

Banking expert will speak at Housing Council's dinner

CANTON — The current housing and economic crisis will be the topic at the June 16 annual dinner of the St. Lawrence County Housing Council, where Kenneth J. Abt will speak about "People, Their Money and Their Homes."

Mr. Abt, a leader in the banking industry, is chairman and chief executive officer of First Federal Savings, Middletown, an institution with assets of \$180 million. Mr. Abt joined First Federal in 1964, after graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy. He completed graduate programs at the University of Connecticut and Indiana University and became president of First Federal in 1973 at age 31.

He serves as a director of the New York Bankers' Association; was elected to two three-year terms on the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, where he served as chairman of the audit committee, and has served as chairman of the New York League of Savings Institutions, chairman of First Monetary Mu-

tual Limited and director of America's Community Bankers, a national trade Association.

While being clear that he has no crystal ball and that no one has a complete grasp on what he sees as an economic crisis of grave proportions, Mr. Abt will be sharing his perspective on the crisis based on his 44 years of experience and his extensive contacts within the banking industry.

Mr. Abt has just been named by Gov. David A. Paterson to be chairman of the SUNY New Paltz Board. He is a past president of Orange County Chamber of Commerce, Arts Council of Orange County, Homemakers Service of Orange County and Orange County Citizens Foundation and has served as chairman of the Orange County Water Authority, as founder and director of the Community Foundation of Orange County and as a director of the Center for Financial Studies at Fairfield (Conn.) University.

His wife of 40 years, Peggy, and their children, Peter and Melissa, all are graduates of St. Lawrence University, Canton.

The dinner is open to the public, but reservations are required. For more information, call the Housing Council at 386-8576.



Abt