

NIAGARA ERIE REGIONAL COALITION

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Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster
Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Members:

James Allen
Hon. Vince Anello
Dr. Ruth Bereson
Colleen DiPirro
Tim Doolittle
Hon. Wright Ellis
Matthew Enstice
Andrew Eszak
Samuel Ferraro
Hon. Joel Giambra
Robert Gower
Hon. Timothy Kennedy
Hon. Kathy Konst
David Lacki
Celeste Lawson
Gregory Lewis
Hon. Cynthia Locklear
Hon. Peter McMahon
Hon. John Mills
Hal Morse
Hon. Jason Murgia
Jo Nasoff-Finton
Hon. Sean O'Connor
John Percy
Dr. Gary Praetzel
David Roll
Hon. William Ross
Laura St. Pierre Smith
Christopher Schoepflin
Hector Titus
Timothy Wanamaker
Peter Wendel

Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale
Melinda Rath Sanderson
Lawrence Witul

Executive Director:

Tod A. Kniazuk

AREA OFFICIALS LAUNCH NIAGARA ERIE REGIONAL COALITION

Focus on economic development, tourism, transportation

Officials from the area's public, private, and non-profit communities today launched the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition to pursue collaborative projects and policy in the fields of economic development, government affairs, tourism and culture, and transportation.

Co-Chaired by Niagara County Legislature Chairman Clyde Burmaster and Erie County Legislator Barry Weinstein, MD, the Regional Coalition is already working on major initiatives such as an economic impact analysis of the two counties' cultural organizations, a regional economic development strategy, outreach to local governments to better include them in the economic development process, and a project to make assistance information more accessible for small businesses.

Also in leadership positions are the Coalition's four subcommittee chairs: economic development, Hector Titus of the Niagara County Building Trades; government affairs, Grand Island Supervisor and Erie County Association of Local Governments representative Peter McMahon; tourism & culture, Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau Director of Tourism David Lacki; transportation, Peter Wendel, president of The Peter Wendel Group.

The Regional Coalition is supported through a commitment of time and financial contribution of its member agencies. "It's important for people and organizations who want to think and act regionally to have a forum for pursuing their initiatives that's independent of any partisanship or parochialism," Co-Chair Weinstein said.

"Membership is open to progressive thinkers and doers who want to be leaders in collaborative action," added Co-Chair Burmaster.

“We’re not a group that just sits around and talks about what’s wrong; we act on how to make things better.”

The group is a successor to the Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership (ENRP), an ad hoc subcommittee of the two counties’ legislatures formed in 1998.

Following are the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition’s member organizations:

Amherst Chamber of Commerce
Amherst Industrial Development Agency
Arts Council in Buffalo & Erie County
Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau
Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Canisius College Women’s Business Center (ad hoc)
City of Buffalo
City of Niagara Falls
Empire State Development
Erie County
Erie County Association of Local Governments
Erie County Industrial Development Agency
Erie County Legislature
Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
National Electrical Contractors Association
Niagara County
Niagara County Building Trades
Niagara County Center for Economic Development
Niagara County Legislature
Niagara County Supervisors Association
Niagara Frontier Transportation Agency
Niagara Tourism & Convention Corporation
Niagara University College of Hospitality & Tourism Management
The Peter Wendel Group
University at Buffalo Arts Management Program
USA Niagara Development Corporation