



DUTCHESS TOURISM

HUDSON VALLEY REGION NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Melaine Rottkamp
845-463-5432
MRottkamp@DutchessTourism.com

DUTCHESS TOURISM ELECTS BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY– Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI) announced the slate of board members who were elected to three-year terms at the board’s annual meeting on January 21, 2021. Members are as follows: Kevin Allan from The Culinary Institute of America, Sonja Kostich from Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, Lara Litchfield-Kimber from Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum, and Edward Roy from The CineHub and J6 MediaWorks. Judy D’Alessandro from the HYATT House Fishkill was elected to serve an additional one-year term to fulfill the duties of the past chair. Amy Bracewell from the National Park Service has joined as a liaison to the board.

The board also elected officers at the meeting for fiscal year 2021. David Bova from Millbrook Vineyards & Winery will serve as board chair, while D’Alessandro will serve as past chair. Allan will serve as first vice chair and Colleen Cruikshank from Northern Dutchess Hospital will serve as second vice chair. Additionally, Debra Pemstein of Bard College will serve as secretary and Brandon Walker of Essie’s Restaurant will be treasurer.

“The Dutchess Tourism, Inc. Board of Directors is delighted to support our professional DTI staff, headed by President & CEO Melaine Rottkamp, as all of Dutchess County starts on a path to recovery,” said Bova. “The tourism industry has played an enormous role in the financial success of Dutchess County and the Board will be focused on helping our local tourism-related businesses rebound in these unprecedented times.”

“No industry has been hit harder by the COVID-19 pandemic than hospitality and tourism,” said Rottkamp. “We have a strong team in place though to support our businesses, inspire future travel, and meet pent-up demand for safe experiences that will drive our county’s economic resurgence. We remain grateful to have the support of our Board as well as that of County Executive Molinaro, the Dutchess County Legislature and the Dutchess County IDA as we work in tandem with other members of the Think Dutchess Alliance for Business in ‘Restarting Dutchess.’”

In 2019, visitors injected \$674.2 million into Dutchess County’s economy. Each household in Dutchess County would need to be taxed an additional \$774 to replace the visitor taxes received by state and local governments in 2019. Tourism also supports the livelihoods of county residents in the form of 10,836 jobs with a combined income of \$378.1 million dollars that then get spent on things like homes, groceries, and other goods and services.

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About Dutchess Tourism

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. is the officially designated destination marketing organization for Dutchess County and is accredited by the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) of Destinations International. It is an independent 501c6 non-profit organization that works to bring tourism dollars to area businesses by marketing and promoting the assets of Dutchess County to the nation and the world. The office is located at 3 Neptune Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie with 17 Tourist Information Centers located around Dutchess County. The website is www.DutchessTourism.com and they can be reached at 845-463-4000. Dutchess Tourism, Inc. is partially funded by monies received from the County of Dutchess.

3 NEPTUNE ROAD, SUITE A11A, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601-5500
845/463-4000 • 800/445-3131 • www.dutchesstourism.com

The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by monies received from the County of Dutchess.