



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Barbara Blanchard – Executive Director

Barbara was one of the founding members of MEGA representing Tompkins County. Her current position as Executive Director of the Alliance is the culmination of a career as a professional planner focused on inter-municipal cooperation and partnership associations that bring together government and the private sector. She served on the City of Ithaca Common Council for 4 years and on the Tompkins County Legislature for 12 years. She is a graduate of Cornell University with an MRP in Regional Planning and received the American Planning Association 2001 Distinguished Leadership Award for Elected Officials.

Ronald Feldstein –President

Ron served as Treasurer of the MEGA Board for several years before being elected Vice-President in 2007; president in 2008. He has a long history with the State University system as a graduate of SUNY Brockport with an MA from SUNY Albany. For 32 years he worked as an Administrator at SUNY Oneonta. Ron was a 5-term member of the Otsego County Legislator from 1998-2007 and was Vice-chair from 2005-07. He has also chaired the Otsego County Empire Zone Board. He has been a member of the Unatego Central School Board and the Catskill Symphony Board of Directors and he is past-president of the Oneonta Kiwanis Club. He is currently Associate Broker, Prudential Fox Real Estate Oneonta and Cooperstown.

Mary Pat Hancock – Vice-President

Mary Pat has served Genesee County as Chair of the Legislature since 2001. She is Vice-President of the Rochester Regional Transportation Board and represents Genesee County on the Board of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, the Workforce/Economic Development Governing Board, and the Board of the NYS Association of Counties. A graduate of SUNY Brockport, the University of Buffalo and Northwestern University, she had a distinguished career in education as a Counselor at Batavia Senior High School and continues to be active in organizations focused on pre-school and early intervention .

Michael Stamm – Secretary

Michael is President of Tompkins County Area Development, the organization responsible for management of the County's Industrial Development Agency plus conception and implementation of many local economic development initiatives. He is a graduate of Syracuse University and holds an MA in Economics from the University of Buffalo. He serves on the County Workforce Investment Board, the NYS Economic Development Council, Cornell's Center for Technology, Enterprise & Commercialization, the Council of Development Finance Agencies and the International Economic Development Council.

Stuart Stein – Treasurer and Director of Special Projects

Stuart is one of the founding members of MEGA helping launch the organization when he served as the Chairman of the Tompkins County Legislature in the 1990's and serving as MEGA Executive Director until 2006. He graduated from MIT with degrees in both city planning and architecture.. He practiced city planning for many years, and was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2000. Currently he is a Professor Emeritus in City and Regional Planning at Cornell University where he taught for more than 30 years. As Director of Special Projects, he oversees MEGA's energy conservation and renewable energy resource initiatives.

Douglas W. Barton

Doug was raised in Tioga County and has been the Director of the Department of Economic Development & Planning for Tioga County since 2003. After obtaining his B.A. from Mansfield University, he spent ten years in the Material Handling industry. Doug became Tioga County's Director of Real Property in 1995 where he served until moving to the position of Economic Development & Planning. He serves on a number of local boards, is President of the Tioga County Local Development Corporation and Chairman of the Tioga County Empire Zone Administrative Board.

Daryl Slusser

Daryl's background includes operations research and computer systems design and security in the private sector. After a successful career with Hershey Foods, Corning Glass and Metpath-Quest Diagnostics, he served for four years on the Schuyler County Legislature and 6 years on the Schuyler County Industrial Development Agency Board. Daryl's educational background is broad with degrees from Manchester College in math and Penn State in operations research; he is also a Certified Financial Planner. He is an active member of the Watkins-Montour Lions Club; wife Dayle is a teacher in the Watkins Glen School System

John Smigelski

John is Principal and Co founder of EarthKind Energy Inc. a company focused on bringing solar thermal renewable energy products to New York State. Previous experience includes wind energy marketing and development with Community Energy and a long career with NYSEG's co generation, demand response and energy efficiency programs. John has served on advisory boards for the Electric Power Research Institute and the Association of Mechanical Engineers. He is the chair of the Broome Resource Recovery Agency and has recently been appointed to the Energy Advisory Board. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and has an MBA from NYU.

Steve L. Hoover

Steve has been a practicing Certified Public Accountant in New York State since 1986 and is Chemung County's Director of Finance, a position he has held since 1991, and is Vice President of the Chemung County Tobacco Securitization Corporation. He is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia with an MS in Community Service Administration from Alfred University. In addition to his County responsibilities, Steve is Treasurer of the Southern Tier Library System and Treasurer of the Southern Tier Figure Skating Club. He is also a Youth Soccer Coach in the Chemung Valley Soccer Association.

Gregory P. Heffner

Greg has served as Planning Director in Steuben County since 1985 and as Deputy County Administrator since 1989. Before coming to Steuben County, he was a planner in Blacksburg, Virginia. He holds degrees from Penn State and Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Greg's avocation is fly fishing and fly tying. He has written numerous magazine articles and has published a how-to book on tying his favorite fly patterns. He is a demonstration fly tyer at numerous shows throughout the east, and is a licensed New York fishing guide.

David Allen

David has served as Livingston County Central Services Supervisor since 1993, and is responsible for maintenance, engineering, and utilities operations for all county facilities. He is a member of the Workplace Violence Prevention Committee and advises all county departments on State Building Code and safety requirements. After receiving his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from The College of New Jersey, he held management positions in the maintenance and engineering departments with divisions of United States Steel Corporation and Unilever. He resides in the Village of Lima with his wife Catharine who is the Director of the Town of Lima Public Library.