

Olean Meeting Draws 200

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By NANCY G. BARGAR

OLEAN — More than 200 people participated in an all-day Community Development Conference held yesterday at St. Bonaventure University.

"You're thirsting for a little federal grantmanship savvy here today," Rep. Stanley N. Lundine said, and that seemed to be the case.

Most of the questions that came up in morning and afternoon seminars conducted by federal and state specialists concerned how to get more money. People wanted to hear less about how to apply for loans and more about how to write grants. They wanted to know why money is sometimes slow in coming after it has been promised by a government agency. "Why should we have to go out and get a loan at 9½ per cent to pay a contractor because EPA hasn't delivered?" asked one town supervisor.

Of all the seminars offered, the most popular turned out to be community facilities, commercial and industrial development, and energy conservation. Others dealt with water and sewer facilities, human resources programs, and housing.

The purpose of the conference was to bring to the district's attention the wide range of services available from the federal government. It was sponsored jointly by Lundine's congressional office, the state Development Committee, Southern Tier West and Central planning boards, and the five-county Cooperative Extension offices.

"We hope to promote a closer working relationship between those interested in obtaining federal assistance and those responsible for allocating it," Lundine had said in his invitation to conference participants.

The conference featured the following agencies: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Farmers Home Administration; state Parks and Recreation; U.S. Economic Development Administration; U.S. Small Business Administration; state Job Development Authority; U.S. Internal Revenue Service; state Job Incentive Board; state Urban Development Corp.; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; state Department of Environmental Conservation; Federal Energy Administration; U.S. Office of

Energy Programs; U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Treasury's Office of Revenue Sharing.

Judd M. Hudson, loan officer with the Farmers Home Administration in Washington, D.C., was the luncheon speaker. He spoke less than five minutes, praising instead the remarks of Lundine.

Lundine noted that Tuesday's resource conference was a forerunner of what will be the first rural development training program in the state, scheduled for May 7, 14, and 21 in Elliptoville. He called this kind of organizational effort to identify community problems vital to successful

development of rural America. "Through federal programs, they play a very valuable supplementary role," the district should not rely on them to make the difference, Lundine said.

The primary objective of this area should be economic growth, he said. Though he said he would not tell Southern Tier West and Southern Tier Central what strategy to adopt, he advised them to build on the assets they already have.

To achieve economic growth, Lundine said three things are necessary. It is necessary to recognize that rural America is diverse and complex, that it is not a homogeneous region in which similar people make their living doing similar things.

Also, he said "Urban problems, by their very concentration, capture the bulk of the public eye. Rural America must organize to regain its fair share of attention."

Finally, he said that there are many and varied theories on rural development that need to be understood.

"More and more people are seeking the quality of life such as ours," the congressman said. "I can assure you it doesn't exist in Washington, D.C."

The men and women taking notes throughout Tuesday's sessions said they picked up new things each time they met with agency representatives. "This time one more thing I've heard before sank in," said one Cattaraugus County official.



Rep. Stanley N. Lundine talks with constituents

Post-Journal photo by Nancy G. Bargar