Full Steam Ahead continued

We made visiting New York State Senators and Assembly Members throughout the region a priority in fall 2016. Our representatives were eager to learn about our regional outreach and how they could support us moving forward. We'd like to thank the following representatives for meeting with us to learn more about our regional work:

New York State Senators
Sen. Rich Funke (District 55); Sen. Patrick Gallivan (District 59); Sen. Thomas O’Mara (District 58); Sen. Robert Ortt (District 62); Sen. Michael Ranzenhofer (District 61); Sen. Joseph Robach (District 56); and Julie Schmidt, District Coordinator for Sen. Catharine Young (District 57).

New York State Assembly Members
Assemb. Harry Bronson (District 138); Elizabeth Huson, District Office Assistant for Assemb. David DiPietro (District 147); Assemb. Stephen Hawley (District 139); Assemb. Mark Johns (District 135); Assemb. Brian Kolb (District 131); Assemb. Peter Lawrence (District 134); Assemb. Joseph Morelle (District 136); Assemb. Bob Oaks (District 130); and Assemb. Philip Palmesano (District 132).

Note, due to scheduling conflicts, we were unable to meet with all of our representatives as planned, but will follow up with those offices in 2017.

Save the Date:
Saturday, January 28, 2017

The next PALS (Peer Advocates Lending Support) training has been scheduled for breast cancer survivors who are ready to serve as mentors to those who are newly diagnosed. The training is free, and lunch will be provided. Please contact Pat Battaglia, Associate Program Director, at 585-473-8177 or pat@bccr.org for more details and to receive a PALSSM training application.

Get On Our List!
To learn about upcoming regional programs and seminars, send Tracy Brown your name, address, and email address today!

Email her at tracy@bccr.org or call 585-473-8177, ext. 310.
Survivor Spotlight

Sue Cirencione – The Coalition sat down with young survivor Sue Cirencione to talk about life a year and a half after receiving a diagnosis of breast cancer. Over coffee on a chilly autumn day in Geneva, NY, she shared her story.

Sue Cirencione is an active woman with a penchant for getting involved in her community. Balancing a happy marriage and raising three beautiful daughters while working full-time, Sue is one busy lady. You could say that her breast cancer journey began before her diagnosis in early 2015. A former supervisor called her unexpectedly to tell her that one of the clerks had breast cancer. She listened and, “I had an auto-immune disorder, and I was worried about how cancer would affect me.” In particular, she was concerned about taking Tamoxifen for five years following surgery.

Sue was scheduled for a routine mammogram. During the Friday appointment, the technician took an extra picture of her right breast, but didn’t indicate there could be a problem. But Sue “just knew there was something wrong.” Tamoxifen was recommended by her oncologist.

The next morning, on the way to work, the same song played on the radio. Fifteen minutes later, she received a call: “It was Sue’s husband David and answering his questions. He finally asked, “can you just call my husband?”” The doctor spent the next hour and a half explaining the diagnosis to Sue’s husband David and answering his questions.

Sue’s daughters Maddie, Ashley, and Chelsie

Sue admitted that when she woke from surgery after getting the implants, she was disappointed. “I expected to wake up and look like Pamela Anderson. I wasn’t prepared. Things just didn’t look the same. It wasn’t what I thought it would be.” She had two additional reconstructive surgeries with the last one in August 2016.

Right now, Sue works full-time and holds down two part-time jobs. She’s a member of the Coalition’s Regional Community Outreach Committee (RCOC), and recently joined the board of her local United Way. “I made a promise that I would slow down,” she added wryly. She plans to pull back from another commitment to make some time for herself. She hopes to enroll in the Coalition’s next Gentle Yoga session in Geneva.

Sue admitted she’s just now starting to process her breast cancer journey and starting to grieve. When she was actively going through her surgeries and recovering, she didn’t think about it too deeply. She joked and did not want to overwhelm her family. “But I’m realizing now that the last year and a half was tough. When I think about it, it did suck. But it’s important to talk about it, to grieve…and to begin to move on,” she said.

“I’ve gone through the physical healing, but the emotional healing is really just starting,” Sue finished. “I’m really going to make an effort to try and come to at least one Brown Bag Friday meeting [at the Coalition in Rochester] every month because I need to continue to talk.”

We’ll be here, Sue. And we’ll continue to listen.