

UlsterCorps Service Summit 2017 SPEAKER BIOS

Sue Books, a professor in the SUNY New Paltz School of Education, teaches comparative and international education as well as a seminar on education and poverty. She is editor of *Invisible Children in the Society and its Schools* (Erlbaum, 1998/2003/2007) and author of *Poverty and Schooling in the U.S.: Contexts and Consequences* (Erlbaum, 2004). In recent years Prof. Books has taught and conducted research in South Africa and Russia as a visiting scholar, and in Iceland and Brazil as a Fulbright Scholar.

Tamara Cooper, LMSW, is the program director for Family of Woodstock's hotline and walk-in center in Woodstock NY and Team Leader of Training for the agency. She has been a supervisor and trainer of volunteers for 20 years. Founded in 1970, Family is a network of individuals, paid and volunteer, whose mission is to provide confidential and fully accessible crisis intervention, information, prevention, and support services. Family's network of shelters, emergency food pantries, domestic violence services, court advocates, counseling and case management services, hotlines, TextMeBack textline, and child care supports all work together to help people achieve the changes they seek. Family promotes strength-based and prevention programs which grow healthier individuals and communities, providing leadership in efforts to create affordable housing, address food insecurity and the opioid crisis.

Patrick McDonough is the Volunteer Program Coordinator at Ulster County Office for the Aging. His experience includes three decades of public service in a variety of settings, including public, private, governmental and non-profit organizations. His extensive experience includes program management, personnel supervision, project coordination, fiscal oversight, community relations and public information.

Bill McKenna is the Woodstock Town Supervisor. He has worked as a self employed General Contractor for over 30 years. Bill has volunteered with The Woodstock Playhouse, Woodstock Little League, for the Town of Woodstock Zoning Board of Appeals and for 20 years with the Woodstock Fire Department. This is his 12th year on the Woodstock Town Board, and his first as supervisor.

Ken Oldehoff came to New Paltz for an education and is still learning. He has lived in the Mid-Hudson Valley for over 40 years and spent over 35 years in a commercial kitchen. He retired recently from the Campus Dining Department at Vassar College. As the department's sustainability director, he began bringing local foods on to the campus. When he realized after he had retired that he could take the skills he learned at Vassar and apply them to the greater Mid-Hudson community he realized that the college was just a long course of training. He now spends much of his time volunteering with the Farm to Food Pantry Program, a collaboration between Family, the Rondout Valley Growers Association, UlsterCorps and the Bruderhof Community. The program addresses food insecurity by engaging local farmers to donate locally grown produce and training volunteers to glean, process and distribute nutritious food to the network food pantries, feeding programs and shelters in Ulster and surrounding counties.

Lauren Rooney is Chief Administrative Officer of New Paltz Rescue Squad. We offer 24 hour emergency care and transportation of sick and injured persons. As an Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider since October 1987, the Rescue Squad provides Paramedic level care. Our primary geographic operating area includes the Village and Town of New Paltz, the State University of New York at New Paltz, and a 10-mile section of the New York State Thruway. We also provide care to Mohonk Mountain House and our two main eldercare facilities, Woodland Pond and Mountain View Nursing Home. NPRS began as an all-volunteer organization, remaining so until September 1996. Today, the New Paltz Rescue Squad maintains a 95% volunteer membership making it possible to employ paramedics, EMTs and a business administrator.

Beth Tailleir has been part of the New York State Office of National and Community Service staff since its formation in 1994, serving under five governors. During this time, Beth has served as an AmeriCorps Program Administrator and Training Co-coordinator and currently administers AmeriCorps programs and the state's Volunteer Generation Program. As a program administrator, Beth participates in the development of annual Requests for Proposals, coordinates the grant review process, provides training and technical assistance to funded programs, manages agency contracts with New York State, and conducts monitoring, based on federal and state regulations. She has been serving as a volunteer most of her life, most recently as a school board member and a member of the Advisory Board to the Greene County YMCA Branch.

KT Tobin, associate director, The Benjamin Center, is responsible for designing, managing, and producing projects focused on regional issues and concerns. Tobin holds an M.S. in Social Research from CUNY Hunter and a Ph.D. in Sociology from SUNY Albany. Her research interests include: political sociology, with a focus on civic engagement, government transparency, and women in politics; community indicators, in particular sustainability metrics; stratification and inequality, with a focus on gender and poverty/cost of living; education policies, in particular taxation and standardized testing; and food systems, with a focus on insecurity and local/regional agriculture.

John Wackman is known to many as the organizer of the Repair cafe at the New Paltz United Methodist Church. He is coordinator of Repair Cafes in the Hudson Valley, now in 12 communities in Ulster, Dutchess, Orange and Delaware counties. Repair Cafe is a free community meeting place to bring a beloved but broken item to be repaired...for free. It is an all-volunteer project. The guys and gals who do the repairs--our repair coaches--have skills in many categories: mechanical, electrical, electronic, clothing & textiles, jewelry, things made of wood, dolls & stuffed animals, bicycles, knife & tool sharpening. As we say: bring an item to be repaired by an expert who is also your neighbor. John is also Program Manager for Solarize Hudson Valley, the non-profit community education and group purchasing program that makes it easier and more affordable for homeowners and businesses to go solar with confidence. He also volunteers on the Programming Committee of Rosendale Theatre and is producer of the Music Fan Film Series.