all other recipients Congratulations!

Etta Barbanti

Congratulations Jean and Tami!



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3W

biggest cheerleaders.

My husband, of course, and my family and friends.

Favorite movie/TV show: Only Murders in the Building and the new Matlock.

How do you spend your spare time:

I love to cook. I love to garden. I'm still glowing over my first grandchild. And I still spend my time enjoying all the experiences right in here in our own backyard in the Sullivan Catskills. There's always something to do. If someone tells me there's nothing to do I beg to differ!

Favorite vacation spot:

Surprisingly my favorite vacation destination is right here in our own backyard. I do love our staycations here. I love to have family come visit and show them what we have to offer here. The people here are wonderful, it's an

incredible place to live, work and have fun. And that said my guilty pleasure is sunshine so when my family and friends want me to go and enjoy a sunny getaway outside of the Sullivan Catskills, I am always up for it.

Family:

My husband Herb, 3 children: Matt, Kelley, and Chris, and grandson Theodore.

Civic or volunteer affiliations:

There are so many. We have touched almost every civic group from St. Jude's, local Chambers, Boys & Girls Club, longtime supporter of the Heart-a-Thon, SUNY Sullivan Foundation. I try to give a helping hand anywhere we're needed.

Favorite quote: "Nothing worthwhile is ever easy."

Megan Eggleton

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Age: 40

Education: Doctorate of Physical Therapy, Ithaca College '07

Place of employment: Garnet Health – Grover M. Hermann Campus

Current title and duties: Physical Therapist and Callicoon Rehab Site Manager

Years of experience: 17

Why did you choose this career: I always wanted to go into the medical field and chose physical therapy because of the variety of settings you can work and specialize in.

Favorite part of your job: Getting to meet so many people from our area and learning about their lives as I help them in their recovery. We are so lucky to have the nicest patients who we get to develop relationships with. I'm also fortunate to work with a close group of co-workers and friends who make every day at work enjoyable.

Most challenging part of your job: Being one of the only physical therapy clinics in our local area, we see a variety of cases, some completely new to me as a clinician. It's a challenge but also a good opportunity to learn and sharpen my clinical skills.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: One of my

Congratulations, Megan Eggleton

Doctor of Physical Therapy | Callicoon PT Manager

Recognized among the Business and Professional Women of 2024, Megan is dedicated to her community and her patients. We're proud to have her on the team. Growing up in the area, she has a deep connection to Callicoon and finds joy in serving her community.

Megan takes pride in helping patients recover close to home and values the chance to meet new people, learn about their stories and support them through their recovery journey. "Our rehab team truly cares," says Megan. "Our hospital is small, but we offer a wide range of services to our patients."

Thank you, Megan, for your passion and commitment!

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Megan Eggleton

field, to help people.

Who inspires you: My mom is my biggest inspiration. She was a local nurse who always taught me to be professional and compassionate and to serve others.

How do you spend your spare time: Spending time with my family on our boat or traveling and spending time with my daughters and their horses.

Favorite vacation spot: Hilton Head, SC

Family: Husband Dave and daughters Riley (12) & Harper (9)

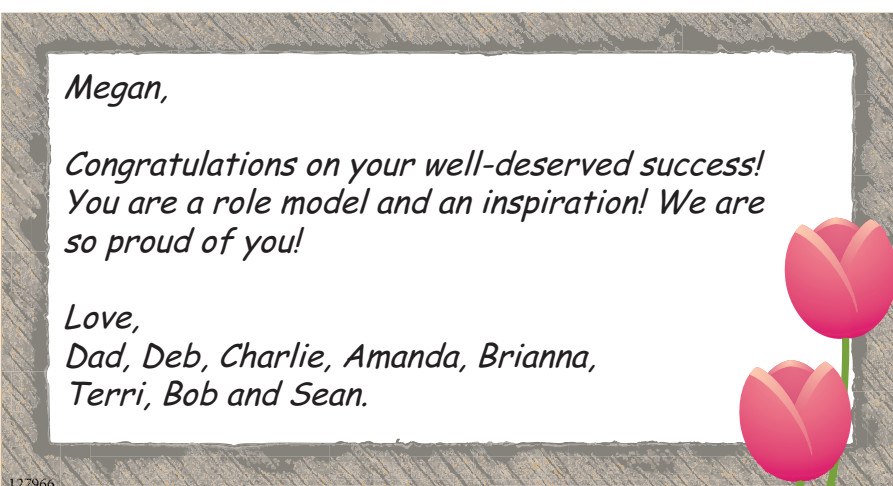
Civic or volunteer affiliations: AYSO Board Member and Youth Soccer Coach, 4-H Parent Volunteer, Sullivan West 7th Grade Class Advisor

favorite memories was rehabbing a softball pitcher and actually bringing my glove to catch for them in the hallway of the hospital!

How do you manage your time: As a busy mom and wife, working full time, my planner is my best friend.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Put yourself in your patient's shoes and remember why you got into the

Favorite quote: "Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching."



Megan-Mom,
 Congratulations on this achievement and honor in your career. Your character, work ethic, and kindness have supported so many individuals in your profession. All of the patients you have worked with are always so happy with the care you provide. We are extremely proud of you, and thank you for always leading with the model of positivity and progress.

We love you,
Phil, Shelley, Alexis, Jonathan, David, Riley, and Harper

127921

Linda Fisk



Linda Fisk

Age: 52

Education: Livingston Manor Central School, many banking courses through American Institute of Banking (AIB) and CFT and on-the-job training.

Place of employment: Livingston Manor Branch of Jeff Bank

Current title and duties: Regional Branch Manager – coach, mentor and provide guidance to assigned managers for staff development and branch growth

Years of experience: 32 years

Why did you choose this career: I think it chose me overtime.

Favorite part of your job: It is rewarding assisting customers

with purchasing their first home or starting up a new business.

Most challenging part of your job: Regulatory changes

How do you manage your time: Focus on priorities first which can be challenging at times, but the work will always get done.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Be patient, work hard and challenge yourself to keep learning new things.

Who inspires you: Rhonda Decker & Tanya Hahn

Favorite movie/TV show: *Pretty Woman, Yellowstone*

How do you spend your spare time: Spending time with grand-

kids, family and friends, golfing, gardening and traveling

Favorite vacation spot: OBX and Grenadier Island

Family: Husband Ken, son-Kenny, daughter-in-law Taylor and grandkids Parker & Rori

Civic or volunteer affiliations: SC BOCES Board Member, Lew Beach Cemetery Board Member

Favorite quote: The simple "treat others the way you want to be treated."



Congratulations

*to all the Business & Professional Women
and a special congratulations to our very
own Linda Fisk!*

Linda Fisk

*Vice President
Regional Branch Manager
Livingston Manor*



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Linda Fisk- Regional Manager Jeff Bank

Congratulations, Linda! Such a well-deserved recognition.

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Linda, Congratulations from your family & friends at Jim Rose Electric. We are extremely proud of you!

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Tess, Linda, Megan & Liane

And all of the

2024 Business & Professional Women



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127864

Tess McBeath

STORY AND PHOTO
BY ALEX KIELAR

Age: 67

Education: High school

Place of employment: Town of Delaware

Current title and duties: Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/Records Management Officer. As a town clerk I wear many hats. I issue licenses - marriage, DEC, dogs, games of chance; maintain birth, death and marriage records, issue handicapped tags. I collect property taxes and record incoming funds from the Building Dept. I assist the public in some way every single day, in person or on the phone.

The Town's archival records are my responsibility; I also write and monitor grants from the application to final financial reports; organize litterplucks, Town clean ups and shredding events. I advertise and receive bids, assist with the election process, administer oaths of office and I'm a notary public. I train new tax collectors and advise other clerks. I work closely with our staff in the office; keep my Town Board organized and informed; take minutes of all their meetings.

Years of experience: I'll retire at the end of 2025 with 28 years' experience.

Why did you choose this career: I was a legal secretary and then our son was born and a neighbor suggested I run for Town Clerk. I feel like it was meant to be - it's been a perfect job for me all these years. I like to be helpful and useful and I enjoy serving the public. It's all good; I have a great life!

Favorite part of your job: I enjoy meeting all the people.

Most challenging part of your job: Tax collection.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: My career has been full of good memories and good people. Even after all these years I have a job that I still love coming to every day. Not everyone can say that, so I'm very fortunate to have chosen a career for which I was so perfectly suited.

How do you manage your time: I keep a lot of lists and am reshuffling priorities constantly. For a small town I have a very busy office.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field:



Tess McBeath

Organizational skills and resourcefulness are crucial to the Office of Town Clerk; there's always a lot going on in municipal government and the Clerk needs to keep all the balls in the air. You also need to have your finger on the pulse of the town and know what's going on.

We at Town Hall are the first line of defense. When people need something from the government, they frequently start at the local level. We do our best to accommodate people and if we can't help them we can at least point them in the right direction. Part of this job is simply being kind and helpful; sometimes people just need someone to listen.

Who inspires you: My girlfriends. They are all amazing women and a very important part of my life.

Favorite movie/TV show: I don't watch much TV; I'd rather read a book.

How do you spend your spare time: Spending time with family and friends; reading, baking, yard work/gardening, cleaning, cooking - what spare time?

Favorite vacation spot: Siesta Key beach - Sarasota, Florida

Family: My husband John and I live in the family homestead and recently celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. Our son Ian and his girlfriend live in Buffalo; my other five Tenbus siblings and their families live all across America.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: My husband would say I'm a perpetual volunteer. At the present time I am Vice President of the Grover Hermann Hospital Auxiliary. I'm Vice President of the Orange Sullivan Municipal Clerks Association and have been President of the Sullivan County Tax Collectors Association since 2007.

Favorite quote: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi



Tess McBeath
Town of Delaware Clerk

A well-deserved recognition,
Congratulations, Tess!

-your friends at Land & Water Realty

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Congratulations Tess!

Thank you for your hard work which
certainly does not go unnoticed.

From, Scott, Al, Ian, Chris and Cindy

128281

Giana DeGeiso

BY DEREK KIRK

Age: 38

Education:

I studied musical theater my entire life!

Place of employment:

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Current title and duties:

Membership & Box Suite Manager

Years of experience:

2 years of membership/non-profit experience, 20 years of customer service experience

Why did you choose this career:

Seeing as Bethel Woods is one of the main job providers in the arts near me, it seemed like a no-brainer to go for it! I knew I wanted to work in the arts, learn new skills while building off acquired ones, and continue helping people. My past employment in theaters, banking, event planning and food service seemed to all blend well for the position I'm in at Bethel Woods.

Favorite part of your job:

My favorite part of this job is connecting with new people that have a shared interest in music and building community. Equally, I love the people I work with and couldn't imagine a better team to be part of.

Most challenging part of your job:

The most challenging part of my job is managing my customer base's perceptions about what goes into running a concert venue. There are so many intricate details—from booking acts to traffic management, concessions, and marketing—that people may not realize. It's a much bigger picture than what can be conveyed in a simple elevator pitch.

Favorite on-the-job moment,

customer or memory:

My favorite moment at Bethel Woods was actually the summer before I began working here. I attended a Phish concert with family and friends who are huge fans. Normally, Phish shows are packed, and crowded spaces can make me feel anxious. But at Bethel Woods, I was amazed at how spacious the grounds felt, even during a sold-out show. I could move around freely and find breathing room, thanks to the beautifully curated landscaping. It felt like the venue was designed with people like me in mind, giving me back a sense of comfort in busy spaces. I'm still so grateful for this special place.

How do you manage your time:

Time management is a delicate balance between what I genuinely have the mental capacity for and what I can convince myself I do. Some of my favorite tricks are:

- If a task takes less than 2 minutes, do it immediately. This keeps small tasks from piling up.
- For dreaded tasks, like cleaning the kitchen, set a 10-minute timer and see how much you can accomplish. Often, getting started is the hardest part.
- Make to-do lists with future-you in mind by adding extra details. For example, instead of just writing "Call the dentist," include the phone number. This small step saves time and makes it easier to jump right in.

These small strategies help keep me on track, even when my motivation is low.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field:

Non-profits need people who genuinely believe in the mission and are prepared to dive in wholeheartedly. For women entering any field, my advice is to recognize your worth and never hesitate to ask for it. This may sound straightforward, but it requires self-reflection to truly understand what you're willing to give and



Giana DeGeiso

where your boundaries lie. Once you define these for yourself, decisions become clearer, and you'll start attracting opportunities that align with the life you want to

build. Stand firm in honoring your boundaries, and always be willing to advocate for what you need and deserve.

Who inspires you:

Not to sound glib, but my cat. She's fierce, she knows what she wants, she takes the time to rest when she needs it, she gives love to those deserving of it, and knows when it's time to be silly and just play.

Favorite movie/TV show:

Well, that's the toughest question I've gotten thus far! A movie I can never get enough of, mainly for the intense nostalgia it brings, is the 1999 cult classic Drop Dead Gorgeous. While some parts may not have aged well, I love the dark humor in this comedy. I'm a big fan of laughter and often turn to movies and TV shows as a way to unwind—real life has more than enough drama and action already!

How do you spend your spare

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16W

BETHEL WOODS CENTER FOR THE ARTS



GIANA DEGEISO:

Membership Manager

We're so grateful you're part of the team. Bethel Woods would not be the same without your dedication to preserving the 1969 Woodstock site and providing access to the arts.

Congratulations to you and the other business professionals who make this region a great place to live.

Amanda Ward

BY CRYSTAL TWEED

Education:

JD from Hofstra School of Law

Place of Employment:

The Center For Discovery

Current title & duties:

Chief, The Division of People Operations and Educational Sustainability.

Why did you choose this career: I get inspiration and synergy from human interaction. Everybody has something amazing in them and I love helping people discover that. Being an advocate and seeing what doors that can open up for other people in the future.

Favorite part of your job:

Meeting people and finding out their passion. I like the challenge of figuring out a solution to a problem and solving it.

Most challenging part of your job:

I wish there were more hours in the day to connect with employees so I try to make the most of every opportunity to ensure they feel supported and valued.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory:

There have been so many. I have seen so many people fulfill their goals and dreams.. I have seen people apply for positions they thought they would never be eligible for. I've seen so much of that. I've been doing that for almost 18 years. The greatest joy is when people go through our internships and we hire them for full-time jobs. One young man that came through our internship is now one of our executives in finance. That is so awesome.

How do you manage your time:

It's called bending time, I don't



Amanda Ward

know if it's called managing your time. Agility helps me do that.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field:

Agility is everything. Human resources has evolved so much. You have to be collaborative and welcome divergent thinking, it's part of diversity. When people of different backgrounds and thinking come together beautiful things happen. That's the true gem.

Who inspires you: "The three Musketeers": Sonia, Roland and Gabriela.

Favorite movie/TV show:

Suits

How do you spend your spare time:

Writing poetry, participating in events with The Black Library, things like that. I love to travel and explore as well.

Favorite vacation spot: Jamaica,

Montego Bay. I love the food, the atmosphere, I love it all. But I dream of exploring Rome one day!

Family: Mom, Sonia Ward, my dad Roland "Gator" Ward, even though he's no longer with us, I can still feel him every day, my daughter Gabriela, my sister Jaclyn Helms and my Uncle Courtney who's like a father since my dad has passed away.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: County Legislator for district 8 which includes The Town of Fallsburg and parts of the Town of Thompson. Served as Fallsburg Town judge for 5 years, past president of Sullivan County NAACP, served as Library trustee for the Town of Fallsburg for 10 years, worked as professor at SUNY Sullivan for 10 years teaching law and works as a consultant for MPG consulting in New York City.

Favorite quote: My dad always said: "Amanda, if you plant corn you get corn!"



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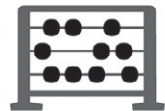
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Ashley Leavitt

Ashley Leavitt

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Age: 27

Education: Bachelor of Human Development, SUNY Empire State College

Place of Employment: Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce

Current Title and Duties: President/CEO

Years of Experience: 7

Why Did You Choose This Career: This career lets me bring my skills together in a way that fosters meaningful change and growth. Working with the Chamber allows me to help businesses thrive in Sullivan County, which directly impacts the well-being of the community.

Favorite Part of Your Job:

There's nothing more rewarding than helping local entrepreneurs grow and watching their hard work come to life. Being able to play a part in their success fuels my passion every day.

Most Challenging Part of Your Job:

Truthfully, it's managing the many responsibilities and tasks that come with it. There's always something to do, and finding the time to get everything done can be a tricky balancing act. Staying organized and prioritizing is key to navigating the constant demands of the role.

Favorite On-the-Job Moment, Customer or Memory: One of my favorite moments is when a



The SC Chamber Board of Directors is proud to recognize our CEO & President

Ashley Leavitt

She is an extraordinary leader and an inspiring Business and Professional Woman, at the helm of the Chamber. Her dedication, vision, and passion for empowering local businesses and fostering economic growth make her an invaluable asset to our community. Under her leadership, the Chamber continues to thrive, building strong connections and paving the way for a brighter future in Sullivan County. We are honored to have her guiding our mission to support businesses and strengthen our local economy.

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business owner shares their success story and expresses gratitude for the guidance and support we've provided. It's incredibly rewarding to see the direct impact of our work on their growth and success.

How Do You Manage Your Time: I'm a calendar queen! My schedule is color-coded and shared with my family, which ensures that everyone knows where I am and what I'm doing. Time management is key to balancing work and home life, and I've found that being organized is the best way to handle everything on my plate.

What Advice Do You Have for Someone Entering Your Field:

Be confident in yourself. It's important to believe that your dreams will always come true if you put in the hard work and determination. The journey may

be tough at times, but persistence is key, and success will follow.

Who Inspires You: My mother, who passed away when I was young from brain cancer, is my biggest inspiration. She was an incredibly strong and resilient woman, and though I don't share this part of my life often, her memory is always close to my heart. Her strength has shaped who I am today.

Favorite Movie/TV Show: I'm a crime junkie, and Criminal Minds is my favorite show. The suspense, the character development, and the problem-solving—it all keeps me hooked!

How Do You Spend Your Spare Time: Spare time? What's that? But when I do manage to carve out a little time, I love spending it at our archery store, All Things Accuracy. The bond we've formed with our shop family there is

incredible. It's a place that feels like home.

Favorite Vacation Spot: I absolutely love getting away to a quiet lakeside cabin. Being able to unplug, enjoy nature, and have quality family time is the best kind of vacation for me.

Family: I'm blessed with a wonderful family—my husband, Mike Leavitt, and our two amazing kiddos, Luca (3) and Maximus (1). They keep me on my toes but also fill my life with joy and love.

Civic or Volunteer Affiliations: I am proud to be affiliated with St. Jude's and Relay for Life, where I can contribute to causes that are close to my heart and help make a difference in the community.

Favorite Quote: "Believe you can, and you're halfway there." – Theodore Roosevelt.

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Cathy McFadden

BY ALEX KIELAR

Age: 56

Education: BS In Elementary Education, MSEd in Literacy SUNY Oneonta

Place of employment: Town of Bethel and Monticello Central School District.

Current title and duties:

Town of Bethel - Parks and Recreation Director (p/t): create and implement programs for youth and adults, organize holiday events and trips, operate the town pool and summer day camp.

Monticello CSD - AIS teacher in English Language Arts Grades K-2.

Years of experience:

42 years with the Town of Bethel. I began working for the Town of Bethel at 14 in the summer swim program. I served as a lifeguard, Water Safety Instructor and Aquatics Director. In the mid-1990's, I assisted Nora Manzolillo, who was the P&R Director at the time. In the 2000's I shared the director role and then in 2016, I became the sole director with the support of Town Supervisor Dan Sturm, Town Clerk Rita Sheehan

How do you spend your spare time:

I try to spend as much time as possible with my wonderful husband—even if we're just sitting together in silence, I'm happiest just being near him. I also dedicate my spare time to planning events for my business, Broadly Entertaining. Whether it's organizing a Women Mean Business event, a fundraiser for menstrual equity, or crafting a wedding ceremony to officiate, I love creating moments that celebrate women,

and the Town Board, as well as my core volunteers.

I have been a teacher for over 25 years.

Why did you choose this career: I love working with children. When I was young I loved playing teacher. I enjoy sharing my interests with others and learning new things. I like to be outside as much as possible.

Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of my job is seeing the joy that a child shows when the skill you are teaching them clicks. This summer, a young camper was struggling with going underwater without holding her nose. I worked with her for a few minutes and she was able to do it. She said, "You got me to do that in five minutes when I have been working all summer on it." I love when a child leaves a craft program or storytime smiling from ear to ear.

Most challenging part of your job:

In the summer, it is challenging to find the certified people required for our camp permit, such as lifeguards or safety instructors, aquatics directors and EMT. Another challenging part of my job is finding activities and programs for a diverse population. They also

love and a great time.

Favorite vacation spot:

I find myself enjoying cities less as I get older, but I still appreciate those that offer great food, rich history, and stunning architecture. Mexico City is the most recent place I visited that checked all those boxes.

Family:

I'm the youngest of three, raised in Reno, Nevada. I moved to San Francisco in my early 20s, then



Cathy McFadden

lack volunteers for our activities, including the holiday events.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: Getting hugs or drawings from the children.

How do you manage your time: I often put in long days. I try to make some time to connect with family and friends but depending on the season, that can be difficult. When my daughter was younger, I was involved in scouting and other organizations. I don't know how I used to balance it all. I do not have a very good work-life balance.

to New York City in my late 20s, where I met my husband and adopted my cat. In 2018, we bought property in the Catskills, and we've fallen in love with our small cabin in the mountains.

Civic or volunteer affiliations:

I'm passionate about helping women find community and opportunity. Through my business, we've hosted an annual fundraiser called Party, Period., raising funds and menstrual products for people in need in pris-

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Network with others to find people to lead programs, share what you love to do and polish up your customer service skills. Know some conflict resolution strategies. Have a love for children.

Who inspires you: My mom inspired me to be involved with my community. My daughter and the children I work with inspire me each day.

Favorite movie/TV show: During the holidays, I enjoy watching Hallmark Christmas movies. I also enjoy shows like Tracker, Elsbeth and mysteries. I am a Disney movie fan.

How do you spend your spare time: I like to explore our area, chasing waterfalls. I enjoy concerts at Bethel Woods and musicals at the Forestburgh Playhouse. I like to read (especially discovering new books to share with the children).

Favorite vacation spot: Chincoteague Island, Virginia

Family: One daughter, Lauren. Family dog, Finley.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: Cooke-Rutherford PTO, International Literacy Association.

Favorite quote: "A person's a person no matter how small." - Dr. Seuss

ons, shelters, and on the streets, partnering with organizations like Happy Period. I've also volunteered with food-based organizations, including God's Love We Deliver, where I packaged meals for those unable to cook, and #HashtagLunchBag, creating lunches with love notes for people in shelters.

Favorite quote: "Your lack of preparedness is not my emergency."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11W

Liane Danchak

Education: Trade School - Cosmetology. I owned a salon in White Lake for 28 years and gave it up for selling poly furniture.

Place of employment: L&L Outdoor Visions at 314 Grandview Avenue, Honesdale, PA 18431.

Current title and duties: Poly Furniture Store Owner.

Years of experience: 6 years

Why did you choose this career: I have owned this furniture and it has lasted me in new condition for 12 years. The Amish-made product has impeccable craftsmanship of perfection.

Favorite part of your job: Meeting new customers and educating them on the durability of this product, as well as giving them a 20-year warranty against any splitting, cracking, fading or rusting.

Most challenging part of your job: Being in sales, but it's all worth it when you seal the deal.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: When you sell a customer poly furniture and you receive pictures of their items at their setting.

How do you manage your time:

Keeping up with price changes, new products and keeping my showroom presentable and changing it around regularly.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Believe in the product.

Who inspires you: Of course Jack and Kay Danchak for their motivated work ethic. The lesson was "putting in the extra time, to see it pay off." They also showed me the path of giving back to the community.

Favorite movie/TV show: Yellowstone

How do you spend your spare time: Enjoying the time with my fiance and two Dobermans, family as well as entertaining friends.

Favorite vacation spot: Saint Thomas, Jamaica and the Finger Lakes in New York.

Family: Two brothers, fiancé and his son.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: Give to charities or help with them.

Favorite quote: "Lead with your heart".



Liane Danchak

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Amy Cavaliere

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Age: 42

Education:

- Associate's Degree; Herkimer County Community College: Human Services
- Bachelor's Degree; Pennsylvania State University: Psychology
- Master's Degree; Rutgers University: Social Work

Place of employment: New Hope Community, Inc. in Loch Sheldrake

Current title and duties: I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and am the Director of Behavioral Services. I oversee a team of professionals comprised of those with a background of social work and psychology (Bachelor's and Master's Levels). I also supervise two interns studying for their bachelor's and master's in social work. Our team provides behavioral support for people living at New Hope. We work with the homes and day program staff to offer the greatest support to promote independence through behavioral intervention. We work with the people of New Hope to manage their challenging

behaviors and mental health concerns so they can live their most successful lives.

Years of experience: I began working in the field of developmental disabilities in 2001 at Springbrook in Oneonta and worked with children and adolescents in a residential school. I spent the next 18 years working as a DSP and then Residential Manager and then moved to Sullivan County in 2019 when I became an LMSW. At that time, I worked at Garnet, as a psychiatric social worker, clinical manager, and Director of Operations for the Behavioral Health System. In April 2023, I came back to the field of developmental disabilities and started with New Hope Community and working with the population I love. I obtained my LCSW in June 2023.

Why did you choose this career: I began working in the field of developmental disabilities as a temporary job in 2001 and found something that I absolutely love. I found individuals that genuinely fill my heart and soul just by being themselves. Over time, my career path shifted to obtaining my license in social work. This career has literally given me the best of



Amy Cavaliere

both worlds and I get to do what I love every day.

Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of my job is helping to facilitate growth. Whether it is growth as a department and agency, growth in the professional careers of my team, or, most importantly the growth in the people who live at New Hope. I love watching and helping people de-

velop and enrich their lives and this career allows me to be a part of this growth.

Most challenging part of your job: Sometimes this field can be challenging, especially if things don't work out the way that you planned. It can be stressful and demanding, but it is never boring!

Favorite on-the-job moment,

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customer or memory: I don't know if I have a favorite because, in all honesty, I have so many. One of my most recent favorites is when I came to New Hope and got to see some of the people who I had worked with when they were children. One of them, I hadn't seen in almost 20 years, and he still knew who I was and was as excited to see me as I was him. We sat and chatted for quite some time, and it just simply warmed my heart to know that I was exactly where I needed to be in my life and in my career!

How do you manage your time: It's genuinely all about finding balance and engaging in good self-care. I pride myself on organization and scheduling time for me is part of managing my time. Finding balance in my work and home life is key to both my success and happiness.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: This can be a challenging field

to work in, but also can bring the best experiences and you will meet the most amazing people. You are going to have great days and not-so-great days but how you approach each day is so important. Remember it takes time to learn a new career or job and give yourself a bit of grace, because we learn and grow from both failures and successes...keep moving forward.

Who inspires you: I can't say that I have drawn inspiration from one particular person, but rather a collective number of individuals that I have met throughout my life. I believe that every person comes into our lives for a reason – and this can be to inspire you or to challenge you – and I draw inspiration in who I am from each one of them. I have many former and current supervisors/coworkers, professors/teachers, people I have worked with, and friends/acquaintances that have all inspired me within my career. However, I am most inspired by my family.

Favorite movie/TV show: I watch a variety of shows – I could spend hours watching anything crime related (drama and documentaries) but also change the channel to Friends or Gilmore Girls. I don't have a particular favorite.

How do you spend your spare time: In addition to my career at New Hope Community, I teach color guard (spinning flags, rifles and sabers) to high school students with the Marching Band in Mahwah High School, NJ. This activity is year-round as we compete in the fall (marching band) and I teach the winter guard (indoor performances). When I am not teaching or working, I am spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy exploring this area, trying out all the new restaurants moving to a new area brings, going to concerts, and, mostly, spending time with my husband and fur babies.

Favorite vacation spot: The Dominican Republic (Punta

Cana), my husband and I have traveled there several times and I love the country, the people, and the weather!

Family: I live with my husband and my five fur babies (one dog, four cats) and we moved to this area in 2019. My mother-in-law lives with us part-time, and my parents live in Oneonta area, but visit often. I have a brother and sister-in-law near Oneonta along with several extended family members who I visit often.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: In the last five years, I have still been getting to know this area and settle in, but plan to become more involved in volunteer opportunities within Sullivan County.

Favorite quote: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson



CONGRATULATIONS!
Amy Cavaliere, LCSW

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