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OHA names new director

Paul H. Pflanz, who grew up in Oneida, was selected for the post over 52 others.

November 26, 2002

By Paul Riede
Staff writer

A former manager at Xerox and Carrier corporations has been named executive director of the Onondaga Historical Association.

Paul H. Pflanz, 56, began work at the nonprofit organization on Thursday, the day after his appointment by the OHA board. He takes over for Thomas Hunter, who had been interim director since former director Peter Apgar left a year ago. Hunter will continue with the organization as assistant director and curator of collections.

Pflanz said he looks forward to continuing to make the OHA's collection accessible to the community and to use the organization's resources to promote the city.

"The more we look at what Syracuse has been, the more we learn things that will help us deal with the issues of today," he said.

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Pflanz was raised in Oneida, but spent 25 years in the Rochester suburb of Greece while working as an information technology manager and then a strategic planning manager at Xerox. He moved to Syracuse in 1997 after taking a job as a business processing consultant for Carrier, where he worked from 1996 to 1999.

He became acquainted with the OHA when he and his wife, Linda, began researching homes in the Strathmore area. The couple, who live on Summit Avenue, are involved in the Strathmore-by-the-Park Homes Tour and the Onondaga Park Association.

As a member of the park association, Pflanz has led a campaign to restore the park and create a botanical garden and arboretum there. In partnership with the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the city parks department and others, the group has raised more than \$1 million for improvements to the park and Onondaga Creek.

Pflanz also is working with the city and Home Headquarters to expand low-interest home loans to some of the low-income areas bordering the park.

He said he and his wife have quickly grown to love the city.

"We are very, very much attached to Syracuse," he said. "It's a really neat city with a lot of things going on. ... Contrary to what some people say, I actually find it a very interesting place."

Pflanz holds a bachelor's in marketing and business administration from the University of Buffalo and an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He was chosen from among 53 applicants for the OHA post.

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