



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Liberty Welcomes New Board President**

**Amsterdam-** At their recent Annual Membership Dinner Liberty appointed Rev. Lisa VanderWal as their new Liberty board president.

Rev. VanderWal has served on the Liberty board for the past nine years. Rev. Vander Wal is an ordained Minister in the Reformed Church in America, currently serving Lisha's Kill Reformed Church in Colonie, NY. She will receive a Doctor of Ministry degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 2016, focusing upon congregational and community renewal. Rev. Vander Wal and her husband David are parents of adult children, Kent and his wife Valerie, and Lindsay, who receives services from Liberty, and two grandchildren, Layla and Derek.

Special recognition was given to Liberty individuals who have been with the agency for more than 35 years. Those recognized were; T. Chester Bubniak and James Mullarkey for 35 years, Barbara Seeley for 36 years, and Manuel Castro and Ronald Kazda for 40.

Topping the list of long-term Board members honored was Patricia Sherman who has been a member of the Liberty Board for 50 years. Other board members recognized were Joel Kaplan for 35 years of service and Michael Bucciferro for five years of service on the Liberty Board, Jack Betz for 10 years of service on the Liberty Foundation Board, and Robert Purtell for 10 years of service on the New Dimensions in Health Care Board.

Sworn in as Board officers for the 2015-2016 term were; Rev. Lisa VanderWal, president; Michael Cinquanti, vice-president; Paul DiCaprio, secretary; and Joel Kaplan, treasurer. The following directors were sworn in for the 2015-2017 term; Michael Bucciferro, Michael Cinquanti, David Fariello, Joel Kaplan, Robert Purtell, Sally Romano, and Valerie Zabo.

Founded in 1957 by local parents and family members of people with disabilities, Liberty is a not-for-profit, member chapter of NYSARC, Inc. a statewide organization serving over 60,000 individuals throughout New York. Liberty is the largest provider of services to people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County, offering day, residential, vocational, family support and health-related programs to nearly 550 individuals with disabilities and other persons with special needs in the community.

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