



NEW PALTZ REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce President Joyce Minard Announces Retirement

(*New Paltz, NY*) Joyce Minard, president of the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce, today officially announced her decision to retire, effective December 31, 2011. Minard's retirement is the culmination of more than 30 years of fiercely dedicated service to the greater Hudson Valley.

"I love this community with all my heart, and it has been my pleasure to give everything I have to make it a better place to live, work, play, worship and do business," Minard said. "Now that I have announced my retirement, the search for a new president can begin. I have agreed to stay on as Director of Special Projects, under the leadership of the Board and the newly appointed Chamber President. The Board of Directors has my full support during the search and transition period. We are all committed to the preservation of the Chamber's vision and service to its members."

"Joyce has always loved what she does. Each member of the Chamber is like family to her so it's important to have a seamless transition in leadership," said Chris Drouin, chair of the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, adding, "This is a very challenging time in the economic history of the region and the state, and strong leadership of the New Paltz Regional Chamber is critical."

Joyce Minard moved to the Hudson Valley at age three, from Oyster Bay, Long Island. After graduating from Albany Business College, Minard returned to New Paltz and began a position at SUNY New Paltz in the Media Services Department, a position she held until the birth of her first son, William. At that time, she took a part-time job with Ulster County Farm Bureau and, after six years as manager, began legislative and public tours and farm visits so that, when confronted with farm legislation, public officials would know better how to deal with farmers' concerns.

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In 1979, Joyce joined the staff of the New Paltz Chamber of Commerce as office manager and developed educational programs, monthly events, a newsletter and a membership guide. In 1993, Joyce moved on to Ulster County BOCES, where she developed NYS Education Department-commended curriculum for labor unions. After leaving BOCES, she developed a Business Mentoring Program for Dutchess and Ulster Counties, funded by a NYS Empire Development Agency grant. Finally, in 1998, Joyce returned to the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce as President and has held that position ever since. The modern Chamber represents over 600 members, employs team of four, hosts scores of events each year, offers education programs, runs a busy visitor's room, and much more.

The New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce is an active and trusted voice in the regional business and residential community, advancing the business, industrial, agricultural and civic interests of the Hudson Valley Region. Programs and services of the Chamber are made possible, in part, by the support of its Corporate Partners for 2011: **Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.** (Leading Partner); **Brinckerhoff and Neuville Insurance Group** (Associate Partner); **HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley, Health Quest, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, KIC Chemicals, The Law Offices of James Yastion, PLLC, M & T Bank, Ulster Savings, M&T Bank** and **Vanacore, DeBenedictus, DiGovanni and Weddell LLP, CPAs** (Supporting Partners).

Members and visitors are welcome at the Chamber's Visitor Center, located at 257 Main Street in New Paltz. For more information about Chamber programs and Visitor's Center hours of operation, visit www.newpaltzchamber.org or call the Chamber at (845) 255-0243.

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