

Board of Trustees

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Michael J. Pratico, Jr.

**Director of Collateral Risk/Chief Appraiser
Columbia Bank**

Board Member: More Than 20 Years

Title: Chair, Board of Trustees, RWJUH Hamilton

Where did you go to school/college?

I received my Bachelor of Science in School of Hotel Administration from Cornell University, attended the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Pennsylvania, and received my MBA with a focus in Financial Services Management from the Isenberg School at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

What inspires you and keeps you engaged/motivated to be a member?

Initially, my parents stressed early on the importance of giving back—the need, the duty—to make a commitment to the community you live in. As time passed, I was able to watch, with a front-row seat, some of the sharpest, most dedicated leaders in our community guide the organization. The truth is, I get so much more from my service than I give.

What personally are you most proud to share with folks about RWJUH Hamilton?

I am most proud of the access we provide and its holistic approach to healing. In most cases, patients who visit our hospital receive the care they need onsite. But in those cases where the need is more acute or the condition more specialized, access to the largest academic health system in the state can literally mean the difference between a great outcome and a devastating one. Even more remarkable to me is how hard this team works to keep folks out of the hospital. Restoration of health was always the hallmark of any good hospital, but RWJUH Hamilton was an early innovator in prevention (promote and restore). Whether it is our Farm to Family Program, Community Garden or the monthly classes, programs and support groups we offer every month sponsored by Community Education and the Better Health Program, they are all designed to help our fellow community members be healthy. While the old line of 'No money, no mission' remains as true today as when it was first said, the ability of our hospital to look beyond that is truly unique and something I am more than proud of, for which I am grateful.

Were you ever a patient or had services at RWJUH Hamilton?

Yes, five times! I have experienced the compassion and kindness that the team brings.

Fun Fact

My mother was a unit secretary at RWJUH Hamilton many years ago.