

► Olean

## Local doctor honored for smoking-cessation efforts

BUFFALO — Dr. Gilbert N. Witte of Olean was recognized this morning by the New York State Department of Health for his efforts to curb smoking and tobacco use in the Southern Tier.

Dr. Witte, a physician at Olean Medical Group and Cattaraugus County medical director, received a "Your Patients are Listening" recognition award from the Tobacco Cessation Centers of New York State. Dr. Witte received his award during a ceremony in downtown Buffalo at the Erie County Health Department.

The award ceremony was held during the Western New York kickoff of the New York State Department of Health's "Your Patients are Listening" ad campaign.

Dr. Witte joined the Olean Medical Group in 1985.

New York Health Commissioner Dr. Richard F. Daines said studies show that when health-care providers ask patients about smoking and offer them help quitting, patients are more likely to break the habit and enjoy long-term smoke-free lives.

Throughout his 24-year career with the Medical Group, Dr. Witte has encour-

aged and helped his patients quit smoking and tobacco use. Dr. Witte was nominated for the award by the Southern Tier Health Care System Tobacco Cessation Center. Based in Olean, the Southern Tier Health Care System Tobacco Cessation Center is one of 19 cessation centers across the state.

Dr. Witte has served in many capacities on the Olean Medical Group's Board of Directors and its committees. He has achieved board certification in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine and critical-care medicine.

Dr. Witte is Cattaraugus County medical director and also the medical director of Hospice of Cattaraugus County. He has also served as Cattaraugus County tuberculosis officer.

The Tobacco Cessation Center offers training and technical assistance to doctors and other health-care providers in Cattaraugus, Allegany, Chautauqua and Wyoming counties so they can help their tobacco-dependent patients quit smoking and other forms of tobacco use.

For more information on the Tobacco Cessation Center, call 372-0614.