

**Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Minutes – Annual Community Banquet & Meeting
September 26, 2024**

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet and meeting at The Pub On The Green, 2101 Country Club Lane, (Ontario Golf Course), Ontario, NY. A buffet dinner was served at 6:30 pm to approximately 100 guests consisting of residents, visitors, and businesses. Buffet included salad, rolls, chicken french, roast beef au jus, mashed potatoes, green beans, coffee, and a brownie and cookie tray. The President, Donna Burolla, called the meeting to order and asked for attendees to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Brian Natale, Farmers Insurance, was the emcee along with Christine LoDestro. Officers present: Donna Burolla, President; Sherry Verstraete, Vice President; Jenn Brake, Secretary; Jim Switzer, Treasurer. Board of Directors present: Brian Natale, Sylvia Ryndock, and Virginia Molino. New candidates present: Christine LoDestro and Susan Tripp.

The following 2024 Awards were recognized:

- Volunteer of the Year: Jason Benton – sponsored by Brian Natale
- Business Improvement: Ontario Golf Club – owned by Sean Fico and sponsored by Brake Marketing & Management
- Community Organization: Ontario Food Pantry – sponsored by The LoDestro Family & Doze Guyz Entertainment
- Business of the Year: Save-a-Lot, co-sponsored by Ontario Chamber of Commerce and Ontario-Walworth Rotary Club.

Businesses of the Month were recognized:

- January Caraglio's Pizza
- February Mooseberry Soap
- March The Lodge at Shadow Hill
- April BL Design
- May Asphalt Rehabilitation Technologies
- June Revelle's Home Décor

Other recognitions included:

Ontario Spotlight Program

This program allows businesses to display marketing materials inside the lobby area of Lyons National Bank.

- July SMT Mobile Notary Services
- August Doze Guyz Entertainment, DJ Services
- September Mantis Fitness
- October Farmers Insurance, Brian Natale Agency
- November Lettering Lounge, Todd & Sarah Jacobs

A 50/50 raffle (tickets 3 for \$5.00) was held and a raffle (\$20.00/per card with 25 chances) for a vast variety of donated items from local businesses. A special raffle (\$10.00 per ticket) was held for a new business event center: Sanctuary On The Ridge, 1638 Ridge Rd., located behind the former Presbyterian church. The winner for the event center received a package of a 4 hour event; with chairs, tables, audio/visual, parking, and a 2 hr. package of DJ services from Doze Guyz Entertainment for a total package amount of \$700.00.

Election of one Board of Director and Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer)

The Board of Director position is a three term (2025 to 2027) and the Officer’s positions are a two year term (2025 to 2026). The calendar year for the chamber is from January 1 to December 31.

Brian Natale announced the candidates as recommended by the Nominating Committee:

Christine LoDestro for Board of Director

Donna Burolla, for President

Sherry Verstraete for Vice President

Susan Tripp for Secretary

Jim Switzer for Treasurer

Bio of Christine LoDestro: **Christine LoDestro** and her family have been residents of Ontario for over twenty years.

Christine has been involved in many different organizations and activities in the town. Starting with being part of the middle school musicals, earning her paralegal degree, owning her own antique business and now working for her son who owns Doze Guyz Entertainment. Christine was a Cub Scout Den leader and Pack Chair.

Christine has been recognized as the 2022 Ontario Chamber Volunteer of the Year, acknowledged with the Wayne Central Education Foundation as 2023 Chamber Civic Organization of the Year, this past April she was included as one of the Influential Women of Rochester.

Christine has served as the President of the Wayne Central Education Foundation, the high school Eagle Fam PTO, Board member of the Ontario Rotary Club, a member of the Walworth Lions Club, Community Liaison for the Ontario Chamber and the Ontario BID.

An interesting fact about Christine is that she is an Ordained Minister and plays Mrs. Claus throughout the community and schools during the holiday season.

Bio of Susan Tripp:

- Owner/Operator of SMT Mobile Notary Services
- Licensed real estate agent with Howard Hanna for 12 years
- Volunteer for the Ontario Clothes Closet for 6 years
- Previously, worked in Medical Device & Software Sales for 16 years
- Ordained Minister
- Involved in many other civic groups including the Webster and Williamson Chambers of Commerce, Rochester Women's Network and the Greater Rochester Area Partnership for the Elderly.

Susan Tripp has been a resident of Ontario for the last 11 years with her husband Brian

Fun fact! Susan has been a guest on the Oprah Winfrey show and cooked with Rachael on the Rachael Ray Show with her husband Brian

Mr. Natale reviewed the election process per Article VI of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce By-Laws:

Nominations for each of the positions will be accepted from the floor. However, to nominate a candidate, you need to be a member of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc. He asked that each person please state their name when nominating.

If the candidate is **unopposed**, the Secretary will cast one vote in favor of the candidate.

If any of the candidates **are opposed** by a nomination from the floor, a secret ballot election will be held at a special meeting of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, at a date, time, and place to be determined. Notification will be by email to all active, paid chamber members. Each member will be allowed to vote with one vote per business.

CHRISTINE LoDESTRO – BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Brian Natale nominated Christine LoDestro for the position of Board of Director of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for a three year term - 2025 to 2027

Jason Benton, Cam's Pizzeria, seconded the nomination. Mr. Natale asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the Board of Director position. There were none.

Mr. Natale asked the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of Christine LoDestro.

DONNA BUROLLA - PRESIDENT

Brian Natale nominated Donna Burolla for the position of President of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for a two year term - 2025 to 2026

Jim Switzer seconded the nomination. Mr. Natale asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of President. There were none.

Mr. Natale asked the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of Donna Burolla.

SHERRY VERSTRAETE – VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Natale nominated Sherry Verstraete for the position of Vice President of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for a two year term - 2025 to 2026

Pro Konstantinou from Konstantinou's Restaurant seconded the nomination. Mr. Natale asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Vice President. There were none.

Mr. Natale asked the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of Sherry Verstraete.

SUSAN TRIPP - SECRETARY

Brian Natale nominated Susan Tripp for the position of Secretary of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for a two year term - 2025 to 2026

Sherry Verstraete seconded the nomination. Mr. Natale asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary. There were none.

Mr. Natale asked the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of Susan Tripp.

JAMES SWITZER - TREASURER

Brian Natale nominated James Switzer for the position of Treasurer of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for a two year term - 2025 to 2026

Mr. Glen Cone seconded the nomination. This was not a legitimate second to the nomination due to the fact that Mr. Cone is not a member of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Sherry Verstraete, V.P. of the Ontario Chamber, seconded the nomination.

Mr. Natale asked if there any nominations from the floor for the position of Treasurer. Jon Wordingham, from Edward Jones, nominated Frank Robusto. Julie DiLella, from Empire Wrecking, seconded the nomination. Mr. Natale asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Mr. Natale advised that since there were two candidates for the position of Treasurer a secret ballot election will be held at a time, place and date to be determined. All chamber members will be notified via email and are eligible to vote with one vote per business.

The banquet concluded at 9 p.m.

Donna Burolla

Donna Burolla, President
For Jenn Brake, Secretary
Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc.