

# LEADERSHIP

## TECH VALLEY

a shared initiative of the **Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber**  
& **The Chamber of Schenectady County**

### *Working Through the Business of Politics*

#### AGENDA

#### Friday, April 16, 2010

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**Location:**

**Legislative Office Building, Room 711-A**  
13 Empire State Plaza # 12  
Albany, NY, 12248-0001

**Attire:** Business – (wear comfortable, conservative shoes for walking tour)

**Program Objectives:**

1. Understanding the “State of the State”
2. Gain insight into how politics “works” at the local, state and federal levels, in order to bring about change.
3. Understand lobbying, why it is important, when it should be done and how to go about doing it.

**Skills:** Ethics, Accountability

**8:00 am Continental Breakfast:**

**8:15 am Welcome & Introductions**  
George Alston  
109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, NYANG

Nikki Caruso  
Colonie Youth Center

Dale Getto  
North Albany Academy

Nick Ihnatolya  
Sneering Monahan Provost Redgrave

Melissa Ferraro  
Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation

Cheryl Yager  
Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation

**8:30 am Teambuilding Activity**  
Sarah Bilofsky  
Ilana Smith  
Aimee Warfield  
Jen Robbins

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- 9:00 am**      **A Discussion on the “State of the State” with....**
- Alan Chartock**  
*President & CEO*  
*WAMC/Northeast Public Radio*
- 10:30 am**      **Break**
- 10:45 am**      **Armchair Discussion with the Mayors: Brining about positive change in difficult economic times; how our communities are changing.**
- Facilitator:**  
**Dale Getto**  
*Principal*  
*North Albany Academy*
- Mayor Jerry Jennings**                      **Mayor Brian Stratton**  
*City of Albany*                                      *City of Schenectady*
- 12:00 pm**      **Lunch**
- Mike Keegan, CL’99**  
*President, Hudson Valley Division*  
*M&T Bank*
- 12:45 pm**      **Travel to the Capitol Building for Tour**
- 1:00 pm**      **Tour of the State Capitol**
- Jack McEneny**  
*Assemblyman, 104<sup>th</sup> Assembly District*
- Ann Hess**  
*New York State Assembly*
- 2:45 pm**      **Break**

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**3:00 pm**      **How to Effectively Lobby:** *Why it is so important in today's economy; Learn techniques from the "Experts".*

**John A. Graziano, Jr.**  
*President*  
Capitol Hill Management Services, Inc.

**Rebecca M. Marino**  
*Vice President of Government Affairs*  
Capitol Hill Management Services, Inc.

**4:30 pm**      **Final Thoughts and Wrap Up**  
*Steering Committee: Cheryl, Dale, Melissa, and Nick*  
*Final Remarks: George and Nikki*

**5:00 pm**      **Dismissal – After School Program**

## **Mayor Brian Stratton's Professional Biography**

Brian U. Stratton was elected Mayor of the City of Schenectady on November 7, 2003, becoming the city's 74th elected Mayor since its incorporation in 1798. Among those he succeeds as Mayor of Schenectady is his father, the late Samuel S. Stratton, who served from 1956 to 1958, before being elected and reelected to the United States Congress for 30 years.

As Mayor, Brian Stratton and his administration have moved quickly to identify and correct the depth of Schenectady's tremendous fiscal problems left by the previous administration, and to formulate a strategy for recovery and long-term financial stability.

Mayor Stratton has worked with the City Council to restore professionalism and accountability at City Hall, eliminating a \$10 million deficit and finishing the past two fiscal years with a surplus in every fund division. Under the Stratton administration, Schenectady's municipal credit rating has been restored from the lowest junk bond level in New York State and back to investment grade. The Mayor has worked with the City Council and state leaders to recover more than \$20 million in delinquent property taxes and to increase Schenectady's annual share of State aid by more than 90 percent. Mayor Stratton has implemented a number of cooperative agreements with Schenectady County to eliminate duplicative services and save city taxpayers millions of dollars.

Working with Schenectady County, Metroplex and the private sector, the Mayor has helped to bring nearly \$200 million in new private investment into downtown Schenectady. The city's newly completed projects, or those planned or underway, include the new Hampton Inn, the 6- screen Bow Tie cinemas, a \$30 million expansion at historic Proctors Theater, Villa Italia, a new YMCA, luxury loft housing, restaurants, high tech offices, and a dynamic housing, retail and green space redevelopment of the former American Locomotive Company along the Mohawk River.

The Mayor and City Council have also launched the city's first Comprehensive Plan in more than 37 years, providing a roadmap for the city's economic development and neighborhood needs for the next 15 years.

## Mayor Gerald D. Jennings' Biography

Mayor Gerald D. Jennings is the 74th Mayor of the City of Albany. First elected in 1993, he is currently serving his fourth term as Mayor of New York's Capital City. Born in North Albany, Jennings had a 21-year career as a popular teacher and high school administrator for the Albany City School District. Prior to his stunning election victory in 1993, against the party establishment, Jennings served 13 years as a Member of the Common Council representing the 11th Ward. He distinguished himself as a tireless voice for the citizens of Albany and an advocate for Albany's Pine Bush.



Mayor Jennings first took office on January 1st, 1994 and assumed the responsibilities of leadership that turned a city with a structural financial deficit and pessimistic outlook for its future into a true renaissance. In an environment where upstate New York cities were decaying over the last decade, the City of Albany has experienced a bona fide renewal in both downtown and its historic neighborhoods as a result of Mayor Jennings' leadership and vision. As Mayor, Jerry Jennings has presided over an unprecedented reduction in crime and meaningful increases in quality of life for all of Albany. The most critical element of Mayor Jennings public service is his unparalleled dedication to the children of Albany.

The Mayor has successfully established collaborative partnerships with New York State, the business community, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations that have produced new development projects representing more than \$2 billion in new investment since 1994. No elected official has worked harder or been more successful in garnering its fair share of resources from New York State.

The Mayor has been able to secure, through his Capitalize Albany initiatives, the construction of new headquarters for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Comptroller, Dormitory Authority and a 2,300 car parking garage at Madison Avenue and Eagle Street. But the most critical element of this renewal undoubtedly is the Albany Convention Center project of which the Mayor secured \$75 million from Governor Pataki in the '06 New York State budget. Due to the Mayor's determined efforts this key project will come to fruition and be the cornerstone of downtown's completed rebirth.

The Mayor has also implemented a comprehensive redevelopment of Albany's beautiful waterfront and the Corning Preserve. The construction of the Hudson River Way Pedestrian Bridge links downtown Albany with the Hudson River and new Amphitheater at Albany Riverfront Park. The Mayor has also initiated various programs that have produced significant improvements to Albany's neighborhoods. He established a C-1 Commercial/ Neighborhood revitalization program and dedicated over \$2 million to fund infrastructure projects within these C-1 districts. Mayor Jennings also dedicated \$1 million towards a residential neighborhood enhancement fund that provides for enhanced public improvements such as landscaping, street lighting and sidewalk improvements. The Mayor lobbied the federal government and secured over \$26 million in federal funds to reconstruct the Corning Homes in North Albany. He also facilitated the rehabilitation of Dudley Park Apartments by helping to secure over \$13 million in funding.

Mayor Jennings has focused on implementing environmentally sensitive policies. He has worked with the State of New York and the Pine Bush Commission to add hundreds of acres to the Pine Bush Preserve. He was instrumental in negotiating a settlement with the State of New York on the ANSWERS burn plant litigation and he has dedicated millions of dollars toward the improvement of parks, playgrounds and nature preserves within the City of Albany.

Mayor Jennings has received numerous awards for his visionary and progressive leadership and is recognized national for innovative and effective government. He and the City of Albany received the prestigious City Livability Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Mayor was also recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors for the Public/Private Partnership Outstanding Achievement Award for his collaborative partnerships with the business community. Mayor Jennings also was recognized by the National Council for Urban Economic Development with their Public-Private Partnership Program award. Albany's programs, initiatives and successes have served as models nationwide for effective local government.

## **John J. McEneny Professional Biography**

John J. McEneny was born in Albany on August 30, 1943, to John Horan McEneny and Margaret Glennon Gaffie McEneny. He was raised in the Pine Hills neighborhood and educated at Vincentian C.C.D. and Christian Brothers Academy in Albany.

He holds a B.A. in history from Siena College and certificates in Community Development and Public Administration from New Mexico State University School of Agriculture and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Colombia, South America.

A former Albany County Historian, Jack McEneny is a well-known teacher and speaker on local history, ethnicity and related fields. He led the effort that saved the 17th century Quackenbush House, Albany's oldest building, and later chaired the Albany Historic Sites Commission. He wrote and narrated WMHT Public Television's Tricentennial Documentary on Albany and authored Albany, Capital City on the Hudson, the definitive text on the city's four centuries of history for the past 25 years. The book has been enlarged and updated several times and was most recently republished in 2006.

McEneny entered public service in 1965 as a social services caseworker. He was a counselor and director of the Albany County Neighborhood Youth Corps and was subsequently appointed by Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd to serve as Albany's first Director of Manpower Planning, Director of Public Employment Programs (EEA/CETA), and Commissioner of Human Resources 1971-84. At peak strength, his department employed 3,300 workers and trainees at 200 public and non-profit agencies.

Many programs for veterans, the blind, addicted, the aged and the developmentally disabled were started through his programs. Using federal and city funds, he helped establish the City Arts Office, archeology digs, the county archives, public housing tenant patrols, a dispute mediation center, rape crisis center and programs in nutrition, education, tourism, day care, the arts and the environment.

He directed the 1980 U.S. Census for the four-county Capital District. He has been a recognized authority on redistricting of legislative bodies for more than 35 years.

McEneny entered state service in 1984, and, in 1985, became the first full-time director of the State Urban Cultural Parks Program (now known as Heritage Areas) administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. From April 1989 through 1991, he was Assistant Albany County Executive to the Hon. James. J. Coyne.

In January 1992, McEneny was appointed Chief of Staff to his long-time friend and mentor, Assemblyman Richard J. Conners, D-Albany. Following Conners' decision not to run again, he won the primary and general elections.

During his twelve years in the Assembly, he authored ninety bills which have been signed into law. They include the Veterans' Bill of Rights, a law allowing citizens to use rubber stamps in write-in elections and laws granting public bonding to the Center for the Disabled and the Irish American Heritage Museum, reforms of school board election procedures, adding land to the Pine Bush Preserve, establishing eligibility for former Erie Canal sites such as those in Albany to participate in Barge Canal Tourism Programs and requiring safety shields in city taxicabs throughout the state.

McEneny laws also include "The Albany Plan" for new State Offices, Jeremy and Julia's Law for safe home child care, and the establishment of the long overdue World War II monument in the Empire State Plaza. He has also passed several laws encouraging high tech development and job creation at the University Heights Consortium and the University at Albany as well as the establishment of the Albany Convention Center Authority.

McEneny also supported \$274 million in state aid over 30 years to the City of Albany to compensate for the loss of taxable property taken by the construction of the Empire State Plaza. Assemblymember McEneny is the author of a public employee tier equity law and also sponsored and supported the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) legislation for New York's retired public employees. A McEneny law also protects children between four and seven by requiring that they use automobile booster seats. He has also been a co-sponsor of hundreds of key pieces of progressive legislation.

An active member of the Capital Region delegation, McEneny co-sponsored legislation creating the Albany County Airport Authority and a Regionalization Commission. In 1995, he accompanied President Clinton on his historic peacemaking journey to Northern Ireland. In 2000, he was invited to train members of the Parliament of Uganda at a USAID-supported Democracy Conference in Kampala. Mr. McEneny has traditionally hosted legislative groups studying the New York State legislative process especially from developing countries.

A full-time, year-round legislator, McEneny serves as Acting Speaker ProTempore on weekends, holidays and non-session days. Assemblymember McEneny has served on more than fifty boards of directors of community organizations over the past three decades and has been the recipient of scores of civic awards.

McEneny is chair of the Assembly Majority Steering Committee, and is a past Chair of the Democratic Study Group. He served two terms as President of the New York State American-Irish Legislators Society. McEneny is the former chair of the Task Force on University-Industry Cooperation. He currently chairs the Working Group on the Assembly Chamber. He also chaired the Subcommittee on the State Workforce and has been a member of the Majority Task Forces on AIDS, Economic Development, High Speed Inter-City Rail and Distressed Cities. In 2006 he was appointed by Speaker Sheldon Silver, as the official Historian of the Assembly.

As an Appointee of Silver, McEneny also serves as a member of the New York State Archives Partnership Trust, the Commission for the Restoration of the Capitol and the Albany Convention Center Authority.



### **BIO: Rebecca M. Marino**

Ms. Marino serves as Vice President of Government Affairs and brings over a decade of state legislative experience. Most recently, she served as Director of Operations and Legislative Director for Senator Betty Little as well as Committee Director for the Senate Local Government committee. Prior to this, Rebecca worked in the Office of Special Projects under Governor George E. Pataki where she provided policy research on demand for the Governor and his senior advisors. Rebecca began her career in public service as a Legislative Aide and Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Betty Little. During her tenure with Senator Little, Rebecca specialized in issues affecting the residents, businesses and local governments within the Adirondack Park as well as the myriad of legislative and budgetary issues facing municipalities across New York State including property tax reform, fire protection services, and economic development. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware.

John A. Graziano, Jr.  
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## Professional Experience

*Capitol Hill Management Services, Inc.*  
*Albany, New York*

*1989 – Present*

### **President**

**2000 – Present**

Chief Executive Officer of one of New York State's most respected association management and governmental affairs firms. Establishes the overall strategic direction of the business. Responsibilities include:

- Direction of governmental affairs activities
- Fiscal management and oversight
- Supervision and development of staff
- Business expansion strategies
- Establishment of policies and procedures
- Service as Executive Director of two major associations: New York State Society of Opticians and Albany Executives Association
- Representation of the interests of clients with governmental agencies and elected officials

### **Account Executive**

**1989 – 2000**

Served as main representative to non-profit associations and organizations. Responsibilities included:

- Assisted Executive Director in achieving the goals of the organization
- Provided general administrative support
- Coordinated and managed the operations of boards of directors
- Facilitated meetings and events
- Responded to all member questions and requests
- Manage all volunteer activities

**Public Service**

*New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund* 2009–Present  
Board Member

*Capital District Regional Planning Commission* 2002–Present  
Commissioner  
Chairman (2008)

*Albany County Airport Authority* 2006–Present  
Board Member

*Albany County Legislator* 1995–2004  
Legislator for the 20<sup>th</sup> District  
Minority Leader (1999 – 2004)

*Capital Region Detention Center* 2003–Present  
Board Member

*Colonie Republican Committee* 2009–Present  
Chairman

**Professional Memberships**

*American Society of Association Executives*  
*Empire State Society of Association Executives*  
*Albany Executives Association*  
*Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce*  
*New York State Thoroughbred Breeders Association*

**Education**

The College of St. Rose  
Albany, New York  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science