



Long Island Recovery Association
PO Box 653 Hicksville NY 11802
www.LIRANY.org

Summer/Fall 2021

LIRA CELEBRATES 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY! During EPIC VIRTUAL Rock 'N' Recovery XII

More than 175 participated via Zoom or in person at the THRIVE Recovery Centers as LIRA hosted our 12th Annual Rock 'N' Recovery celebration. Master of Ceremonies, **Sue Ferraro**, received rave reviews doing an outstanding job as MC. With LIRA scholarships, other gifts and the generous donations from the community (baskets, gift cards and other merchandise) more than \$4,000.00 in prizes were given away to attendees. LIRA presented our Annual Friend of Recovery Award to our dear friend, **Claudia Ragni**, a founding LIRA member and longtime advocate. Thanks for all you do to support recovery and Congratulations! LIRA presented **Casey Flanzraich** with a \$2,000 **Recovery Community Scholarship Award**. Casey is a dynamic young advocate, trained by LIRA as a recovery coach who also did her social work field placement with LIRA in 2020-2021. An amazing young lady, we are very proud of you!



One screen shot of some attendees at Rock N Recovery XII.

Sponsors and supporters donated funds, prizes and time and effort to make our annual event a success once again. Thank you for all the support! A complete list of donors is on the last page. Thank you to the following individuals for their volunteer efforts helping to make our first ever

hybrid virtual event a huge success: **Denise Alba, Richard Buckman, Nicole Carey, Elsie Demers, Sue Ferraro, Casey Flanzraich, Edmond Hakimi, Eugenia Karahalias, Ryan Kiser, Suzanne Loevner, Michelle Louzoun, Dara Meyer, Rev. Debbie Nardozi, Ed Olsen, Vanessa Steck.**

ROCK N RECOVERY XIII Expanded Epic Event.

Please join us this year on Friday, **September 24, 2021** for what promises to be another memorable evening. We are planning a fun filled recovery celebration, with awards, DJ, raffle prizes, our famous scavenger hunt, featured guest performers and more. LIRA will present **Ed Olsen** with the Friend of Recovery Award (Lifetime Achievement). Ed has dedicated his career of over 4 decades to helping those with substance use disorder including veterans. He has also been a passionate advocate for professional addiction counselors and the recovery community; a lifetime of selfless service. LIRA has increased our Recovery Community Scholarship Award to \$2,500 this year to make a more meaningful impact for one lucky recipient. Those interested in attending must register. There are 3 registration options (in person at either THRIVE Center or on Zoom) Use this link. To register. Note registration is required to be eligible for the raffle prizes as well.

www.LIRANY.org

NY STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Recovery Advocacy Day/Stand-up for Recovery Day (SUFRD) was also shifted to a virtual platform. In a highlight of the opening morning much to our surprise LIRA was recognized for 20 years of outstanding community service by the NY State Legislature. We were presented with commendations for our **20th Anniversary** from the NY State Senate by Senator Pete Harckham (Alcohol & Drug Committee Chair), and from the NY State Assembly by Linda Rosenthal Chair of the Assembly Alcohol and Drug Committee. Our heartfelt thanks to these two champions of recovery for their efforts on behalf of our community and for

the kind comments as well. A big thank to FOR-NY for initiating the recognition and spotlighting LIRA at the conference.

On the policy front our statewide community spoke with one voice in identifying our legislative priorities for the year. Polling of members from our statewide community identified our 4 top priorities **1--Housing:** We were seeking legislation leading to the voluntary certification of recovery homes in conjunction with OASAS. **2--Transportation,** the creation of a pilot program to provide and expand access for individuals in early recovery. **3--Access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)** for recovery support in correctional settings. **4--Removal of the pre-authorization requirement for MAT in Medicaid insurance plans.** Senator Harckham has quickly emerged as a legislative leader for our community and promised to work with us on introducing bills related to these needs. We are happy to report great progress on all of these bills this past year!



During safer times, LIRA with our friends during the gathering of advocates on the Capitol steps, Advocacy Day February 2019.

We continued to educate lawmakers about the important work of the recovery community and the need for increased funding to OASAS for peer recovery support services and additional recovery centers in every county in NY.

NY STATE RECOVERY CONFERENCE

The 2020 statewide recovery conference was a virtual smash hit with expanded virtual platforms and video access leading to more than 3000 attendees and views, far and away the most widely viewed conference we have ever had. The 2021 conference will be a hybrid event with the capped in person registrations (190) already sold out. There is unlimited virtual participation available. Join us this October for a Zoom Conference experience!

RECOVERY COACH TRAININGS

LIRA continued facilitating our recovery coach trainings in 2020 and 2021 even with COVID-19 restrictions. We facilitated 3 complete trainings in 2020 complete with masks and social distancing and we continue to assist trainees with job placement and continuing professional development. The peer workforce has emerged as a valued evidenced based practice. LIRA also hosts a monthly Peer Learning Collaborative and support group for trained coaches and peer advocates.

LIRA has trained more than 275 recovery coaches since 2017 and we have provided scholarships to more than 60 individuals, an investment of **\$40,000** as we continue to support our own community!



Socially distant Coach training September 2020 Nassau THRIVE

FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY-FAVOR

FAVOR-Will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary this October by returning to St. Paul Minnesota where the original Recovery Summit that led to the creation of FAVOR took place back in 2001. The annual ARCO **Leadership Academy** will take place during the festivities in Minnesota. **Richard Buckman** recently completed 8 years of board service with FAVOR including 4 years as Chairman of the Board 2014-2018.

ARCO the Association of Recovery Community Organizations, now has more than 150 organizational (RCO's) Recovery Community Organization members in more than 40 states including charter members LIRA and FOR-NY

ONE RECOVERY IS FOR EVERYONE!

LIRA created and copyrighted our One Recovery Meetings several years ago to create a space where everyone could come together in one space for support and be accepted without judgement.

The initiative was started to create a welcoming place for our friends who use medication to support their recovery who were not feeling welcome in other settings. One Recovery welcomes everyone including those in treatment, families with a struggling loved one or in recovery and those who have lost a loved one, 12 step program members, friends, allies, those who are just curious or affected or interested in addiction and recovery. Join us every Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 7:30PM evening. Visit our web site for meeting information www.lirany.org

LIRA SPOTLIGHT:

LIRA Board member **Edmond Hakimi** completed his residency at Stonybrook Southampton Hospital, worked briefly as the addiction medicine physician at Wellbridge in Calverton and then relocated to Boston for his addiction medicine fellowship with Harvard University Medical Center. **Casey Flanzraich** completed her social work field placement with LIRA in May and graduated from SUNY Stonybrook School of Social Welfare. She was accepted to Touro College and plans to complete law school next! "Oh the places you'll go". Founding LIRA member **Claudia Ragni** received our 2020 Friend of Recovery Award! **Ed Olsen** was named Director of Social Work Field Education at St Joseph's College. Congratulations to these outstanding LIRA member individuals!

SUPPORT LIRA

LIRA was the first ever Recovery Community Organization (RCO) in NY State. For more than 20 years, LIRA has led the recovery advocacy movement in New York working to grow and organize recovery while challenging discriminatory policies and helping to secure resources for our community. We also count on donations from our friends and others to continue our good work. Please consider supporting LIRA by making a tax-deductible contribution. Checks payable to **LIRA** can be mailed to PO Box 653, Hicksville, NY 11802 or donate directly in one of several ways on our web site: www.lirany.org You can also help by creating a Facebook charity fundraiser for us Friends of Recovery-LI. You can also donate through Amazon Smile when making purchases. Your generosity makes it possible for us to invest most of our resources directly back to our very own recovery community on Long Island through various scholarships and our innovative and generous giving campaigns.

ROCK "N" RECOVERY XIII

Join us Friday, **September 24, 2020 8:PM-10:PM**

for an Epic Celebration. Register here: Rock 'N' Recovery XIII - Lirany.org

FEDERAL NEWS FUNDING & POLICY

Recovery goes to Washington: In a major shift over the past couple of years we have seen some of our own recovery champions move into influential positions with the Federal Government at both the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Congratulations to Tom Coderre: Acting Assistant Secretary at SAMHSA, Tom Hill: Senior Policy Advisor at ONDCP, Dona Dimitrovic: Director Center for Substance Abuse Prevention at SAMHSA, Rob Kent: White House Counsel to ONDCP. We have already reaped fruits of their labor as they carry our vision forward. Thank you!



Former OASAS Chief Counsel Rob Kent is now at ONDCP

The persistence of the opioid epidemic, largely overshadowed by COVID-19 combined with the emerging and potent presence of advocates across the country has led to significant progress on the federal funding front. Our advocates have been active on Capitol Hill interacting with Congressional representatives focusing on of the House Appropriations committee. In June President Biden introduced the FY 2022 budget which included \$1.7 billion increase to the SAPT Block grant. A \$750 million boost to the State Opioid Response grant a \$500 million addition for peer technical assistance center and a more than 100% increase (total of \$20 Million) for the Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR) initiative. In addition, for the first time in history, the budget includes a 10% set aside for Recovery Supports which is something we have been strategizing on for several years, waiting for the appropriate time and place to introduce this vision shared by advocates nationwide. Seems the Stars are Aligned for Recovery In 2021. We will continue to press forward as the Senate now takes up the proposal with the final figures yet to be determined. Outstanding work by our community!

THANK YOU!!
SCROLL OF HONOR SPONSORS 2020

RECOVERY ALL STAR

The Kenneth Peters Center for Recovery
Restore Health & Wellness Center
Retreat Behavioral Health

RECOVERY CHAMPION

Ethan Heisler & Michelle Louzoun
Friends of Recovery - New York
Long Island Council on Alcohol & Drug Dependence
(LICADD)
Richard & Doreen Buckman
Sue & Eddie Ferraro
Wellbridge Addiction Treatment & Research

RECOVERY AMBASSADOR

Ammon Labs
Bridge Back to Life
Family & Children's Association
Long Island Center for Recovery
One Call Staffing, Inc.
Quality Consortium of Suffolk County
Seafield Center
The Meyer Family
Youth Voices Matter

RECOVERY ADVOCATE

Carolyn & Bob Myers
CN Guidance & Counseling Mobile Recovery Unit
Denise Alba & Family
Dr. & Mrs. Edmond Hakimi
Elsie Demers
Families In Support of Treatment (F.I.S.T.)
Geisinger-Marworth Treatment Center
Global Planning Health Plans of Lindenhurst
J.J. O'Riordan
LECSA EAP
LI EAPA Chapter
Michael J Gallagher, Sandblasting & Special Coating
Northwell Health - South Oaks Hospital
One Call Staffing, Inc.
Resource Recovery Center of Orange County
Richard & Doreen Buckman
Richard & Doreen Buckman
Unleash Your Full Potential Now
Anonymous

RECOVERY FRIEND

Anonymous
Bergami Family
Carolyn Donnelly
Nancy, Ricki, & Jo - Honoring Claudia!
Gerry & Dennis Buckman
Larry & Eileen Lamendola / In Memory of Lisa Lamendola
John Buckman
Joseph Ortado
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Life Center Counseling & Health Services
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Villa Veritas - Sue Cusack

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