

A Newsletter for Retired Members of United University Professions

UUP OFFICIAL 2013 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)	423	01
Bentley, Patricia W. (Plattsburgh)	150	02
Boot, John C.G. (Buffalo Center)	126	03
Domst, Andrea (Fredonia)	73	04
Weisman, Doris R. (Stony Brook HSC)	64	05
Krolikowski, Gary E. (ESC)	58	06
Simpson, Charles R. (Plattsburgh)	57	07
Johnson, Lydia L. (Stony Brook HSC)	55	08
Robin, Abigail J. (New Paltz)	53	09
Winbush, Samuel Von (Old Westbury)	32	10
Kasprak, Robert J. (Optometry)	1	11

For Retired Delegate, the individual receiving the highest number of votes is 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 are elected Alternate Retired Delegates in order of votes received. Rank order of those tied was 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)	93	01
Puretz, Susan L. (New Paltz)	2	02
Robin, Abigail J. (New Paltz)	1	03
Murphy, Michael J. (Cobleskill)	1	04
Knapp, Sara Alice D. (Albany)	1	05
Rudnitski, Rose A. (New Paltz)	1	06

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

Candidate	Total	Rank
Wishnia, Judith (Stony Brook) ★	145	01
Maertz, Barbara T. (Farmingdale)	81	02
Weisman, Doris R. (Stony Brook HSC)	27	03
Winbush, Samuel Von (Old Westbury)	16	04

* Judy Wishnia declined her election as Long Island Regional Representative; Barbara Maertz is elected to that position.

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

Candidate	Total	Rank
Bentley, Patricia W. (Plattsburgh)	30	01
Nixon, John T. (Canton)	27	02
Simpson, Charles R. (Plattsburgh)	21	03
Wolpin, Miles D. (Potsdam)	11	04

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

Candidate	Total	Rank
Axlerod, Harvey S. (Buffalo Center)	199	01
Domst, Andrea (Fredonia)	79	02
Johnson, Anastasia K. (Buffalo Center)	74	03

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

Candidate	Total	Rank
Stempel, Patricia D. (Upstate)	115	01
Peckham, David J. (Upstate)	1	02
Simpson, Charles R. - Ineligible	1	

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

Candidate	Total	Rank
Russell, Eric P. (Downstate)	84	01
Kasprak, Robert J. (Optometry)	1	02

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

Candidate	Total	Rank
Schaffer, D. Jo (Cortland)	128	01
Kreh, David H. (Cortland)	3	02
Miller, Fred R. (Oneonta)	1	03

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

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Phillip H. Smith/President
J. Philippe Abraham/VP for Professionals
Jamie F. Dangler/VP for Academics
Eileen Landy/Secretary
Rowena J. Blackman-Stroud/Treasurer
Edison Bond Jr./Membership Dev. Officer

Elected COARM Members (2013-2015)

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Patricia D. Strempel, Central NY Region
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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 ...

Negotiations 'for men only'

By Henry Geerken
 Cobleskill

If you are male and reading this, it means that you have retired from the hamster wheel of life to more "sedate" climes. If you have been retired for many years, there may still be hope for you.

If you are female reading this, I know that the heading "For men only" is far too great a temptation for you. All I can say is, "Shame on you."

Men, if you have just retired, you must read the following very carefully. You are about to enter a brand-new phase of your life. In labor terms, it is called "negotiations."

When you retire, the first thing you must ask for is a job description. Without a job description you will never know where you stand. It will be like building a sand castle at the beach—it looks good until the first wave comes along and everything is gone.

The job description is essential because your wife (hereafter referred to as "management") will try to get you ("labor") to do all the "little" jobs that have accumulated over 40 years of marriage in one week. In your initial labor/management negotiations, remember that if all else fails, you can play the religion card—even God rested on the seventh day. (I have it on good authority that He was probably playing golf.)

After you wake at 10 a.m. on your first day of retirement, smile and leap out of bed full of pep and vinegar, and announce to management (wife), "Right after you make me breakfast and you wash the dishes, we'll tackle all those jobs you want done." Make sure that you appear to be very eager to help.

Management will hand you a list that must get done. Look over the list. There is probably something that needs painting. Announce that this will be your first job as a "retiree."

Get out the ladders, the paint cans, her favorite screwdriver (wives typically have a tool box that has more neat gad-



Geerken

gets than yours) and a stick to stir the paint. Break the blade on her favorite screwdriver while opening the paint can and begin to stir.

When you're finished, grab the paint can and rush back into the house, shouting, "Honey, honey is this the right color?" About halfway across her beautiful (\$41.95/yd) Berber car-

pet, fake a stumble and dump the can of paint on the carpet. Shout out, "Don't worry, honey, no rush; it can wait." (Any color paint, even white, will suffice; but for a dramatic effect use midnight black.)

Take a roll of paper towels and spread the stain while pretending to mop up the mess. Smile as "management" comes running in and say to her, "See, I've almost got it cleaned up."

Be prepared for screaming that might progress to advanced histrionics and too be thrown out of the house. If you start "painting" early enough, you should have enough time for a few brewskies and the back nine at the golf course.

After weeks of forced vacation (a decision made by management), start again with the list of jobs to be done. Look for those that with glass and a hammer with a claw end.

Let's assume the job is to hang a mirror that has been resting on the floor since Aunt Marge gave it to you as a wedding present. For 40 years it has given you a good look at your shoes and ankles. Announce to management, "Honey after I hang this you'll be able to see your beautiful face." Don't be shocked if you hear a snort of derision.

While management is out of the room, bang the hammer on the floor or wall a couple of times. If you have wallboard or sheetrock, take a good swing at the wall. You will either hit a stud, which will leave an indentation, or you'll punch a hole in the wall. Perfection!

At this point yell down the stairs, "Don't worry honey, we can fix that up in no time." Now take the hammer and see **FOR MEN ONLY**, page 3

From the COARM chair

What's happening to our country?

Are you angry? I am. I am very angry about what is happening to our country, and to its hard-working citizens.

As I write this, the so-called sequestration is hurting children, the disabled, veterans and working families, while the super rich continue to amass more money and pay lower taxes.

As I write this, the senior safety net of Social Security and Medicare is under attack, held hostage to the Republican insistence on lowering the debt—a debt caused, not by Social Security, but by spending trillions of dollars on two wars. As I write this, although 90 percent of the population supports stricter gun controls, the NRA-dominated Congress is doing nothing to prevent the continued massacre of innocents. As I write this, North Dakota has passed a law restricting abortions to as early as six weeks (most women do not even know they are pregnant at six weeks). As I write this, education is being eroded. Thousands of K-12 teachers have been laid off (30,000 in New York state!) and those who want to get a college education are finding it harder and harder to achieve this without incurring enormous debt. As I write this, politicians ignore the needs of their constituents and take orders from the super rich, the corporations and the banks. As I write this, the country I love is becoming a plutocracy rather than a democracy.

How did we become what is essentially, two Americas, divided by power, by money and by ideology. In his book, *Who Stole the American Dream*, Hedrick Smith outlines the historical background. After World War II, there was an accepted social contract

“Perhaps it is time to go into the streets once again, time to ... shout, ‘We’re mad as hell and we’re not going to take it anymore!’”



Wishnia

between business and workers that reasoned that good wages made good consumers. From 1950 to 1970, the middle class grew, there were high taxes, and there were strong unions, whose success in getting good wages and benefits, aided even those who were not unionized. The result was economic growth and a period of the least inequality of wealth.

In the 1970s—spurred on by conservative economic pundits, corporations, Wall Street financiers and greed—there was a rebirth of predatory capitalism that ended the social contract. Short-term profit replaced long-term growth. (Take the money and run!) Jobs were cut, sent overseas and viable companies were destroyed so that CEOs and stockholders could make huge profits. Regulations were abandoned, credit card interest was allowed to soar, and bankruptcy laws favored corporations. (Did you know that students who owe college loans cannot declare bankruptcy, but Donald Trump can?) Market-based 401(k) plans, originally intended as an “additional” way to plan for retirement, gradually replaced employment pensions and, of course, there were

the tax cuts for the rich and CEOs who got huge bonuses, even when their companies failed. Most critically, unions, the creators of the middle class, were essentially destroyed.

So here we are, the wealthiest country in the world, with a suffering and eroding middle class, no universal health care, students who cannot afford an education, a weakening safety net, gigantic income inequality, and politicians who do the bidding of the rich instead of the people. Are you angry? Perhaps it is time to return to the activism of the '60s. It was the grassroots organizations and demonstrations that gave us civil rights, increased equality for women, and recognition of the rights of gays and lesbians.

This year, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington (see related story, page 5). Perhaps it is time to go into the streets once again, time to open our windows and, reminiscent of Peter Finch in *Network*, shout, “We’re mad as hell and we’re not going to take it anymore!”

Judith Wishnia

For men only ...

(continued from page 2)

smash the glass mirror making as much noise as possible. (Don't worry about seven years of bad luck; you've already served 40.)

In a loud voice say, “OH! OH!”

Once again you will be banished from the kingdom to pay penance at the front and back nine.

Words of caution: Don't hit yourself in the head with the claw of the hammer—or for that matter, any part of the hammer.

Not knowing your individual situations, the rest of the plotting I will leave to your imagination. I have every confidence that you will exceed my expectations.

One more hint: Don't forget to play the “I'm getting old and forgetful” card.

In closing, let me just say that, in my experience, management will always get screwed by labor.

Amen.

Regional meetings

Central NYers discuss Social Security, Downstate

By Pat Stempel
Upstate Medical University

On Sept. 10, nearly 40 COARM members met for an exciting brunch at Santangelo's Restaurant. There were many people attending for the first time, as well as old friends and co-workers coming together.

After a warm welcome by Pat Stempel, regional COARM chair, an update was provided. COARM is planning a 35th anniversary party; more details at a later date.

COARM continues to hold workshops regarding elder abuse.

Much discussion was held regarding retiree benefits, and materials were provided.

Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services coordinator, said retirees will be getting a new drug plan as of January 2013; co-pays and deductibles should remain the same.

The guest speaker was Dr. Eric Kingson, a professor of social work at Syracuse University and co-director of "Social Security Works." Kingson dispelled the myths

that Social Security and Medicare are about to go broke. Social Security currently has a surplus, and the projected funding gap is in the future. Social Security cannot borrow funds, and so it does not contribute to the federal deficit.

An extensive question-and-answer period followed.

Carol Braund, UUP Upstate Chapter president, discussed activities on the two campuses and talked about how the merger of Crouse Hospital with Upstate was different from what happened at Downstate in Brooklyn.

Dave Peckham spoke about the impact of the potential closure of Downstate. More than 350 UUPers have received termination notices. Services previously offered at Downstate have been moved to Downstate's Long Island College Hospital (LICH). Transportation to the new site and access is a huge concern



Above, dozens of retirees gather for a Central NY COARM meeting.



Right, Central NY regional chair Pat Stempel, standing, welcomes retirees to the meeting.

for patients.

Also, Downstate graduates about one third of the minority physicians in New York. There is concern for the future of all the medical universities.

Information was provided about upcoming Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) and

Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) meetings. Everyone was encouraged to get informed on the issues and to vote in the upcoming election.

The spring Central NY COARM meeting will be held Thursday, May 9, at the Steak and Sunday restaurant.

Western Florida retirees catch up on UUP

By Pat Stempel
Upstate Medical University

The first COARM brunch in western Florida was held March 5 at the Lucky Dill Deli in Palm Harbor. Attendees had worked at several different campuses in a variety of academic and professional roles. All were eager to learn about what was going on with UUP.

The current issues with the contract were discussed, as well as the fight to keep SUNY Downstate from closing.

Changes in the prescription plan were discussed.

Central NY regional chair Pat Stempel provided handouts and encouraged everyone to visit the UUP website for a copy of "Following the Paper Trail" to organize their financial information.

Over a lunch of New York-style deli sandwiches, new friendships were formed. Topics for future meeting were discussed. It is hoped that a meeting can be held annually.



Western FL retirees—including Pat Stempel, left, and Fayez Samuel, right—enjoy their first COARM meeting.

Chair recalls 1963 trip to ‘March on Washington’

By Judy Wishnia
COARM Chair

This August, the nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Civil Rights. I was fortunate to be at this momentous event, a turning point for the civil rights movement and, for me, one of the most meaningful days of my life.

I was living in Hanover, N.H., where my husband, Arnold, was teaching biochemistry at the Dartmouth Medical School. Since Dartmouth College, at that time, had no graduate programs in the arts and humanities and no women students, the only work I could get was grading papers for the humanities program. We were deeply affected by the struggle for civil rights. We had demonstrated when Gov. George Wallace came to speak to the Young Republicans and thought about what we could do in New Hampshire to be part of the struggle. When we heard about the proposed March on Washington, my neighbor, Joan, and I decided that we wanted to go. Our wonderful husbands agreed to take care of our kids: six of them, all under age eight!

We heard that there was a bus leaving from Rutland, Vt., a three-hour drive from Hanover. We located a man who also wanted to go and the three of us took off after dinner to catch the 10 p.m. bus. I told my friend that since we would have a hard time sleeping on the all-night bus, I would take a small bottle of sherry to help us fall asleep. The bus made its way through Vermont, stopping at all the small towns to pick up the ministers of the towns' churches. When we reached Massachusetts at midnight, there were 40 ministers and us—the only women on the bus. Despite the presence of the ministers, we found the courage to open the bottle of sherry—but we did not sleep! At 6 a.m., we reached Chevy Chase, where we were welcomed by a church and given an opportunity to go to the bathroom (in those days, the bus did not have a bathroom) and to have breakfast. I dumped the sherry in the bathroom.

By 9 a.m., we arrived at the site, proudly carrying our signs of support from New Hampshire and Vermont. We were placed on the side of the platform so we saw the speakers only from a side view, but we could see the immense crowd at the reflecting pool—wow! Then we heard the speeches and, especially, the “I Have a Dream” speech. I could not help but cry: Would that the dream would come true!

When it was over, we found our bus but, given the enormous crowd and traffic, it took hours to leave. We arrived in Rutland at 2 a.m. to discover that the garage where we had left the car was closed for the night and would not open until 6 a.m. What to do? We finally took a hotel room, where the three of us slept in our clothes for four hours and, yes, we did sleep! I can't imagine what the hotel clerk thought: two women and a man in a single bed. We got home in time for breakfast and to rescue two exhausted, heroic husbands.

I had my coffee and thought about the march and knew that this was a historic event and I was proud to have been a part of it.



Call to action: Save the social safety net

By Judy Wishnia
COARM Chair

Last year, UUP's sister union at CUNY, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), issued a “Call to Action,” a pamphlet created by a study group committed to defending the social safety net.

Retirees often think of the programs which affect seniors—Social Security and Medicare—but, as noted in this pamphlet, the safety net also includes Medicaid, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance. As for Social Security, we are reminded, once again, that it is not an “entitlement” program, but a social compact between generations (current workers paying the benefits of current retirees), and an insurance policy for working families. It is often forgotten that only 68 percent of the fund goes to senior pensions, 15 percent to those with disabilities, and 17 percent to survivors, especially minor children. It should also be noted that, between the introduction of Medicare and expanded Social Security, the poverty level for seniors dropped from 35 percent to about 10 percent. Remember when the newspapers were full of stories of seniors eating cat food? And, it must be noted, Social Security did not contribute to the debt! It is important that seniors do not allow lawmakers to turn Medicare into a voucher system or to raise the age of coverage for Medicare and Social Security.

Retirees have long been committed to supporting social programs that foster a life of dignity and health. Retirees are also committed to telling younger colleagues that the fight is for *their* future, for the promise that these benefits will be available to them when they retire.

Many younger union members, just developing their careers, find it hard to think of retirement; many others, sensing the danger of the eroding programs, simply accept as fact that there will be no safety net when they retire.

That's why it is critical that UUP retirees reach out to active members with information about these programs and urge them to join the fight to continue and expand their benefits.

NYSUT is supportive of these efforts and UUP retirees should find ways to educate members at union meetings, and to encourage participation in this worthwhile fight.

Bravo to PSC for producing the pamphlet. Go to PSC-CUNY.org/social-safety-net for a copy.

Goodbye, Bill

UUP says so long to union founder, education guru

Long-time UUP member and education trailblazer Bill Rock of Brockport passed away Oct. 19, 2012, at age 77.

A distinguished service professor emeritus in the department of education administration, Rock dedicated his life to civil rights and to improving equality and access to education for minorities.

UUP honored Rock with a resolution, which was adopted as a Special Order of Business during the 2013 Winter Delegate Assembly, held Feb. 24-25 in Albany:

Whereas, Dr. William Rock was a linchpin in the founding of UUP; and

Whereas, Bill was a powerful contributor to unionism of our brethren in K-12 education; and

Whereas, Bill, largely unknown even to the current activists of UUP, was an administrator of national significance in improving educational opportunities to the less privileged youngsters of America; and

Whereas, Bill was born and grew up in the Thousand Islands, and spent as much leisure time as possible throughout his life in his beloved Thousand Islands; and

Whereas, Bill earned his bachelor's in History and his master's in School Administration at SUNY Albany, (thus a product of SUNY), and his Ed.D. at Columbia; and

Whereas, Bill significantly influenced the founding of UUP as a founding member of the Brockport Chapter and a member of UUP's second ever Executive Board (1973); and

Whereas, Bill held Brockport Chapter Offices for many terms, and in retirement held leadership positions in UUP Active Retirees; and

Whereas, Bill's impact on public school unionism was through a graduate Personnel Administration class covering collective bargaining where he mentored hundreds of NYSUT leaders who negotiated their school district contracts; and

Whereas, Bill often served as a consultant to K-12 unionists during their negotiations; and

Whereas, Bill's human rights record was magnificent and superlative: He was in charge of planning for the Rochester School District during the '60s, Rochester City where he led efforts to desegregate the schools and to increase educational opportunities for children

from low income families; in 1968, three of his children were bused to inner city schools as part of the desegregation program; and

Whereas, during the '70s, he continued his lifelong dedication to improving educational opportunities for underserved constituencies in three different Presidential administrations: He designed and implemented programs at the national level and wrote about the major issues of the time—desegregation of schools, migrant education, bilingual education, affirmative action for women and minorities, and improving education in school districts impacted heavily by military installations; and

Whereas, a highlight of his work was implementing the Emergency School Aid Act, the largest discretionary grant program in American Education, while serving as United States Deputy Associate Commissioner for Equal Educational Opportunity under Elliot Richardson; and

Whereas, Bill's work in government literally made the day brighter, the academic year stronger, and the career path improving for millions of Americans; therefore be it

Resolved, that UUP applauds Bill Rock's myriad achievements and honors his vision, his principles and his memory.



Rock in 2006



“Bill embodied what it means to be a great unionists—yes, to fight for better working conditions, but also to fight for social justice.”

— COARM Chair Judy Wishnia

“A giant in social policy and a role model for so many, Bill will be sorely missed by all who knew and admired him.”

— UUP Secretary Eileen Landy



Above, Rock in 2008 with the late Ed Alfonsin of Potsdam, left, discussing retiree issues during a COARM meeting.

Right, Brockport colleague Herb Fink raises the framed resolution honoring Rock. The resolution was given to Rock's family.



In memoriam

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

Janet Carnesi, Farmingdale
 Richard Varbero, New Paltz
 Sheila Schwartz, New Paltz
 James Posner, Optometry
 Robert Wilbert, Farmingdale
 Mary Ann Giordano, Stony Brook HSC
 Alan Hager, Cortland
 Frank Burdick, Cortland
 Peggy Richardson, Stony Brook HSC
 Lawrence Smith, Cortland
 John Forster, Cortland

Charles Staley, Stony Brook
 Judith Columbo, Downstate Medical
 Frederic Smeader, Buffalo Center
 Manuchehr Afzal, New Paltz
 John Thompson, Stony Brook HSC
 Dennis Perez, Fredonia
 Raymond Jesaitis, Utica/Rome
 Bernard Cutler, Downstate Medical
 Kenneth Kavanagh Jr., Buffalo Center
 George Berner, Cobleskill
 Richard Giedlin, Alfred



Relief available; donations sought

Although Hurricane Sandy is well behind us, its cleanup continues.

As with past natural disasters, UUP has partnered with NYSUT and AFT to help members in need. Go to bitly.com/VFY7U0 to learn more about how you can help and how you can get help if you need it.

Members seeking financial assistance as a result of the storm should make their requests directly to NYSUT, using the application posted on the NYSUT website.

Donations can be made online using Pay Pal, or by mailing a check made out to "NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund" to UUP, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143.

Donations are tax deductible.

Join our e-list

Retirees are invited to join the group's email information network 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.

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



MEIROWITZ

RPEA comes to COARM

By Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

Members Present: Chair Judith Wishnia, Harvey Axlerod, Barbara Maertz, Frank Maraviglia, John Richert, Eric Russell, Patricia Bentley, Alvin Magid

Visitors: Loraine Tyler (recorder), Duke Piroha, Sandra Harper, Bob Fluck, David Peckham, Ora Bouey, Joe Lamendola, Bob Kasprak, Fred Miller, Gideon Dunkley, Thomas Morrissey, Ed Alleyne, Barbara Alteri, Walter Apple

Tony Cantore, legislative representative for the Retired Public Employees

Association (RPEA), updated COARM members on the work RPEA is doing for all New York retirees.

RPEA represents more than 40,000 public retirees at the state and local levels.

Cantore told committee members that health insurance benefits have no constitutional protection. But that didn't stop the RPEA from filing a lawsuit in state Supreme Court to overturn the state's unilateral 2 percent increase in the retirees' share of health insurance premiums.

He reported that the Supreme Court ruled for the state and RPEA is deciding whether to appeal.

Meanwhile, lawsuits filed in federal court by the state's employee unions—including UUP—are still pending. The federal court ruled in December to allow the lawsuit to proceed, paving the way for the merits of the case to be argued. Check out *The Voice* story from the January/February 2013 issue at <http://uupinfo.org/voice/feb/1213/0113Voice4Web.pdf>.

Cantore said RPEA's legislation program is refocused on health insurance.

For more information on RPEA, go to www.rpea.org.



PHOTOS BY KAREN L. MATTISON AND EL-WISE NOISETTE

Tony Cantore, RPEA legislative representative, left, talks about his organization's role in fighting for the rights of retired public employees. At right is Frank Maraviglia of ESF.



Left, Bob Kasprak of Optometry, right, accepts a crystal bowl from UUP President Phil Smith and COARM Chair Judy Wishnia. Kasprak was honored as the Pearl H. Brod Outstanding Active Retiree for 2012.



From left, Jack Richert of Buffalo HSC, Harvey Axlerod of Buffalo Center and Joe Lamendola of Canton listen to the issues facing retirees.

Chair's report

- SUNY budget—remains stable to three years ago. Much has changed since then. Downstate things are looking up re: additional monies.
- NYSUT Retiree Council—UUP now officially on board. A meeting of NYSUT ED 52 is scheduled for March 4 in Albany.
- This year's Pearl H. Brod Outstanding Retiree of the Year award recipient is Kasprak. Nomination forms for next year's award are due April 15.
- ARA, RPEA—It is important that we keep these connections as these organizations are fighting on national level for the protection of safety net.

Meetings approved

Spring meetings were announced and approved by COARM:

- Western NY—both spring and summer meetings
- Long Island—pre-retirement session and two spring meetings
- Capital District—spring meeting
- Metropolitan—fall pre-retirement meeting and spring meeting
- Southern Tier—two spring meetings (Cortland, Oneonta)
- North Country—two meetings at Plattsburg and Potsdam
- Central NY—arranging a spring meeting for retirees in Florida

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Election summary ...

(continued from page 1)

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS OFFICIAL 2013 ELECTION REPORT ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP ELECTION

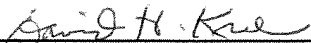
SUMMARY PAGE

12/26/2012	• Membership certification date.
01/04/2013	• Date notice of election and call for nominations mailed to home addresses of retired members.
02/06/2013	• Date nominations closed.
02/15/2013	• Date ballots mailed to home addresses of retired members.
03/13/2013	• Date ballots due at the UUP Administrative Office in Albany.
03/14/2013	• Date ballots counted.

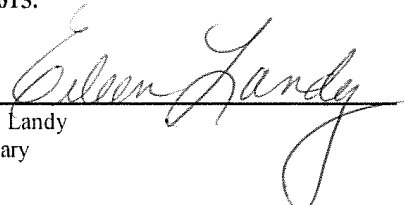
1,216	• Total number of control envelopes received from retired members.
0	• Number of invalid control envelopes and reasons invalid:
0	• Non-eligible voter.
0	• Other.
1,216	• Number of valid control envelopes.
11	• Number of invalid ballots and reasons invalid:
7	• Not in sealed inner envelope (secrecy compromised).
0	• Secrecy compromised by voter (e.g., ballot envelope or ballot signed, initialed, etc.).
4	• Other.
1	• Number of blank ballots.
1,204	• Number of valid ballots.

Election results are listed in descending order of votes received. Candidate receiving the most votes is elected to the office. All others are elected as alternates in order of votes received. Ties were resolved by lot.

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, 2013 through May 31, 2015.**



 David H. Kreh
 Chair, Elections and Credentials Committee



 Eileen Landy
 Secretary

Date: March 15, 2013

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

NYSUT members: *Is danger lurking in your home?*

We've just about made it through a particularly cold winter, and spring is finally upon us. With that means warmer weather and the opportunity to spend more time playing with our pets (both indoors and outdoors).

And while we always hear about the dangers of ticks and fleas that can come from the "Great Outdoors," what about those potential hazards lurking inside of our homes as well?

Check out the following list from VPI Pet Insurance about the most common calls received by the Pet Poison Helpline:



Top 5 Toxins & Poisons – Dogs

1. Chocolate
2. Insect bait stations
3. Mouse & rat poison
4. Fertilizers
5. Sugar-free gums & candies

Top 5 Toxins & Poisons – Cats

1. Lilies
2. Topical flea & tick medicine for dogs
3. Household cleaners
4. Mouse & rat poison
5. Paints & varnishes

So have fun with your four-legged friends this spring, but be mindful of where your pet is roaming both inside and outside of your home.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested anything harmful, seek immediate veterinary advice. **The Pet Poison Helpline is also available for a fee 24/7 at 800-213-6680.**

Remember NYSUT members receive a 5% discount on VPI's base medical plan and up to a 15% discount if multiple pets are enrolled.

For more information, please visit memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on "Discounts & Travel – Members" and then "VPI Pet Insurance" or call toll-free 866-838-3461.

Insurance from A to Z...

While you're considering whether pet insurance is right for your pet, don't forget about the humans in your life as well. If you're looking to protect yourself or your family, make sure to check out the variety of insurance programs endorsed by Member Benefits.

The following programs are currently available: **Term Life & Level Term Life; WrapPlan® II Universal Life; Personal Property/Liability (auto, home, renters, boat, umbrella, etc.); Disability; Vision Plan; and Dental Plan.** Many of these programs are also available to cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents.

Learn more about our endorsed programs by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

For information 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.

In other words

Some alternative thoughts on *The Price of Inequality*

By Rosemarie Bundy
Upstate Medical University

I have to commend Judy Wishnia on a timely, masterful review of Joseph Stiglitz (*The Active Retiree*, November/December 2012, right).

His book, *The Price of Inequality*, was one of the best teaching tools that I read in the last two years while educating myself on the causes and quotidian details of the ignominious recession in which we find ourselves.

Stiglitz gives us the how and why of our so-called free market capitalist system. But his is not a hopeful book. In outlining how the laws and the tax codes are rigged and how hidden are the beneficial policies that enable the wealthiest to acquire even more, he short-changes the discussion on creative solutions. In fact, one quote was especially prescient. "It's not going to be easy to change the system. Remember the 1 percent like it that way."

What is lacking is a combination of political science/public policy working hand-in-hand to formulate creative solutions that afford all Americans some modicum of security against systemic loss; loss that befalls the middle class through no fault of its own. That loss shifts wealth continually from the middle class to the much heralded 1 percent, killing equal opportunity.

Having read over 30-plus books—with 15

or so read cover to cover—the outlines of creative attempts to right the system were displayed. Jacob Hacker, political scientist at Yale, wrote in 2006, *The Great Risk Shift*. It was prophetic with its examination and intimation of the impending risks that eventually befell us two years later.

Thomas Frank, the Kansas journalist, wrote three books trying to educate the populace on how they were being hoodwinked—bamboozled—scammed—done-in—(pick your choice) and he could see it begin to happen in 2004. Larry Bartels, an economist from Princeton, wrote an illuminating volume, *Unequal Democracy*, in 2008, whose text did not have to be read; turning the pages and digesting the charts told the whole story.

The books that hurt the most were the ones that describe the crumbling social fabric and moral/ethical dimensions of that demise. Jeffrey Sacks penned *The Price of Civilization* in 2011, which laid out all the evils of the huge increase in



the wealth gap during the last 30 years with the commensurate harm to the populace. The darkest book attempted was *The Spirit Level* by Wilkinson and Pickett, two British sociologists, describing how unstable and crushing a society is with such an unequal gap in wealth. The writing was turgid but the charts were dead-on!

What is lacking in

Stiglitz's book, encompassing though it is and intelligent in its use of economic data, is the energy, the outrage, the wailing of the trodden-upon that the political scientist and social commentator bring to the fray. Hacker and a colleague, Pierson, wrote another volume, *Winner Take All Politics*, four years after his risk book in which they deconstruct the enabling political system.

Much as I respect Stiglitz and his superb credentials, it is imperative that we fill in our knowledge with data and narratives from other professions. As our picture grows clearer, we can then become creative problem solvers, ensuring our democracy resists becoming a plutocracy with opportunity diminished for many.

COARM ...

(continued from page 8)

In other business:

- The minutes from the COARM meeting held during the 2012 Fall Delegate Assembly were adopted.
- Richert moved and Stempel seconded a motion to have a two-day summer retreat. COARM members, retiree board members from each campus and visitors who have attended a COARM meeting will be invited. Passed.
- Maraviglia moved and Axlerod seconded a motion that \$10,000 in seed money be provided for the retreat, subject to change with more information. Passed.
- No report from RELAG.
- Political Action Calendar distributed.
- Report from Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services coordinator: An email listserv is coming soon.



Cortland retiree Henry Steck addresses delegates to the 2013 Winter DA in Albany.

Retiree pens book on ‘street corner’ language, behavior

Herbert L. Foster, a professor emeritus at the University at Buffalo and for 17 years a New York City teacher and administrator, recently released his new eBook, *Ribbin’ Jivin’ & Playin’ the Dozens, The Persistent Dilemma In Our Schools*, available for e-reader devices from Amazon.com. In addition, *Ribbin’* is available from Amazon as a book on demand.

In more than 300 pages, Foster describes, discusses and explains black male street corner language and behavior and how it is played out in the classroom. Too often, this street corner language and behavior is misunderstood and misinterpreted, resulting in disciplinary action and referrals of black males to special education disproportionate to their numbers in a school. Furthermore, a recent



study reported black children with disabilities are suspended at a higher rate than other special education children.

The insight Foster presents in *Ribbin’* has helped innumerable teachers teach successfully their students of color. Foster breaks the mold by discussing dress and

grooming for teachers, as well as teacher/student classroom sexuality as related to successful teaching and learning. Additional chapters provide information concerning student jive lexicon and verbal communication, classroom management and school discipline, and real, challenging and vivid descriptions of the classroom contests. He shares these “Realities” throughout, including how some students intimidate teachers and classmates by “woofing and playin’ the dozens.”

In Reality 1, for example, Foster describes his first day of teaching in the

New York City Public Schools as the sixth substitute in a two-week period. He began teaching the class of 45 when a student tossed a rolled-up paper at him. From there, everything went downhill, and Foster ended up cringing under the teacher’s desk. After thoughts of suicide that weekend, he returned Monday, took charge of the class and taught successfully for 17 years.

Conversely, Foster notes that too often in schools of education, future teachers are taught by professors who never taught in public schools. Foster argues that if a teacher wants to be considered a professional, and what is going on in the classroom is not working, the teacher has to change his teaching behavior—and not simply demand that students change their learning style.

For more information or interviews, contact Foster at (508) 627-7456, by email at herblf@comcast.net or online at www.woofticket.com.

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United University Professions

The Active Retiree