



Dan Antonellis, President of Region Nine Housing Corporation

Dan Antonellis has served as President of Region Nine Housing Corporation (RNHC) since 2012, developing high-quality affordable housing and providing services to families, seniors and disabled individuals. Prior to becoming RNHC President, he served as a Staff Representative for the Communications Workers of America, Local 1038 and spent nearly 25 years at the New Jersey Department of Labor prior to that. He is a former Vice President and Board President of the ARC Mercer and a founding member of the Board of Orphan Sponsorship International (OSI).



Melissa Chalker, Executive Director at NJ Foundation for Aging

Melissa is a Licensed Social Worker with more than 10 years' experience in various settings. She has worked as a case manager for new parents and as a medical case manager. She also served as Director of Social Services for a nursing facility for several years. After that, she began her career in advocacy and public policy with a statewide non-profit focused on older adults. She has recently transitioned into a leadership role at the NJ Foundation for Aging. She worked there for 10 years and in that time she served as first Program Manager, then Deputy Director and now Executive Director.



Peter Chen, Association for Children NJ, Policy Counsel

Peter Chen is policy counsel at Advocates for Children of New Jersey. His work includes coordinating non-profit and community-based organizations on Census outreach in 2020. In addition to Census work, Peter is responsible for policy analysis and advocacy at the state and local level, in areas such as childhood lead poisoning prevention, chronic absenteeism, paid family leave and early intervention services for very young children with disabilities. Peter began working at ACNJ as a 2014 Skadden Fellow. Prior to joining ACNJ, Peter clerked for Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and taught high school English in Chicago. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School, and his B.A. from Indiana University-Bloomington.



Bridget Devane, Health Professionals and Allied Employees Public Policy Director

Bridget Devane has been the Public Policy Director for Health Professions and Allied Employees since 2004. Before that, she was serving as an organizer for New Jersey Citizen Action, which is a statewide grassroots organization fighting for social, racial and economic justice. They are one of the leaders in the state for progressive advocacy and social services.



Christian Fuscarino, Executive Director, Garden State Equity

Fuscarino has been an activist and organizer in the LGBTQ community for over a decade. In 2016, PolitickerNJ named Christian the 2nd most influential advocate in New Jersey politics and later that year The Observer listed him on the Power List 100. At GLSEN, Christian worked with high school Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) for several years.. In 2008, Christian founded The Pride Network, a national leadership development non-profit. In 2013, Christian joined Alan van Capelle, former Executive Director of Empire State Pride Agenda, by serving as his digital strategist at Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice. They focused on mobilizing Jews to advance social issues by speaking out against injustice and inequality. One of the organization's greatest accomplishments was a campaign that resulted in California Governor Jerry Brown signing The Domestic Workers Bill of Rights.



Barbara George Johnson, Executive Director, John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy

Barbara George Johnson has over 20 years of experience in the health care arena. First, as a Public Health Adviser for the Department of Health in New York City where she worked with infants born at-risk for developmental delays due to exposure to drugs. Later, as the Director for the Family Life Institute of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey where she focused her efforts on teen pregnancy prevention, reproductive freedom, and HIV/AIDS prevention and education. Barbara also created the Newark Kids Initiative project for the Newark Health Department, a program that focused on healthcare and social services for children exposed to domestic violence. Currently, Barbara holds the title of Executive Director for the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy (JSWIPP) where she manages the activities of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association.



Adele La Tourette, Director Hunger Free New Jersey

Adele La Tourette is the director of Hunger Free New Jersey. Adele La Tourette has led Hunger Free New Jersey since its inception in 1980. She is the leading voice in New Jersey's anti-hunger and nutrition community and serves as a resource to emergency food coalitions throughout the state. Adele's leadership has earned her state and national recognition.

Evelyn Liebman, Director of Advocacy, AARP

Bio and headshot coming soon!



Rev. Sara Lilja, Director of the Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of NJ

The Rev. Sara Lilja serves as Director of the Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of NJ Office. Since coming to this work she has organized a statewide Multi-faith Advocacy Initiative, and is the Chair of the Board of the Anti-Poverty Network. She has worked on many issues as far ranging as Bail Reform, Justice for Immigrants, a TANF increase, and Gun Violence prevention.



Mike McNeil, NJ State Conference of NAACP, Housing Committee Chair

In 1997, Michael became President and CEO of the non-profit organization Solutions To End Poverty Soon known as (STEPS). Currently there are two offices in Lakewood, and just recently opened a Toms River office. Michael created a STEPS Newsletter which was distributed throughout the state. This newsletter was created to inform communities of jobs, housing, etc. STEPS, holds monthly meetings in Lakewood and Toms River. These meetings update the community on various law changes and housing issues and upcoming events. At the present time STEPS has many members throughout the state. In 2013, Michael was appointed by an Ocean County Judge to be the liaison of Lakewood Tent City. Under the court order, his responsibility was to locate housing for the residents of Tent City which he accomplished this year. Affordable housing is one of the largest needs in Ocean County and STEPS has been successful in helping over 200 families locate appropriate and affordable housing. He currently serves as New Jersey State Housing Chair Person for the NAACP.



Doug O'Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey

As director of Environment New Jersey, Doug has led campaigns to fast-track New Jersey's clean energy economy via offshore wind, solar and energy efficiency programs, to rejoin New Jersey in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program, oppose the expansion of fossil fuel projects, and expand electric vehicles across the state. He has also led campaigns focused on New Jersey's drinking water quality and protection of the state's watershed lands. Doug serves on the boards of the Work Environment Council, and the Environmental Endowment of New Jersey and is the president of ChargeEVC, an electric vehicle coalition. He was recognized by EPA Region II with an Environmental Quality Award in 2012.



Phyllis Salowe-Kaye, Executive Director at New Jersey Citizen Action (NJCA)

For over 30 years, Salowe-Kaye has headed NJ Citizen Action, one of the state's leading progressive advocacy and social service organizations. Citizen Action is involved in many issues facing the state, including housing, the environment, healthcare, and quality of life issues. It pressures banks into providing services to underserved communities, lobbies for paid sick days and a higher minimum wage, and provides tax preparation and healthcare signup services. It also endorses and supports like-minded political candidates through its political action committee.



Sean M. Spiller, NJEA Vice-President

Sean Spiller, a high school science teacher in the Wayne public schools, is vice president of the New Jersey Education Association. Spiller was elected as NJEA vice president beginning Sept. 1, 2017. At NJEA, Spiller has served as chair of the Congressional Contact Committee, as a member of the Urban Education Committee and as an ethnic minority-at large representative to the Delegate Assembly. He was also a member of the National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA).



Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club

For more than 18 years, Jeff has led the club's legislative and outreach efforts in Trenton and around the state. His most recent policy accomplishments include passing the Clean Car Act, the Highlands Act, the Global Warming Response Act, and an unprecedented 300-foot buffer for Category 1 streams. Membership at the Sierra Club has grown with his legislative successes; in 1998 the Sierra Club had 13,000 members, and currently the membership is approximately 20,000. In 2004, he received the Outstanding Achievement award by the Sierra Club, the highest honor given to an employee. He has also received the Conservationist of the Year award from the NJ Audubon Society and recognition from Monmouth Friends of Clearwater. Tittel has helped to found more than a dozen environmental organizations, including the Elizabeth River Coalition, Sterling Forest Coalition, Highlands Coalition and Skylands CLEAN. He currently serves as a board member of the Work Environment Council, the Highlands Coalition, and the New Jersey Oceans Coalition. He served on both the McGreevey and Corzine transition teams.



David Weiner, CWA 1081 President

David Weiner is currently the president of the Communications Workers of America 1081, where he represents the 700 non-managerial employees of the Essex County Division of Welfare. He also currently serves as the co-chair of the Board of Directors for New Jersey Citizen Action, which is a statewide grassroots organization fighting for social, racial and economic justice. He received a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Arts in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.



John Westervelt, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark Chief Executive Officer

John Westervelt is Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark and President of Domus Corporation. Before being appointed to these positions in 2013, Mr. Westervelt held the position of Chief Financial Officer of Catholic Charities for nearly ten years. Catholic Charities is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit social service agency serving over 76,000 individuals and families each year, specializing in serving people who are disabled, people who are homeless, people living with HIV/AIDS, the unemployed, and people with very low incomes.



Renee Wolf Koubiadis, Anti-Poverty Network of NJ, Executive Director

Renee Wolf Koubiadis is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of New Jersey. Having grown up in poverty in Camden County, Renee is deeply committed to identifying and breaking down barriers that prevent many residents of our state from meeting their basic necessities for themselves and their families. Renee has been an advocate and community organizer helping disempowered populations use their voices towards social change throughout New Jersey for over 15 years. Prior to coming to the Anti-Poverty Network (APN) of NJ, Renee served as the Advocacy Coordinator of the National Association of Social Workers – NJ Chapter (NASW-NJ) and as Assistant State Campaign Director for the Citizens' Campaign, a statewide non-partisan movement of hundreds of citizens dedicated to innovative government reform and promoting citizen leadership. In her various roles over the last 15 years, she has educated thousands of people on issues of poverty, leadership, and civic engagement.