



Niagara County  
Public Information Office  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

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CONTACT: CHRISTIAN W. PECK  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
TEL: (716) 439-7241  
FAX: (716) 439-7058

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## **NEW YEAR MARKS NEW BEGINNINGS AS OFFICIALS TAKE OATHS**

LEWISTON—The new year also marked new beginnings in several Niagara County municipalities as leaders repeatedly raised their right hands and swore to uphold the law and perform the duties of the offices they were elected to in November.

With both new officeholders and trusted old hands taking oaths, county residents saw their votes translated into reality again and again at ceremonies in nearly every corner of the county.

In Lewiston, three-term county legislator John Ceretto joined newly-elected Lewiston Supervisor Steve Reiter and newly-elected town councilmen at a heavily-attended ceremony at the Barton Hill Hotel.

Reiter, the former Lewiston highway superintendent, bid farewell to his old duties but promised town residents he would “work for you all.”

### **[CLICK HERE TO WATCH SUPERVISOR REITER'S INAUGURATION](#)**

“I don't believe Lewiston should just be Western New York's best kept secret; I think Lewiston should just be the best place,” Reiter told those packed into the Barton Hill's conference room. “We're going to work real hard, and I hope you'll help me accomplish that.”

Meanwhile, a new mayor was inaugurated in North Tonawanda. Rob Ortt, the city's former clerk-treasurer and a National Guard officer who just a year ago was serving in Afghanistan, vowed to work “to make this city better for all the people in this room, and for the people who couldn't be here today.”

### **[CLICK HERE TO WATCH MAYOR ORTT'S INAUGURATION](#)**

“Today is a new day,” Ortt said. “It's a new year, and it's a new beginning for the city of North Tonawanda. I pledge I will do everything in my ability to bring change where it is needed, to bring stability where it is prudent, and to always display the leadership with which you have entrusted me.”

Ortt was just one of numerous officials being sworn in at ceremonies in the Lumber City that were attended by a number of dignitaries, including Sen. George D. Maziarz, R-Newfane, Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, D-Kenmore, and Mayor Michael Tucker, R-Lockport. Also taking their oaths were the city's three county legislators, veterans Paul Wojtaszek and Pete Smolinski, as well as newcomer Russ Rizzo.

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH LEGISLATORS WOJTASZEK, SMOLINSKI, AND RIZZO, AND COUNTY CORONER JOE MANTIONE TAKE THEIR OATHS OF OFFICE](#)**

Just north of that ceremony, new Wheatfield Supervisor Robert Cliffe took his oath, vowing to that government would be “a lot more open and a lot more honest.”

“I’m also going to be a good steward with the taxpayers’ money,” Cliffe said, vowing to revamp the town’s purchasing rules and to support economic development efforts.

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH SUPERVISOR CLIFFE’S INAUGURATION](#)**

County Legislature Chairman William L. Ross and Legislator Danny W. Sklarski were also on hand in Wheatfield to take their oaths.

“Starting Jan. 1, the Niagara County Legislature is going to look at smaller government, they’re going to look at lower taxes, and they’re going to look at doing more with less,” Ross said.

“Niagara County has worked very hard to have balanced budgets, to have fund balances, and to keep our taxes down. But we have to be ever vigilant to keep those taxes down.”

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH CHAIRMAN ROSS’S SWEARING IN AND REMARKS](#)**

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH LEGISLATOR SKLARSKI’S SWEARING IN AND REMARKS](#)**