

SCHENECTADY BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMENS CLUB, INC.

2026 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Donna Gigone

**Governor-Elect Soroptimist International of America,
North Atlantic Region
Active Leader in the Community**



Donna Gigone's career and community involvement are a testament to the power of leadership, service, and a genuine passion for people.

Donna retired five years ago from the Capital District YMCA after an amazing 27-year career. During her time as Executive Director, she provided leadership in Financial Development, Advisory Board relations, and Branch Operations, helping advance the YMCA's mission of promoting **Healthy Living, Social Responsibility, and Youth Development**.

As Executive Director, Donna managed a \$2 million budget, a staff of 100, and a 20-member advisory board. But for Donna, leadership has always been about much more than numbers and responsibilities—it has been about people, relationships, and making a difference in her community.

That passion for people led Donna to become a **Capital Region Chamber Ambassador**, a role she has embraced wholeheartedly. She often says, *"One of the best things I did in my career was to get involved in the Chamber."*

Donna's commitment to community service extends well beyond her professional career. Her volunteer involvement has included serving as a Board Member of the **Soroptimist International of the Americas North Atlantic Region**, as well as participating in the Schenectady Soroptimist Club, Glenville Oktoberfest Planning Committee, Scotia-Glenville Kiwanis, and Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake BPA. Her dedication to fundraising has also been extensive, including serving as Glenville YMCA Annual Campaign Chair and as a member of the Crossroads for Children Capital Campaign Committee.

Retirement has not slowed Donna's commitment to making a difference. Instead, it has given her even more flexibility to serve. For the past five years, she has continued her leadership with Soroptimist International of the Americas North Atlantic Region. She currently serves as **Governor-Elect** and will serve as Governor from 2028–2030. She is also a proud graduate of the **2026 Soroptimist International of the Americas Leadership Fellows program**.

Donna lives in Rotterdam, New York, with her husband, Pete. Together, they are the proud parents of five impressive adult children and their wonderful spouses. They are also blessed with seven grandchildren, whom Donna describes as their **joy, purpose, and the greatest gifts ever given to them**.

Donna says she is honored to be selected as the **2026 Schenectady BPW Woman of the Year**.

And perhaps the words that best capture Donna's outlook on life are these:

"Everything begins with gratitude, and I always believe the best chapter in life may lie ahead."

