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Greater Central New York Assoc of Health Underwriters Elects New Officers

(Syracuse, NY) -- The Greater Central New York Association of Health Underwriters (GCAHU), an organization of health insurance agents, and other health insurance professionals, installed its 2007-2008 Executive Board at its monthly meeting in Oneida, NY.

Andrew Biernat of New Hartford was installed as President of the Greater Central New York Association of Health Underwriters. Andrew is the Vice President of the Meridian Group of New York, Inc. He and Ross Kraft, who is President of Meridian Group, formed the local NAHU Chapter in 2005 and Ross had served as the chapter President since its inception. Mr. Kraft was recently elected to the State Board as President-Elect and Mr. Biernat was selected to become treasurer on the State Board. Their leadership has brought great recognition to the CNY chapter and their influence will be greatly appreciated at the State level. Renee Guariglia of Clay was selected to be President Elect for the next term. She is the Executive VP of Falcone Associates, Inc. and served since 2005 as the Chapter Secretary. The GCNYAHU members owe a lot to the founding members and to the original officers of the board. With their efforts, the Chapter has grown tremendously over the last two years. It started out with just 20 members and has quadrupled to over 80 which has brought the Chapter an award for the fastest growing small Chapter in the nation for 2007 at the National Convention held in June 2007 in Denver, CO.

The incoming President Andrew Biernat states, "as professionals we take our responsibility to health care consumers very seriously." Because of these concerns, the Greater Central New York Assoc of National Underwritings is looking to create another chapter to the west of Syracuse in the Western Region. Andrew continues, "at a time when the New York State working uninsured need more affordable health care solutions we have become more engaged in the system at all levels (local, state and federal) to help create an atmosphere for positive change for all health care consumers." The local Chapter has the experience to bring serious credibility to issues. Together, the newly elected board has 200 years of experience in the industry. "Our focus in 2007 and beyond will be to build on our position as a leading voice for free-market health insurance and benefit products," adds Andrew. He also states, "With the advent of consumer directed health care plans, taxed advantaged programs (HSA's/HRA's/FSA's), Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits for Medicare eligible individuals and recent mandate light legislation in many states, a lot has been accomplished thus far, in a very short period, however we have a long way to go before affordable and accessible health care solutions are available to all New Yorkers and Americans".

The local chapter is also very serious about their fundraising. Each year a charity is designated as the recipient of their fundraising. The current recipient of the GCNYAHU's efforts is the University Hospital 7H Playroom Fund which benefits the pediatric oncology patients of University Hospital. To date, the chapter has donated over \$2,300 to bring smiles and laughs to the faces of the children at University Hospital. The board is proud to be just a small part of the 7H Playroom.

The new officers are as follows:

- Andrew Biernat, President, New Hartford, NY
- Renee Guariglia, President Elect, Clay, NY
- Ross Kraft, Immediate Past President, New Hartford, NY
- Jack Rockwell, Treasurer, Waterville, NY
- Kristen Mohat, Secretary, Liverpool, NY
- Chad Bommer, Federal & State Legislative Chair, Holland Patent, NY
- Everett Thompson, Media Relations/Fund Raising Chair, Newport, NY
- Frank Roth, Programs Co-Chair, Camillus, NY
- Chris Marshall, Programs Co-Chair, Syracuse, NY
- Michele Luke, Education Chair, Ilion, NY
- Jeanette Jones, Awards Chair, Liverpool, NY
- Rock Schneider, Membership Chair, Whitesboro, NY
- Dominick Pisegna, Membership & Retention Officer, Onondaga, NY
- Mark Griffith, Membership & Retention Officer, New York Mills, NY

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