



189 WHEATLEY ROAD, BROOKVILLE, NEW YORK 11545

**ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2024- 6:00 PM
MINUTES**

I. Call to order:

President Sandra Gumerove called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held in a hybrid format. She welcomed all attendees.

II. Approval of minutes:

On a motion made by Paul Giordano and seconded by Harrietta Traversa, the minutes of the November 18, 2024, annual meeting were accepted as submitted and unanimously approved.

III. Report by President- Sandra Gumerove

The Board President, Sandra Gumerove, made Special Presentations.

Heart of the Community Awards to:

- Noah Probert- DEI Liaison
- Lordlyn Lewis- DSP at Waverly IRA
- Althea Mowatt- Assistant Manager Old Westbury Residence

Outstanding Volunteer Award

- Brian Quinn

Youth Leadership Award

- Emma Kurian

Corporate Leadership Award

- Purolator

IV. Remarks by Chief Executive Officer - Stanford J. Perry

Workforce Growth

- Net gain of 78 residential DSP hires in 2024 year-to-date
- Net gain of 57 DSPs over the past 13 months
- Strong progress in recruitment and retention

Advocacy Efforts

- Received a 2.4% COLA, but more funding is needed
- Requesting: 7.8% Medicaid rate increase to stabilize nonprofit provider agencies
- Creation of a Wage Commission to establish fair compensation for human service workers
- Public encouraged to send letters of support via ahrc.org → click the "Advocacy" button

Wheatley Farms & Art Center

- Continued growth and expansion of therapeutic programs
- Engagement with local and state officials for support
- Increased volunteer participation from youth, companies, and adults

- Catering contract awarded by Nassau Community College, creating employment for culinary program participants

Staff Recognition & Appreciation

- Milestone awards celebrated for employees with 20–45 years of service
- DSP Recognition Week in September with program visits and thank-you events
- Staff Appreciation Day in August with 1,000+ attendees enjoying food, music, and games
- Community contributions helped make the event a success

Workforce Support & Benefits

- No increase in health insurance costs for several years
- Matching retirement plan, generous time off, bonuses, and raises provided
- Additional funding distributed as received from state organizations

Leadership Engagement

- Meetings with Department of Health and OPWDD officials to discuss wage equity for DSPs and RNs
- Acting Commissioner Willow Bear to visit AHRC Nassau next month
- Open invitation to meet with the Commissioner (contact Sian to attend)

Gratitude & Acknowledgment

- Thanks to board members, staff, families, volunteers, and self-advocates
- Recognition of self-advocates' tenacity and leadership in pushing for government support.

V. Election:

Rose-Angela Marazita read the nominated Slate of Officers and Directors for 2025:

OFFICERS – (One Year 1/1/25 – 12/31/25)

President	Saundra M. Gumerove, Esq.
First Vice President	Paul Giordano
Vice President	Jack Garofalo
Vice President	William Mills
Financial Secretary	Thomas Moore
Secretary	Rose-Angela Marazita
Assistant Secretary	Dawn Tortora- Morici
Treasurer	Brandon Semilof

DIRECTORS - (Two Years - 1/1/25 - 12/31/26)

Rita AbiZeid	Martin Boorstein
Josephine Connelly	Patricia Desiderio
Eric Segal	Thomas P. Rosicki Esq.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Three Years – 1/1/25 – 12/31/27)

Josephine Connelly	Patricia Desiderio
Rose-Angela Marazita	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (One Year – 1/1/25 – 12/31/25)

Past Presidents: Paul Giordano, Thomas Moore, Thomas P. Rosicki Esq., Jack Garofalo

On a motion by Tom Moore and seconded by Harrietta Traversa, the Slate of Officers and Directors for 2025 was unanimously approved.

VI. Adjournment:

There being no further business, on a motion made by Saundra Gumerove, seconded by Jack Garofalo and unanimously approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.