

Salute to labor leaders at excellence gala

Check out our blog at www.hometownshopperli.com/thisweek

The Suffolk Community College Foundation hosts its annual Salute to Excellence Gala on April 24 at the Hilton in Huntington. Proceeds from the foundation's gala, "The Year of Labor," will be used to fund need- and merit-based scholarships, emergency student loans and academic-enrichment programs. It's also set to recognize five Long Island labor leaders.

"The Year of Labor" honors John R. Durso, Richard C. Iannuzzi, Richard O'Kane, Ellen Schuler Mauk and posthumous recognition of former Suffolk County Legislator William J. Lindsay, Jr.

"We will celebrate and recognize five great labor leaders from Long Island whose advocacy for the middle class advanced the most important engine in creating the American Dream and a better life for each generation," said Suffolk County Community College President Dr. Shaun L. McKay.

John R. Durso of Bellmore has served as the president of Local 338, RWDSU/UFCW since 1999. He represents more than 19,000 men and



Photo courtesy of Suffolk County Community College Media Services

1) Ellen Schuler Mauk (left) and 2) Richard "Dick" O'Kane are among the labor leaders who will be honored at the Salute to Excellence Gala.

women working in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Putnam and Hudson counties, as well as into New Jersey.

Richard C. Iannuzzi of Smithtown has served as president of New York State United Teachers (which has a membership now at more than 600,000) since April 2005.

Richard "Dick" O'Kane of Brightwaters was unanimously elected pres-

ident of the Nassau-Suffolk Building and Construction Trades Council in January 2013. He took office in July of that year.

Ellen Schuler Mauk of Garden City is past president of the Faculty Association of Suffolk County Community College. She served there for 30 years and represented the 500 full-time faculty members and more than 1,500 adjunct members.

"We will celebrate and recognize five great labor leaders from Long Island whose advocacy for the middle class advanced the most important engine in creating the American Dream and a better life for each generation."

Suffolk County Legislator William Lindsay, Jr., who passed away in September 2013 at age 67, will be honored in a memorial tribute. He spent most of his life as an electrician, a career that began through an apprenticeship with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 25. He was elected to the eighth legislative district in March 2001.

Suffolk County Community College Foundation
www.sunysuffolk.edu/gala