

UUP OFFICIAL 2011 ELECTION REPORT—ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP ELECTION

DELEGATE AND CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP

NOTE: By reason of the office, the RETIRED DELEGATE is also CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Wishnia, Judith (Stony Brook) | 507 | X |
| Fiumano, Kathleen M. (Upstate) | 132 | |
| Domst, Andrea (Fredonia) | 86 | |
| Green, Walter (Stony Brook HSC) | 83 | |
| Stempel, Patricia D. (Upstate) | 83 | |
| Borgstede, William R. (ESF) | 65 | |
| Johnson, Lydia L. (Stony Brook HSC) | 47 | |
| Bentley, Patricia W. (Plattsburgh) | 1 | |

For Retired Delegate, the individual receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. By reason of the office, this individual will also be the Chair of the Committee on Active Retired Membership and a non-voting Executive Board Member. All others receiving votes will be Alternate Retired Delegates in order of votes received. Rank order of those tied will be determined by lottery.

COMMITTEE ON ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION (Region A):
(Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz, New York State Theatre Institute, System Administration)

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|------------------------------|-------|------|
| Magid, Alvin (Albany) | 95 | X |
| Puretz, Susan L. (New Paltz) | 3 | |

LONG ISLAND REGION (Region B):
(Farmingdale, Old Westbury, Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC)

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|----------------------------------|-------|------|
| Maertz, Barbara T. (Farmingdale) | 161 | X |
| Green, Walter (Stony Brook HSC) | 58 | |
| Kurz, Phyllis J. (Old Westbury) | 1 | |

NORTH COUNTRY REGION (Region C):
(Canton, Plattsburgh, Potsdam)

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| Harsh, Robert A. (Plattsburgh) | 52 | X |

WESTERN NEW YORK REGION (Region D):
(Alfred, Brockport, Buffalo Center, Buffalo HSC, Buffalo State, Fredonia, Geneseo)

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Axlerod, Harvey S. (Buffalo Center) | 177 | X |
| Domst, Andrea (Fredonia) | 71 | |
| Griffen, Paul B. (Geneseo) | 56 | |

CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION (Region E):
(Environmental Science & Forestry, Morrisville, Oswego, Upstate Medical University, Utica/Rome)

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| Stempel, Patricia D. (Upstate) | 106 | X |
| Borgstede, William R. (ESF) | 24 | |
| Fluck Jr., Robert R. (Upstate) | 24 | |
| Betz, Brian R. (Oswego) | 1 | |

METROPOLITAN REGION (Region F):
(Brooklyn HSC, Maritime, Optometry, Purchase)

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|
| Russell, Eric P. (Brooklyn HSC) | 92 | X |
| Kasprak, Robert J. (Optometry) | 1 | |

SOUTHERN TIER REGION (Region G):
(Binghamton, Cortland, Delhi, Oneonta)

| Candidate | Total | Rank |
|----------------------------|-------|------|
| Schaffer, D. Jo (Cortland) | 121 | X |
| Pompi, Robert - Ineligible | 3 | |

For the Committee on Active Retired Membership, the individual receiving the highest number of votes in each region will be elected. All others receiving votes will be alternates for their respective regions in order of votes received. Rank order of those tied will be determined by lottery.

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Phillip H. Smith/President
John J. Marino/VP for Professionals
Frederick G. Floss/VP for Academics
Eileen Landy/Secretary
Rowena J. Blackman-Stroud/Treasurer
Edward H. Quinn/Membership Dev. Officer

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

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Life as I see it ...

We must be proactive

By **Henry Geerken**
Cobleskill



Geerken

If you have just retired and are reading this column for the first time, I would like to say, "Welcome aboard!" From now on you will be assailed by a number of words; some of which will be very reassuring, while others are going to scare the be-jabbers out of you.

For example, you probably have been reading all kinds of brochures that contain words like "golden years," the "sunshine of your life," or "You've worked hard for it so now you can sit back and enjoy it." These are some of the reassuring words.

You will also read words like "death squad advisors," "send me money because I will share my inheritance with you, "Social Security is going bankrupt," and the stock market goes "south" with the snowbirds. You might read, that because of the state budget being in shortfall and free fall, that negotiated

retirement plans are liable to be cut along with everything else. (For men, this can be similar to the feeling a dog has over the word "neutered.")

All of a sudden you start picturing yourself sitting around a fire burning in a steel barrel trying to keep warm while sharing a hot dog with 20 other people. It is not a pretty picture.

What does this mean for retirees reading this?

It is quite simple. If you are not

proactive and vigilant, these events can happen. You cannot leave it to "others" to fight for your retiree rights. If everybody felt that way, retirees could slip through the cracks and disappear without so much as a whimper.

We are very fortunate that we have many

retirees who are very proactive and vigilant. Just remember that, like you, they get older with each passing year. We need to have a cadre of "young reserves" to keep the front lines firm. Take this notice that we need *you* to be

part of the things that are happening to UUP retirees. You are the future!

Get involved in your campus chapter.

Be ready to help with visits to legislators, and calling or writing letters. (A legislator once told me that one handwritten note was worth 100 form letters.)

To keep you informed, COARM has the state broken down into regions, and each region meets periodically

to discuss issues that are of interest to retirees. This can be a fun meeting with other retirees, coupled with items where your direct involvement is essential.

If you think that one person cannot make a difference, just picture that little old grandma over in London who thwarted a jewelry store robbery by smacking the crooks with her pocketbook.

Well, that's how I see it.

"You cannot leave it to 'others' to fight for your retiree rights. If everybody felt that way, retirees could slip through the cracks and disappear without so much as a whimper."

From the COARM chair

What's happening to us isn't right

As I write this, the public workers of Wisconsin and thousands of their supporters continue to demonstrate against the Republican attempt to vilify public employees (mainly teachers) and, using the budget shortfall as an excuse, to destroy their unions.

According to recent polls, the majority of Americans do not want to destroy collective bargaining. They recognize that unions benefit not only their members, but those workers who are not organized. It is vital that we support and strengthen the union movement in this country. Without unions we would all be at the mercy of corporations that would love to return to the 19th century—when there was no minimum wage, no pensions or health care, and workers could be hired and fired at will.

Yes, states are facing severe budget crises, but working people and public employees did not create the recession that led to record state deficits. As Jack Rasmus writes, “The budget crises of states and local governments are not caused by public workers’ pensions or benefits. Nevertheless, public workers are now being targeted as the scapegoats to pay for the economic harm rendered by the main perpetrators of the crisis, i.e., the bankers, big corporations and professional investors who precipitated the economic crisis in 2007-2008, which sent state budgets into the red” (*U&I*, Feb. 23, 2011).

In New York state, as in so many other states, education is under attack. The proposed New York State budget calls for severe reductions for primary and secondary schools and thousands of teachers are facing layoffs. State support to SUNY has been reduced by 10 percent and, if enacted as proposed, SUNY’s loss for the past three years would add up to approximately \$685 million! The governor has also proposed the elimination of all direct

“Something is wrong. Public employees are vilified, schools are firing teachers, parks are being closed, and retirement and health benefits are under attack.”

state support for the three SUNY hospitals, a loss of about \$154 million—a severe attack on hospitals that serve the less prosperous citizens of this state.

One must wonder why education, so vital to the future of the nation, is being cut so severely and teachers are vilified as “fat cats.” Much has been written about excessive salaries and benefits. But when you compare the salaries of state workers in the public sector with comparable workers in the private sector, the differences are startling. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, if you have a B.A., your salary in the public sector would be 32 percent less than a salary in the private sector. A master’s degree (held by most teachers) would earn you 36 percent less than if you worked in the private sector. And for all the Ph.D.s in the public sector, the salary difference is 26 percent.

In the meantime, corporative profits in the last quarter of 2010 were \$1.6 trillion, 28 percent higher than the year before, the biggest one-year jump in history (Rose Ann DeMoro, National Nurses United, AFL/CIO; reprinted in *Huffington Post*, Feb. 21, 2011).

In New York state, while teachers, nurses and professors are being retrenched, the comptroller’s office reports that cash bonuses for New York City financial-sector employees reached



Wishnia

\$20.8 billion. *The Wall Street Journal’s* analysis of Wall Street banks and securities firms found total compensation and benefits reached a record \$135 billion in 2010 (*Common Dreams*, Feb. 23, 2011). Since the state and federal governments give tax breaks to corporations, revenue from corporate taxes have fallen and many corporations pay no taxes at all. And, of course, the federal government continues to subsidize big oil companies where profits are at an all-time high.

Something is wrong. Public employees are vilified, schools are firing teachers, parks are being closed, and retirement and health benefits are under attack. And thanks to the tax cuts for the rich that will remain in effect, those with the highest incomes pay a smaller percentage of their income in taxes than all the rest of us.

Years ago, somebody gave me a bumper sticker that says: Tax the Rich.

Yes!

Judith Wishnia

The status of elder abuse service planning

By Horace Ivey of Upstate and Frank Maraviglia of ESF

The Elder Abuse Program is a Division of Protective Services for Adults within the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Gladys Carrios serves as commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services, with Alan J. Lawitz serving in the position of director of the Bureau of Adult Services which includes the Elder Abuse Program.

Lawitz, in his most recent 2010 report on the status of elder abuse, described abuse among this population as “A Disturbing Trend: Intra-family abuse, neglect and exploita-

tion of vulnerable adults.” In using 2008 and 2009 case data collection from the ASAP research tracking design, Lawitz concluded that there was a need to “further refine data collection instruments to capture all information to identify all reported perpetrators of abuse/neglect by care givers or financial exploitation can be tracked.”

The major categories that Lawitz wishes to gain more data on include abuse from:

1. Spouse/significant other
2. Family member children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, etc., but excluding spouses
3. Non-family, or unspecified family relationships. There is

a desire for specificity to identify the actual perpetrator and bring them to trial.

COARM could be involved by establishing collaborative relationships with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services—Protective Services for Adults—Elder Abuse Division. COARM could tap social work and nursing staff in hospitals and related outpatient clinical settings to identify elder abusers and provide mandatory reporting of elder patients with suspicious conditions of abuse using the pre-determined criteria developed by NYS Elder Abuse Division. There is already precedent for this activity in the Child Abuse and

Protection Law, which requires this activity of medical, social workers, nursing and allied health professionals.

Suggested step:

Design workshops and meetings with state Protective Services for Adults, Elder Abuse Division, administrative staff and key professionals for information and instruction on how individuals can help curb adult abuse.

This would include education on recognizing and responding to elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation issues and understanding the role of the local district protective services for adults staff in responding to these issues.

Mark your calendars for Capital District COARM meeting

By Al Magid
Albany

In this time of widespread economic distress, impacting just about every sector including public higher education, there are reasons to think that public community colleges will assume increasing importance throughout the nation and particularly in New York state.

Student enrollment in community colleges is continuing to grow, mostly in response to the escalating cost of undergraduate education in four-year private and public institutions, and changes in the country’s economic configuration and employment structure.

Public community colleges are swiftly adapting to these changes, with an eye to improving employment prospects for their graduates. This can be seen, for example, in New York’s Capital District. With strong, foresighted presidential leadership, Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC)

in Troy and Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) in Schenectady are innovating degree programs in alignment with new developments in major industries: HVCC with an eye to start-up Global Foundries in nearby Malta, a major producer of semiconductors; SCCC with a keen sensitivity to General Electric Co.’s new production programs for alternative “green technologies” (wind, solar, etc.) in its Schenectady plants.

Public community colleges find themselves having to adapt also to a steady decline in recent years in state funding of those institutions. For example, New York’s new governor, Andrew Cuomo, recently pro-

posed that, as for SUNY and CUNY generally, the state’s allocation for the 29 SUNY and six CUNY community colleges in the coming fiscal year be cut by 10 percent. County governments, already straining under the weight of Medicaid and

other mandated programs, find themselves increasingly hard-pressed to meet their co-responsibility (alongside the state’s) for funding local public community colleges.

With these important considerations in mind, Capital District Region COARM will convene a forum Wednesday, May 11, from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Alumni House on UAlbany’s main campus, to address the topic: “Community Colleges in Public Higher Education: Past, Present, Future.”

The forum will be organized around presentations by three experts: Dr. Quintin B. Bullock, president, SCCC; Dr. Andrew Matonak, president, HVCC; and Dr. Benjamin Weaver, executive assistant for academic affairs and administration, UAlbany. The three presentations will be followed by Q-&-A.

Drs. Bullock and Matonak have been involved in public community college administration for many years. Dr. Weaver has written extensively about public community colleges.

There will be a social hour from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a free buffet brunch from 11 a.m. until the forum begins at 11:45 a.m.



Assisted living 2011

Facilities offer good care, often at great expense

By Joe Marcus
Brooklyn HSC

More people are living to older age, creating problems with their independence and care. One response has been the rise of Assisted Living Residences (ALR), particularly over recent years. In ALRs, people maintain a sense of independence, but have staff available to care for their physical and medical needs.

However, this has been transformed into big business; chains of homes being established. In the last five years there have been at least three takeovers by other chains, for more than \$1 billion each. The latest has been the purchase of the largest chain by an investment company, for \$6 billion!

What is involved to get into an ALR?

Potential residents have to be approved as appropriate for the home, requiring medical, social and financial assessments. The conditions are spelled out in a contract, which they (or their families) have to sign. Included will be the monthly rates of pay, which may vary from \$3,000 to \$7,000 per month. The ALR must provide adequate rooms, food, laundry and activities. Any extra items, e.g., help with showers, dressing or grooming, will cost more. Residents may only self-medicate if they have a doctor's letter, stating that they are capable of doing so; otherwise there is an extra charge of up to several hundred dollars for staff to dispense drugs and over-the-counter medicines, such as aspirin and liquid antacids. Every year, the rates are reviewed and, generally, there are increases of between 2.5 percent to 9 percent.

In New York state, all ALRs must be licensed. To ensure that their standards are adequate the Department of Health



(DOH) makes an annual, unannounced inspection, in which it inspects the premises, particularly the kitchen, interview residents, staff and ombudsmen. Their report is then sent to the ALR director, who must deal with any citations within 30 days, indicating what has been done and how. Both these documents then have to be displayed in the ALR. If conditions are found to be bad enough, DOH will close down the facility, though this is rare.

In addition, each ALR has an ombudsman assigned to it, via the county Family and Children's Association. The ombudsman makes weekly visits, and listens to all complaints from the residents. These can be kept anonymous. The complaint is then taken to the director or division

head, to try to correct it. If the ombudsman sees any gross violation, s/he can report it directly to the ombudservice chief or to DOH.

Finally, the ALR has a Residents' Council, which meets once a month to discuss ideas and problems. No staff is allowed into these meetings, so residents can speak freely without fear of repercussions. Minutes of the meeting are then sent to the director, who should respond to them in a reasonable time.

The best of ALRs have problems. The director has a built-in conflict of interest. The ALRs are run to make money, not to care for older people. Thus, the director has to balance giving all necessities to the residents, while making money for the owners. There is no doubt which will carry greater weight!

Also, more and more inappropriate people are being admitted, to keep beds full; a number really should be in nursing homes, unless the ALR has a licensed dementia wing. Residents, who deteriorate while in the ALR, can be "grandfathered" to stay on, unless they need proper nursing and other care.

It is difficult to see how the system can be improved. As the companies are private, they do not have to

report their finances or any other aspects of their business. Any attempt by the state to change this appears to be very unlikely in the current political atmosphere. Careful oversight by DOH and the ombudservice to ensure standards are maintained and residents are provided with all their needs is the best bid. However, the latter—unless they see obvious, severe infractions—are advisory, at best. The directors can ignore them if they wish to.

(Joe Marcus is an associate professor emeritus of clinical neurology, SUNY Downstate at Brooklyn, and an ombudsman for Nassau County.)

UUP retirees hard at work at Winter DA

By Barbara Maertz
Farmingdale

The following are the draft minutes of the Feb. 4, 2011, COARM meeting.

Present: Ed Alfonsin, Barbara Maertz, Al Magid, Frank Maraviglia, Jack Richert, Eric, Russell, Pat Stempel, Judy Wishnia, Ed Alleyne, Horace Ivey, Bill Borgstede, Harvey, Inventasch, Ora Bouey, Jim Kiepper,

Excused: Bill Rock, Jo Schaffer.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

COARM Chair Judy Wishnia reported on her meeting with UUP officers:

- All outreach for SUNY/UUP through RELAG would be paid for by UUP.

COARM will pay for advocacy on retiree issues.

- The request for dedicated space in *The Voice* for articles from retirees was denied. Articles will be accepted on a space available basis as any others.

- The request for UUP President Phil Smith to send letters requesting retiree liaisons from each chapter was not implemented. Wishnia will send out letters to each chapter.

- Regional meetings currently scheduled include: Long Island, April 13; Albany, May 11; Metropolitan, Feb. 18 and March/April; Southern Tier, April 29; and Central NY, May (date to be announced).

- COARM is trying to get an e-list service for all retirees from UUP. UUP statewide Secretary Eileen Landy will see if it is possible.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ed Alfonsin announced that he will not be running for chair of the North Country region. Pending election results, the new chair will set up meetings.

- Budget items: Barbara Maertz distributed 2011-2012 budget forms to the regional chairs. They should develop their budget requests and submit them to UUP Director of Finance Tina George. A vote was taken to accept the current first quarter budget report from 2010-2011.



PHOTOS BY MIKE LISI AND KAREN L. MARTISON

Above, from left, Don Cohen of Albany, Bob Kasprak of Optometry and Ora James Bouey of Stony Brook HSC review COARM materials.

Below, RELAG Co-chairs Harvey Inventasch of Cortland, left, and Jack Richert of Buffalo HSC review state legislation of particular interest to retirees.



- Maertz displayed a booklet on retiree benefits for Farmingdale retirees. She asked for approval for printing and distribution costs of \$200. A vote was taken and approved.

- COARM will try to have a joint committee with the SUNY Retiree Service Corps (Ram Chugh will bring the idea to them) to issue a SUNYwide policy on emeritus status and meet with SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher.

- Jim Kiepper distributed an article on “dumbed-down diplomas” and asked for a

discussion of the issue. He had to leave and discussion was postponed.

(Minutes from this point were taken by Pat Stempel.)

- Don Cohen reported on the Thursday dinner meeting on elder abuse. Art Mason, director of Lifespan’s Elder Abuse Prevention program in Rochester, reported on the results of his survey. Most abuse is financial exploitation. The next phase is a proposed educational “road-show” prepared by UUP Active Retirees Ed Alleyne and Eric Russell. Funds will

Right, Duke Piroha of Delhi shares a thought during the COARM meeting.



Below, Jeanne Galbraith of Stony Brook HSC shows off the quilt she made to benefit the union's College Scholarship Fund. Chapter colleague Don Pisani placed the winning bid of \$325 during a fundraising event.

Bottom, Eric Russell of Brooklyn HSC and Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale discuss the annual COARM budget.



be needed for their "Train the Trainer" program for materials and travel. A vote was taken to allocate \$2,000 for this initiative.

- A vote was taken approving a Wednesday full-day retreat before the Fall and Spring DAs.

- Discussion of firm deadlines for *The Active Retiree* took place. The following dates were agreed on by a vote of those present: Feb. 2 (election issue), March 18 (post-election issue, to include election results for 2011-2013), May 27 and Oct. 28.

- Discussion of the Thursday RELAG meeting by Co-chairs Jack Richert and Harvey Inventasch, in which they encour-



aged UUP retirees to meet with legislators in their home districts.

- A presentation from NYSUT Benefits for their programs and Social Services took place.

Meeting adjourned.

In memoriam

Let us take time to remember the UUP Active Retirees who have passed away:

- Bengt A. Anderson, Farmingdale
- James R. Beerbower, Binghamton
- Jerome B. Blumenthal, Upstate
- Ronald Britto, Binghamton
- Joseph M. Conforti, Old Westbury
- James E. Devlin, Oneonta
- Laverna M. Fadale, Albany
- Rawle E.G. Farley, Brockport
- Sehik M. Fikrig, Brooklyn HSC
- William Greene, Buffalo Center
- H. David Hammond, Brockport
- Marilyn Hildebrand, Stony Brook HSC
- Peter J. Hilton, Binghamton
- Gerald A. Kitzmann, New Paltz
- Alexander Martin, New Paltz
- John J. McKeon, ESF
- Frederick W. Moore, Albany
- Eduardo Orti, Brooklyn HSC
- Robert J. Potter, Brockport
- Ann G. Rader, New Paltz
- Nathan Rudolph, Brooklyn HSC
- William H. Sembler, Maritime
- Margaret G. Sheil, Oneonta
- Raven G. Swaby, Brooklyn HSC
- Nicholas Zevos, Potsdam

Join our e-list

Retirees are invited to join the group's e-mail information network (e-list) as a way to share ideas and to receive information more quickly. E-list topics are restricted to issues of concern to UUP, SUNY, the labor movement and retirees.

COARM Chair Judy Wishnia said the e-list is an easy way to discuss retiree issues and to post news about regional meetings, benefits and advocacy.

Interested members should contact Old Westbury retiree Claire Meirowitz at cmeiowitz@yahoo.com. Member privacy is protected because the group is considered private and names will not be displayed in Yahoo!'s directory.



In other words ...

A book review: Ending tenure is not the answer

By Judy Wishnia
COARM Chair

As Jimmy Durante used to say (OK, how many of you remember the Big Schnozz?) “Everybody wants to get into the act.” Endless words have been written about what ails higher education, its high cost, large classes, student debt and corporative influence. Now enter Claudia Dreifus and Andrew Hacker, well-known writers and intellectuals who have written a very provocative book, *Higher Education? How Colleges are Wasting Our Money and Failing Our Kids and What We Can Do About It*.

The authors start with a premise that we, as educators, can certainly support, that many institutions of higher learning do training (from nursing to hotel management) rather than education. Even the much lauded arts and sciences colleges and universities are failing to educate our students to think, to be curious, to expand their intellectual and cultural horizons. They lament the movement away from the arts and sciences as students choose business as a major, rather than history or even basic science. Since the 1960s there has been a 50 percent decline in English and History majors and, surprisingly, a 75 percent decline in math majors. They also say that higher education is too expensive, filled with unnecessary bloat.

But after correctly attacking the absurd high salaries of college presidents—most of whom earn more than the president of the United States—and the expansion of largely unnecessary administrative offices, they make their main point.

Highly paid tenured professors do not teach; they leave teaching to poorly paid adjuncts. So they say, eliminate tenure. Tenure was created to protect academic freedom and it is no longer needed!

Gee, I don’t know where they did their research (they do specifically target the “golden dozen,” Harvard, Yale, et al), but my experience at SUNY Stony Brook has been just the opposite. Since the vast majority of students in the United States attend state universities, it is important

leges. Who would then direct and conduct the important research: profit driven Big Oil and Big Pharma? At our university, faculty does important research and they involve their students as well. Full professors even mentor high school students who go on to win important awards and scholarships. Professors who do research inspire students to be inquisitive and thoughtful. Besides, because of the lack of state funding, universities count on federal research grants to fund some of their overhead.

And, oh yes, as a historian, I wonder what would happen to historical research.

Some of their other suggestions also belie knowledge of the real world for most of our students. They say: Stop relying on loans. Parents should be responsible. Yes, it is a crime that so many of our students leave school burdened by incredible debt. But many

“What we really need is not an elimination of tenure and research, but a real commitment in our country to fund higher education.”

to note that not so highly paid tenured professors, including Nobel Laureates, teach and they frequently teach first year students. Adjuncts are used (and abused) because New York state, as most other states, has slashed funding so severely that state colleges and universities can no longer maintain their curriculum without using adjuncts. Unions like UUP try to alleviate the exploitation of adjuncts but without adequate funding, it is an uphill battle. And now in the current New York state budget crisis and the severe slashing of state funding, departments are being eliminated and faculty retrenched or nonrenewed.

Another suggestion the authors offer is to separate research from teaching col-

of our students work part-time and use loans because their parents cannot pay the increasing tuition rates. Recent budget proposals from the federal government will also lower the maximum awards for Pell grants, a terrible blow to our most needy students.

What we really need is not an elimination of tenure and research, but a real commitment in our country to fund higher education. The 20th century made sure that every child could go to high school. In the 21st century, we must make sure that all of our students can benefit from a higher education, unburdened by debt and taught by tenured professors who enrich, nourish and stimulate the minds of our students, the future of our nation.

Joanna H. Kraus is an award-winning playwright, author of children's books and a correspondent for the Bay Area News Group. Her new play, Pilot Christabel, and new book, Blue Toboggan, are forthcoming.

A short story: The Writer's Desk

By Joanna H. Kraus
Brockport

Impressive. Imposing. Intimidating. Its surface gleamed like a subdued parquet floor.

But did I need a new desk?

Was it too late in my life to warrant such expenditure? After all, the pressed wood one had served me 25 years. It had been the surface and repository of several drafts of plays, picture books, children's book reviews and articles, most of which, in time, were published.

At the time of purchase I'd yearned for something nicer, but there were budget constraints. Now, the drawers stuck. One didn't close and the side edges were chipped.

When I wandered into the estate sale, I thought, "I'll just take a casual look."

Someone said, "Did you see the cashmere sweaters?"

But it was the large desk in the master bedroom that stopped me.

There it stood in all its majesty. Two deep file drawers, 10 brass handles, molding on the edges.

Yes, impressive, imposing, and definitely intimidating.

"I always wanted a decent desk," I muttered. But could I afford the one I admired?

What would such a new desk mean to my work? If I changed my old familiar desk, would my writing change too?

What if it meant I'd never write again?

"I have to go measure," I said, half-hoping that it would fit in my home office and half-hoping that it wouldn't, so that the decision would be made automatically.

But it was a mere two-inch difference. Not enough to matter.

But, then, what to do with the old desk? It wouldn't fit into my husband's office although we tried, and it looked dreadful in the foyer, where it would have provided useful storage space.

I began to feel nervous, disloyal. I hadn't contemplated spending several hundred dollars when I woke up that morning.

"Decide," I told myself. "Yes or no."

Did I need it? No.

Did I want it? Yes.

"The first day I was so in awe of my new writing desk that I'd exit my office and re-enter simply to look at it."



Kraus

"Do you like it better than what you have now?" my husband asked puzzled. I nodded.

But was I entitled to this luxury?

The elegant desk awaited my decision with regal confidence.

Its dark walnut wood with inlays of mahogany exuded warmth, life and natural beauty. In a burst of extravagance I said, "Yes, I'll take it."

The next morning movers brought it to its permanent place of pride and removed the old one. I wanted my pressed wood friend to go to someone who needed it. Then as they loaded it a side cracked.

"No!" I cried.

The mover shrugged. Indifferent.

Troubled, I waved goodbye hoping my loyal companion wouldn't end its days in a collection dump.

Now, I turned to the task of reorganizing the contents of my former desk. An arduous project,

Memories poured out.

I found items I'd long forgotten.

There were early drafts of plays, articles, novels plus years of rejection letters as well

as acceptances. There was an old address book with correspondence from a far-away, long ago college friend stuffed inside, at least a thousand unsolicited address labels from charitable organizations soliciting funds. A realm of carbon paper and typewriter correction paper, (remember that?), 15 years of auto shop repair invoices, a New York state teacher's license 35 years old, outlines of speeches and workshops I'd previously given, deposit slips

from banks that had closed, legal items, paper weights, supplies, city maps, old bus schedules, conference nametags, business cards.

There was a stock certificate from a slick magazine that once paid me handsomely. Then, they switched to payment in stock shares before folding altogether, making the certificate utterly useless.

The shredder worked overtime.

Much of my past life disappeared into the dumpster.

I had to think where to file the remains, hoping I'd remember in which drawer items were now stored. Some files of major projects were stuffed into cardboard boxes and now rest precariously on bookcase and closet shelves.

Next month I'll reorganize those.

Or maybe next year.

The first day I was so in awe of my new writing desk that I'd exit my office and re-enter simply to look at it. Meanwhile, the silver base of the desk lamp reflected me disconcertingly.

If I don't do something quickly, I thought, I never will.

So I began. A draft of an interview article.

Finally, the spell of the royal desk was broken.

Seated there I hope to write more plays, articles and picture books.

Now, to work,

to work,

to work.

Coda: a few months later my new play was scheduled for publication.

Thanks to both desks!

New financial education services offer something for everyone

If you're looking for information on financial services available to you as a NYSUT member, NYSUT Member Benefits may have something just for you. Considerable efforts have been put forth in creating new printed material as well as new presentations. Both in-service and retiree members can benefit.

403(b) Field Guide. This booklet covers all aspects of 403(b) plans and includes information pertinent to members not yet contributing to a 403(b) plan, those who are contributing, those nearing retirement, and those already enjoying retirement.

To get the free guide, you can view and print a copy from the Member Benefits website, www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, hit the "Contact" option on the site to send an e-mail request, or call **800-626-8101** for a copy to be sent to you.

403(b) Provider-Specific Workshop. Member Benefits contracted with the provider of its endorsed Financial Counseling Program, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc., to conduct these workshops upon request from local leaders. The workshop covers detailed information on five 403(b) providers chosen by the local leader from a list of 10 popular 403(b) providers. Workshops review the features of each plan, comparing fees and benefits. These workshops are designed for in-service members.



Workshops have a registration fee of \$20 per participant and a minimum requirement of 30 participants. A local could schedule this workshop as a webinar for a fee of \$250.

Workshops will not address specific questions pertaining to an individual's 403(b) plan. Members with questions regarding personal 403(b) accounts or other financial planning issues will be directed to speak with their 403(b) adviser or their financial planner. For those who don't have an adviser or planner, information on the endorsed Financial Counseling Program will also be available.

Financial Planning Puzzle Workshop. Today's economy has clarified the need for a financial plan; unfortunately, for many, beginning a financial plan remains a daunting task.

This two-hour workshop, designed for in-service members, outlines the process, covering cash management, risk management, savings, retirement and estate planning.

The Challenging Times of Financial Management – The Retirement Years. Financial planning doesn't stop at retirement. This one-hour presentation discusses the various investment options you may face during retirement along with helpful information regarding your 403(b) plan, Social Security benefits, income taxes and more.



For information about these programs or about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Election summary ...

(continued from page 1)

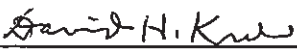
UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS OFFICIAL 2011 ELECTION REPORT ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP ELECTION

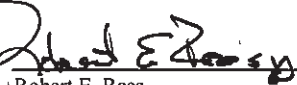
SUMMARY PAGE

| | |
|------------|---|
| 12/30/2010 | • Membership certification date. |
| 01/05/2011 | • Date notice of election and call for nominations mailed to home addresses of retired members. |
| 02/02/2011 | • Date nominations closed. |
| 02/09/2011 | • Date ballots mailed to home addresses of retired members. |
| 03/16/2011 | • Date ballots due at the UUP Administrative Office in Albany. |
| 03/17/2011 | • Date ballots counted. |
| 1,123 | • Total number of control envelopes received from retired members. |
| 0 | • Number of invalid control envelopes and reasons invalid: |
| 0 | • Non-eligible voter. |
| 0 | • Other. |
| 1,123 | • Number of valid control envelopes. |
| 14 | • Number of invalid ballots and reasons invalid: |
| 13 | • Not in sealed inner envelope (secrecy compromised). |
| 1 | • Secrecy compromised by voter (e.g., ballot envelope or ballot signed, initialed, etc.). |
| 0 | • Other. |
| 4 | • Number of blank ballots. |
| 1,105 | • Number of valid ballots. |

Election results are listed in descending order of votes received. Winners are designated by an X.

We certify that this election was conducted in accordance with the UUP election procedure and that this report constitutes the official election report. Ties were resolved by lot. The term of office for each position is from June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2013.


 David H. Kreh
 Co-Chair, Elections and Credentials Committee


 Robert E. Rees
 Co-Chair, Elections and Credentials Committee


 Eileen Landy
 Secretary

Date: March 18, 2011

Tellers: David H. Kreh, Robin R.I. Nichols Jr.

Support the Political Action Fund of UUP and NYSUT

Give to VOTE/COPE

VOTE/COPE is the nonpartisan political action fund of UUP and its affiliate, NYSUT. It coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and makes contributions to UUP/NYSUT-endorsed candidates and to UUP/NYSUT-supported general campaign committees.

Dues money is *not* used for political action.

Contributions to VOTE/COPE are *not* tax deductible.

Return this coupon to:

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Address (Include Street, City, State, Zip) _____

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Effective no earlier than _____ (enter date), I hereby authorize regular payroll deductions from my earnings in the amount specified below as a voluntary contribution to be paid to VOTE/COPE, to be used in accordance with applicable law for the purpose of making political contributions in connection with federal, state, and local elections. My contribution is voluntary, and I understand that it is not required as a condition of employment, and that I may revoke this authorization at any time by giving written notice to the Treasurer of United University Professions.

Contribution Per Pay Period (Circle One) \$1 \$2 \$5 \$10 Other \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____



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