

CEO places emphasis on delivering care

BY JANE SCHWIFF

John Weir may be CEO of Olean Medical Group LLP but he hasn't forgotten his early days as an aide on a hospital ward and, later, as a paramedic working his way through college.

Those and other health-care jobs along the way provided valuable experience, and he puts it to good use while running what's described as the Southern Tier's leading multi-specialty group.

"Probably the most valuable (tool) I have as an administrator is that experience in actually delivering care," Weir says. "At the end of the day, this is a human endeavor and it's immensely helpful having firsthand experience with the service that we are asked to provide."

He came to Olean Medical Group from Michigan nine years ago and led its transformation from a struggling health-care organization to a thriving business locally serving Olean and the surrounding areas. The group, whose roots date to 1946, currently has 54 physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. With locations in Olean, Franklinville, Ellicoorville and Cuba, it maintains a patient base of 60,000.

"We have done some work on our business operations, our finances, our patient satisfaction and provider satisfaction," Weir says. "We've placed a great deal of emphasis

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*Olean Medical
Group LLP*

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Excellence**

for achievement in
administrative policies in a
hospital, medical office or
organization

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on metrics and performance, all geared to the mission of helping those who seek our services."

Weir has been involved in health care for 30 years, holding various positions with medical groups in North Dakota and Michigan before moving to Olean. A graduate of the University of North Dakota, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in organizational leadership.



John Weir started as an aide in a hospital ward.

director of marketing/physician recruitment, says in nominating Weir for the award. "He has fostered a strong working relationship with several health-care agencies and has negotiated competitively to establish the Olean Medical Group as an important... facility in Western New York, serving a large rural population."

Weir and his wife, Faye, have a son in college and a daughter in high school. His hobbies include golf, fishing and reading.

"I came out of the provider side of the industry," he says. "I began by taking care of patients and, frankly, sometimes still miss that. But this drew my interest and I assembled the academic credentials and experience to move into administration."

Though flattered to be recognized for his leadership at Olean Medical Group, Weir says there are others who are more deserving of this award.

"These are heroes in health care, and I find them to be the patients, their families and the people who actually deliver the care. I don't find heroism necessarily in the administration end," he says. "It's my privilege to be contributing, at least secondarily, to the fine things that happen by those who are delivering and receiving the care. I fully intend to continue to take the responsibility that I've been asked

to take and do what we can to deliver good things to people."

Jane Schwiff is a frequent contributor