

Occupational Health Leaders present:

2011 "4ever CHAMPION" Awards

Commemorating the Nation's 2nd Annual Occupational Health Awareness Week
NYS Network of Occupational Health Clinics, Legislators, Labor & Community Leaders
Honor Workplace Health & Safety Champions

Charles Fitz-Gerald

Former Insurance Director of the NYS Automobile Dealers Association

Occupational & Environmental Health Center Advisory Board Member

Mr. Fitz-Gerald joined the OEHIC board in 1990 and remained an active member until his retirement in 2008 from the New York Auto Dealers Association. He remained a loyal supporter of the clinic and provided insightful guidance from an employer's point of view. Mr. Fitz-Gerald's background is in workers compensation insurance. As Insurance Director for the New York Auto Dealers Association, he managed their annual \$30 million workers compensation practice. In 2009, Governor Paterson appointed Mr. Fitz-Gerald to the Task Force on Group Self Insurance. Mr. Fitz-Gerald was a leader on the OEHIC Advisory board and served as board Vice-President for over 10 years, working closely with labor chairs. He strongly believes that safety is good business

Rebecca Fuentes

Workers' Center of Central New York Coordinator

Rebecca Fuentes is a coordinator of the Workers' Center of Central New York, and has received national attention for the work she has done in uncovering a labor trafficking ring at the Great New York State Fair. Nineteen "guest workers" from Mexico, lawfully in the United States, suffered working conditions harmful to their health, in addition to enduring massive wage and hour violations. Ms. Fuentes courage and resourcefulness led to the arrest of the trafficker, the release of the workers, and an order for the employer to pay a fine of \$50,500 for violations, and \$116,900 in back wages.

"Always & 4ever Award"

Inspired by Ongoing Contributions to Occupational Health & Safety

John Howard, MD

Director of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

Dr. Howard, a long-time health and safety expert, was first appointed NIOSH Director for the US Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) in 2002. Prior to that, Dr. Howard served as Chief of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health in the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency from 1991 through 2002. In 2009, Dr. Howard worked as a consultant with the U.S. Government's Afghanistan Health Initiative for DHHS. Today, in addition to serving as the Director of NIOSH he also currently serves as the Coordinator of the DHHS's World Trade Center Health Programs.

Dr. Howard received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Loyola University of Chicago, a Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, a Doctor of Law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a Master of Law degree in Administrative Law and Economic Regulation from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Howard is board-certified in internal medicine and occupational medicine. He is admitted to the practice of medicine and law in the State of California and in the District of Columbia, and he is a member U.S. Supreme Court bar. He has written numerous articles on occupational health law and policy.

David Kotelchuck, PhD, MPH, CJH

Hunter College Professor Emeritus

Network Founder

*Mt. Sinai Irving J Selikoff Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine Advisory Board Member
& Bellevue/NYU Occupational & Environmental Medicine Clinic Advisory Committee Member*

Dr. David Kotelchuck was a professor in the Urban Public Health Program of the Hunter College School of Health Sciences, City University of NY, from 1984 – 2006. He was a founding Co-Director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at Hunter College (COEH) in 1987, and later became its director. He has written numerous books, book chapters and scientific and policy articles. His research has addressed workers' health issues including toxic exposures, public employee health and safety, and medical needlestick injuries. In 1972 he began his 25 years of service to Health Political Action Committee. His ground-breaking 1973 article "Your Money or

2011 4ever CHAMPIONS

Your Life" exposed the Johns Mansville Company for its decades-long malfeasance. Dr. Kotelchuck became a leading voice of the new public, environmental, occupational health movements that emerged during the 1970s. Dr. Kotelchuck has served on the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health Board since its establishment in 1980.

Dr. Kotelchuck has worked with unions including the United Automobile Workers, Professional Staff Congress of the AFL, and served as the Director of Occupational Safety & Health for the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) (1980 – 1984), then as a Health & Safety Consultant until 2004. Dr. Kotelchuck has been a member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) – Occupational Health & Safety Section since 1978, serving as Chair (2003-2004). In addition, he served on the APHA's Governing Council (1990-1994), Action Board (1997-2000), and Policy Committee (2000-2002). Now early in his retirement, Dr. Kotelchuck continues his lifetime record of service and progressive activism to build with others a just and healthy organization of human society.

Honorable Rory Lancman

Chairman of the NYS Assembly Labor Committee Subcommittee on Workplace Safety Co-Founder of Occupational Health Awareness Week

Assemblyman Rory Lancman is a member of the Assembly Labor Committee and chairs the Assembly Subcommittee on Workplace Safety. Under Assemblyman Lancman's leadership, the Subcommittee has issued reports on "H1N1 In The Workplace" (and conducted a hearing on the issue); "Employee Safety In The New York State Juvenile Justice System"; "Workplace Violence In New York"; and "Emergency Preparedness In The NYC Theater District" (and conducted a Roundtable). In addition, he hosted the first annual "Occupational Health Awareness Week" in the state legislature, and has been a key advocate in advancing legislation to improve workplace safety in a variety of industries.

This year, Assemblyman Lancman and the NYS Department of Labor have teamed up to host the first NYS Immigrant Workers' Rights Awareness Weekend, and the Subcommittee is moving legislation forward to promote safe patient handling practices in the healthcare industry; confront workplace violence in non-profit juvenile justice community facilities, public schools and healthcare facilities; protect taxi drivers from assaults; and establish injury prevention policies at state agencies.

Ruth Sergel

Founder of the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition and Chalk

Ruth Sergel's work exploits technical prowess with a passion for social justice to create opportunities for community engagement and communal memory. Previous projects including *Voices of 9.11* and *Chalk*, have laid the groundwork for the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition. *Voices of 9.11* is a people's archive of over 550 personal video testimonies recorded in New York, Washington DC, Shanksville, PA (United Airlines, Flight #93), and inside the Pentagon. The testimonies were exhibited at *Here is New York* a Democracy of Photographs, The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the New York Historical Society.

In 2004 Ms. Sergel established *Chalk*, an annual commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Each year on the March 25th anniversary of the fire, volunteers fan out across the city to inscribe in chalk the names and ages of the victims in front of their former homes. A flier is posted which details how the fire galvanized a movement for social and economic justice. In 2008 Ms. Sergel founded the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition. The mission of the coalition is to network the educational, artistic and activist commemorative events across the country and the establishment of a permanent public art Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial.

Art Wilcox

Former Public Employee Division Director of the NYS AFL-CIO Network Founder

Mt. Sinai Irving J Selikoff Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine Advisory Board Member

Art Wilcox served as the Public Employee Division Director of the New York State AFL-CIO from 1987 until his retirement in February of 2011. As Public Employee Division Director, Mr. Wilcox served the State Federation's 2.5 million members pertaining to issues that affect its membership. He has an extensive knowledge on a wide range of topics that affect public sector affiliates; topics including the Taylor Law, pension issues and safety and health concerns. Mr. Wilcox currently serves as CEO of the Governmental Insight and Labor Management Insight consulting groups, specializing in Workers' Compensation, Safety and Health, Insurance related matters, and more. He serves as adjunct faculty for Cornell University's International Labor Relations Extension Program, teaching courses in collective bargaining, contract administration, safety and health in the workplace, and various workers' compensation issues.

A founder of the NYS OHCN, Mr. Wilcox has been a longtime champion of health and safety for workers across the state and beyond. He directed the creation of the New York State AFL-CIO Navigator Program. This training program enables local unions to better help their membership to navigate through the workers' compensation system. He has been instrumental in the successes of many NYS Task Forces, representing the working families of New York. He was instrumental in the success of an almost decade long battle to increase deserved resources to the NYS network, aiding their mission in preventing and caring for occupational illness and disease.