

## **UlsterCorps Service Summit 2014**

### **SPEAKER BIOS**

**David M. Chico**, VMD, MPH, is a veterinarian with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and Burnt Hills Veterinary Hospital in Albany. He holds a BS in Toxicology from University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, a VMD Veterinary Medicine from University of Pennsylvania, and an MPH in Epidemiology from SUNY Albany. He is Chair of the Empire State Animal Response Team Steering Committee.

**Susan Hoger** is Executive Director of Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL), serving people with disabilities to live as independently as they choose in the community through advocacy, systems change and individual services. She holds a Master of Social Work from Adelphi University, and a post graduate degree in Clinical Psychology from SUNY Albany. She is Chair of NY Association on Independent Living, and Chair of Office for Aging Advisory Council.

**Damian Morales** is a 2010 graduate of the New York Medical College School of Public Health, from which he received a MPH in Health Policy & Management, with a concentration in Emergency Preparedness. Damian received his BA in Psychology from Vassar College in 2006. He is currently the Director of Disaster Programs for The Volunteer Center of United Way. Previous to this he worked as a Community Recovery Specialist for the American Red Cross in Greater NY. Damian has also worked as a Project Hope Crisis Counselor for the Mental Health Association of Rockland and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator for the Dutchess County Office of Emergency Response. He is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers, Community Emergency Response Team, and NYS Medical Reserve Corps.

**Art Snyder** graduated from Hudson Valley Community College and SUNY Empire State College. He has been employed by Ulster County government for 33 years and currently serves as the director of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management. He has managed 16 federal "Major Disaster" declarations and 6 federal "Emergency Declarations". He has overseen the implementation of Enhanced 911 service in Ulster County - the first county in the Hudson Valley to provide this service, has chaired the Ulster County Anti-Terrorism Task Force since its inception, and was a key planner for emergency response to the Woodstock 94 music festival in Saugerties. He is a 37 year member of the Hurley Fire Department where he has served as Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Commissioner and is still an active firefighter / EMT. He has served as Chairman of the Ulster County Local Emergency Planning Committee, is past president of the New York State Emergency Managers' Association, is a member of the NYS 911 Coordinator's Association and serves on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz.

**Laurel Sweeney**, *Associate Broker, Prudential Nutshell Realty, Stone Ridge, NY*

A top producing realtor in Ulster County, Laurel serves on the Ulster County Board of Realtors Board of Directors, is a Past President and Realtor Associate of the Year. Currently, Laurel serves on the board of the Mohonk Preserve and chairs their governance and auction committees and also serves on the board of the Women's Studio Workshop. In addition, Laurel sits on several NYS Association of Realtors committees including Professional Standards. This community service, coupled with her involvement in the Rondout Valley Business Association, the Rondout Valley Growers Association, The Episcopal Church of Christ the King in Stone Ridge, and the Rondout Valley Food Pantry compliment the networking and marketing that has been a key factor in her real estate achievements. Laurel has two adult children and resides in Stone Ridge with her husband Tim.

**Dr. Karla Vermeulen**, Ph.D. is the Deputy Director for the Institute for Disaster Mental Health (IDMH) and an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department of SUNY New Paltz, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in disaster mental health, lifespan developmental psychology, and psychology of the media. She holds a Masters in Psychology from SUNY New Paltz, a Doctorate in Applied Developmental Psychology from Fordham, and a Certificate in Mental Health in Complex Emergencies from the Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation. She has coordinated the development and production of IDMH training curricula for the New York State Department of Health and Office of Mental Health, the American Red Cross, the United Nations, United States Agency for International Development West Bank/Gaza, and other organizations. Dr. Vermeulen is particularly interested in improving warning compliance to reduce community members' exposure to disasters and traumatic experiences.

**Skip Zimmerman** currently serves as the Regional Director of Volunteer & Community Services for the American Red Cross of Northeastern, NY, with responsibility for more than 3,000 volunteers over a 15,000 square-mile area. Skip's experience as a volunteer and working with volunteers spans more than 40 years, and includes such areas as youth & family development, people with disabilities, literacy, scouting, fire-fighting, disaster response, safety training and leadership training. Skip's professional history includes a career with the YMCA in camping & outdoor education, youth and family programs, aquatic programs, administration, board development, communications, training and fund raising. His posts with the American Red Cross in Minneapolis and Northeastern NY include financial development, community safety & preparedness, youth & senior programs, and his favorite topic, volunteer development. Skip and Genevieve live in Glens Falls with their 9-year old son, Timothy, and a couple of rescue cats.