

NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL, INC.



empowering new yorkers with disabilities

News Briefs, Spring 2018



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TROY, NY – April 26, 2018

More than 170 guests celebrated the induction of eight colleagues, friends, loved ones, and peers into the inaugural 2018 class of the New York State Disability Rights Hall of Fame at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn.

Marilyn Saviola, Clifton Perez, and Douglas Usiak were recognized for their life-long achievements, along with Anna Fay, Patricio (Pat) Figueroa, Jr., Constance Laymon, Terence J. Moakley, and Michael Peluso, who were honored posthumously.

Biographies for each inductee can be reviewed at <https://www.nysilc.org/inductees-2018>.

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Brad Williams (far left), Executive Director of NYSILC, presents the gold laurel leaf recognition award to 2018 NYS Disability Rights Hall of Fame inductee Douglas J. Usiak (second from right), one of the eight inductees. Accepting with Doug is his wife Becky (far right). Diana Bennett, District Office Manager for Congressman Paul Tonko (middle left), presents a certificate on behalf of the Representative. She is flanked by Liz Benjamin (center), emcee of the ceremony.

Pre-event activities included a silent auction as well as 50/50 and gift basket raffles, along with a cocktail hour with passed hors d'oeuvres.

Diana Bennett delivered a message on behalf of Congressman

Ann L. Scherff
Lynn Drucker

Youth Representative
Marc Rosen

**Other Appropriate
Individuals**
Zach Garafalo
Henry Nixon
Edith Prentiss
Robert Meek, Esq.

Native American Representative
Robin E. Jones

Business
Roger Benn

Staff
Executive Director:
Brad Williams
Program Coordinator:
Amy Wink
Administrative Assistant:
Jonathan Serrano

Tonko. Liz Benjamin, host of Capital Tonight, opened the evening with comments, then commenced the induction ceremony for the eight individuals. The inductees, and those accepting on their behalf, gave a wide range of comments in response to the honor and recognition. They were passionate, reflective, appreciative, and, at times, almost speechless with emotion.

Special thanks to all the sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, and contributors assisting with the silent auction and gift baskets. And a big thank you to the Association Development Group (ADG), the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) and Nicholas Sinagra for their help and support with the event.

The call for nominations for the 2019 NYS Disability Rights Hall of Fame inductees will be out in October. TROY, NY – April 26, 2018

Reports:

The 2017 SPIL Evaluation Report is located at https://www.nysilc.org/images/2017_SPIL_Evaluation_Report_.pdf.

Save the Date!

NYS Assembly Disability Awareness Day will be **Wednesday, May 30th** at the Legislative Office Building (LOB), Albany, NY.

The next NYSILC Full Council Meeting will be on **Friday, June 15th** in the Sage Ballroom of the Troy Hilton Garden Inn.

Upcoming events/activities

The NYSILC **Needs Assessment Committee (NAC)** is in the process of drafting the next 3-year statewide needs assessment. It will soon be **distributing surveys** seeking responses from **consumers and centers**. We greatly appreciate your participation and assistance in re-distributing the collective response. Please look for these surveys soon.

The NYSILC **Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Committee** is in the process of planning for the next **3-year SPIL formulation for 2020-2022**. We will be announcing the statewide public hearing schedule, which will take place starting in late July through August. It will include other methods to provide input on the state plan. Look for the distribution, posting, and announcement of this information soon.

Interested in a Pat Figueroa Scholarship for youth/young adults with disabilities in New York?

· Visit the following webpage for details:
<https://www.nysilc.org/programs/pat-figueroa-program>.

Interesting in finding out more about the Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Program?

· Visit the LDCEP website: www.ldcep.org.
· Become a member: <http://www.ldcep.org/register.php>.



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