**Congressmen’s Across the Aisle talk**

April 21; reserve tickets

Congressmen Sean Patrick Maloney and John Faso will focus on how Washington politics affect the Hudson Valley when they sit down for a unique Pattern For Progress "Across The Aisle" discussion April 21.

The approaches of the new administration are driving new priorities on Capitol Hill, potentially influencing everything from legislation to funding and quality of life in this region. "Across The Aisle," now in its fifth year, is a dynamic, bipartisan discussion that demystifies the inner workings of Congress and provides insights on the most pressing issues. Maloney and Faso will illustrate how they work to navigate this new world on behalf of the Hudson Valley.

The program will be held at The Cabaret at Marist College's Student Union in Poughkeepsie. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The program is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Admission is $35 for Pattern members and $50 for non-members. Sponsors are Marist College, The Chazen Companies and Marshall & Sterling. Please call 845-565-4900 or email rde-groat@pfprogress.org to make a reservation or to become a sponsor. To make a reservation online, visit PatternForProgress.org.

**Experienced urban planner joins Pattern**

Emily Rebecca Hamilton is the newest addition to Pattern For Progress. Emily, deputy director of the Center for Housing Solutions and Urban Initiatives, brings 15 years of affordable-housing and community-development experience.

Most recently, Emily worked for the New York State Department of Homes and Community Renewal as an underwriter of multi-family affordable-housing projects. She facilitated the financing of 14 projects that will create and preserve 1,400 affordable-housing units statewide. Prior, Emily worked for PathStone Corp. in Rochester as a housing developer. One project converted a closed school into 59 apartments for residents who receive services from the New York State Office of Mental Health. Pattern welcomes Emily’s experience in one of its niche areas of expertise.

Earlier, Emily focused on marketing homes to first-time homebuyers in Brooklyn, tenant relations and assisting those at risk of entering shelters. While on the staff of Assemblyman Vito Lopez, she learned about regulations regarding public housing, Section 8, Mitchell Lama, Section 202 and low-income housing tax credits.

Emily, fluent in Spanish, has been a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay and Guatemala. She holds a master's degree in regional planning degree from Cornell University and a bachelor's in wildlife ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Emily also has a LEED Green Associate credential.

**In Brewster, Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs get assistance**

Pattern for Progress, with partner Community Capital of New York, a nonprofit funding agency, is working to help Hispanic and Latino residents in the Brewster start businesses and expanding existing operations.

Sponsored by a grant from NYSEG, Pattern and CCNY held meetings, in Spanish, and discussed challenges and needs related to accessing capital, understanding the permit and licensing process and entrepreneurs' needs for technical assistance and training. Future forums on similar topics will be held in nine other cities and villages in the Hudson Valley.
Welcome to “Meet The Board.” Each month, two Pattern board members will be profiled. Learn about them, their business – and their commitment to the Hudson Valley.

Mary Madden, president
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

Why are you, and your business, based in the Hudson Valley?
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union was chartered by IBM Poughkeepsie employees in 1963. With our roots in Dutchess County, we expanded to a community charter in 2003 serving Dutchess, Ulster and Orange counties and then finally to our current charter in 2010, which includes Putnam County as well.

How does your business help quality of life in the valley?
As a financial cooperative, HVFCU provides products and services that can create financial success for members and families. With us as their financial partner, they can spread their financial good fortune by supporting local businesses and nonprofits.

What new initiative helped your business grow in the past year?
Our new core computer system installed in 2015 helped us introduce products and services that members need and expect in today’s busy world – like Android, Apple and Samsung Pay, Solar Panel financing, and Cash Management Services for businesses. The new system brings us greater efficiencies across many levels.

The valley is constantly changing. What best practice would you share to make the most of that evolution?
HVFCU makes a strong effort to stay connected to our region and takes advantage of all the research we can. Data informs the decisions we make – from which new products to offer to how we update our benefits programs to retain qualified staff.

Briefly describe the Hudson Valley in five years, 2022.
The population will be slightly larger in 2022, but also will be older and more diverse. Much has been speculated about the flight of our young people from New York. Our best means to keep them here is providing good jobs with strong economic opportunities.

Something fun folks should know about you or your business?
As someone who’s loved outdoor activities for many years – running, kayaking, gardening – I encourage our staff to find ways to bring wellness into their lives through outdoor activities. The credit union’s Wellness Initiative promotes preventative wellness, encouraging healthy eating, exercise and mental relaxation.

Your advice on how to ensure a strong workforce?
HVFCU places great emphasis on recruiting and retaining those best-suited to serve our members. We emphasize training and encourage continuous learning, not only from academic programs through tuition reimbursement, but also through industry webinars and conferences.

Why have you chosen to support Pattern for Progress?
The credit union strongly supports Pattern’s goal to provide regional approaches to continued growth. Though each community has an individual personality and history, it’s through a shared vision and planning that we can become even stronger.

What else would you like to communicate?
I encourage Pattern’s members to take full advantage of the research, videos and papers on Pattern’s website. As I mentioned earlier, information is key to growing any business. Members can find insight and data in Pattern’s research that can help them make better decisions to enhance their business.

Darlene Fedun, chief executive officer
Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, Sullivan County

Why are you, and your business, based in the Hudson Valley?
Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is in Bethel, Sullivan County, at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock festival. After the merger of Cablevision Industries, CVI, the Gerry Foundation was formed by long-time Sullivan County native and philanthropist Alan Gerry. Mr. Gerry’s intent was always to help the economic vitality of the place he called home.

How does your business help quality of life in the valley?
Bethel Woods is part of the Creative Economy. We are a cultural tourism destination with visitors from around the world. Tourism in the region is one of the major sectors contributing to the vitality of the economy, creating jobs, commerce and growth. Cultural institutions are contributors to the well-being of communities by celebrating the contributions of the creative community. They encourage community participation, allow for dialogue, create social environments and are places of enjoyment. They encourage exploration, develop innovative thinking and inspire individuals to think beyond their own backyards. They are good for the mind, body and soul.

What new initiative helped your business grow in the past year?
Our audience-development research project. We are well on our way to implementing the many recommendations gleaned from the results. Our keen focus on research and data manipulation are at the root of our growth over the past couple of years.

The valley is constantly changing. What best practice would you share to make the most of that evolution?
Serve your customers well.

Briefly describe the Hudson Valley in five years, 2022.
I do not have a crystal ball on this one.

Something fun folks should know about you or your business?
Everything we do is “fun”. It’s a pleasure to serve the people of this region. Being able to bring artists like Elton John, Santana, the Eagles… projects like Mysteryland that introduce a whole new generation of young people to the region, and providing families and children with great programming that might spark the next great leader or artist, puts a smile on your face every day.

Your advice on how to ensure a strong workforce?
Hire the right person, put them in the most productive environment for them to succeed (which is different for each individual), provide for opportunity, coach and counsel.

What was your first job?
Grossinger’s Hotel in Liberty. I worked for the head of housekeeping, Dorothy Boyer. She ruled with an iron fist.

Why have you chosen to support Pattern for Progress?
Pattern does good work providing vital information on trends, issues and opportunities that help us all make better decisions. Pattern helps make connections to further our own work, and of course to work with such a strong board, membership and organization.