



[www.whrma.org](http://www.whrma.org)  
[whrmainfo@whrma.org](mailto:whrmainfo@whrma.org)  
Westchester, NY

**Fellow WHRMA Members:**

I am writing on behalf of our Board to wish you all a Happy New Year — and to provide you with our annual update.

2021 continued to present many challenges to businesses and, consequently, to human resources professionals, and 2022 is likely to also present challenges. We at WHRMA will continue our efforts to support the Westchester human resources community.

Despite the challenges, last year, we continued to present our monthly morning programs that were well received and allowed attendees to stay current on HR-related developments, but also to earn SHRM certification credits.

In July, we had our first in-person (outdoor) networking event since 2019. Our Networking Chair, April Bellacero, pulled off a great event under trying circumstances. It was well attended and very well received by those who attended. It was a high-energy event, and we were all very excited to be able to see each other in person and have a cocktail! Unfortunately, with the peaks and valleys of this pandemic, we have had to continuously put off plans to have another in-person event. But it is on our radar, and we are hoping to be able to start in-person events again soon.

In October, we had our Annual Conference, themed “Chicken Soup for the HR Soul .” During this successful conference, we not only presented an impressive and accomplished panel of HR professionals to discuss the issues that we are all grappling with, but we also had inspiring motivational speakers for our opening and closing keynotes. Those who attended gave us feedback that they not only left armed with additional knowledge, but also re-energized, motivated and ready to attack the challenges ahead. We are thankful to our Conference Chair, Teresa Bucello, our panelists and speakers, and our awesome Conference Committee members for pulling off another successful Annual Conference.



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Through the efforts of our Marketing/Social Media Chair, Conor Hughes, WHRMA has been more present on social media than ever before, raising our profile even higher in the HR community.

In 2021 we partnered with the Business Council of Westchester and became a sponsor of the BCW Human Resources Council. And, under the guidance of our Membership Chair, Melissa Strauss, we also grew our membership to record numbers and, in fact, in the 3rd quarter of 2021 were the fastest-growing SHRM chapter in NY State.

We also donated thousands of dollars to local charitable organizations such as Feeding Westchester and The Guidance Center of Westchester.

While this would be too long a letter if I were to call out each one of our Board members who contributed to our successful year, the WHRMA Board is a dedicated group of volunteers who certainly deserve much thanks and recognition for their efforts. **Our 2022 Board is listed in full at the bottom of this letter.**

I personally am excited to work with our current Board of Directors in 2022 and excited for what we are poised to accomplish for our Membership and the HR and business community.

Our goals for the 2022 year include another successful WHRMA Annual Conference (date TBD), continued involvement in supporting and advocating for the HR and employer community in Westchester, continuing our charitable donations and contributions to Westchester-based organizations, more networking events, and continued membership growth.

We will also continue to provide you with our monthly educational Morning Programs on topics pertinent to the HR community. **I encourage you to get involved with our community efforts and enjoy the benefits of membership. As always, you can view our upcoming events at our [whrma.org](http://whrma.org) website.**



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We are open to your suggestions and questions, and I hope you will connect with us and reach out to me in the coming year. You can reach us at [whrmainfo@whrma.org](mailto:whrmainfo@whrma.org).

Our goal is for WHRMA to play an integral role in providing a community for those involved in HR in Westchester (and beyond) this coming year — and for years to come.

Again, we appreciate your support and look forward to a productive and generally better 2022!

With best wishes,

Jeffrey Kimmel, President, WHRMA



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**2022 WHRMA Board:**

**EXECUTIVES**

President - Jeffrey Kimmel

Secretary - Sharissa Ryan SHRM-CP

Treasurer - Grant Schneider CBC, SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Programs Chair - Caitlyn McGee

Membership Chair - Melissa Strauss PHR

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Conference Chair - Teresa Bucello

College Relations Chair - Stacy Larson, PHR

Legislative Chair - Tracy Levy

Accommodations Chair - Michael Lombardi

Job Bank/Networking Chair - April Bellacero, PHR, SHRM-CP

Diversity Chair - Pam Brown, MS, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, CCP

Communications/Website Chair - Norma Christian SHRM-SCP

Workforce Readiness Chair - Garrett Jennings

Young Professional Chair - Meghan Tooley SHRM-CP

Marketing/Social Media Chair - Conor Hughes, SHRM-CP

Sponsorship Chair - Lawrence Bahr

Certification Chair - Jodi-Ann Lyons SPHR

Foundation Chair - Vacant