

PATTERN'S PROGRESS

MARCH 2012

More than 300 attend President's Day Breakfast

Annual Pattern for Progress event features discussion among three county leaders



From left to right: Pattern President Jonathan Drapkin, Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro, Orange County Executive Edward Diana, Ulster County Executive Michael Hein and Poughkeepsie Journal editor John Penney during the panel discussion. Photo courtesy of Times Herald-Record.

POUGHKEEPSIE— Roughly 330 people attended Pattern's annual President's Day Breakfast, where a panel of three county executives shared ideas to spark economic development and save taxpayer money.

The roundtable discussion featured Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro, Orange County Executive Edward Diana and Ulster County Executive Michael Hein. It was moderated by Pattern President Jonathan Drapkin and Poughkeepsie Journal editor John Penney.

The three executives discussed a wide range of topics that included economic development, the burden of state mandates, the fate of county-run nursing homes, and the potential for shared services within and among their counties.

All three leaders agreed that money could be saved by consolidating some services, such as assessing and purchasing, to the county level. But they also pinpointed opportunities to share across county borders. The executives said tourism promotion, mental health services and jail space are among the services they might share in some capacity.

The leaders also found common ground on state mandates. All three called on the State of New York to assume the full cost of Medicaid. Of the few states that force local governments to pay a share of Medicaid, municipalities in New York pay roughly seven times more than any other, the executives said.

In his opening remarks, Pattern board Chairman John Rath urged the leaders to push these issues beyond discussion. "It is unsatisfactory to simply talk," Rath said. "We need to act."

The breakfast was held Feb. 21 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Pattern is planning a similar breakfast discussion among the leaders of Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties in the spring, and an individual event in Sullivan County. Pattern established these smaller discussions to give county leaders more time to speak about key issues and topics.

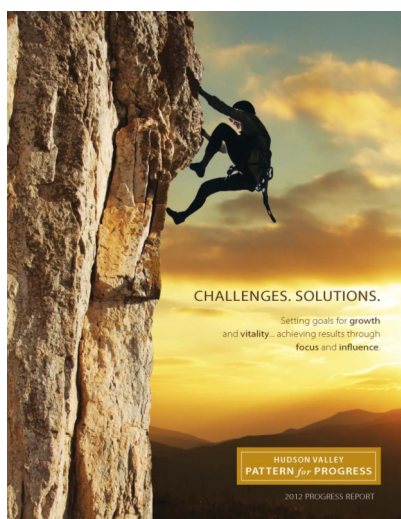
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Also sponsored by Central Hudson, a founding member of Pattern for Progress.

To ask about sponsoring a future Pattern for Progress event, call us at (845) 565-4900.

Pattern releases "2012 Progress Report"



Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress has released its "2012 Progress Report," which details five years of accomplishments for Pattern and sets new goals for our organization's future.

The full-color report includes examples of our work to rally the region around key issues such as housing and land use, infrastructure and transportation, and efforts to create leaner governments through shared services. It also sets new goals in the areas of food policy, K-12 education and tracking demographic changes that are shaping the Hudson Valley. The report also features remarks from regional leaders whose work has been enriched by Pattern.

The report was made possible by a grant from NYSEG, and it was designed by FisherMears Associates.

To read the report on Pattern's website, [click this link](#).

Congratulations to these Pattern for Progress board members:

- **Carl Meyer** was recently appointed to several positions, including: chairman of the Board of Trustees for Vassar Brothers Medical Center, member of the Health Quest board, and member of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation board.
- **Barry Rothfeld** will be honored March 10 by the Jewish Community Center of Dutchess County for his community service.
- **Kevin Dahill** was appointed to the master's of business administration advisory board for Long Island University Hudson.
- **Ray Watroba Jr.** was appointed as senior location executive for IBM Poughkeepsie.



For more Pattern updates, including additional photos from our President's Day Breakfast, follow us on Facebook by [clicking here](#).