New York Correction History Society
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New Phase Opens
At Annual Meeting

A new phase with different facets opened for the New York Correction History Society at the annual meeting held Jan. 22, 2001, in the NYC DOC Headquarters main conference room. One facet was a change in the top leadership with the election of William J. Fraser as board chairman, Alan J. Croce as president, Brian Fischer as vice present, and Ronald G. Spike as executive committee member at-large.

They are, respectively, NYC DOC Commissioner, chairman of the State Commission of Correction, NYS DOCS Regional Supervising Superintendent for the NYC area, and president of the NYS Sheriffs Association.

The outgoing officers, Bernard B. Kerik as board chairman, Michael P. Jacobson as president, and Gerard O’Gara as vice president, remain as board members.

The meeting also served as an opportunity to elect additional members to the board of trustees: Robert N. Davoren, Sandra Lewis Smith and Hugh O’Rourke. They

Cover of booklet celebrating the 25th anniversary of the DOCS Fulton Correctional Facility in the Bronx. A complete web version appears on the NYCHS site with its own accessing icon at www.correctionhistory.org

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Deja Vu at NYPD & DOC

Jan. 1, 1984, then Chief of Department Jacqueline McMickens became Commissioner, succeeding Benjamin Ward named to head NYPD.

Fraser is the first member of DOC to rise through each one of the existing uniformed ranks to head the agency.

McMickens, now a practicing attorney in Brooklyn, was the first member of DOC to rise through the ranks to become Chief of Dept. and later Commissioner without "Acting" in front of the latter title. In her rise, she skipped over one rung in the ladder of uniformed advancement: warden.

A Word or Two of Appreciation

A word or two of appreciation seems appropriate as NYCHS moves into its next phase of development.

Former Commissioner Michael P. Jacobson had agreed to serve as president our first year but has generously gone way beyond that by serving the past 17 months since the organizational meeting. Without his approval as DOC Commissioner, the initial effort to establish a correctional history society would not have gotten off the ground. Likewise, a key early player was Gerard O'Gara whose more recent expanded duties as Bronx jail warden have prompted him to step down as vice president. Broadening of NYCHS scope to embrace correctional history throughout the state would not have been possible without the support of then DOC Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik, now stepping down as board chairman in the wake of becoming NYPD Commissioner. Their past services as officers and continued services as trustees are deeply appreciated.

Similarly, our new chairman, DOC Commissioner William J. Fraser, has been a NYCHS supporter from its earliest days as has DOC First Deputy Commissioner Gary M. Lanigan. Both are founding members of the board of trustees.

The above named made available the good offices of DOC and thus made possible NYCHS emergence and continuance.

The active support of founding trustee Glenn S. Goord, DOCS Commissioner, has been a major factor in NYCHS development beyond NYC. Similarly so have been the founding board memberships of our new president, SCOC chairman Alan J. Croce, and DCJS Commissioner Katherine N. Lapp.

Each officer's participation has been essential to our success so far. To each: deep thanks. Since space has run out, our next issue will give additional individual citations and details.

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