

# VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Volunteer emergency services personnel provide critical services to our communities and save taxpayers billions of dollars per year statewide. I have often said our volunteer emergency workers are the backbone of our rural communities. As part of National Volunteer Week, many fire departments will open their doors for the annual recruitment-based open house event, **RecruitNY**. Those interested in learning more should contact their local fire department to see if it is participating in this year's drive.

**WHAT: RecruitNY**

**WHERE: Your local fire department**

**WHEN: April 18 and 19**

To find your local fire department, contact your local county's Emergency Management Office.

- CHEMUNG Co. .... **1-607-737-2096**
- SCHUYLER Co. .... **1-607-535-8200**
- SENECA Co. .... **1-315-539-1756**
- STEBEN Co. .... **1-607-664-2910 ext. 2901**
- YATES Co. .... **1-315-536-3000**



A S S E M B L Y M A N  
**PHIL PALMESANO**



**VOLUNTEERS WANTED  
 WE NEED YOU!**

New York State Assembly • Albany, NY 12248

Dear Neighbor,

April 2026

Sacrifice and spirit are the hallmarks of volunteerism, an important value you see in every vibrant community. We're at our best when we devote our time, talent, and energy to making life a little better, a little easier, and a little brighter for our neighbors and our community.

Some of the bravest people in our communities are volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service workers. They put their lives on the line to save us from the most dangerous situations imaginable. Like I've always said, our volunteer firefighters and emergency workers are the backbone of our rural communities. They save lives, protect our communities, and save our families, seniors, small businesses, and manufacturers in our local communities over \$4 billion annually in property taxes.

April 18th and 19th is the annual Recruit NY weekend, a great opportunity to learn more about your local volunteer fire departments, in addition to some of the tax and educational benefits available to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service workers. This brochure contains more information about this program and the upcoming weekend.

There are so many other important and impactful ways to get involved in serving your community. There are special programs that serve our brave and heroic veterans. There are programs that connect our treasured seniors to volunteer opportunities. I am also encouraging our young people to get involved through their local youth bureaus. This brochure has more information about available volunteer opportunities and the contact information for these impactful organizations. There isn't a better time to get involved.

**April is National Volunteer Month.** There are plenty of programs that need motivated people just like you. Get out there and share your talents and compassion with your community and the friends and neighbors you share it with. Thank you so very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano

**C O N T A C T**

A S S E M B L Y M A N  
**PHIL PALMESANO**

444 Capitol Bldg. • Albany, NY 12248  
 1-(518) 455-5791

105 East Steuben Street • Bath, NY 14810  
 1-(607) 776-9691



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# BE A VOLUNTEER

## Youth:

Volunteerism is a great way for young people to give back to their communities. Volunteer opportunities can also be great for college applications and valuable career experience. For information on how young people can get involved in their community, contact the organization nearest you.

CHEMUNG COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU..... 1-607-737-2907  
 STEUBEN COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ..... 1-607-664-2199  
 YATES COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU..... 1-315-531-3451  
 SENECA COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ..... 1-315-539-1905  
 SCHUYLER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ..... 1-607-535-6236

## SENIORS:

If you are a senior citizen looking for a volunteer opportunity in your local community, please contact your local Office for the Aging or one of the other agencies below:

CHEMUNG COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
 AGING & LONG TERM CARE  
 1-607-737-5520

SCHUYLER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING  
 1-607-535-7108

SENECA COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING  
 1-315-539-1765

STEUBEN COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING  
 1-607-664-2298

YATES COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING  
 1-315-279-4321

AARP  
 1-888-687-2277

SENIOR CORPS  
 1-800-942-2677

ASSOCIATION OF MATURE AMERICAN CITIZENS  
 1-888-262-2006

## Helping Our Veterans & Military:

As we all know, our veterans and active duty personnel have sacrificed and given us so much. Volunteering to help these heroes is a small way to say thank you. If you want to volunteer to help veterans or active duty servicemen and women, contact your local county's Veterans' Services Office or one of the other agencies listed below:

CHEMUNG COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY ..... 1-607-737-5445  
 SCHUYLER COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY ..... 1-607-535-2091  
 SENECA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY ..... 1-315-539-1633  
 STEUBEN COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY ..... 1-607-664-2528  
 OR 1-607-664-2198  
 YATES COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY ..... 1-315-536-5196  
 BATH VA ..... 1-607-664-4000  
 CANANDAIGUA VA ..... 1-585-393-7100  
 AMERICAN RED CROSS SERVICES TO ARMED FORCES ..... 1-877-272-7337  
 NYS DIVISION OF VETERANS' SERVICES ..... 1-888-838-7697  
 VETERANS CRISIS LINE ..... 988

## General Volunteer Opportunities:

Join your friends, family or co-workers and get engaged with your community! In our fast-paced society, it can be hard to find time to give back, but truly improving the quality of life for your friends and neighbors is one of the most powerful things you can do. The United Way offers great opportunities for businesses to set up team volunteering opportunities for their employees. It is great team building!

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN  
 SERVICES, INC.  
 1-607-776-9467

CHEMUNG VOLUNTEER  
 ACTION CORPS  
 1-607-734-4453

FOOD LINK (SENECA/YATES)  
 1-585-328-3380

FOOD BANK OF THE  
 SOUTHERN TIER (CHEMUNG, SCHUYLER,  
 STEUBEN)  
 1-607-796-6061

UNITED WAY OF THE  
 SOUTHERN TIER  
 1-607-936-3753  
 msmith@uwst.org

UNITED WAY OF SENECA COUNTY  
 1-315-539-1135  
 uwseneca@uwseneca.org

UNITED WAY OF SCHUYLER COUNTY  
 1-607-546-8268  
 info@unitedwayofschuylercounty.org

UNITED WAY OF YATES COUNTY  
 1-315-536-2448

## Long-Term Care Volunteers Needed Through Ombudsman Program

Want to advocate for residents in nursing homes, assisted living, or board and care homes? After a 36-hour training, become a New York State certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman to help aging residents and families understand and exercise their rights and address concerns about health, safety, and quality of life. Work with a dedicated team for support and on-going training. Visit <https://ltombudsman.ny.gov/> for more information.

FOR SENECA AND YATES COUNTIES:  
 Contact Lifespan at 1-585-244-8400, ext. 114.

FOR CHEMUNG AND SCHUYLER COUNTIES:  
 Contact Tompkins County Office for the Aging at 1-607-274-5482.

FOR STEUBEN COUNTY:  
 Contact AIM Independent Living Center at 1-607-962-8225 ext. 112.

## HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CareFirst and other Hospice programs have a variety of different volunteer opportunities. Their volunteers provide assistance with patient companionship, family respite, grief support, administrative tasks, running errands for patients and their families, and assisting with special events. They are also looking for volunteers with special skills including barbers and beauticians and a range of therapists.

CAREFIRST SERVES CHEMUNG, SCHUYLER AND STEUBEN COUNTIES:  
 Contact: 1-607-962-3100

YATES COUNTY:  
 UR Medicine Hospice  
 Contact: 1-315-759-8225

SENECA COUNTY:  
 Rochester Regional Health Hospice Care, Contact: 1-800-562-1650