



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's been a busy few weeks since our last newsletter. The calendar has been full with a special session in Albany to address reproductive rights and gun safety in New York State, a health fair with over 20 practitioners and providers, and a blood drive to address a critical shortage in our area. I hope you'll take a moment to see what I've been up to.

### **Focusing On Gun Safety and Reproductive Rights to Protect New Yorkers**

In the final days of this year's legislative session, I worked with my colleagues to pass several crucial measures to help protect our communities. In the wake of the mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, Texas, the legislature passed and Governor Hochul signed into law common sense gun safety reforms that will help prevent firearms from getting into the hands of individuals who are a danger to themselves and others. Building on New York's 2019 Red Flag Law, this legislation allows more health care practitioners to petition the court and requires police and district attorneys to seek an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) when credible information shows an individual to be dangerous (Ch. 208 of 2022). Other measures require law enforcement to report seized and recovered guns to the national criminal database, raise the age to purchase a semiautomatic rifle to 21 and require a license to buy it, eliminate the grandfathering of high-capacity magazines, close a loophole in the definition of firearms to include certain converted devices, and criminalize the purchase and sale of bulletproof vests to anyone outside an eligible profession (Ch. 207, 209, 210 and 211 of 2022).

Whether on the streets or online, New Yorkers deserve to feel safe. That's why the package also addresses hate speech and threats across social media. The legislation criminalizes behavior that threatens mass harm, requires social media companies to provide an easily accessible method to report hateful conduct on their platform, and creates a Task Force on Social Media and Violent Extremism within the state Attorney General's Office (Ch. 206, 204 and 213 of 2022).

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# 2022 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

## **Announcing the 2022 Women of Distinction**

Since taking office, the Women of Distinction Awards has been one of my favorite events to host. The Women of Distinction Awards are presented annually to honor women in the 146th Assembly District whose notable accomplishments and contributions to our community often go unnoticed. My office sought nominations of women leaders in the community who have had a significant impact on the lives of others. After due consideration, I'm proud to announce the 2022 recipients

*Yasmin M. Dara - Williamsville Central School District PTSA Volunteer and former President*

*Dr. Kenyani Shareen Davis - Chief Medical Officer at Community Health Center of Buffalo Inc.*

*Dr. Bonnie Kane - Co-founder of the Niagara Alliance for Restorative Practices, Inc.*

*Hedwig "De" Moss - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier Volunteer and former Board Member*

*Sarah Smith - Supervising Administrative Law Judge*

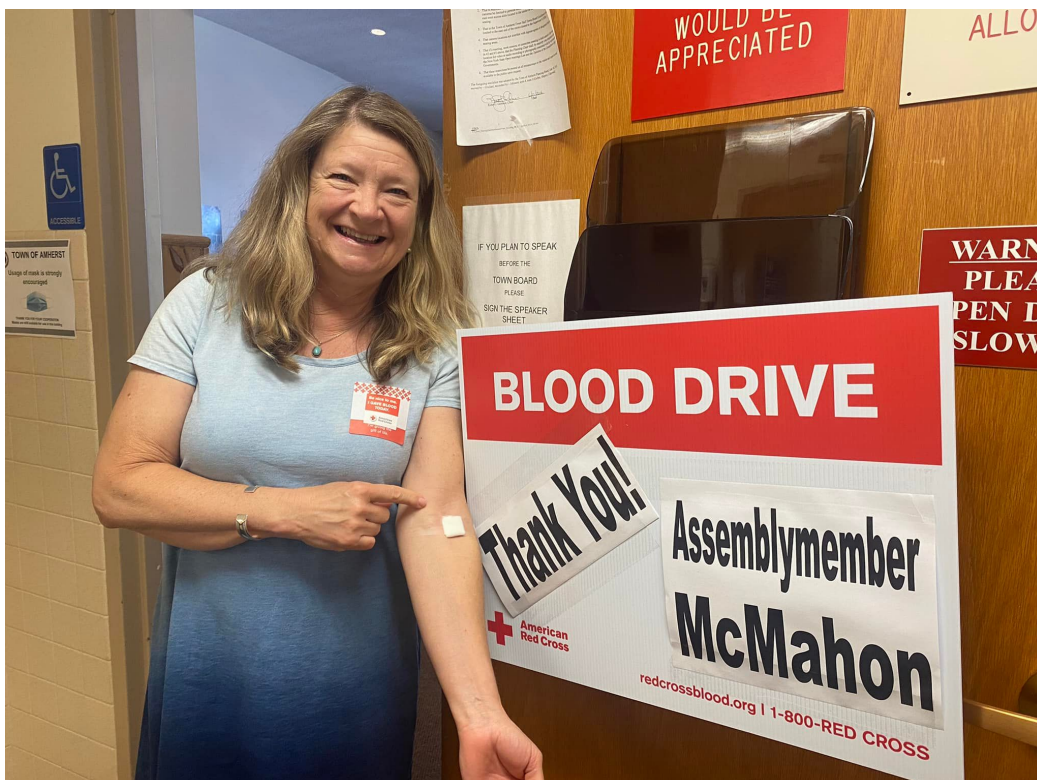
*Dr. Melissa Wanzer - Professor of Communications at Canisius College*

This great group of women have made significant contributions in the fields of education, civic affairs, volunteerism, and more. I look forward to sharing each of their stories, and celebrating them at a ceremony later this summer.



## First Annual Family Health Fair is a Success

I'm proud to report that our first annual family health fair earlier this month was a great success. I would like to extend sincere thanks to the various health practitioners and vendors who took part, providing important screenings and valuable information to our community. This health fair would not have been possible, though, without the help and partnership of Dr. Bhuvana Ramkumar and the Asian American Physicians Association. I am extremely grateful for their help throughout the planning process. Having many different health care professionals under one roof is a great opportunity for people to receive information and guidance easily, and I'm greatly looking forward to next year's event!



## Second Annual Blood Drive Helps Address WNY Blood Shortage

This past week was my second annual blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross, and for the first time, the Town of Amherst. Generous donors rolled up their sleeves at the Amherst Town Hall and gave blood and platelets, all of which will go to use right here in our community. Like last year, I made sure to make a donation myself because Western New York is facing a critical blood shortage. A simple donation can make a huge difference, and potentially save a life. Thank you to all the donors who came out to help this great cause, and thank you to the Town of Amherst and the Red Cross for helping make this drive happen.



### **Honoring the Life and Service of a Hometown Hero**

I recently presented an Assembly resolution to Craig Speers whose mother, Mildred Speers, served as a nurse in WWII and received the French Legion of Honor Medal. Mildred was a true hometown hero, volunteering in the European Theater before returning home to Amherst where she was a dedicated volunteer in her community and church, Christ the King. Mildred recently passed away at the age of 100, and I was honored to present Craig with the resolution celebrating her life and service.



## Had a Blast Kicking off Amherst Old Home Days

My team and I had a blast marching in the parade down Main Street to kick off the Amherst Old Home Days. After a long hiatus due to COVID-19 and inclement weather, this great community tradition was finally back this year. It was a treat to see so many smiling faces along the parade route, and at the festival on Island Park!

Assemblymember Karen McMahon and the Town of Amherst are hosting a

## SCHOOL CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES DRIVE

Donate new or used clothing and new school supplies through **Saturday, Aug. 20**

Donations can be dropped off at **my district office at 5500 Main St., Suite 224, Williamsville**, during business hours.



You can also drop off donations at the **NorthWest Amherst Community Center (220 North Pointe Pkwy, Buffalo)** on **Saturday, Aug. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Contact **716-634-1895** or **McMahonK@nyassembly.gov** to learn more.

## School Clothing and Supplies Drive

We're still in the midst of summer, but it's never a bad idea to start getting ready for back-to-school season! That's why I'm hosting a School Clothing and Supplies Drive for those in need in our area. If you're able to donate new or gently used clothing or school supplies, it will go a long way in helping a student in our community. There are two ways you can make a donation.

1. Drop off clothing and/or supplies to our office at 5500 Main Street, Suite 224 in Williamsville on business days between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
2. Stop by our School Clothing and Supplies Drive on Saturday, August 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northwest Amherst Community Center (220 N Pointe Pkwy, Amherst, NY 14228)

I'm proud that we've been able to help members of our community connect with vital health services, and do our part to save a life by donating blood. These are important resources that go a long way in ensuring the 146th District is a great place to live, work, and visit. I'm also very proud of our six remarkable neighbors who are being honored as Women of Distinction. While we've already had a busy summer, I know there's a lot more to do, and I'm ready to get to work. As always if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [716-634-1895](tel:716-634-1895) or [McMahonK@nyassembly.gov](mailto:McMahonK@nyassembly.gov).

Sincerely,

*Karen M. McMahon*



**Karen McMahon**

New York State Assemblymember - 146th District

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