

4—Retirement security could be at risk



6—Retirees speak out at 2017 Spring DA



10—Outgoing regional reps thanked for service

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The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retiree Members of United University Professions



Newsletter wins top award

The *Active Retiree* earned two awards in UUP’s annual communications competition.

The newsletter received a first-place award for General Excellence, for the Summer 2016 and Fall 2016 issues. The judges gave high marks for outstanding writing, content, editing, photography and design.

The newsletter is edited by COARM Chair Jo Schaffer.

Larry Wittner of Albany picked up an honorable mention for Best Original Article for his Summer 2016 piece “Modernizing’ the Opportunities for Nuclear War.”

Dues update

Keep an eye out for your retiree dues invoice, which should arrive by mail after Aug. 1.

Retiree dues for 2017-18 will be \$50.

Magid earns senior citizen volunteer of the year award

U P’s own Al Magid, an emeritus professor of political science at UAlbany and COARM’s Capital District regional representative, was recently named Schenectady County’s 2017 Senior Citizen of the Year by the Office for Senior and Long Term Care Services.

Magid earned this prestigious honor for founding The Reading Is Fun Program (RIF) in the City of Schenectady in 2012, and serving since then as its executive director. That work also earned him kudos from the Schenectady County Legislature, the New York State Office for the Aging and Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The awards are bestowed annually in May by counties throughout the state. The 2017 honorees came together for an awards ceremony sponsored by the state Office for the Aging as part of its annual Older New Yorkers’ Day.

“Among all of the honorees statewide, three received special recognition for their ‘exemplary service’ as senior-citizen volunteers,” Magid said. “The designations are made by Gov. Cuomo and the chairs of the state Senate and Assembly Committees on Aging. I was flattered to



DAILYGAZETTE.COM

be one of this year’s three special senior citizen honorees.”

Reading Is Fun-damental

RIF is an all-volunteer organization, with a mission to help needy 4 to 9 year olds in pre-K, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 in Schenectady public elementary schools to learn foundational reading-readiness and conversational skills and vocabulary. Currently, more than 100 RIF volunteers are working with more than 150 children in 11 of the 12 Schenectady elementary schools. The number of RIF volunteers and of children they serve

see **Magid**, page 10

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Frederick E. Kowal/President
Thomas J. Tucker/VP for Professionals
Jamie F. Dangler/VP for Academics
Jeriluanne O'Bryan-Losee/Secretary-Treasurer
Thomas C. Hoey/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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In memoriam

Let us remember those who passed away between May 2016 and April 2017:

Robert Garvin, Albany
 Norman Greenfeld, Albany
 James Heaphey, Albany
 Iliana Semmler, Albany
 William Horton, Alfred
 Loretta Smith, Alfred
 Jessie Godfrey, Binghamton
 Richard Rehberg, Binghamton
 Sri Ram Bakshi, Brockport
 Richard Castner, Brockport
 Carol Lennox, Brockport
 Andrew Virgilio, Brockport
 Frances Whited, Brockport
 Paul Yu, Brockport
 Donald Henderson, Buffalo Center
 Charles Carman, Buffalo Center
 Bruno Arcudi, Buffalo Center
 Donald Brutvan, Buffalo Center
 Mary Cassata, Buffalo Center
 Robert Chatov, Buffalo Center
 Sharon Costantini, Buffalo Center
 John Cunat, Buffalo Center
 Victor Doyno, Buffalo Center
 Murray Franklin, Buffalo Center
 Brenda Haughey, Buffalo Center
 Brian Henderson, Buffalo Center
 Michael Hudecki, Buffalo Center
 Gudrun Kilburn, Buffalo Center
 Kenneth Levy, Buffalo Center
 Eugene Martell, Buffalo Center
 Edward Wallace, Buffalo Center
 Patricia Burns, Buffalo HSC
 Elizabeth Luchowski, Buffalo HSC
 Betty Murphy, Buffalo HSC
 Mary Ohara, Buffalo HSC
 John Piscopo, Buffalo HSC
 Angelo Conorozzo, Buffalo State
 William Hoefert, Buffalo State
 Glenn Hurst, Buffalo State
 Jean Levy, Buffalo State
 Barbara Macaluso, Buffalo State
 Shirley Posner, Buffalo State
 Elbridge Renning, Buffalo State
 Christopher Nouryeh, Canton
 Sharon Gallagher, Central Admin
 Bruce Emanuel, Cobleskill
 Richard Oboyski, Cobleskill
 Esther Doherty, Cortland
 John Gustafson, Cortland
 J. Robert Johnson, Cortland
 Leonard Ralston, Cortland
 Robert Rhodes, Cortland
 Janet Steck, Cortland
 Eugene Waldbauer, Cortland

Frederick Zimmerman, Cortland
 Frances Duncan, Delhi
 Gregory Krzyston, Delhi
 E. Banton-Broomfield, Downstate Med.
 Alvin Bernstein, Downstate Medical
 Lori Durden, Downstate Medical
 Emilio Gerbasio, Downstate Medical
 J. Stephen Didas, Empire State
 Joyce McKnight, Empire State
 John Neumaier, Empire State
 Isaac Rabino, Empire State
 Michael Duggin, ESF
 Marilyn Cohen, Farmingdale
 Stanley Feist, Farmingdale
 Ismay Hawkins, Farmingdale
 Frank Marciuliano, Farmingdale
 John Winn, Farmingdale
 Elizabeth Darling, Fredonia
 Raymond McLain, Fredonia
 George Sebouhian, Fredonia
 Charles Hartness, Geneseo
 James Scholes, Geneseo
 William Tisdale, Maritime
 John Yonkers, Morrisville
 Pierre Francois, New Paltz
 John Karkala, New Paltz
 Heinz Meng, New Paltz
 Donald Schiff, New Paltz
 Rosalyn Baxandall, Old Westbury
 Carol Smith, Old Westbury
 Dennis Shea, Oneonta
 Marion Newman, Optometry
 M. Anderson-Chase, Plattsburgh
 Ernest Coons, Plattsburgh
 M. Daphne Kutzer, Plattsburgh
 Robert Keesey, Potsdam
 Axel Norden, Potsdam
 Vema Bladassarri, Purchase
 David Allison, Stony Brook
 Ronald Frevola, Stony Brook
 Seymour Friedman, Stony Brook
 Velio Marsocci, Stony Brook
 Linda Sandberg, Stony Brook
 Helmut Stuebe, Stony Brook
 Barbara Wien, Stony Brook
 J. Famiglietti, Stony Brook HSC
 Peter Garcia Jr., Stony Brook HSC
 Lena Gomez, Stony Brook HSC
 Yuqun Hong, Stony Brook HSC
 Frederick Miller, Stony Brook HSC
 Ilse Perlman, Stony Brooks HSC
 Dennis Bogin, Upstate Medical
 Deborah Massey, Upstate Medical
 Satish Prasad, Upstate Medical

From the COARM Chair

UUP in arms!

Well, yes, I am up in arms and I hope that you are, too!

Over the last few months, there has much to be up in arms about. Daily breaking national news announcements about the presidential campaigns, the Russians, the integrity of our political system, the ethics of the party in power, the inconsistency of government policies, politicians on both sides running for cover, and the ballot box up for dark money grabs, among a host of other incidents, have made out lives a fiery hell.

Of course I am up in arms.

What's to be done? The next congressional elections are a year and a half off; the next presidential election further away. But there is something of major import about to happen in New York state. On the next election day, New York voters will go to the polls to determine whether or not there should be a "constitutional convention to revise and amend" our constitution.

What's that mean to us? It means we can put our efforts, our concerns, our time and our thoughtful commitment to a New York vote of extraordinary importance.

The New York State Constitution has established through the centuries, with over 200 amendments, the fundamental rights we enjoy as citizens, employees and retirees. A vote to open this document is not just to "correct" a few items but to unzip and lay open the entire Constitution for a feeding frenzy by those who would relish eliminating our basic rights and protections, such as:

- Prohibition of reductions in public pension benefits;
- Free public education for our children;
- Support for workers' compensation;
- Right to organize in a union and to bargain collectively;
- Prohibitions on the use of state monies to assist religious schools;
- A budget role for the state Legislature;
- Adirondack "Forever Wild" protections;
- State land and forest protections;
- Protection of balloting provisions—absentee votes; and
- Social welfare issues.

I wrote above of dark money, i.e., Citizens United, well-funded anti-union and ultra-reactionary groups already in play, ready to tear apart these established



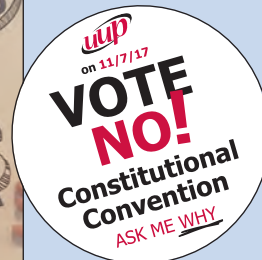
rights. We have to be on the mark to inform and educate our friends, neighbors and colleagues on these potential dangers. UUP and COARM will be preparing materials, talking points, and holding meetings from now on to give you the ammunition to make sure we all vote NO on this proposal to have the constitutional convention.

Am I UP IN ARMS? You bet.

And I am counting on you to be **UUP IN ARMS! VOTE NO!**



NYSUT



Left, COARM Chair Jo Schaffer pledges to Vote No! on the Nov. 7 referendum to hold a state constitutional convention. UUP is opposed to a convention, and is spreading the word to others. For more information, check out the union's "con con" webpage at <http://uupinfo.org/defendunion/concon.php>



Vote NO!

to a NYS Constitutional Convention and protect retirement security

Voters will be asked on the Nov. 7 ballot to decide whether the state should hold a constitutional convention to revise and amend the New York State Constitution. Not only could a convention cost at least \$50 million-\$100 million in taxpayer dollars, the outcome could have far-reaching effects for decades to come. Most notably, a convention could radically change public employee retirement systems, including but not limited to employer/employee contributions and benefits.

The threat to public pensions (Article 5, §7) is one key reason to Vote NO on the November referendum to hold a state constitutional convention. What you should know:

Pensions pump \$12 billion a year into the state's economy

- Seventy-eight percent of NYSUT retirees live and spend in their home counties. They pay sales, county and local taxes in New York state.
- Pension spending helps to create jobs statewide.

The misperceptions regarding public pensions

FALSE: Public employee pensions run into the six figures.

TRUE: • The average teacher pension is \$40,000 a year.

- The average state and local employee pension is about half that amount, or \$21,285.

FALSE: Taxpayers contribute 100 percent toward pension payments.

TRUE: There are three sources of revenue in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System and New York State Employees' Retirement System. In 2015, the average contributions were: Employees, 2.5 percent; Employers, 14 percent; and Investment Income, 83.5 percent.

Instead of wasting tax dollars on a convention ...

\$100 million could be used for:

- 625,000 doctors' visits for uninsured patients
- Food for more than 41,000 senior citizens for a year
- 41,152,263 gallons of gasoline



<http://uupinfo.org/defendunion/concon.php>



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COARM regional updates



LARRY SCOTT PHOTOS

Above, UUP member Tim Tryjankowski urges WNY retirees to Vote No! on the constitutional convention Nov. 7.



Left, UUP staffer Walter Apple addresses the group.

Capital District

Al Magid
Albany

On May 18, Capital District Region COARM held its semi-annual Spring 2017 forum/brunch in UAlbany's Alumni House. Participants included SUNY retirees from the Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz, and System Administration chapters.

The topic was "Start-Up New York: What Have We Learned?" an ambitious, expensive, scandal-ridden state project intended to align SUNY with the private business sector to promote development and job creation in the lagging economy of upstate New York.

Featured speakers were Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, and Lawrence Wittner, professor emeritus of history at UAlbany and author of *What's Going On at UAardvark*, a satirical novel about UAlbany.

The guest speakers dealt with many aspects of the topic, among them the question of whether there should be mobilization of public universities for private-sector and regional economic advance, as in the case of Start-Up New York; the costs and benefits of that strategy for stakeholders, principally public universities and SUNY in particular, the private business sector, and state taxpayers; and the potential for corrupt practices, as seen in the history of UAlbany's Nanoscience entity, which eventually morphed into a new statewide SUNY Polytechnic unit under the aegis of former Polytechnic president, Alain Kaloyeros, who, along with others in the Start-Up New York scandal, face trial in state and federal courts.

A robust Q & A followed the two presentations; a complimentary lunch was provided by statewide COARM.

Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services coordinator, spoke about UUP retiree benefits and the charged issue of whether there should be a state constitutional convention.

The Capital District Region's executive committee is laying plans for the next regional forum/brunch, slated for October.



Western NY

Stacey Johnson
Buffalo Center

Western NY UUP retirees met May 2 over lunch at Sean Patrick's Restaurant in Getzville, N.Y. UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple and Buffalo Center UUPer Tim Tryjankowski were featured guests at the luncheon.

Tryjankowski spoke about the upcoming referendum on the Constitutional Convention in November. Tryjankowski gave a detailed talk about the impact if a constitutional convention was approved by voters. There are many items that could be detrimental to retirees, if a convention were voted in. Pensions could be affected. Unions could be negatively affected. In addition, there is a huge cost for taxpayers to pay for bringing together the many people who would be amending the constitution; and those selected may not represent our needs.

Apple came with materials and knowledge about Retiree Member Benefits. Those present always appreciate his expertise, and his accessibility to members.

Each speaker was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the UUP Western NY retirees.

Elected Retiree Officers names for the Western Region were shared with those present.

We are looking forward to meeting again in fall 2017. Once Retiree Officers are in place, arrangements will be made to incorporate them into plans for retiree members at each campus.

Report from Spring DA COARM meeting

by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

The following are draft minutes of the COARM meeting held during the union's Spring Delegate Assembly, May 5-6 at The Desmond in Albany.

Present: Jo Schaffer, chair; Loraine Tyler, recorder and Southern District representative; Al Magid, Capital District; Barbara Maertz, Long Island; John Nixon, North Country; Stacey Johnson, Western; Carole Torok, Central; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Sandra Harper and Patricia Bentley, presidential appointees.

Others: Charles McAteer, William Borgstede, Lawrence Fuller, Frank Goldsmith, Jay Gilbert, Harvey Inventasch, Joy Bilharz, David Curry, Molly Casarella, Gary Casarella, Betty Shadrack, Horace Ivey, Abigail Robin, Ed Drummond, Carol Braund

Staff: Walter Apple

Chair Schaffer called the meeting to order at 9:01 and welcomed all.

Winter DA Minutes—1-28-17: Johnson and Magid moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as clarified on new Officer for Retirees.

Chair's Report

• Newly elected COARM reps. The three year term will begin June 1. Schaffer thanked those stepping down as COARM reps and presented a certificate of appreciation to Nixon, Torok and Maertz. Maertz will continue as chair of the COARM Finance Committee. Three new members were welcomed to McAteer, Bentley and Borgstede.

• *The Active Retiree* won two awards in the 2016-2017 UUP Journalism Competition. The awards were presented at the Spring DA. Schaffer thanked those who contribute to the newsletter.

• Twenty-two chapters elected an Officer for Retirees; 10 did not. Additional elections will be held or officers will be appointed.



KAREN L. MATTISON PHOTOS

Above, Charlie McAteer of Stony Brook joins the meeting as COARM's newly elected Long Island regional representative. Also at the table is Stacey Johnson, COARM's Western NY representative.



Left, Rich Tyler of Oneonta reviews materials at the group's spring meeting.

• There are now 5,085 retirees. An email list can be divided by region or chapter. All messages must go through W. Apple and Schaffer. We are now counted in the UUP membership number.

• A job description is needed for the Officer for Retirees position. McAteer, Bentley, Torok and Bilharz volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee to create a job description.

• Schaffer has been busy traveling to retiree events, including NYSUT Retiree Council 52 and other district meetings.

• Schaffer will work with NYSUT to get more UUP retirees invited to meetings. Volunteers needed to participate in NYSUT committees: Women's; Civil and Human Rights; Retiree Advisory; LGBTQ; Convention; Pension and Retirement; and the Higher Education Policy Council. Schaffer asked that those inter-

ested in participating contact Rosemary Catanzariti at rjcat70@yahoo.com

Regional Reports/Meeting Requests

All meetings must be approved prior to the event. Use form provided in the packet. Loraine Tyler moved and Stacy Johnson seconded the motion to approve meeting expenditure requests. Passed.

• Capital District—Magid: Two meetings are planned for October 2017 and May 2018 to be held at the University of Albany. Expected attendance is 30+.

• Long Island—Maertz: The Suffolk Regional meeting was held at Stony Brook on October 24 with 125 present; a meeting was held at Farmingdale Nov. 3 with 40 present. Speakers were featured at each covering the constitutional convention and updates on the political climate for retirees; and meetings at Stony Brook

and Farmingdale are planned for the fall.

- North Country—John Nixon/Patty Bentley: A luncheon is scheduled for May 24 in Plattsburg. A meeting is planned for Potsdam in June. The topic will be the constitution convention with an anticipated attendance of 35-50; and a fall meeting will be held in Potsdam or Canton. An October meeting is planned for Plattsburgh.

- Western—Johnson: A luncheon meeting will be held for all campuses in October. Approximate attendance is 50.

- Central—Torok/Borgstede: A meeting for the central district will be held on June 15 with approximate attendance of 20-30. Expected attendance is 20-30. Regional meetings are planned for October; and a meeting is tentatively set for Sept. 30 for the Oswego campus.

- Metropolitan—Eric Russell: Meeting for all campuses in the region will be held in late May/early June; fall meetings will take place in July or August. Both meetings will be held in Manhattan

Russell proposed attending the Senior Action Council retiree meetings each month at an approximate cost of \$50 per meeting.

- Southern Tier—Tyler: Delhi/Oneonta meeting held April 28. Forty-three were present. Peter Kim and Rob Trimarchi urged retirees to Vote No! on the Nov. 7 referendum on whether to hold a constitutional convention.

Cortland will meet May 9; 44 have reserved. Binghamton will meet June 19. The topic will be the constitutional convention.

Fall meeting requests: Delhi/Oneonta to meet in October at the Signatures Restaurant on the SUNY Delhi campus; Cortland will meet in October; Binghamton will meet in the fall. The constitutional convention will be the topic at all three meetings. Forty attendees are anticipated at each meeting.

- Request for three retirees to attend the Senior Action Council's monthly meetings at a cost of up to \$400.

- Schaffer requested funding to attend Alliance for Retired Americans meetings.



From right, UUP retirees Bill Borgstede of Environmental Science and Forestry, Dave Curry of Plattsburgh, Harvey Inventasch of Cortland and Jay Gilbert of Empire State College listen to the discussion during the COARM meeting at the union's spring policymaking convention.

Legislative Report

- Constitutional Convention—Vote NO! Call to all retirees to carry the message to all groups. Pledge cards were distributed. Materials are available to take to groups.

For more information and to order materials, go to <http://uupinfo.org/defendunion/concon.php>

The Constitutional Convention should be on the agenda for all spring/fall COARM and at any other meetings.

- “List of shame” of New York legislators who voted for the Health Law. These people need to be defeated in 2018.

- SUNY retiree newsletter—doesn't always reflect our concerns.

Old Business

Continued discussion on Name of retiree group. COARM refers only to the regional reps and chair as an Executive Board of Directors. All others are the Active Retiree Members of UUP. We are an “ARM” of the union. Clarifying statement needed to be sent to all communications in UUP. Recommendations in the Task Force have not been acted on. Curry will follow up with the Executive Board.

Treasurer's Report

Maertz presented the 2017-18 budget:

- New initiatives—\$5,000 as more meetings may need to be held.

Retreat—\$12,000 to cover new officers for retirees and COARM reps can attend.

Cost of retiree elections increase more than expected.

Balance as of 3/17/17 was \$500,594.45.

New investment options are being sought by UUP.

Dues to increase by \$5 to \$50, effective Sept. 1, primarily due to increase for UNUM life insurance premiums.

Maertz moved, Johnson seconded to adopt budget. Passed. Thanks to McAteer, R. Tyler, Maertz and Drummond.

- Retreat—Due to expenses, retreats may need to be on a regional basis rather than statewide.

- Wishnia Award—McAteer and Schaffer: Criteria has been established. The award will be presented this fall.

- Emeritus status—Granting emeritus status varies from campus to campus. If your campus has a written policy, please forward it to Schaffer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Musing on cancer survival ...

by Greg Siwinski
Upstate Medical University

A recent article by health reporter Rachel Zimmerman entitled “It’s Not An Even Playing Field: How Financial Instability Takes A Toll on Cancer Patients,” got me questioning (once again) my survival with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), which is now approaching 10 years (knock on wood).

I almost ended my occupational health career of 30-plus years to devote attention to environmental factors that might impact cancer survivorship, like home environmental stressors, e.g., microbes. But after reading the relevant literature, the financial factors seem to be a recurrent dominant theme that this article speaks to.

So, based on my own experiences:

- Ability to be treated at a world class cancer center—good health insurance;
- Ability to “survive” a million-dollar health care bill—good health insurance; and
- Ability to recover for over a year (out

“So, one could ask:
Do union benefits contribute
to (cancer) survival?”

— Greg Siwinski
Upstate Medical University

of work) with full pay and benefits—good sick leave benefits and union contract language.

So, one could ask: Do union benefits contribute to survival?

Of course, it didn’t hurt to have several clever, experienced doctors and hard-working, devoted nurses in my corner; a supportive community; rock-solid family and friends; a donor with the right stuff; and lots of luck.

Cancer Not Just Bad Luck

Given that my AML was (more likely than not) caused by my benzene exposure of years ago while working in an industrial environment, I did look into legal action such as workers compensa-

tion. A highly regarded lawyer from the state where the exposures took place basically said this would not be easy and was not very interested in taking the case. (By the way, he sent me the list of recognized occupational disease agents from the state board. This list looked like something from the 1950s, amazingly out of date.)

But the reality for me was rather than pursuing some very challenging, stressful, protracted, most likely doomed legal action, I focused on recovery. Perhaps because I really didn’t need the benefits listed above. By the way, having seen (and continue to see) firsthand the brutal impact the broken workers compensation system has on our patients strongly influenced my decision to push on with recovery as well.

Check out Zimmerman’s article at <http://wbur.fm/2rLRfUt>

(Greg Siwinski has been a certified industrial hygienist at Upstate Medical University since 1991.)



Anita Moskowitz

Moskowitz books focus on Florentines

Anita Moskowitz, a UUP retiree member from the Stony Brook Chapter, has published two books since her retirement in 2012.

They are:

- *Forging Authenticity: Bastianini and the Neo-Renaissance in Nineteenth-Century Florence*, Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2013.

Giovanni Bastianini, the most infamous and gifted Florentine imitator of Italian Renaissance sculpture during the 19th century, became the subject of controversy during his lifetime that continues to this day.

The book examines Bastianini’s entire oeuvre, exploring the dichotomy between his pseudo-Renaissance and his personal “period” style. Equally important, it places him within the economic, political and cultural context that encouraged the production of neo-Renaissance art for a European and American market eager to imbibe the atmosphere of a lost Golden Age.

- *Stefano Bardini, “Principe degli Antiquari”—Prolegomenon to a Biography*, Florence: Centro Di, 2015.

This book provides an overview of the life, restoration practices, and business strategies of Stefano Bardini (1836-1922), the most important Florentine dealer of Italian late medieval and Renaissance art and artifacts from the second half of the 19th to the early 20th century.

It also examines the role he played in shaping American and European notions of the Italian Renaissance, for he offered a vision of artistic achievement during the Golden Age of Florentine art which, surprising to the 21st century, was largely unsuspected during the earlier 19 century.

Based in part on archival material, some of which was unavailable until recently, this study is intended to provide both the background for and a stimulus to further scholarship into such areas of interest as the history of restoration, the art market, the development of the concept of and safeguards for Italy’s cultural patrimony, and the biography of a particularly intriguing and elusive personality whose activities affected museums and collecting throughout the world.

Let the cleavage wars begin

by Mac Nelson
Fredonia

Does anybody besides me remember Pauline Frederick? Born in 1906, about when my parents were, she had a ground-breaking career as a TV journalist and author. Many achievements, many awards.

For 23 years she was NBC's voice at the United Nations, a beat she pioneered. She was "The first woman" to do a lot of important things. Hers was a life to be proud of.

And I don't think she would stand a chance in the TV news business today. I don't think she could get an interview.

She was a pleasant looking woman, always conservatively, even drably, dressed. I don't think she wore those arched laced old-lady shoes my grandmother favored. But the adjective that comes to mind to describe her is "grandmotherly." No, make that "great-grandmotherly." (There are some fairly hot Grammas out there.) Pauline Frederick had zero sex appeal. It wasn't a requirement. Then.

Samuel Johnson's opinion about a woman preaching was that it was like a dog walking on its hind legs: It was not done well, but it was remarkable that it was done at all. It seemed odd then to see a woman reporting, but it was only the UN so it didn't matter much, and she seemed quite competent. Even reassuringly stuffy, no suspicious glitz. She earned her place with her work and her skills, and taught us all that women were fully capable professionals and human beings.

Forget "great-grandmotherly." These days you gotta be HOT.

Oh, there are a few exceptions, mostly on CNN, and bless them for that: Jeanne Moos (for laughs), Barbara Starr, Candy Crowley; ordinary looking older women who would never turn up in a beauty contest.

**"... the women's TV news world is all about SKIN:
And shapely young female skin at that."**

— Mac Nelson
Fredonia



Mac Nelson

But the rest of the women's TV news world is all about SKIN: And shapely young female skin at that. Check out the "Fox and Friends" "Morning News." Three folks on a couch. Two men in conservative suits and ties, and between them the interchangeable FoxNewsBabe: a gorgeous chick with "arms that are braceleted and white and bare." Sexy Jimmy Choo pumps, the kind of footwear that Helen Mirren calls "stripper heels." Long dangly earrings. Great ankles and calves, and thighs from here to Cleveland. Legs carefully crossed, of course. Blond hair to the shoulders or likely farther, and a bright, tight, sleeveless dress. I am reminded of Kate Middleton's sister Pippa at the royal wedding who, as she said, became "famous for my bottom." I hear that she has just been hired by NBC.

Whenever desks might spoil the views, they are clear glass.

Another FOX show called "Outnumbered" (Noon, EDT) puts one "lucky guy" among four gorgeous Couch Candies, all competing for the shortest skirts and the highest heels. I love it. To me, it's "The Leg Show." I bet it is to Fox as well.

(All this has of course been upset, but not stopped, by recent revelations. Fox boss Roger Ailes has finally been sacked after years of abusing women, and serial abuser Bill O'Reilly is gone, too, his wounds eased by a \$25 million

settlement.)

Even the Weather Channel is getting into the game, with the women wearing tighter dresses than they used to, and often looking uncomfortable about it. The men, of course, are in business suits.

A character in a Richard Ford novel, who mostly hangs around home all day watching TV, reports that he is developing quite an intimate relationship with Robin Meade of CNN News's "Morning Express." It's easy to see why. She is gorgeous and perky, usually carefully, conservatively dressed, with dazzling teeth and long dark hair nicely coiffed. Compared with the FoxChix, she is a nun. She has great gazombas, but they are usually chastely covered. Until recently, when she showed some serious cleavage at 6 a.m., utterly out of her character. New network policy to compete with Fox? I bet it is. And Fox seems to be starting to retaliate. More boob on the tube for us all!

I have no objection to looking at beautiful bodies. I am sure that they increase ratings. But I wonder and worry about the Pauline Fredericks of today. Where will they find work? Who will put the hard, unglamorous work of reporting ahead of mascara and lip gloss? Who will employ them if they do?

I doubt that we are better informed about the world because the women who report the news could double as NFL cheerleaders.

(Mac Nelson lives in Brocton His prize-winning book "TWENTY WEST: The Great Road Across America" [SUNY Press] is now out in paperback.)

Magid

(continued from page 1)

on the reading front is expected to continue growing in the years ahead, along with RI's reputation.

Concurrently, the scope of RIF activities is expected to broaden. With funds it raises, RIF in 2018 expects to kick off an annual day-

long, citywide Grand Reading Jamboree, with varied "fun activities" keyed to early childhood literacy.

"A major objective of the annual Grand Reading Jamboree will be to encourage and mobilize parents and other caregivers to join with RIF volunteers in helping the school district get—and keep—the city's 4 to 9 year olds on the reading track, to improve their prospects educationally and in life generally," said Magid. "In these ways, RIF hopes to achieve a permanent place in the civic firmament of Schenectady."

In recognition of its outstanding community service, the Reading Is Fun program also received the 2017 Dr. Ray and June Benenson Award from the Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation.



Shopping and travel programs designed for the UUP retiree

As a retiree, your UUP membership allows you the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 NYSUT-endorsed programs and services, ranging from important products to protect your loved ones to a variety of travel, entertainment and shopping options, offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Below is just a sampling of the programs available to you:

Tunstall Medical Alert

Get the peace of mind that comes from knowing you have a personal emergency response system to provide immediate assistance in the event you or a loved one are in distress. Both traditional landline and cell phone systems are available for purchase.

Abenity Discounts

Enjoy access to approximately 290,000 exclusive member discounts across 10,000 U.S. cities, including discounted tickets for entertainment and sporting events; a variety of travel opportunities; and numerous local deals. Save on the latest blockbuster movies or theater events, theme parks, museums and attractions, zoos, major

appliances/televisions, restaurants, groceries, gym memberships, and much more!

Wyndham Hotels and Endless Vacation Rentals

Enjoy up to 20 percent off the best available rate at more than 7,500 participating hotels with the endorsed Wyndham Hotels program, or save 25 percent at more than 200,000 resort condo rentals in 100 countries with Endless Vacation Rentals.

When you participate in any Member Benefits-endorsed program or service, you also get the peace of mind of knowing you have an advocate on your side. If you ever encounter an issue with any Member Benefits-endorsed program, please contact Member Benefits immediately so your needs can be addressed quickly and efficiently.

Call 800-626-8101 with questions.

For information about this program or about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program.

In appreciation



KAREN L. MATTISON



COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, right, presented retirees Carole Torok of SUNY Polytechnic Institute, left, John Nixon of Canton and Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale with certificates of appreciation for their stellar work as elected regional representatives of COARM. The three received their certificates at the 2017 Spring Delegate Assembly, May 5-6 in Albany.



Save with NYSUT Member Benefits

We salute our hard-working members for their dedication and the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to help improve the lives of others.

And NYSUT Member Benefits is proud to offer you—the hard-working UUP bargaining unit member—an opportunity to participate in the more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Look to Member Benefits for crucial insurance programs such as life, long-term care or vision plans. Member Benefits also offers a variety of travel, entertainment & shopping options to help you with everything from daily purchases to those special once-in-a-lifetime excursions.

The following is just a sampling of the endorsed programs & services available to UUP bargaining unit members & their families:

- Life Insurance
- Vision Plan
- Financial Counseling Program
- ID Watchdog
- PayCheck Direct
- Car & Truck Rentals
- Wyndham Hotels
- Endless Vacation Rentals
- Buyer's Edge, Inc.
- American Solar Partners



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



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.

UUP retirees participate in Outreach meeting

Retiree members are active participants in the union's outreach efforts, and many were on hand at the pre-Delegate Assembly Outreach Committee meeting. The focus of the gathering was to come up with ways to educate members and the public to Vote No! on the Nov. 7 referendum on whether to hold a state constitutional convention.

Top right, Gregory Threattle of Upstate Medical University, left, shares his thoughts, while Upstate Chapter President Rich Veenstra looks over materials.

Right, Patty Bentley of Plattsburgh takes notes during the meeting.

Far right, Downstate Medical Center Chapter retiree Eric Russell offers an opinion during the meeting.

