

Ward D. Todd

Ward D. Todd is President/CEO of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the region's largest business-advocacy organization with 1,000 members. The Ulster Chamber is recognized as the leader in developing and advancing business growth and expansion in the Ulster County Region and in 2021 was selected by the Business Council of New York State as the NYS Chamber of Commerce of the Year.

Mr. Todd is a graduate of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management at Villanova University. He is Treasurer of the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (UCEDA), a member of the Ulster County Workforce Development Board, Treasurer of the Sound of Life Board of Directors and Chairman of the Ad Board of the Shandaken United Methodist Church.

Mr. Todd is a former three term Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, representing the Shandaken-Woodstock area for seven years. Among his accomplishments, he is credited with securing funding and initiating the very first Ulster County Drug Court. He fought for and secured funding to save and restore the historic Persen House in Kingston, one of four buildings at the oldest intersection in America. He was also instrumental in the passage of state legislation giving Ulster County the authority to develop shovel-ready sites for economic development. During that same period, he served as Vice President of the Catskill Watershed Corporation Board of Directors and was First Vice President of the NYSAC County Legislature Chairs. He also formerly served as Deputy Director of Ulster County Tourism and was an Adjunct Professor at SUNY New Paltz.

Ward was a familiar voice to radio listeners in the Hudson Valley. He was Morning Program Host and Operations Manager at WKNY in Kingston and held on-air positions at WBAZ (Kingston NY), WRBW (Albany NY) and WRKL (Rockland County NY). He was Chief Staff Announcer at WRNN-TV. Ward was also a CBS-TV and HBO Ring Announcer for professional boxing matches featuring World Champions Billy Costello and Tracy Patterson.

Mr. Todd began his public service career at the age of 25 when he was elected to the Board of Education of the Kingston Consolidated School District. He went on to serve six years, including two years as Board President. He is also a past member of the Onteora School Board of Education. He was President of the Children's Annex Board of Trustees, Vice President of the Benedictine Hospital Board of Trustees, Vice President of WKNY's Toys for Tots campaign and Chairman of the Alzheimer's Memory Walk. He served on the Board of Directors of the Hudson Valley Alzheimer's Association, United Way of Ulster County, American Heart Association, Rip Van Winkle Council Boy Scouts and U. C. Girl Scouts.

Mr. Todd is a Rotary International Paul Harris Award recipient. He received the SUNY New Paltz Dean's Award for Excellence; was honored for his community work by the Jewish Family Services; received the Belleayre Mountain "Spirit of the Catskills" Award; was recognized for his community service as Gateway Industries "Toast of the Town" honoree; was the Ulster County Arts Council "Arts Advocate of the Year" for his efforts to promote the arts in Ulster County; was named the Honorary Irishman of the Year by the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce and was the Kingston Shamrock Parade Grand Marshall.

Ward and his wife Jane live in Shandaken and are the parents of Jennifer, Peter, Michael and Philippe and the proud grandparents of eleven grandchildren.