

A Tribute to John Eberhard

Posted by David Hepinstall on Monday, January 8, 2018

I am greatly saddened to share with our friends the news of the death of John Eberhard, executive director of Delaware Opportunities in Hamden, New York, in a car accident on Saturday, January 6th.

Delaware Opportunities is a community action agency providing a wide range of housing, nutrition, employment and social services for residents of its largely rural service territory in the western Catskills in central New York. Since 1980, Delaware Opportunities has been a Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) subgrantee, providing energy efficiency upgrades to make housing more healthful, comfortable, safer and more affordable for eligible low-income households. Eberhard became executive director in 1984.

I first met John in the mid-1980s through our involvement in the State's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Advisory Council. He has been a respected colleague and friend for over thirty years. But it is as the engaged executive director of a Weatherization subgrantee and as a partner in statewide low-income energy efficiency initiatives that most AEA members and Weatherization program staff in New York have primarily come to know John.

John Eberhard's commitment to Weatherization ran deep. He was elected and has served for many years as the chairperson of the Weatherization Policy Advisory Council (PAC), which represents organizations providing services to low-income persons in New York State, assisting in the development and implementation of the WAP, advising the State on a broad range of Weatherization-related issues. PAC members are appointed by the Commissioner of NYSHCR or designee.

I have had the pleasure of working with John as vice chairperson of the Policy Advisory Committee. I know that I speak for all of us in the weatherization community in New York State in offering our deepest sympathy to John's family and his co-workers. His dedication, persistence, warmth, and good character have touched many lives across Delaware County and New York State — not only in the work he has accomplished and the strength of the organization he leaves behind, but in the many individuals who have known and loved him as a mentor, a neighbor, or a friend.

An [article](#) appeared in Sunday's Oneonta Daily Star about John's work and the accident that took his life.

Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.

New York
105 Bruckner Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10454
Phone 212.279.3902
Fax 718.292.1280
eastcoastinfo@aea.us.org

California
5900 Hollis Street
Suite R2, Emeryville, CA 94608
Phone 510.431.1791
westcoastinfo@aea.us.org