

The following are words of welcome, praise and encouragement from Saratoga County Administrator David A. Wickerman delivered at the Statewide Symposium for Directors and Deputy Directors held on November 15 and 16, 2004:

Welcome to Saratoga County. When our Probation Director, Paul Viscusi, invited me to welcome you this afternoon, I jumped at the chance. Paul has been our Director for 15 years, but like most of you, he's been working in the field for a lot longer. In the 20 years that I have served as County Administrator, he has told me more than I ever wanted to know about the Probation career field. From the stress of dealing with difficult probationers to the frustration caused by increasing state and federal mandates, you folks earn your paychecks every day. You are the people who have to make sure that the public is protected from the more dangerous elements of our society, even as you give your all to try to rehabilitate the folks who are placed in your care and custody. You are the folks who have to scrimp and save on office supplies because the mandated Social Services budget has just gone up by 10% and the County doesn't have any additional money to apply to the offices that aren't subject to a direct mandate. You are the men and women who must make split-second value judgments that can have an incredible impact on the safety of all our constituents. There is no reason to sugarcoat it: I'm sure you will hear about many more potential problems over the next few days that will raise your stress levels even further. We love having you as our guests in Saratoga County and look forward to your return for many years to come.

David A. Wickerham  
Saratoga County Administrator  
November 15, 2004