

**National Commission on Hunger Public Hearing**  
**May 13, 2015 ♦ 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
**The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government**

**Invited Speaker Biographies** (alphabetical order)



**Joel Berg**

*Executive Director, The New York City Coalition Against Hunger*

[jberg@nyccah.org](mailto:jberg@nyccah.org)

(212) 825-0028, ext. 204

Joel Berg is the executive director of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger and a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. Mr. Berg is a nationally recognized leader and media spokesperson in the fields of domestic hunger, food insecurity, obesity, poverty, food-related economic development, national service, and volunteerism. He is also author of *All You Can Eat: How Hungry Is America?*

Since 2001, Mr. Berg has led the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, which represents the more than 1,100 nonprofit soup kitchens and food pantries in New York City and the nearly 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers who live in households that cannot afford enough food. The Coalition works not only to meet these residents' immediate food needs but also to enact innovative solutions to help society move "beyond the soup kitchen" to self-sufficiency.

Prior to his work with the Coalition, Mr. Berg served for 8 years in the Clinton Administration in senior executive service positions at USDA.

[Joel Berg - New York City Coalition Against Hunger](#)



**Linda Bopp**

*Executive Director, Hunger Solutions New York*

[Linda.Bopp@hungersolutionsny.org](mailto:Linda.Bopp@hungersolutionsny.org)

(518) 436-8757, ext. 115

Linda Bopp is responsible to the Board of Directors for the strategic direction and management of Hunger Solutions New York. She has

guided Hunger Solutions New York through several initiatives including changing the organization's name to more strongly reflect its mission, strengthening partnerships with state and national organizations, and significantly expanding the organization to more effectively alleviate hunger across New York State. Ms. Bopp joined Hunger Solutions New York in 2006.

Prior to joining Hunger Solutions New York, Ms. Bopp worked for The Rensselaerville Institute, a national management and consulting organization, where she helped not-for-profits and government agencies implement results-focused management. Before that she worked in New York State government, holding positions in Governor Mario Cuomo's Executive Chamber, the NYS Job Training Partnership Council, and the NYS Department of Economic Development. Ms. Bopp began her career in public relations after earning a degree in English from Siena College.

[Linda Bopp – Hunger Solutions New York](#)



**Lee Bowes**

*CEO, America Works*

[lbowes@americaworks.com](mailto:lbowes@americaworks.com)

(212) 599-5627, ext. 126

Dr. Lee Bowes is the Chief Executive Officer of America Works of New York, Inc. and all of its affiliate America Works and America On Demand companies. Dr. Bowes has held the position of CEO since 1987. She directs all activities of the approximately \$15 million annual business. Dr. Bowes was an adjunct Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She lectures on human resource management, social policy, and innovative management techniques. She has published a book on human resource management with Harpers. She has published articles in *The New Democrat*, *The Entrepreneurial Economy*, and *Social Policy Research*. She has appeared on NBC, CBS, ABC (morning and nightly news), McNeil Lehrer, PBS, and CNN. She has been frequently on CNBC as an expert on welfare reform. Dr. Bowes is one of the nation's leading experts on welfare-to-work and prison-to-work workforce development policies.

[Dr. Lee Bowes – America Works Inc.](#)



**Kate Breslin**

*President & CEO, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy*

[kbreslin@scaany.org](mailto:kbreslin@scaany.org)

(518) 463-1896, ext. 125

Kate Breslin is the President & CEO of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that engages in research, community education, and advocacy on State policy issues that affect disenfranchised populations. With Ms. Breslin's leadership, the Schuyler Center is building upon its long history as a strong, independent voice and coalition builder helping to shape public debates around social policies that affect New Yorkers.

Ms. Breslin plays a leadership role in statewide coalitions focused on health, including Medicaid Matters New York and Health Care for All New York. Kate was appointed by Governor Cuomo to the Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council and she serves on several health policy advisory bodies.

Ms. Breslin previously served as the Director of Policy for the Community Health Care Association of New York State. She was also a Project Director for the California Budget Project, analyzing state budget and tax policies, with a focus on health, welfare and the labor market.

[Kate Breslin - Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy](#)



**Edmund J. McMahon**

*President, Empire Center for Public Policy*

[info@empirecenter.org](mailto:info@empirecenter.org)

(518) 434-3100

Edmund J. McMahon is president of the Empire Center for Public Policy. Mr. McMahon's writing and research focuses on improving New York's economic competitiveness and promoting greater transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in state and local government. He has authored or coauthored major studies on public pension reform, collective bargaining, population migration, budget trends, and tax policy in New York. His influential "Blueprint for a Better Budget," published in January 2010, featured a number of recommendations subsequently implemented under Governors David Paterson and Andrew Cuomo. McMahon also was a

leading advocate of an across-the-board cap on property taxes in New York before it was enacted at Governor Cuomo's initiative in 2011.

McMahon is also a senior fellow with the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, which he joined in June 2000. He also served as a deputy commissioner in the state Department of Taxation and Finance and as a vice chancellor of the State University of New York.

[Edmund J. McMahon - Empire Center for Public Policy](#)



**Janet Poppendieck**

*Policy Director, New York City Food Policy Center*

[info@nycfoodpolicy.org](mailto:info@nycfoodpolicy.org)

(212) 772-4000

Janet Poppendieck, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Sociology at Hunter College, City University of New York and the Policy Director for the New York City Food Policy Center at Hunter College and the CUNY School of Public Health. Her primary concerns, both as a scholar and as an activist, have been poverty, hunger, and food assistance in the United States. She is the Vice Chair of the Board of Community Food Advocates, serves on the Board of Why Hunger?, and is a member of the Leadership Council of School Food Focus.

Professor Poppendieck has taught sociology at Hunter College, City University of New York, since 1976. From 1988 until 2001, she served as director of the Hunter College Center for the Study of Family Policy, where she helped start the Welfare Rights Initiative, the Community Interpreter Project, and the Language Diversity Initiative.

[Janet Poppendieck - New York City Food Policy Center](#)



**Mark Quandt**

*Executive Director, Regional Food Bank of North Eastern New York*

[markq@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:markq@regionalfoodbank.net)

(518) 786-3691, ext. 222

Mark Quandt is Executive Director of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. The Food Bank collects large donations of edible but unmarketable food from the food industry and redistributes it to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other charitable agencies that

feed people in need. In 2014, the Food Bank provided more than 32 million pounds of food to 1,000 agencies in 23 counties of northeastern New York.

Mr. Quandt worked with emotionally disturbed children in Lockport, NY, for 5 years. He was hired as the Regional Food Bank's first warehouse manager in 1983 and was promoted to Executive Director in 1984. He has been at the helm of the Regional Food Bank for 31 years and is one of the longest tenured food bank directors in the country.

Mr. Quandt graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a BS in math and education. He received an MSW from the University at Albany, SUNY.

[Mark Quandt – Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York](#)



**Angela Rachidi**

*Research Fellow, Poverty Studies*

[Angela.Rachidi@AEI.org](mailto:Angela.Rachidi@AEI.org)

(202) 862-4874

Angela Rachidi is a research fellow in poverty studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where she studies the effects of public policy and existing support programs on low-income families.

Ms. Rachidi is a former deputy commissioner for policy research and evaluation for the Department of Social Services in New York. She oversaw a team of analysts that worked on studies used to guide local officials to make informed policy decisions on how work, family, and public policy could reduce poverty and improve the economic outcome of poor families.

Ms. Rachidi studied low-income support programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

She is also a PhD candidate at The New School's Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy, and her dissertation deals with the economic disadvantages of unmarried mothers.

[Angela Rachidi – American Enterprise Institute](#)