

NJ GASP celebrates at Short Hills Hilton

By LIZ KEILL

AREA — NJ GASP continues to make major strides in creating smoke-free environments and helping children stay tobacco-free. To celebrate the organization's accomplishments, to recognize outgoing leadership and to welcome the new Board of Trustees and NJ GASP's new president, Dr. Fred Jacobs, a dinner is planned at The Hilton in Short Hills on Friday, Sept. 5.

"This is our first member/guest dinner in four years," new executive director Karen Blumenfeld of Summit said. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jacobs of Short Hills, who will become president of the board. Dr. Jacobs is executive vice president of the Saint Barnabas Quality Institute in West Orange and a former New Jersey Commissioner of Health and Senior Services. He will speak on his vision for the future of tobacco control in New Jersey.

"Dr. Jacobs will receive our highest award, the C. Everett Koop/John D. Slade Award," Ms. Blumenfeld said. Recently,

she presented Dr. Jacobs with the Atlantic City Mayoral Proclamation for smoke-free casinos. She noted Atlantic City is the third largest gambling mecca in the world. "The fact the Atlantic City casinos go smoke-free on Oct. 15 is fantastic," she said. "We're especially grateful" to the Atlantic City Council and mayor for their help, she said, and to Senate President Richard Codey for his years of legislative support.

Incoming board of trustees members include Dr. Neal Collins, senior medical director of Pfizer's Global Medical Oncology Group and a Chatham Borough Councilman, and Louis Rigamonti, an accountant and a resident of Summit.

The organization, with headquarters in Summit, will be revamping its website. "It's so important to improve the quality of people's lives and make the information accessible to the public," Ms. Blumenfeld said.

The cost of the NJ GASP dinner is \$75. RSVP by Aug. 29. For reservations, call 908-273-9368.