

Rome Memorial Hospital

Welcomes Three New Board Members

June 2004

ROME – Rome Memorial Hospital's Board of Trustees gained the skills of a businessman, a college dean and two physicians with the appointment of four new board members.

The new members, Christopher P. Destito, Samuel Smith, Chester L. Patrick Jr., M.D., and Richard P. Kaskiw, M.D., received a comprehensive board orientation May 17, which explained their role as board members and provided an overview of the hospital's operations.

The four fill two newly added board seats and two seats left vacant by long-time board member Michael Hayduk and the resignation of Alan J. Trombley.

"In seeking new members, we looked for people in our community who possess the skills to carry out the board's oversight responsibilities," said Board Chairman Craig A. McCaa. The hospital's 11-member Board of Trustees oversees quality of care, policy development and strategic planning.

Serving on the board, in addition to McCaa and the new members, are Vice Chairman Dennis Schonewetter, Treasurer Charles R. Getty, Secretary Lynn G. Reese, Gerald T. McDonald, W. Robert Herrmann and Donald Jackson, M.D.

"Our new board members bring with them valuable skills acquired in their professional lives," McCaa said. "We're pleased that they have accepted the responsibility to help guide the hospital and advance its forward progress for the benefit of the community."

A third generation restaurateur, Destito is manager of the Inn at the Beeches and Savoy Restaurant. While attending Mohawk Valley Community College in 1976, his father asked him to manage the family motel. He has been involved with the family businesses ever since.

Destito is very active in the community serving as commissioner of the Mohawk Valley Heritage Commission, chairman of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, vice chairman of the Mohawk Valley EDGE Board of Directors, and chairman of the Honor America Days celebration.

Smith is the dean of Mohawk Valley Community College, Rome Campus. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Nebraska, Omaha, master's degree in business management from Central Michigan University, and a certificate of advanced studies degree from the State University at Cortland. He is pursuing his doctorate at Nova Southeastern University.

Smith is a retired lieutenant colonel with 31 years of military service. Twelve years were spent in enlisted service and 19 years as an officer. He was selected Squadron Commander four times in his career with the last time being Commander of Mission Support Squadron/Director of Personnel, Griffiss Air Force Base. After retiring from military service, he served as a department head and assistant dean at Herkimer County Community College and an adjunct professor at Utica College.

Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, Dr. Patrick has been a member of Rome Memorial Hospital's medical staff since 1983. He earned his medical degree from Louisiana State

University School of Medicine, New Orleans, in 1977, and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Louisiana State University Medical Center, New Orleans, in 1981.

Certified by the American Board of Family Practice, Dr. Kaskiw has been a member of Rome Memorial Hospital's medical staff since 1991. He earned his medical degree from the University Autonoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, in 1987, and completed his residency in family practice at St. Elizabeth Hospital in 1991. He earned certification in addiction medicine from the American Society of Addiction Medicine in 1999.