

# NRCI Insights Newsletter

Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

Get a deeper look at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute- its board, staff, volunteers, and activities.

## Holiday Card Artist Spotlight: Amy Bezek



Each year, we highlight artwork from local artists who are also cancer survivors. NRCI has been sharing artists on our holiday cards since 2000. Thank you to Amy Bezek, our 2022 digital holiday card artist. Amy is a one-year breast cancer survivor. The photograph featured for our card was taken at Frances Slocum State Park in Wyoming, PA by Amy Bezek. She is a portrait and commercial photographer that lives in Edwardsville, PA with her two cats, Lyric who is 21 years old and Babe Lunatic who is under a year old. Her new photography studio will be in Forty Fort, PA.

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Board Chair, Bill Conaboy



Bill Conaboy, President, and CEO of Allied Services has been a friend of the Cancer Institute's for decades. For the past two years, Bill has been Chair of our Board of Directors. Bill has led NRCI and its leadership through a global pandemic- an office move, rebranding campaign, expanded Navigation Screening Program partners, secured new Cancer Registry partners and assisted in maneuvering within the everchanging healthcare landscape.

His two-year term is ending. On behalf of NRCI's staff and Board, we want to say a heartfelt thank you! Bill, your leadership and friendship are truly appreciated. We know that although your term is over, you will still be a part of our board and help support NRCI for years to come.

Bill is handing over the leadership role of Board Chairman to his colleague, Robert Cole, Ph.D. Bob is the Senior Vice President, Chief Analytics Officer at Allied Services Integrated Health System. He is a 25-year employee of the health system. Bob earned a Master's and a Doctorate in Experimental Psychology from the State University of New York at Binghamton, NY and brings strong data analytics backed by actionable insights into the organization's business lines. Robert Cole, PhD, lives in Duryea with his wife, Donna, and their daughter Carsyn.

We are looking forward to working with Bob to help propel NRCI forward.

# Former NRCI President Honored at the Spirit of Hope Celebration

Bob Durkin was the President at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute for over a decade. In 2012, the relationship between Chairman Leo Vergnetti and Bob created the synergy which became the Spirit of Hope Celebration to support the Institute's Community Based Cancer Screening Navigation Program. It has become an annual event.

On Friday, November 11, 2022, things came full circle as Bob was recognized as the Tribute to Courage Honoree at the Spirit of Hope Celebration. The Board of Ambassadors and Associate Board of Ambassadors organize this event. These are individuals and business leaders in Northeast Pennsylvania who come together to raise funds & awareness to fight cancer in the local community through their support and promotion of a gala event.



Bob Durkin is President and CEO of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, overseeing planning, finances, staffing and programming of the Chamber and its affiliates – Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company, Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises, MetroAction, Inc., Leadership Lackawanna, Skills in Scranton, and The Scranton Plan. Durkin previously served as founding Director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority; Vice-President of the Chamber; and has worked in various capacities in the non-profit and regional government arenas.

He is a 1981 graduate of Penn State University and undertook advanced studies at the PSU Institute for Public Administration and the U.S.

Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organizational Management at the University of Delaware.

Bob serves on numerous professional and community-based organizations including: Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Major Cities Roundtable, Penn State Scranton Advisory Board Board Member, Foundation for Free Enterprise Board Member, Institute for Public Policy Advisory Board Member, Regional Foundation, LLC - Treasurer, Lackawanna County Department of Health - Board Member and ARC of Northeastern Pennsylvania Foundation Board Member. Additionally, Bob and his family are active in several special needs related programs, including Challenger Baseball and Special Olympics. He resides in his native Olyphant with his wife Sherry. They are the parents of a daughter (Jessica) and son (Kevin).

Thank you, Bob Durkin and Leo Vergnetti, for your insight and leadership. You have led a path for the Spirit of Hope Celebration to help support our Community Based Cancer Screening Navigation Program. This program has facilitated over 8,500 completed screenings and continues to help participants get up to date on breast, cervical, lung and colon cancer screenings. We are grateful for the years of working together to fulfill our mission of easing the burden of cancer in NEPA.



### About the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is a nonprofit community-based agency serving seven counties in northeast Pennsylvania with offices located in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Focusing on surveillance, community and patient services, and hospital and practice support services, the Cancer Institute invests 100% of its resources locally.

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