

Leadership workshop combines experience and enthusiasm

The spring Leadership Workshops session was once again a time for chapter activists to come together, share ideas and focus on the needs of the union. The 75 leaders who participated agreed that the 24-hour cram course on unionism and the most critical issues facing UUP was time well spent.



Lisa Monpere of SUNY Buffalo praises the confidence-building benefits of the Leadership Workshops, during the summary session of the two-day event in Cooperstown.

“It was so informative. In the workshops, I thought, ‘I didn’t know I could do that!’ – and now I know I can,” said Lisa Monpere, a department representative at the SUNY Buffalo chapter and a first-time attendee at the workshop. Her comments reflected the general reaction to the weekend.

Monpere and her colleagues from around the state took part in workshops that covered issues including: an introduction to UUP, the organization; problem solving; the Taylor Law; and, how to run meetings.

UUP President Bill Scheuerman told partici-

pants that UUP needs them now more than ever.

“You’re the union, and the more people get involved, the stronger we become,” he said.

Immediate priorities for UUP: Obtaining an additional \$153.3 million in operating monies and new full-time faculty for the state-operated SUNY

campuses and an additional \$50 million in capital funding for technology and academic equipment. Other issues include the union’s campaign against the so-called “Academic Bill of Rights,” which would insert conservative control over university curricula around the country. Speaking out against the Academic Bill of Rights movement has been a major focus for Scheuerman.

“We have our work cut out for us, and you see it in the Academic Bill of Rights and chronic underfunding,” Scheuerman said. “And that’s why we’re here.”

Chapter leaders hold biannual meeting



UUP President Bill Scheuerman welcomes the 50 chapter presidents and vice presidents who gathered in Bolton Landing March 17-18 for their biannual meeting.

During the two-day session, the UUP leaders heard an update on state budget negotiations, and participated in discussions on chapter and union issues, ranging from protecting academic freedom to part-time concerns to developing new chapter leaders.

The chapter leaders also reviewed the union’s proposed budget for 2006-2007 — an issue that will be voted on by the spring Delegate Assembly in April — discussed nearly a dozen proposed resolutions for the NYSUT Representative Assembly and took part in sexual harassment prevention training.

Nursing conference still open for late registrations

UUP members who missed the Feb. 28 registration deadline for the March 31 conference, “Challenges and Strategies for Nursing in the 21st Century,” may still be able to attend. As of press time for *The Connection*, 75 members have registered for the conference, and there’s still room for a limited number of late registrations, on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you’re interested in attending, please contact UUP Statewide Secretary Eileen Landy at elandy@uupmail.org, or by calling the UUP office at (800) 342-4206. The daylong conference will

take place at UUP headquarters in Latham.

The conference qualifies for 7.9 Continuing Education Units. It will address a range of topics affecting nurses, including education, legislation and public policies, with an emphasis on attracting people to careers in nursing and keeping them in the profession.

Countdown to April 1 budget deadline

Capitol observers say state lawmakers are on track to pass the state budget by the April 1 deadline. That means you have just one more week to help pass a new state budget that includes \$153.3 million more for SUNY’s 29 state-operated

campuses.

Have you called or sent a fax to your legislator?

Call (877) 255-9417 toll-free, or visit our Web site for prepared letters you can e-mail to lawmakers’ fax machines.

You can also ask your students and their parents to call or fax their state lawmakers, urging their support.

Reminders/Upcoming meetings:

April
21-22—2006 Spring DA, Albany

May
3-6—NYSUT RA, Rochester