

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**February 1, 2012**

The Honorable,  
The Board of Commissioners of Cook County

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Chairman Suffredin, Commissioners Beavers, Daley, Gainer, Garcia, Gorman, Goslin, Murphy, Reyes, Schneider, Silvestri and Sims (12)

Absent: Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Butler, Collins, Steele and Tobolski (5)

Also Present: Stanley Rakestraw, Co-Founder, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of SCR Medical Transportation; Juan Calixto, Adjunct Faculty, North Park University

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County met pursuant to notice on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at the hour of 9:15 A.M. in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Your Committee has considered the following items and, upon adoption of this report, the recommendations are as follows:

316314~~2~~ METRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (APPOINTMENT). Transmitting a Communication dated January 18, 2012 from Toni Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Please be advised that I hereby appoint Mr. Stanley Rakestraw to the Metra Board of Directors for a term to begin immediately and to expire on March 31, 2012. Mr. Rakestraw will fill the vacancy of Mr. Willis E. Pennington, Jr.

I submit this communication for your approval.

**\*Referred to the Committee on Legislation and Intergovernmental on January 18, 2012.**

**Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Sims, moved Approval of Communication No. 316312 as amended. The motion carried.**

316312~~3~~ COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS (APPOINTMENT). Transmitting a Communication dated January 18, 2012 from Toni Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Please be advised that I hereby appoint Ms. Maribeth Vander Weele to the Cook County Board of Ethics for a term to begin immediately and to expire November 1, 2012. Mrs.

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2012

PAGE 2

Vander Weele will fill the vacancy of Mr. John J. Pikarski, Jr.

I submit this communication for your approval.

**\*Referred to the Committee on Legislation and Intergovernmental on January 18, 2012.**

**Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Sims, moved Approval of Communication No. 316312. The motion carried.**

**Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, moved Approval of Communication No. 316312 as amended. The motion carried.**

3163178 COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS (REAPPOINTMENT). Transmitting a Communication dated January 18, 2012 from Toni Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Please be advised that I hereby reappoint Mr. Juan Calixto to the Cook County Board of Ethics for a term to begin immediately and to expire November 1, 2015.

I submit this communication for your approval.

**\*Referred to the Committee on Legislation and Intergovernmental on January 18, 2012.**

**Vice Chairman Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, moved the Approval of Communication No. 316318 as amended. The motion carried.**

Chairman Suffredin asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speaker, in accordance with Cook County Code, Sec. 2-107(dd):

1. George Blakemore – Concerned Citizen

**LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

**PAGE 3**

**Chairman Suffredin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Beavers. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.**

**YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION  
WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER NAMED HEREIN:**

Communication Number 316312  
Communication Number 316313  
Communication Number 316318

Approved as Amended  
Approved as Amended  
Approved as Amended

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Legislation and  
Intergovernmental Relations

  
Larry Suffredin, Chairman

Attest:

  
Matthew B. DeLeon, Secretary

\*An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Office of the Secretary to the Board, 118 North Clark Street, Room 567, Chicago, IL 60602.

## Stanley C. Rakestraw



Stanley C. Rakestraw is co-founder, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of SCR Medical Transportation. His mission is to “take care of the staff and the staff will take care of the customers – and the bottom line will take care of itself.” This philosophy is a very significant factor in SCR’s 25 years of successful operation. Mr. Stanley C. Rakestraw, while he is an experienced and skilled financial manager, is more interested in service and customer satisfaction, staff and intellectual asset development and the good reputation of SCR than he is in mere profit. In fact, he admits that some of the competition may be able to boast of a better profit margin, but he is certain that none of the competition has the same level of customer service and satisfaction, the same high standards of service, cleanliness of its fleet, respect for the customers, nor the happy and productive staff that SCR has. SCR is in the business for the long haul, not the quick buck. The philosophies, shared by the owners of SCR, have greatly contributed to the company’s excellent reputation with its staff, its customers and the industry in general.

Brought up in the South with a respect for his elders and for people in general, Stan Rakestraw has been working since he was 12 years old, driven and committed to autograph everything he does with excellence. Over the years, through extended and continuing formal education and through his more than 30 years’ experience as a manager in healthcare and transportation, he has learned how to motivate others to share his standards and encourage them to strive for the same levels of quality and service that he espouses. “I’ve found that the formula is always the same,” he says. “You treat people right, you let them know what you expect, you set an example through your own attitude and how you conduct yourself and it generally will produce what you’re looking for in them.”

All of this is reflected in the close to 700 employees and 300 strong fleet of vehicles at SCR and the service they deliver to the public in and around Chicago.

A hands-on executive, Mr. Rakestraw has an open door policy towards SCR’s customers who can always reach him directly with complaints, compliments or the common greeting. This is a carry-over from his years as manager of a nursing home where he prided himself on knowing every patient by name and making himself accessible to all the residents. Since co-founding SCR with his wife, Pamela Rakestraw, President, in 1986, he has always felt that there should be direct contact between SCR’s customers and the company’s owners. The hands-on approach extends to all the internal working of the company. For example, when it came time to convert SCR’s systems over to computerized reservations and dispatching, Mr. Rakestraw underwent instruction in all the new systems and was personally involved in making the switch. If he is going to ask his staff to do something, he wants to make sure it is something he can do himself.

### Education

Mr. Rakestraw studied at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his education has continued throughout his long and successful career. He attended the University of Illinois and Roosevelt where he took graduate courses and as recently as 2003 he completed further

courses at the Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, as a participant in its Minority Director Development program. Mr. Rakestraw is licensed as a Nursing Home Administrator in the State of Illinois and is a Certified Passenger Assistance Technician.

### **Experience**

The earlier part of Mr. Rakestraw's career was spent in a series of increasingly responsible positions including Financial Auditor for a government economic development office and Internal Auditor for a major Chicago area hospital. He developed skills which enabled him to increase financial efficiency and viability, including in one company reducing overhead costs due to mismanagement by 25% while improving the level of service delivery of the institution.

Mr. Rakestraw went on to administrate nursing homes ranging from 65 to 245 beds, improving the quality of patient care while maintaining profit margins. His responsibilities in this role ranged from implementing appropriate financial controls to developing training programs and hiring physician staff. In the three instances where he held this role, he maintained an annual census in excess of 95% for nursing home occupancy.

Prior to founding SCR, Mr. Rakestraw was the principal in a health care consulting firm where he assisted clients in the development and implementation of management systems, providing marketing support, trouble-shooting, recruitment, as well as developing policies and procedures for key aspects of his clients' operations. During this period, Mr. Rakestraw demonstrated his talent as a turnaround consultant. As a result of his skills and aptitudes, a major client experienced a reversal of a business downturn and grossed \$800,000 in revenues during the first two years of employing Mr. Rakestraw's services.

### **Wider Involvement**

Mr. Rakestraw prides himself on keeping abreast of national trends and has brought in and overseen numerous transportation experts in various fields to partner with and ensure that SCR is at the forefront of the industry's best practices. Mr. Rakestraw has also led SCR's resolve to be at the forefront of industry relevant emerging technology.

Mr. Rakestraw's involvement in helping the physically and mentally challenged has also led him to take active roles in national organizations. He is on the Board of Directors of the leading industry group, the Taxicab, Limousine and Paratransit Association (TLPA) and has served for many years on the Board of Directors of Gateway International. In 2008 Mr. Rakestraw was recognized by the TLPA for his services to the organization while sitting on the board of directors.

### **Recognitions**

In 2011 The Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Stanley Rakestraw and his wife with the Outstanding Business of the Year award. SCR has been honored with several business awards including the Bank of America Small Business Award in 1996. The Taxicab, Limousine and Paratransit Association (TLPA) named SCR Paratransit Operator of the Year in 2004. They also named SCR driver, Larry Lewis, Paratransit Driver of the Year in 2005 and

Arthur Thomas for the year 2010. SCR was awarded the Chatham Business of the Year award in 2004 and most recently the 2010 Excellence in Business Leadership Award.

### **The Future**

In the last 18 months or so, SCR has grown from about 245 to close to 700 employees and a fleet of 300 vehicles.

Over the next five years the goal is to duplicate its current local operations in other municipalities – to go national and provide a similar local type service in other areas throughout the country. Already, the company has taken significant and successful steps in that direction, spearheaded by Mr. Rakestraw and his ambitions.



---

## MARIBETH VANDER WEELE

---

Maribeth Vander Weele is President of the Vander Weele Group,<sup>LLC</sup> a Chicago corporate investigations firm that specializes in preventing and investigating complex fraud schemes such as embezzlement, diversion of product, insider dealing, procurement fraud, and other matters involving employee and vendor misconduct. A Certified Protection Professional and Certified Inspector General, she has consulted onsite in China, Malaysia, Singapore, Mexico, and the United States and remotely in Chile, Europe and the Middle East.

Maribeth is a results-oriented professional known for her ability to drive strategic and tactical change in large organizations. In the public sector, Maribeth authored the roadmap for the reform of the \$3.8 billion Chicago Public School system, the nation's third largest, and served as a key member of the internationally acclaimed turnaround team. Appointed Inspector General by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley in 1998, she managed a staff that investigated thousands of cases of fraud, waste, and misconduct. Also at that time, she served as President of the Illinois Association of Inspectors General. In 2009, Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn appointed Maribeth to a special investigatory panel to address abuses in the University of Illinois admissions process. In 2011, Governor Quinn appointed Maribeth as member of the Illinois Gaming Board.

A former award-winning journalist for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and author of the 1995 book, *Reclaiming Our Schools, the Struggle for Chicago School Reform*, Maribeth has been profiled in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Teacher Magazine*, *Education Week*, and in the 1998 book, *Extraordinary Ordinary Women Making a Difference*. Her work is cited in the book, *Battling Corruption in America's Public Schools*, and in many other publications.

---

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

---

### **Vander Weele Group<sup>LLC</sup>, President**

*2003 to Present*

Maribeth is President of the Vander Weele Group, which investigates integrity breaches and builds solutions to repair the systemic weaknesses that allowed them to occur. Clients range from Fortune 500 companies and law firms to federal agencies and not-for-profit organizations. The firm is federally certified as an 8(a), Woman-Owned and HUBZone firm. In 2002, she provided consulting services through Chadwick Associates, Inc., a Washington, D.C. risk management firm.

### **Chicago Public Schools, Inspector General**

*1998 to 2002*

As Inspector General of the nation's third-largest school system, Maribeth oversaw a staff that investigated thousands of cases of fraud, waste, and misconduct in the operations and contracting of city schools. She restructured the agency to ensure that investigations were conducted according to the highest professional standards. She created and oversaw a construction integrity unit and procurement fraud investigation unit, which instituted management reviews of key operational areas such as busing, construction, food services, information technology, and janitorial services.

## Chicago Public Schools, Chief of Investigations

1995 to 1998

In 1995, Maribeth joined the management team charged by Mayor Daley to turn around the city schools. As a key adviser to the Chief Executive Officer, she spearheaded system-wide policy and management reforms to restore integrity, promote accountability, and improve the quality of public education. As Chief of Investigations from 1995 to 1998, she created a team that investigated employee integrity issues and oversaw the Internal Audit Unit, which conducted financial and management reviews. Maribeth also managed a \$3-million Safe Schools grant, through which her team created a Truancy Hotline that returned thousands of children to school and administered small school grants for truancy prevention.

## Author, *Reclaiming Our Schools*

1995

*Reclaiming Our Schools, the Struggle for Chicago School Reform*, based on Maribeth's investigative reporting for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, became the roadmap for the nationally acclaimed reform of the system. The Illinois state legislature and the school system implemented dozens of its recommendations, enabling the system to achieve significant improvement. Her work is quoted in multiple publications and books, both domestically and abroad.

## Speaker

Maribeth has lectured at seminars for Harvard University, the National Business Roundtable, the Public Broadcasting System, the Association of Inspectors General, the National Association of Local Government Auditors, the Illinois CPA Society, the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the National Education Writers Association, the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, and in many other forums nationwide and in Canada.

---

## ASSOCIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

---

Maribeth is a Certified Protection Professional and a licensed private detective. She is a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Association of Inspectors General, the American Society for Industrial Security, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Trade Association, and the Women Presidents' Organization. She is the winner of numerous journalism awards and, most recently, awards by Count-Me-In, a New York organization that supports women entrepreneurs.

The Vander Weele Group is certified as an 8(a), woman-owned small business by the federal government and a woman-owned enterprise by the City of Chicago, the County of Cook, the State of Illinois, and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Maribeth graduated cum laude from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She has provided and undertaken extensive training in fraud examination and security-related matters.

W W W . V A N D E R W E E L E G R O U P . C O M

852 West Belle Plaine Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60613 Telephone 773•929•3030 Fax 773•929•3032

IL 117-001231 VA 99-139780 A FEDERALLY CERTIFIED 8(A) WOMAN-OWNED HUBZONE BUSINESS

## **JUAN CALIXTO**

**1658 N. Richmond, Chicago, IL**

**(312) 203-7938**

[juacalixto@aol.com](mailto:juacalixto@aol.com)

### **EXPERIENCE**

**North Park University, Chicago IL.** September 2011 – Current  
**Adjunct Faculty** – Faculty of the School of Business and Nonprofit Management where I taught graduate students Grant Writing for Foundations and Corporations.

**Kaleidoscope, Inc., Chicago IL.** May 2011 - Current  
**BUILD, Inc., Chicago, IL.** September 2010 – March 2011  
**Interim Development Director** – Served as a consultant to these youth organizations experiencing a staff vacancy, helping them maintain current funding streams while creating the resource development plan for the following year. Managed daily department operations including supervision of staff, working with volunteers, implementing special events and submission of grant proposals.

**Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Chicago, IL.** 1999 – June 30, 2010  
**Development Director** - Managed all of the agency's development and communications to secure resources and visibility for programs and advocacy initiatives. The agency provided comprehensive services, for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as programs in parenting support, homelessness prevention, youth services and Latina leadership development.

- Established a development department with a detailed development plan and created systems for effective resource development.
- Expanded the development office from one to three full-time staff and a part-time communications consultant.
- Doubled the gross income (\$220,000), net income (\$153,000) and attendance (450) at agency's annual benefit, and exceeded the department's annual goal of \$2.6 million.
- Implemented the agency's first employee and board member annual fund campaigns.
- Revitalized and completed the agency's \$3.5 million capital campaign project to renovate the organization's new headquarters.
- Developed professional standards for all agency communications, branded logo around Latina and women's issues and worked to redesign the agency's website.

**Spanish Coalition for Jobs, Inc., Chicago, IL.** 1997 - 1999  
**Director, Fund Development** - Developed and administered effective agency fundraising and public information programs within the framework of the agency's objectives. Spanish Coalition for Jobs provided educational, vocational and employment services for job seekers so that they could achieve economic independence.

- Created a tracking and cultivation program for foundation and corporation grants and sponsorships.

- Established an employer giving campaign.
- Elevated the work of the agency's Business Advisory Council to include fundraising and assisting with the agency's special events.

**Chicago Youth Centers, Chicago, IL.**

1992 - 1997

**Center Director** - Administrator for a multi-site (3) child and youth service community center, which offered Head Start, After School Drug/Gang Prevention, Neighborhood Development and Summer/Winter Camp.

- Generated income to support the Center's efforts through local board initiatives.
- Initiated cross-site training and support to build teamwork between sites.
- Cultivated relationships to expand resources for the agency.

**Network for Youth Services, Chicago, IL.**

1988 - 1992

**Interim Executive Director** - Administrator for a membership organization that advocated on behalf of youth and supported its members through dissemination of information on education, neighborhood safety, and health related issues impacting youth.

- Created the agency's first development office.
- Expanded the agency's revenue beyond membership dues to include foundation and corporate support.
- Promoted annually from Community Organizer, to Program Coordinator, to Development Officer to Interim Executive Director.

**Erie Neighborhood House, Chicago, IL.**

1987 - 1988

**Youth Worker** - Organized structured evening activities for neighborhood youth ages 12 - 19. Major areas of responsibilities included planning age appropriate activities, supervision of groups, scheduling field trips, providing workshops, coaching team sports and serving as a role model.

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) awarded by CFRE International.

### **EDUCATION**

Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL. Master of Public Administration (MPA), Concentration: Not-for-Profit Management.

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Bachelor of Science (BS), Major: Sociology.

### **CIVIC ENDEAVORS**

- Association of Fundraising Professionals, 1987 – present
  - Served in many capacities including International Association Board Member and Chicago Chapter Board Member
  - Chicago Chapter's President's Award, 2006
- Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Committee, 2002 - 2010
- Latinos in Development Founding Member, 1997- present
- Cook County Board of Ethics, 2010 - present