



# NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES AND ITS PRICE Measure 2 Manage Report Recommends Scrutiny of Expenses

KINGSTON, NY (March 2, 2011)... Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach issued the results of a **Measure 2 Manage** report that audited department membership dues and associations paid for by the taxpayers of Ulster County. In a memo forwarded to the County Executive and the Chairman of the Legislature the Comptroller noted that "Ulster County pays approximately \$106,015.00... of this amount \$99,178.00 is not mandated and thus remain choices made by the County."

Thirty-nine (39) departments, agencies and offices responded to the questionnaire indicating that there were one hundred and seven (107) various memberships of which only five (5) were mandated as a result of laws, regulations or grant and program terms. The largest mandated expense was by the Department of Social Services for \$4, 112.00 to the NY Public Welfare Association. The largest non-mandated expense was for \$19,611.57 from Residential Health Care (Golden Hill) to the NY Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Ulster County Tourism belonged to the most organizations and associations, eleven (11) with the Ulster County Legislature spending the most at over \$30,000.00 for six memberships.

In the letter that accompanied his report Auerbach stated, "Arguably many of the memberships... provide benefit ... County Leaders and Staff may receive first hand knowledge and collaboration from such memberships and are often provided with publications, journals and newsletters keeping them abreast of current events in their field of work."

In closing the Comptroller recommended to the Executive and Chairman that "in these tough economic times it would seem the County would benefit from a modification to the current membership request form allowing the opportunity for closer discretion."

The **Measure 2 Manage** series of reports are snap shots portraying the use of County resources designed to help Ulster County departments and offices manage their resources.

The results of the report can be found at [www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller)

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*The mission of the Ulster County Comptroller's Office is to serve as an independent agency of the people, to protect the public interest by monitoring County government and to assess and report on the degree to which its operation is economical, efficient and its financial condition sound*

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## Ulster County Office of the Comptroller Measure 2 Manage Report Snap Shot of Membership Dues & Fees 2010-2011

March 1, 2011

Each year Ulster County Departments, agencies and offices request, are required to join, or be members of specific organizations and associations, utilizing a portion of their budgets to do so.

Organizations and associations can provide valuable services and resources to their members. They can be a source of learning, knowledge and research that empower their members to be more productive, make better decisions, and improve performance in the County's service to the public.

These memberships typically come with a financial cost in the form of dues which is acceptable when the benefits of membership provide value.

### ***Why analyze Ulster County Department membership and association dues?***

The objectives of this analysis were to:

1. Determine the actual amount of membership dues and association fees paid for by the taxpayers of Ulster County.
2. Determine those memberships and associations that are mandated by either Federal or State Law or by the terms and provisions of grants and programs.

### ***What the data tells us:***

Thirty nine (39) departments, agencies and offices have one hundred seven (107) various memberships of which five (5) are mandated as a result of laws, regulations or grant and program terms.

Fees /dues of \$106,015 are reported for 2011. Of this amount \$6,837 is mandated.

The largest mandated expense was by the Department of Social Services for \$4,112.00 to the NY Public Welfare Association. The largest non-mandated expense was for \$19,611.57 from Residential Health Care

(Golden Hill) to the NY Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Ulster County Tourism belonged to the most organizations and associations, eleven (11) with the Ulster County Legislature spending the most at over \$30,000.00 for six (6) memberships.

The Ulster County Police Chiefs' Association ranked first in County memberships with 7 departments paying dues for 12 individuals.

Survey respondents provided thoughtful descriptions of the benefits of their memberships. In these tough economic times it is even more important to evaluate the value of the benefits. County leaders might ask if the value received:

- Provided insight in problem solving
- Informed their decision making
- Facilitated innovation
- Resulted in cost savings
- Fostered partnership/collaboration
- Inspired leadership/achievement
- Improved their service to the public.

It is prudent for Departments to evaluate their memberships, to ensure they support their mission and economically meet their needs. Is the association self-regulating and transparent? Does it offer fresh solutions to complex issues facing government?

***We recommend*** careful analysis of these and other criteria to ensure the best choices are made in selecting and sustaining memberships.

The **Measure 2 Manage** series of reports is designed to help County departments and offices manage their resource efficiently and effectively. These reports provide a snap shot of data to trigger questions from which the user can draw their own conclusions

The results of the report can be found at [www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller)

**MEMBERSHIP AUDIT 2010-2011**

U.C. Comptroller 03.01.11

DEPARTMENT	DEPT. HEAD	Organization	Dollar Amount	Mandated
* ARSON	Wayne T. Freer	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)	\$150.00	NO
		International Association of Arson	\$750.00	NO
		NYS Fire Investigators Association	\$250.00	NO
ATTORNEY	Beatrice Havranek	Cty Attys Assoc of the State of NY (CAASNY)	\$835.00	NO
		US District Court, Northern District of NY Federal Court Bar	\$75.00	NO
CLERK	Nina Postupack	NYS Association of County Clerks	\$250.00	NO
COMPTROLLER	Elliott Auerbach	Govt. Finance Officer's Assoc. of the US (GFOA)	\$420.00	NO
		NYS Govt. Finance Officer's Assoc.	\$390.00	NO
CONSUMER FRAUD	Janet Y. Caffo	No Memberships	0	N/A
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	D. Holley Carnright	Ulster County Police Chiefs Association	\$50.00	NO
		District Attorney's Association of the State of NY	\$1,875.00	NO
ELECTION BOARD	Turco	Election Commissioners Association of NYS	\$140.00	NO
EMERGENCY COMM	Arthur Snyder	Assoc. of Public Safety Communications Officials	\$345.00	NO
		NYS Emergency Mgmt Association	\$50.00	NO
		NYS 911 Coordinators Association	\$25.00	NO
		Ulster County Police Chiefs Association	\$50.00	NO
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING	Nancy E.K. Schaefer	NYATEP	\$3,000.00	NO
		New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$350.00	NO
ENVIRONMENT	Amanda LaValle	NYS Association of Environmental Mgmt Counsels	\$75.00	NO
EXECUTIVE	Michael Hein	NYS Government Finance Officers Association (NYSGFOA)	\$260.00	NO
		NYS County Executives Association	\$3,888.00	NO
		NYS Government Finance Officers Association (NYSGFOA)	\$260.00	NO
FINANCE	Paul Hewitt	NYS Government Finance Officers Association	\$130.00	NO
		National Government Finance Officers' Association	\$210.00	NO
		NYS County Treasurers Finance Officers Assoc.	\$50.00	NO

FIRE COORDINATOR	Charles Mutz	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) NYS Association of County Fire Coordinators Ulster County Police Chiefs Association	\$150.00 \$125.00 \$50.00	NO NO NO
HEALTH	LaMar Hasbrouck.MD	American Public Health Association NYS Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO)	\$195.00 \$3,156.00	NO NO
HISTORIAN	Anne Gordon	Greater Hudson Heritage Network	\$40	NO
HUMAN RIGHTS	Arlene Reynolds	No Memberships	0	N/A
INFORMATION SERVICES	Sylvia Wohlfart	(NYSLGITDA) NYS Local Govt IT Directors Assn. UC Assessors Association	\$50.00 \$75.00	NO NO
INSURANCE	Bonnie Szpulecki	YMCA NY Association for Self-Insured Counties	\$1,080 \$55	NO NO
LEGISLATURE	Fred Wadnola	Ulster County Chamber of Commerce Pattern for Progress Coalition of Watershed Towns NYS Assoc. of Clerks of City Legislative Boards Hudson Valley Regional Council NYSAC	\$600.00 \$250.00 \$1,500.00 \$100.00 \$11,000.00 \$17,343.00	NO NO NO NO NO NO
MENTAL HEALTH	Edward Brown	NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors American Psychological Association Assoc. of Psychology Postdoctoral & Internship Ctrs. VisionShare Inc NCS Pearson	\$5,092 \$2,000 \$515.00 \$528.00 \$100.00	NO YES YES NO NO
OFFICE FOR THE AGING	Anne Cardinale	National Association of Area Agencies on Aging NYS Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging	\$140.00 \$1,430.00	NO NO
PERSONNEL	Brenda Bartholomew	NYS Association of Personnel & Civil Service Officers National Public Employer Labor Relations Association Society of Human Resources Management	\$100.00 \$200.00 \$180.00	NO NO NO
PLANNING	Robert Oakes	The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development NY Planning Federation	\$35.00 \$350.00	NO NO

PROBATION	Melanie Mullins	Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress	\$175.00	NO
		NY Association of Pretrial Service Agencies	\$25.00	NO
		NYS Council of Probation Administrators	\$500.00	NO
		NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault Inc	\$500.00	NO
		National Center for Victims of Crime	\$95.00	NO
		Association of NYS Youth Courts	\$125.00	NO
		Police Chiefs Association of Ulster County	\$50.00	NO
		National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE)	\$50.00	NO
		American Probation & Parole Association (APPA)	\$50.00	NO
PUBLIC DEFENDER	Andrew Kossover	New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA)	\$225	NO
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	Robert Dibella	NY Public Transit Association	\$1,000.00	NO
PUBLIC WORKS	David Sheeley	UC Town Highway Superintendent Assoc.	\$175.00	NO
		NYS Cty Highway Superintendent Assoc.	\$150.00	NO
		NY Rural Water Association	\$133.00	NO
PURCHASING	Robin Peruso	State Assoc. of Municipal Purchasing Officials (SAMPO)	\$250.00	NO
		National Institute of Government Purchasing (NIGP)	\$375.00	NO
		Sam's Club	\$250.00	NO
REAL PROPERTY TAX	Dorothy Martin	Ulster County Assessors Association	\$75.00	NO
		NYS Assessors Association	\$85.00	NO
		NYS County Directors Association	\$95.00	NO
		Ulster County Board of Realtors	\$275.00	NO
RESIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE	Sheree Cross	County Nursing Facility of NY (branch of NYSAC)	\$5,050.00	NO
		NY Association of Homes & Services for the Aging	\$19,611.57	NO
SAFETY OFFICE	Diane Beiti	Tri County Chapter NYSBOC	\$50.00	NO
		Safety Council of Central NY	\$50.00	NO
		National Safety Council	\$2,080.00	NO

SHERIFF	Paul Vanblarcum	National Tactical Officers Association	\$150.00	NO
		American Jail Association	\$288.00	NO
		NYS Sheriff's Assoc/National Sheriff Assoc	\$250.00	NO
		Rip Van Winkle Council Boy Scouts of America	\$180.00	NO
		MAGloden	\$400.00	NO
		NYS Department of State	\$150.00	YES
		NYS Training Directors Association	\$40.00	NO
		Empire State Law Enforcement Training Network	\$250.00	NO
		Ulster County Police Chiefs Association	\$300.00	NO
SOCIAL SERVICES	Roberto Rodriguez	NY Public Welfare Association	\$4,112.00	YES
		NY Welfare Fraud	\$60.00	YES
		NY Association of Fiscal Administrators	\$25.00	NO
STOP DWI	John F. Miller	NYS Stop DWI Coordinator's Association	\$1,850.00	NO
		Ulster County Police Chiefs Association	\$50.00	NO
TOURISM	Rick Remsnyder	American Bus Association	\$510.00	NO
		Business Marketing Association (BMA) Hudson Valley Chap	\$295.00	NO
		Catskill Association of Tourism Services (CATS)	\$1,000.00	NO
		Hudson Valley Tourism	\$1,000.00	NO
		New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$290.00	NO
		NYS Hospitality & Tourism Association	\$150.00	NO
		NYS TPA Council & Getawaynewyork.com	\$1,000.00	NO
		NYS Travel & Vacation Association	\$300.00	NO
		North American Travel Journalists Association	\$500.00	NO
		SKAL International	\$160.00	NO
		Southern Ulster County Chamber of Commerce	\$225.00	NO
TRAFFIC & SAFETY BOARD	Charles Schaller	Ulster County Police Chiefs Association	\$50.00	NO
		NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards	\$75.00	NO
VETERANS SERVICES	Terry Breitenstein	No Memberships	0	N/A
WEIGHTS & MEASURES	James DeGasperis	NYS Weights & Measures Association	\$50.00	NO
YOUTH BUREAU		Association of NYS Youth Bureaus	\$489.00	NO
			\$106,015.57	

\*Arson numbers were taken from 2010 due to no response from the department.