**WELCOME SPEECH (EVENING)**

**FOR**

**MICHAEL TREVISANI**

Good evening everyone.... it’s a pleasure to see so many of you here tonight, at this “Welcome” dinner that serves to kick off this year’s Campaign for Quality Conference. While tomorrow’s agenda promises to provide many instances to partake in fascinating discussions, informative demonstrations, and unparalleled networking and team building opportunities, tonight we mingle, we dine, and we get to know one another....This dinner provides us with the best reason to put down our charts and paperwork, relax, partake of a delicious meal, and begin to anticipate the planned activities and meetings.

It’s no secret that the well being of our neighbors, our community, and the entire country, hangs in the balance. With health care costs rising, living conditions becoming increasingly more demanding and draining, and personal and professional financial viability getting increasingly elusive, it’s regional networks like ours and conferences like this one that will address the ways in which we can continue to work smarter, more efficiently, and with more compassion for the patient. With technology and information sharing perpetually updated, more data and vital source materials than ever are available at our fingertips. Of course we have to constantly update and manage our knowledge base... and we have to do that discreetly, thoroughly and efficiently.... I once heard a patient say, “A scared look and a “Just a sec... let me go and **Google** that” is probably **NOT** what you want to hear from your cardiologist... or ANY professional for that matter! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Tomorrow, the conference will feature nine informative and compelling presentations, including topics on: palliative care, robotics and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), TeamSTEPPS, team training, high reliability, AFib treatments, teamwork, accountability and more.... and I just realized... for all of you doctors attending, we forgot to book the penmanship and handwriting analysis workshop (**Wait for the laugh**). We’ll try to fit it into the program next year!!!

It’s been seventeen years since we began our mission to provide excellent, affordable health care to the Mohawk Valley and each year we learn... we grow... we advance with the times. We tackle challenges and search for equitable, common sense solutions, but those challenges still exist and new ones constantly present themselves. It reminds me of something I once heard Jay Leno say... “”Nineteen present of doctors surveyed said they might be able to give their patients a lethal injection... but they also went on to say that the patient would have to be really, **REALLY** behind on payments...” (**Wait for the laugh**).

And with **THAT**, ladies and gentlemen. I invite you to enjoy the evening and let’s all anticipate a great conference tomorrow! Thank you all!!