



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

Summer/Fall 2022

The LIRA family continues to mourn the passing of our Board President, Ed Olsen. After waging a gallant three-year battle extending his life far beyond expectations, Ed transitioned to the spirit world on April 7, 2022. Ed's career in the addiction treatment field spanned four decades. Ed was known as a fierce advocate on behalf of addiction counselors. He served as President of the Association of Addiction Professionals New York (AAPNY) and as Northeast Regional Vice-President of the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC). A proud man in recovery for 42 years he was an adjunct professor of addiction studies at Suffolk Community College and St. Joseph's helping to guide the careers of many aspiring addiction counselors over the years. Ed was also known for his love of music and sense of humor. His passionate work and legacy lives on through LIRA's ongoing advocacy efforts.

September 2021 Rock 'N' Recovery XIII

Over 150 attended via Zoom and in person at the Nassau and Suffolk THRIVE Recovery Centers as LIRA hosted our 13th Annual Rock 'N' Recovery celebration with Sue Ferraro, once again serving as Master of Ceremonies, with several LIRA scholarships, gifts and generous donations from the community (baskets, gift cards and other merchandise) nearly \$5,000 in awards and prizes were given to attendees. LIRA presented our Annual Friend of Recovery Award (Lifetime Achievement) to Board President, Ed Olsen in recognition of nearly 4 decades of service to individuals and families affected by addiction. Ed dedicated his career of nearly 4 decades to helping those with substance use disorders including veterans. Ed was a passionate advocate for addiction counselors and the

recovery community-a lifetime of selfless service! Ed's family was in attendance as he also received a proclamation from Suffolk County Comptroller, **John Kennedy**. Congratulations were well deserved!



Above Ed Olsen receives proclamation from Suffolk Comptroller, John Kennedy. Below some participants at THRIVE Suffolk.



LIRA presented Kelcie Alba with a \$2,500 **Recovery Community Scholarship Award** to help her further her studies at SUNY Binghamton. Kelcie, the daughter of LIRA super volunteer Denise, was one of our youngest advocates when she first accompanied LIRA to Albany for Advocacy Day at age 15. She also volunteered at THRIVE. What an inspiration and role model for young people. We are so proud of you!



Kelcie Alba accepting her scholarship award via Zoom from SUNY Binghamton. LIRA in the mix on Advocacy Day 2018



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 second hybrid celebration event a huge success: Denise Alba, Richard Buckman, Nicole Carey, Elsie Demers, Sue Ferraro, Edmond Hakimi, Eugenia Karahalias, Ryan Kiser, Suzanne Loevner, Michelle Louzoun, Dara Meyer, Rev. Debbie Nardozzi, Ed Olsen, Erin McNulty.

ROCK N RECOVERY XIV Epic Event.

Please join us this year on Friday, September 30, 2022 once again the party will be hosted at both Nassau and Suffolk THRIVE centers and on Zoom. The event is free and registration is required due to limited in person availability. You can Register here: Then click on Rock N Recovery XIV to choose how you will attend <https://lirany.org>

Join us in a fun filled recovery celebration, with awards, DJ, raffle prizes, our famous scavenger hunt, guest performers and more.

NY STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Recovery Advocacy Day/Stand-up for Recovery Day (SUFRD) was once again shifted to a virtual platform.

On the policy front our statewide community spoke with one voice in identifying our legislative priorities for the year. We are thrilled to report that all of our top priorities became law in 2021/2022. The state budget included legislation creating the certification of recovery homes under the OASAS umbrella. The regulation and oversight of recovery homes has been a focal point of our advocacy efforts for over 15 years. Persistence and the increasing numbers and voices of the recovery community across the state finally made this happen. We also saw progress on transportation with the creation of a pilot program to provide and expand access for individuals in early recovery. Other two major victories were the requirement for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for recovery support in correctional settings and after several years of intense advocacy work the removal of the pre-authorization requirement for MAT in Medicaid insurance plans. Thanks to a coordinated statewide effort by advocates and allies who made these changes possible. Our fellow friend in recovery, Senator Pete Harckham, Chairman of the Senate Alcohol and Drug Committee continues to be an influential leader on our issues and is a true recovery champion agreeing to introduce a number of bills at the request of our community. Thank you! Senator Harckham!



A reminder of how we used to do it in Albany! As always LIRA is right in the middle of things during this gathering of advocates on the Capitol steps (Advocacy Day February 2019).

NY STATE RECOVERY CONFERENCE

The 2021 statewide recovery conference was a well-attended virtual event. Join us this October for another virtual Conference experience!

RECOVERY COACH TRAININGS

LIRA continued facilitating our CCAR Recovery Coach Training Academies throughout the COVID 19 pandemic in 2021. We facilitated 3 full trainings with masks and social distancing.

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 nearly 300 recovery coaches since 2017 and has provided scholarships to over 60 individuals, an investment of more than **\$45,000** as we continue to directly support the Long Island recovery community. The still developing Peer Workforce is a viable and fulfilling career pathway for individuals in recovery and many are excited about the possibility and having the opportunity to give back and help others by using their own lived experience to help guide others.



Above Recovery Coach training class April 2022. Below LIRA'S monthly Peer Learning Collaborative meets on Zoom.



FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY-FAVOR

FAVOR-Will be returning to St. Paul, Minnesota for the annual ARCO Leadership Academy where the original Recovery Summit that led to the creation of FAVOR took place back in 2001. ARCO the Association of Recovery Community Organizations, now has more than 160 Recovery Community Organization (RCO's) members in over 40 states including NY charter members LIRA and FOR-NY.

ONE RECOVERY IS FOR EVERYONE!

LIRA created and copyrighted our One Recovery Meeting in 2019 to offer a space where everyone could come together in one setting 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



Above the last in person only 1 Recovery meeting pre COVID-19.

LIRA SPOTLIGHT:

LIRA Executive Board member **Edmond Hakimi** completed his addiction medicine fellowship at Harvard University Medical Center and has returned home to become the Medical Director at Wellbridge in Calverton. **Susan Brandau** retired from OASAS Recovery Services Bureau this year after many years of great work on behalf of our community. Susan

for the support and friendship for over 10 years. Eugenia Karahalias stepped down from the LIRA Board after eight years of distinguished service. Congratulations and thank you to all for your support and service.

SUPPORT LIRA

LIRA was the first ever Recovery Community Organization (RCO) in NY State. For more than 22 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.

FEDERAL NEWS FUNDING & POLICY

ARCO members and other friends and allies across the nation have been hard at work advocating for increased funding to address the opioid epidemic and to expand peer recovery support recovery services. In addition to a significant increase to the SAPT Block Grant, we were able to move forward with plans to create a 10% set side in the grant specifically to support for recovery. While the final outcome is yet to be determined clearly, we have made long sought-after progress on this front. Earlier in the year the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the creation of the Office of Recovery. Our friend and longtime advocate, formerly Dona Dimitrovic (former Faces and Voices Board Member from Pa.) was named to lead the new office. Congratulations Dona! We are thrilled

that recovery is on the map at the federal level with a dedicated office to support our work.

THANK YOU!!
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Friends of Recovery - New York
Restore Health & Wellness Center
Retreat Behavioral Health
Whole Foods
RECOVERY CHAMPION
Long Island Council on Alcohol & Drug Dependence (LICADD)
Pocono MRC/Huntington Creek RC
Richard & Doreen Buckman
The Kenneth Peters Center for Recovery
Ethan Heisler & Michelle Louzoun
Wellbridge Addiction Treatment & Research
RECOVERY AMBASSADOR
Bridge Back to Life
CN Guidance & Counseling Mobile Recovery Unit
Family & Children's Association
Long Island Center for Recovery, Inc.
Seafield Center
Sue & Ed Ferraro
Quality Consortium of Suffolk County
M & V Provisions
Victory Recovery Partners
RECOVERY ADVOCATE
LECSA EAP
Geisinger-Marworth Treatment Center
Carolyn & Bob Myers
Dr. & Mrs. Edmond Hakimi

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