



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 22, 2009

Hudson Valley Hospital Center President John Federspiel Elected Chairman of NorMet

Leaders of Hospitals in 7 Counties Choose Federspiel to Guide Regional Hospital Association in 2009

Newburgh, NY – Hudson Valley Hospital President John Federspiel has aggressively launched his tour of duty as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet). Representing 30 hospitals in Westchester County and the Hudson Valley, NorMet advocates with State and Federal Government to support hospitals in meeting their mission to provide patients with the highest quality, safest and most compassionate care possible.

In one of his first actions, Federspiel led a group of hospital executives in late January, to meet with members of the New York State legislature. They expressed their concerns about the governor's proposed budget cuts, and emphasized the need for health insurance reform. "It's the most tumultuous economy in history since the Great Depression, and healthcare is the only economic segment that *adds* jobs. Yet, the Administration has cut and taxed the *only* economic growth sector that also takes care of the neediest people," said Federspiel. "Those cuts and taxes will have a crippling domino effect on the economy, and on people of the Hudson Valley and across New York State."

Neil Abitabilo, President at NorMet, said that a survey of hospitals in the 7 county NorMet region found roughly 1250 hospital jobs that would be cut, or open positions put on hold, as a result of the budget that the Governor and Legislature approved. "This represents \$62.5 million in salaries and wages lost," Abitabilo said.

The economic climate for hospitals in New York State has been very difficult for decades, yet during that same period Federspiel has been able to grow Hudson Valley Hospital Center into a hospital that has received regional, state and national recognition for its high quality of care, and business-like efficiency. Recent achievements of the hospital, located in Cortlandt Manor, include being:

- ✓ The first hospital in New York State to receive the Studer Group Fire Starter Award in healthcare operations excellence;
- ✓ In the top 6% of all hospitals in the nation in employee satisfaction; and
- ✓ First Magnet Hospital in the region in 2007, recognized as a "gold standard" for measuring quality patient care and nursing excellence.

Mr. Federspiel joined Hudson Valley Hospital Center in 1987, when the hospital was financially fragile. Under his leadership, the hospital has attained many quality and service awards and has experienced tremendous growth of services. During this time, the hospital's employee population grew from 450 to its current total of 1,100. The hospital began a \$100 million major renovation and expansion program in 2007, which will be completed in 2010.

Mr. Abitabilo remarked that in times of great challenges, great opportunity also exists. "With John's demonstrated leadership of Hudson Valley Hospital Center, we are in good hands with his guidance as the Chairman of NorMet," Abitabilo concluded.

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For an interview or additional information about Mr. Federspiel, or Hudson Valley Hospital Center, contact William Dauster, at 914-734-3557.

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