

Steering Committee names Garrow as new chair

by Terry Duffy

The Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Restoration Advisory Board, a community-based group formed to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in addressing concerns and facilitating remediation of all public and private lands on the LOOW site in Lewiston and Porter, announced this past week its selection of Walter Garrow as chair of its Steering Committee.

Garrow, a Niagara Falls resident who grew up in the Love Canal neighborhood, brings an extensive chemical background with 15-plus years experience covering health, safety and environmental areas in the private sector. Currently a corporate safety manager for Quality Inspection Services Inc. in Buffalo, he also has significant community involvement on environmental interests, having served as past director of the Love Canal Revitalization Agency and the South Buffalo Community Forum – the latter as a mediator between industry interests and South Buffalo residents who were contending with environmental concerns in their neighborhood from numerous heavy industry shutdowns.

He succeeds Sean Kelly, a political science professor at Niagara University who works with NU's Environmental Leadership Institute.

Aims to Work with Corps

Garrow comes to the LOOW RAB at a time when the organization has been undergoing somewhat of a transition with new chairs and a restructured focus in the eyes of the Army Corps. He seeks to begin work with the Army Corps immediately to redefine the goals and the focus of the RAB. "We understand the challenge," said Garrow. "We've elected new committee chairs and we're going to address the Corps concerns."

RAB committee chair appointments announced this past week include:

- Dr. Mary McCourt, chair of the chemistry and biochemistry departments at Niagara University, as chair of the RAB Chemical Committee. The group works on numerous concerns with the U.S. Department of Defense regarding DOD-related chemical contamination at the LOOW site.

- Guy Zaczek, an instructor at Niagara County Community Col-

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lege, as chair of the RAB Historical Committee. Zaczek brings strong industry background plus extensive experience with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to this RAB committee, which is charged with developing and maintaining volumes of information from past activities at LOOW and the Niagara Falls Storage Site areas.

"I'm willing to listen and gather the details," Garrow continued, adding he intends to meet with Corps officials in Buffalo in the near future. "But we need the information from the Corps so we can continue to provide a conduit and interchange between the residents" of northern Niagara County.

He selection comes with broad support from Steering Committee members.

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"I see this as a new chapter in the RAB's role to unite the community and the Corps of Engineers common goals," said Rebecca Zayatz, market area engineer of CWM Chemical Services in Porter, who also serves well Steering Committee vice chair. Zayatz had been covering both the chair and vice chair responsibilities for RAB since Kelly's departure last year.

Karen Allen, who serves as chair of the LOOW RAB Outreach Committee, the group assigned with facilitating LOOW information to the community, was equally upbeat. "I'm glad to see that our chemical and radiological committees are chaired by such strong technical leadership," Allen said. "Since restructuring, we've held some good public meetings, also including other agencies like the Department of Health" in our work with the Army

Corps to get information out to the community.

Joan Morrissey, LOOW/NFSS Outreach Specialist with the Army Corps, speaking for William Kowalewski, Corps project manager at the LOOW site, said the federal agency was happy to hear of Garrow's appointment as Steering Committee chair. "We're very pleased," said Morrissey, adding that

Garrow has already been in contact and is planning to meet with Corps officials in coming weeks.

"We're hoping now with a new chair we can now streamline and best utilize the functions of the RAB as we work on LOOW remediation in years to come," she added.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 25, at 5 p.m., at HSBC Bank in Lewiston.