

For more information, contact: Cassie Evans Winter,  
Assistant VP Communications/Marketing at 337-5309

## Rome Memorial Hospital welcomes newest board members

ROME – Julie Grow Denton, an attorney at McMahon and Grow, was appointed to the Rome Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees at its January meeting.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, she earned her bachelor's degree at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. She was a law clerk for Federal District Court Judge Frederick Scullin Jr. and Federal Circuit Court Judge Richard Cardamone before joining the Rome firm.

Denton said she joined the board because she believes “the hospital is a vital asset in our community that has the potential to assist us all. It certainly has played a central role in my life. I was born there; my children were born there; my immediate and extended family have been treated there. I know firsthand the importance of accessing quality medical attention without driving long distances.”

“To the extent I am able, I would like to assist Rome Memorial Hospital in fulfilling its mission in Rome. It was a genuine honor to have been asked by Darlene Burns and Buzz Ariglio on behalf of the Nominating Committee to serve on this Board,” Denton added.

Other recent additions to the hospital's board include accountant Kim M. Cook, retired educator Mary Davis, businesswoman Sally Hinman, and obstetrician/gynecologist Ankur Desai, M.D. Serving with them are Board Chairman Chester Patrick, M.D., Vice Chairman and Treasurer David C. Nolan, Secretary Lynn G. Reese, Ronald Cantor, Ph.D., W. Robert Herrmann, and Michael Kramer.

“In seeking new members, we look for people in our community who possess the skills to carry out the board's oversight responsibilities for quality of care, policy development and strategic planning,” said Dr. Patrick. “Each board member brings to the hospital valuable skills and personal perspectives from their professional lives. We're pleased that they have accepted the responsibility to help guide the hospital and advance its forward progress for the benefit of the community.”

Cook is a certified public accountant and partner of Wallis, Loiacono & Cook, CPAs, P.C., which provides business and personal tax, accounting, auditing, payroll and business valuation services in Rome, Camden and Lowville, NY. Cook earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY Institute of Technology. She joined the accounting firm in 1986 and became a partner in 1993.

“Rome Memorial Hospital is an important part of our community as a provider of quality care and services and a major employer for the area,” said Cook. “It is important to me, as a business owner, to serve on the board as a way of giving back to the community.”

Davis earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Livingstone College, Salisbury, N.C., and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Michigan State University, East Lansing. A lifelong learner, she has completed additional post graduate course work from various educational institutions.

Davis spent most of her career in education with the Department of Defense Education Activity, serving at overseas military installations. From teacher to school administrator, her long, upward bound career took her around the world. When she retired she made a commitment to continue to work on behalf of children and be actively involved in service to her community.

“I am honored to be a part of this board,” said Davis. When first asked, she wasn’t certain that she wanted to take on an additional community commitment. “However, in a short period of time I found myself saying yes. What convinced me was the fact that this organization, much like the school district, serves the entire Rome community as well as the outer districts and several of the surrounding towns.”

“The hospital is totally committed to service for all. The employees convey a sense of purpose, commitment, and accountability to all who enter the doors at RMH. I personally have observed a definite change in the general culture of this organization over the past several years,” she said.

“This kind of change comes about through an administrative staff that recognizes that change is an absolute necessity and can only happen when stellar expectations are set, team work is promoted and demanded, and when transparency and accountability are inherently required in all departments.”

“The leadership of this organization is focused on leadership skills and training, a sound strategic planning process that is data driven, financial transparency, high visibility in the community and adheres to its vision and values,” she said.

Hinman earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Utica College and worked for Metropolitan Insurance for 13 years before joining the administrative team at Rome Strip Steel in 1992. Founded in 1926, Rome Strip Steel is a family run company that manufactures steel for use in everything from thumbtacks to computer components.

“I feel it’s important to be involved in our community and what better way than to serve on the board of our community’s most important asset – Rome Memorial Hospital,” Hinman said when asked why she accepted a position on the board. “And, how do you say ‘no’ to Darlene Burns.”

Dr. Desai is a board certified physician specializing in comprehensive obstetric and gynecological care with Mohawk Valley Women’s Health Associates. He previously served as president of the Rome Memorial Hospital Medical staff from 2006-2008.

Dr. Desai graduated from Wagner College with a bachelor of science in chemistry and received his doctor of medicine from the State University of New York Health Science Center at

Brooklyn in 1992. He completed his residency at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, where he served as chief resident.

“I’m proud to be a member of the board because of the organization’s commitment to quality,” said Dr. Desai. “Physicians and hospital staff work together in partnership to provide the very best care for our patients.”