



2—UUP President Fred Kowal talks about *Janus* case



6—COARM members discuss retiree issues at Spring DA



9—Wittner: U.S. military spending on the rise

Also inside:

- 2—In memoriam
- 3—From the COARM chair
- 8—Mortgage benefit available
- 10—NYSUT Benefits
- 12—NYSUT Social Services

The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retiree Members of United University Professions

Survivor's benefit available for NY state retirees

by **Walter Apple**
Retiree Member Services Coordinator

The Survivor's Benefit Program is a New York state financial protection plan that provides a minimum death benefit to eligible New York state retirees employees of: \$2,000 if you left state service between Oct. 1, 1966, and March 21, 1970; or \$3,000 if you left state service on or after April 1, 1970.

You are automatically enrolled for this benefit if you have 10 years of full-time

state service within the 15 years immediately preceding your departure or retirement from the state.

Additionally, you must meet one of the following requirements at the time you left public payroll:

- Retire directly from state service as a member of the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) or the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS); **OR**
- Retire directly from state service at age 55 or older, participate in the State Uni-

versity Optional Retirement Program (ORP), and begin collecting your pension within 90 days of your last day on payroll;

OR

- Leave state service at age 62 or older.
- For additional information, you would need to contact the Survivor's Benefits Program at 866-805-0990 or by writing to NYSLRS, Survivor's Benefit Program, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12244. Include the last four digits of your Social Security Number in any correspondence.

Wishnia on the march

Longtime UUP activist and Stony Brook Active retiree Judy Wishnia dons a union hat and a fitting T-shirt before heading out to protest Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley), congressman representing New York's 1st District. Wishnia—a former COARM chair and recipient of the union's Nina Mitchell Award for Distinguished Service and the Pearl H. Brod Outstanding Retiree of the Year award—was among the throngs of Suffolk County residents to protest Zeldin since he endorsed Donald Trump for president. Protesters have called on Zeldin to hold town meetings, and to vote for policies that support public education, the environment, and quality health care.



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

COARM Members (2017-2020)

Jo Schaffer COARM Chair and Delegate
 31 Pearl St. schaffer@twcny.rr.com
 Cortland, NY 13035 (607) 753-7245

Loraine Tyler Southern Tier Region
 2525 Rich Road tylerll@oneonta.edu
 Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 433-2452

William Borgstede Central NY Region
 430 Hollis Path adkbill46er@gmail.com
 Jordan, NY 13080 (315) 689-9109

Alvin Magid Capital District Region
 2200 Grand Blvd. magid2@juno.com
 Schenectady, NY 12309 (518) 377-9542

Charles McAteer Long Island Region
 158 Montrose Dr. cmcateer@uupmail.org
 Port Jefferson Str., NY 11776 (631) 474-3541

Eric P. Russell Metropolitan Region
 134 Smithfield Ct. ericprussell@hotmail.com
 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 (917) 446-5414

Patty Bentley North Country Region
 33 Clinton St. plattpatty@gmail.com
 Rouses Point, NY 12979 (518) 569-5327

Anastasia K. Johnson Western NY Region
 491 Ashland Ave. jhnsn@buffalo.edu
 Buffalo, NY 14222 (716) 885-2486

Ottile Woodruff Presidential Appointee
 255 Park Place ottwood79@roadrunner.com
 Grand Island, NY 14072 (716) 773-3158

Sandra Harper Presidential Appointee
 PO Box 260-739 santema@prodigy.net
 Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718) 941-9021

Thomas C. Hoey Ex-officio member
 theoy@uupmail.org (518) 442-6499

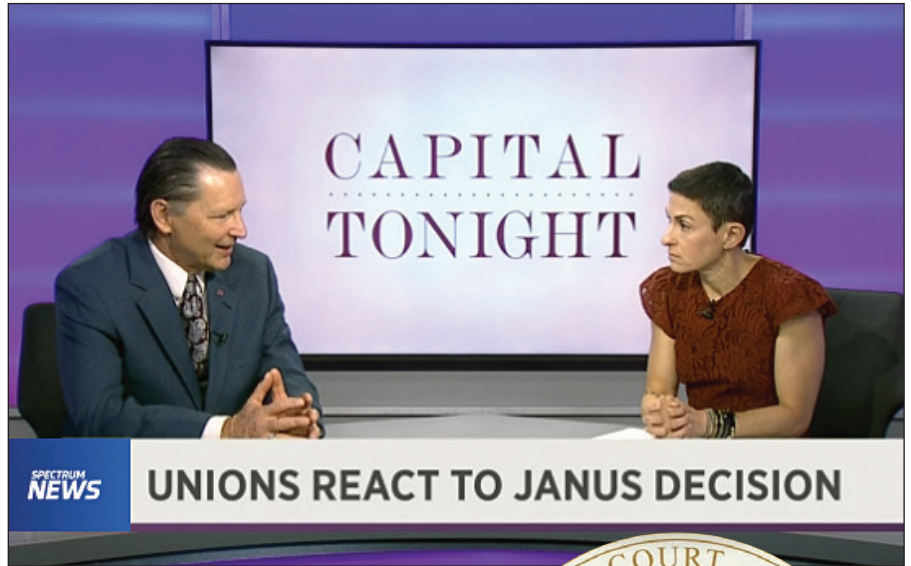
UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator
 Walter Apple wapple@uupmail.org

UUP Associate Director of Communications
 Karen L. Mattison kmattiso@uupmail.org

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

United University Professions
 P.O. Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212-5143
 518-640-6600 1-800-342-4206
 fax: 1-866-812-9446

www.uupinfo.org



UUP President Fred Kowal said the June 27 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* will make unions leaner, stronger and more active than ever. Listen to his interview on Capital Tonight at <https://bit.ly/2N497xj>



In memoriam

Let us remember those who passed away:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Marijo Dougherty, Albany | Hassan Aziz, Downstate |
| Robert Hardt, Albany | Julie Friedman, Farmingdale |
| Newton Greenberg, Binghamton | Johanna Sayre, New Paltz |
| John Fitzpatrick, Brockport | Brian Betz, Oswego |
| John Cawley, Buffalo Center | Linda Johnson, Oswego |
| William Conroy, Buffalo Center | F. Elizabeth Moody, Oswego |
| Lawrence Labinski, Buffalo Center | Richard Zakin, Oswego |
| Royal Roussel, Buffalo Center | Lawrence Arcarese, Plattsburgh |
| Constance Ryan, Buffalo Center | Bruce Butterfield, Plattsburgh |
| Asmunder Sveinsson, Buffalo Center | Harry Kienzle, Potsdam |
| Josephine Wise, Buffalo Center | Irving Sandler, Purchase |
| Harold Strauss, Buffalo HSC | Robert Barravechia, Stony Brook |
| Milton Weiser, Buffalo HSC | Judith Gregory, Stony Brook |
| Duane Andersen, Buffalo State | Patricia Hoversen, Stony Brook |
| Thomas Morrissey, Buffalo State | Jack Ludwig, Stony Brook |
| John Slivka, Buffalo State | D. Dunden-McKinney, St. Brook HSC |
| Robert Raymo, Canton | Subir Maitra, Stony Brook HSC |
| Florence Brush, Cortland | |

From the COARM Chair

What more can one say?

I don't know where to start and I won't know where to end. There is just too much in our every day world to consider, to write about, to think about, to be angry about, and to be active about.* This, then, will just be a short piece about the state of affairs in our current events.

In my day, in elementary school, we always started the day with current events. We were sometimes hard pressed to report something new that might have come across on the "radio" or the morning "paper". Today we are bombarded with "breaking news" every 5-10 minutes within the twenty-four hour continuous cycle. So I will not even attempt to relay any Trump news, any new nasty affair, any new political dirty business and any new scandal.

Every once in a while, however, there is a piece that will really affect and impact our daily lives. The one major event I wait for is the SCOTUS decision on the Janus case. This may affect all public sector union members and unions across the nation. I know that UUP and NYSUT are geared up to take action in every direction to protect its members when that decision is handed down. (See the summary of *Janus* in the last *Active Retiree*).

We who have benefited greatly from our union and our participation in it will stand ready to do what is and will be asked of us. We will need to speak to our active colleagues, friends and neighbors about the benefits we have reaped from our years in a workplace that was protected by our union. From the negotiated benefits for health insurance and leave time, for principles of workplace protection and salary increases and to our defense of public higher education through our protected rights to assembly and advocacy, UUP has been there for us. Now it will be time for us to be there for UUP and its members, blue, pink and white collar alike, to protect them all.

There will be more information as this scenario unfolds. Meanwhile, please avail yourself of the latest of the good news department. UUP has come to an agreement with the State of New York for a new contract after two plus years of negotiations. The specific benefits and portions that relate to us, as retirees, will be forthcoming.

More information will be emerging on the UUP web page and soon, on a UUP linked COARM/ARM web page as well.

I have ended some of my talks at chapters with a short statement: Keep your



enemies close, but your union closer.

What more can one say?

- the politicized judiciary
- bombastic tweets
- mocking the press
- poverty
- income inequality
- attacks on unions and working people
- separating children from parents
- lack of proper funding for education
- civics classes
- "tax reform"
- belittling civil servants
- bullying
- gun control
- etc., etc., and so forth.

Get the *Organizing Your Vital Records* booklet

Having all your personal information in one place can make it easier to deal with the unexpected.

COARM has created a checklist designed to be an organizational tool that will help you and your family more easily navigate moments of change. It will also assist you in aggregating your important data.

"We hope this document helps give you a view of your vital information, and some measure of peace of mind for

you and those you hold dear," said COARM Chair Jo Schaffer.

The document can be found on the UUP website at <https://bit.ly/2E1jNHx> or by contacting Walter Apple, retiree member services coordinator, at wapple@uupmail.org or at (800) 342-4206.



COARM and retiree news from the chapters, regions

Binghamton

by **Bob Pompei**
Binghamton

On May 24, 28 UUP retirees from Binghamton University met at the university Event Center for a buffet lunch, a discussion of issues facing UUP and retirees, and an enlightening presentation on Lithium Ion batteries.

The Binghamton retirees were joined by COARM Chair Jo Schaffer and Loraine Tyler, COARM Southern Tier regional representative.

After a very tasty lunch, Schaffer made a strong case for UUP retirees getting involved with the November mid-term elections, pointing out what is at stake for retirees. The “get off your duff and become part of the solution” message came through loud and clear.

Stan Whittingham—a distinguished professor of chemistry, director of the Northeast Center for Chemical Energy, and newly appointed Fellow of the National Academy of Engineering—gave a presentation on lithium ion batteries. As one of the prime developers of this technology, he was well positioned to deliver the presentation.

After a vigorous question and answer session, the retirees left well fed, very well enlightened, and charged to make a difference in the upcoming election.

Corinna Kruman, retiree services and records manager with Binghamton University Human Resources, made arrangements for the venue and an outstanding buffet.

Capital District

by **Al Magid**
Albany

On May 1, Capital District Region COARM held its semi-annual spring 2018 forum/brunch in UAlbany's Alumni House. Participants included SUNY retirees from the Albany, Cobleskill and New Paltz chapters.

The forum topic was “homelessness,” a hot-button issue across the nation, in its cities, large towns and rural areas.

The guest speakers were Heather Larkin Holloway, an associate professor in the university's School of Social Welfare, who is co-director of the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services; and Nancy Chiarella, executive director of CARES, Inc, an Albany-based organization keyed to preventing and ending homelessness.

Holloway and Chiarella shed light on many aspects of the complex issue of homelessness, among them drug addiction, criminality, family disintegration and dislocation, child and spousal abuse, unemployment, unavailability of affordable housing, insufficient public funding to support homeless services, and other problematical aspects of public-policy formulation and implementation having to do with the issue of homelessness.

Holloway highlighted the mission of the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services; Chiarella that of CARES's work throughout the Capital District.

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

UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple was on hand to speak about retiree benefits and other matters affecting SUNY retirees.

The Capital District Region COARM Executive Committee is laying plans for the next regional forum/brunch, slated for October.

Cobleskill

by **Cliff DaVis**
Cobleskill

Cobleskill Chapter Officer for Retirees Cliff DaVis met with the campus director of Human Resources Dec. 11, 2017, to obtain some information regarding the following: (1) emeritus status for retired professionals, (2) what the campus offers retirees, and (3) has a pre-retirement session been scheduled for prospective retirees this academic year.

Emeritus status is granted to faculty members who retire in good standing. The campus does have a list of services and privileges provided by HR. At the time of this meeting, HR indicated that no pre-retirement session had been scheduled. I did inform HR that I and UUP's VPA and VPP were interested in having a pre-retirement meeting for those individuals that may be thinking of retiring in the near future. HR did not object to this plan and, in fact, indicated that they would be willing to participate. A pre-retirement session was held Feb. 20, 2018. The primary presenter was UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple. Human Resources was represented by Ben Towne.

I attended the union's 2018 Winter Delegate Assembly. During the COARM meeting, I informed members that a gathering for retirees was scheduled for April 2018. I was asked to give a budget to COARM Capital District Regional Representative Al Magid for the meeting, which I did. A tentative agenda for this meeting, as well as a budget for the upcoming academic year, was prepared and shared with Magid and statewide COARM Chair Jo Schaffer.

The first luncheon meeting of Active Retirees at Cobleskill was scheduled for April 2018. My invitation yielded few responses; the second week of April was not convenient for many. The good news is that retirees are interested in attending a meeting in the future. In the end, it didn't seem reasonable to expend funds to host an April luncheon with low attendance. Instead, meetings are scheduled for the 2018 fall semester and the 2019 spring semester. Locations will be determined at a later date.



LARRY SCOTT PHOTOS



Buffalo retirees meet

More than 70 Western NY retirees came together May 17 at Sean Patrick's Restaurant in Buffalo to hear from guest speaker Patricia Townsend, who spoke about the West Valley nuclear waste site.

Townsend, inset left, is a research associate in the department of anthropology at the University at Buffalo. Additional information on her presentation can be found at <https://bit.ly/2zW1qHh>

Leading the meeting was COARM Western NY Regional Representative Stacey Johnson, top photo. Next to her is UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple, who also addressed the group.

Long Island/Suffolk County

by Charlie McAteer
Stony Brook

The UUP Long Island/Suffolk County Active Retiree meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Express Tuesday, April 17, with 99 people (in a 100-seat room). The guest speaker was Bernard Macias, AARP associate state director for Long Island's 500,000-plus members. He gave a talk about various volunteer activities that the local AARP groups organize and participate in on the island. He explained the volunteer arm of AARP is completely different from the commercial AARP Consumer Cellular and UnitedHealthcare insurance business.

Long Island is split into nine township teams with four in Nassau and five in Suffolk counties. Aside from food and pet supply drives, working with nursing homes and other senior organizations, advocacy with our state and federal legislators is part of the volunteer efforts for AARP New York. He mentioned Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid as main federal issues that have impact on our state government programs. Each

congressional district on LI has approx. 125,000 AARP members, while NYS Senate districts on LI have approx. 55,000 AARP members and Assembly districts have approximately 22,000 AARP members age 50 and older. The advocacy teams are also organized via the nine township Long Island teams with volunteer coordinators for each county; Charlie McAteer is that person for the Suffolk County group.

The two Stony Brook chapter presidents spoke on what is happening on campus and in the U.S. Supreme Court *Janus* case.

Judy Wishnia spoke of national/NY state topics and the upcoming elections. UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple gave an update on retiree benefits, as well as a good question-and-answer discussion of issues as UUP retirees.

McAteer talked about UUP's legislative/outreach efforts to have retirees join active members in district meetings with legislators, to speak or provide information on retiree issues.

There is a small group working on getting the UUP COARM an active spot on the UUP website up and running with information we can use from the click of a few keystrokes of your computing device. Stay tuned as we work out the issues.

Our next meeting will be in October.



NICK KORIDIS

Stony Brook Officer for Retirees Charlie McAteer addresses a group of 99 Long Island Active Retirees.

New Paltz

by Glenn McNitt
New Paltz

The New Paltz meeting was held at Garvin's Restaurant, with an attendance of 32 participants.

The keynote speaker, professor Gerald Sorin, gave an interesting historical biography of union activist, Rose Pesotta, an activist and ILGWU vice president in the early 20th century.

UUP Retiree Services Coordinator Walter Apple discussed services of the union, and New Paltz Chapter President Beth E. Wilson spoke about the need for retiree support to ensure a fair contract and to respond to the U.S. Supreme Court's anti-union decision in *Janis v. AFSCME Council 31*.

There was enthusiastic support for the event and any future ones we might plan for the fall.

COARM report from 2018 Spring DA

by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

The following are draft minutes of the COARM meeting held during the union's 2018 Spring Delegate Assembly, May 4, at The Desmond in Albany.

Present: Jo Schaffer, chair; Sandra Harper (Downstate) and Otilie Woodruff (Buffalo State), presidential appointees.

District representatives; William Borgstede (Central NY), Stacey Johnson (Western NY), Alvin Magid (Capital District), Charles McAteer (Long Island), Eric Russell (Metropolitan), Loraine Tyler (Southern Tier). Statewide Membership Development Officer Thomas Hoey, officer/Executive Board liaison. Staffer Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services coordinator.

Absent: Patty Bentley (North Country).

ARM: Barbara Maertz, Irene Stern, Henry Flax, Judith Wishnia, Gwen Veira, Cliff DaVis, Joy Bilharz, David Ritchie, Lawrence Fuller, Eloise Briere, Harvey Inventasch, Glenn McNitt, Bob Kasprak, Sandra Spier, Dave Curry, Fred Garland.

Winter DA minutes—Johnson moved and McAteer seconded a motion to approve minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report—Maertz

- Motion to approve budget for 2018-19. Moved by Loraine Tyler and seconded by Charles McAteer. Carried.

- Comments: COARM meets three times per year, so changes can be made.

- Regional meetings must be approved in the minutes or payment will not be made for regional/chapter meetings.

Chair's Report

- Former UUP president Bill Scheuerman announced the spring publication of a book, "History of UUP," written by former president Nuala Drescher, Scheuerman and Albany Chapter retiree Ivan



DARRYL MCGRATH PHOTOS

Above, Charlie McAteer of Stony Brook asks COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, left, about a possible resolution, while Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale listens.



Left, Sandy Harper of Downstate, left, asks a question. Loraine Tyler of Oneonta types notes from the meeting.

Steen. Copies will be purchased for each chapter office and for COARM members.

- Bills regarding IRMAA and Medicare reimbursements were not passed, so we are held harmless.

- Evaluation of Chapter Officers—send Schaffer a report on what you've done, what you'd like to do, and what resources are needed. Ideas will be submitted to the statewide UUP Executive Board.

- Pre-retirement workshops can be arranged. Contact Apple, who will conduct the presentations.

- NYSUT newsletters will be sent to COARM regional representatives. Reps should make contact with local retiree groups.

- Membership cards—Reissuing cards with updates. Retiree membership cards should be done as well.

- ARM membership—Looking into previous UUP service for membership in

UUP after retiring. Will get back on legal requirements to join ARM.

- Project Veritas—Don't talk with anyone about UUP without verifying who and why information is sought. The anti-union project is funded by the Koch brothers and the Mercer family.

- *The Active Retiree* has received many awards for outstanding writing, editing and photography. The newsletter will be sent to chapter assistants. Apple will send out an advanced notice that a copy is in mail; he will also provide a link to the retiree web page. Schaffer encouraged all to write for *The Active Retiree*.

- Alliance for Retired Americans—very concerned with state legislative elections in NYS. Sent to all retirees via e-mail. Al Magid will contact Julie Petty to see if commonalities can be made.

- Emeriti status for professionals and academics—Universal policy to apply to

all retirees, regardless of campus. Schaffer will ask UUP President Fred Kowal to speak to the chancellor regarding emeriti status for all SUNY retirees.

- Go online and see if your campus is on the list of University Retiree services provided by SUNY for each campus.

- SUNY's retiree publication has not been distributed to UUP retiree members because UUP's retiree leadership has been left out of all procedures, policies, etc.

Old Business

Retiree webpage—Discussed at planning session and reviewed by McAteer. Will be accomplished soon.

Nonmembers can become UUP members one day before retiring and then become ARM members. Executive Board will review this matter. Ideas: Minimum time period, financial payment to be eligible to join.

Meetings

Motion to approve requests for meetings was made by L. Tyler and seconded by Magid. Passed.

Meetings planned:

Capital District—A. Magid and Betty Shadrick

- October 2018, to include Albany, New Paltz and Cobleskill campuses. Because of distance between campuses, meetings may be held at each chapter.

Long Island—McAteer, Stern and Maertz

- Summer—Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC, Farmingdale and Old Westbury

- Oct. 23— Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC

- Oct. 19—Farmingdale and Old Westbury

Western NY—Johnson and Woodruff

- October—Alfred, Brockport, Buffalo HSC, Buffalo State, Buffalo Center, Fredonia, Geneseo

Central NY—Borgstede, Fuller, Carole Torok

- June—Oswego, Upstate, ESF, Morrisville, SUNY Polytechnic

- Sept. 18—Oswego Chapter

- Mid-September or mid-October—

SUNY Polytechnic

Metropolitan—Russell

- May 30—all campuses

- Fall—all campuses

Southern Tier—L. Tyler

- October—Oneonta/Delhi campuses, to be held in Delhi

- October—Binghamton

- October/November—Cortland

North Country—no one present

- Spring meeting as requested was not approved; therefore it cannot be funded. Paperwork for fall 2017 meeting, which was held and funded, has not been submitted.

Maertz moved and McAteer seconded, that proposed meetings for Plattsburgh and Potsdam for fall 2018 cannot be funded as paperwork has not been completed for fall 2017 meeting, which was approved and funded. Officers for retirees from those chapters can submit proposals for fall meetings in Plattsburgh and Potsdam. Carried.

New Business

- Membership Report—Hoey discussed the Pearl Brod Retiree Member of the Year award. Richard Tyler was nominated for the 2018 award. Carried.

- Summer Retreat: L. Tyler moved and Russell seconded that COARM not have a retreat this summer. COARM members can meet to discuss business, if needed.

- Resolution of support for striking teachers proposed by Wishnia and seconded by Harper. Carried.

- Motion: Direct Schaffer to ask UUP to activate a link to the retiree webpage. ARM will be responsible for the contents of the webpage. Motion made by Maertz and seconded by Harper. Approved.

- Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.



Al Magid of Albany raises a point during the spring COARM meeting.



Gwen Veira of Buffalo State takes notes on the discussion.



Judy Wishnia of Stony Brook, left, and Otilie Woodruff of Buffalo State listen to the debate; staffer Walter Apple, back, follows the agenda.



Your HOME Financing SOLUTION Starts HERE.

TREMENDOUS COST SAVINGS

UUP Members **SAVE BIG** with Our UnionDirect™ Program

Whether you're looking to purchase or refinance your home, all UUP Members, including their family, receive significant savings with our special UnionDirect™ Program. Plus, we offer flexible financing options to give you the best possible mortgage available today.



Save Big With:

- NO Application Fees
- NO Processing Fees
- NO Commitment Fees
- NO Underwriting Fees
- NO Broker Fees
- Reduced Title Fees
- Reduced Attorney Fees
- Concierge Service

Flexible Financing Options Including:

- As Low as 3% Down Programs
- 100% Financing for Veterans
- Conventional Financing
- Home Renovation Financing
- Second Home/Investment Property Financing
- Jumbo Loans
- Reverse Mortgages
- First-Time Homebuyer Specialists



WE ARE VA HOME LOAN SPECIALISTS FOR PURCHASE AND REFINANCE



Call Shawn Dwyer for a free consultation.

1.844.27.UNION (86466)

sdwyer@mortgagecorp.com | NMLS ID 218169

UnionDirect™ is a program provided by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.®

Legal ©2000-2018 Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.™ All Rights Reserved. This is not a commitment to lend. Loans with poorer credit scores are priced higher and are differentiated due to the high level of credit-qualifying overlays. Restrictions Apply. Licensed Mortgage Banker-NYS Department of Financial Services; Licensed by the NJ Department of Banking and Insurance; FL Mortgage Lender/Service; SCBOFI Mortgage Lender/Service; Licensed with the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks; NMLS ID 1259 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org)

mid-island
mortgage corp

500 Express Drive South, 1st Floor West, Suite 3
Brentwood, New York 11717 | NMLS ID 1516403

mortgagecorp.com/uniondirect



Government increases military spending

by Lawrence Wittner
Albany

Early in February, the Republican-controlled Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed new federal budget legislation that increased U.S. military spending by \$165 billion over the next two years. Remarkably, though, a Gallup public opinion poll, conducted only days before, found that only 33 percent of Americans favored increasing U.S. military spending, while 65 percent opposed it, either backing reductions (34 percent) or maintenance of the status quo (31 percent).

What is even more remarkable for a nation where military spending has grown substantially over the decades, is that, during the past 49 years that Gallup has asked Americans their opinions on U.S. military spending, in only one year (1981) did a majority of Americans (in that case, 51 percent) favor increasing it. During the other years, clear and sometimes very substantial majorities opposed spending more on the military.

Although the Gallup survey appears to be the only one that has covered American attitudes toward military spending in 2018, reports by other polling agencies for earlier years reveal the same pattern. The Pew Research Center, for example, found that, from 2004 to 2016, the percentage of Americans who favored increasing U.S. military spending only ranged from 13 to 35 percent. By contrast, the percentage of Americans who favored decreasing U.S. military spending or continuing it at the same level ranged from 64 to 83 percent.

This opposition to boosting U.S. military spending became even stronger when pollsters provided Americans with information about the actual level of federal government spending and arguments for and against particular programs. In March 2017, before opinion

“Although 2 out of 3 Americans oppose increasing U.S. military spending, the U.S. government is boosting it to record levels.”

— Lawrence Wittner
Albany



Wittner

polling began by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Integrity, it distributed a rough outline of the federal budget and a series of statements about spending programs vetted for fairness by opposing groups. The result was that a majority of survey respondents reported that they favored cutting the military budget by \$41 billion.

Current public opinion on military spending has a clear partisan dimension. In its February 2018 polling, Gallup found that among Republicans and independents leaning Republican 54 percent said that the U.S. government was spending too little on the military. Conversely, among Democrats and independents leaning Democratic, 53 percent said the federal government was spending too much on it. Today, with Republicans dominating both Congress and the White House, it's not surprising that U.S. military spending is once again soaring to record heights.

It's hard to say, of course, where the current vast U.S. military buildup will lead. Critics—and there have been many—predict war, bankruptcy, or both. Kevin Martin, president of Peace Action, the largest grassroots peace organization in the United States, remarked: “Our tax dollars pay for military policies that spur a global arms race—one that increasingly endangers our country's security and un-

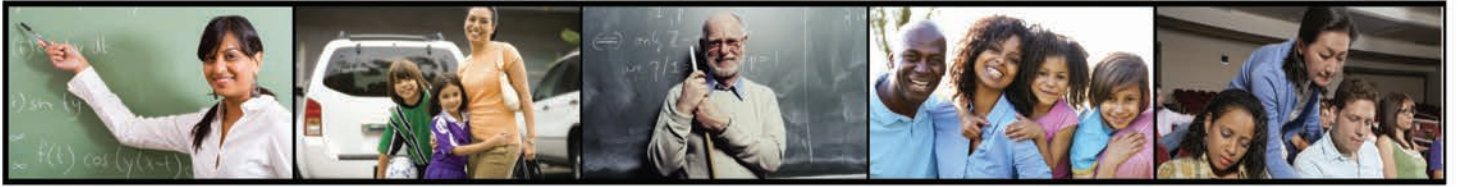
dermines its economic viability.”

Americans might also want to ponder the fact that, with \$700 billion per year now being pumped into the Pentagon by U.S. taxpayers, military spending consumes 54 percent of the federal discretionary budget. And, if President Trump's official recommendations for future years are followed, the military's share will surge to 65 percent by fiscal 2023. Combined with the huge budget deficits that will be produced by the GOP tax cuts for the wealthy and their corporations, this will almost certainly lead to devastating slashes in federal spending for education, healthcare, parks and recreation facilities, food distribution, jobs, infrastructure, and other public programs.

Of course, there are possibilities for blocking the current flood of military spending and its consequences. The political mobilization of the widespread, but thus far latent, constituency against increased funding for the Pentagon, coupled with enough Democratic victories at the polls in 2018 to return of the House of Representatives to Democratic control, would slow—and perhaps halt—the drift toward an overwhelmingly military-oriented public policy.

Short of these developments, however, it seems likely that the U.S. government's discretionary spending will be devoted primarily to preparations for war.

(Lawrence Wittner is a professor of history emeritus at the University at Albany and the author of Confronting the Bomb, Stanford University Press.)



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**.

UUPers should support campus free speech

by Daniel Scott Marrone
Farmingdale

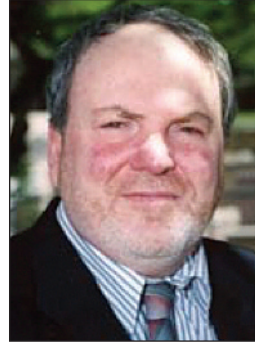
UUP's founding charter supports "Freedom of Expression" and "Academic Freedom." As long as these speakers refrain from inciting violence, UUP members should actively protect these rights regardless whether the speakers, however outlandish, are from the political "Left" or "Right."

Campus debate and protests regarding "Free Speech" have long occurred. Sage Thomas Jefferson founded the University of Virginia in 1819. Within a few years, there were campus protests. The former U.S. president witnessed students that were unhappy with UVA's educational offerings. So they protested! My experience with campus protests began at Queens College in 1969, the year I began my B.A. degree. QC campus protests included one incident where students and faculty blocked the heavily trafficked Long Island Expressway for several hours. Still a teenager then and with a one-year old driver's license, my parents forbid me to participate in the QC rally that day. Angry at the time, I thank them posthumously for sparing me from police arrest or being run over at the protest. "Free Speech" became a heated, volatile issue during the Vietnam War. With campus protests erupting into violence, campus administrations attempted to quell the unrest by restricting "Free Speech" and its close conceptual cousin, "Academic Freedom". The violence escalated into the horrific shootings of students by Ohio National Guardsmen at Kent State Uni-

versity on May 4, 1970.

A year later, I participated in a huge, noisy protest rally at QC where Geraldo Rivera and Sargent Shriver were the speakers. I became hoarse for days as a result from shouting at this event. At another rally, in April 1973, Jane Fonda came to the QC campus to speak. The Paris Peace Accord was signed and the Selective Service "draft" had ended three months earlier in January 1973. By the time of her speech, the U.S. military involvement in the war was nearly over. Still Ms. Fonda caused quite a debate in the newspapers and on campus as to whether she should be allowed to speak at QC. She was highly controversial for being photographed nine months earlier atop a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun. Though dubbed "Hanoi Jane" in the press, she was permitted to speak on campus. I was among the throngs of QC students present when she delivered her dialogue. A strikingly articulate and beautiful woman, she emotionally spoke against President Richard Nixon. At the time, the 37th president was embroiled in the Watergate "cover up" scandal. He was forced to resign from office in August 1974.

In 1976 I decided to become a college professor. To qualify, I began attending New York University where I eventually earned two graduate business degrees and a Ph.D. in Education. Amid NYU's urban campus is Washington Square Park. On many days and evenings, I wit-



Marrone

nessed (and took a shortcut to the "F" train subway through) many raucous protests at the park. I mention this to demonstrate—pun intended—that I am quite familiar with campus protests. Lately, campus protests have escalated into violence and destruction at a level last seen during the Vietnam War era. Debate

on campus has now returned to forefront over "Freedom of Expression" and "Academic Freedom". Students and faculty on the political "Left" have long fought for "Free Speech" rights. Include me in this group. However, many "Free Speech" advocates are now silent when those on the political "Right" are being blocked on campuses from exercising their rights to "Academic Freedom". This is wrong. Whether the speakers are on the political "Left" or on the "Right", they are entitled to "Free Speech".

Personally, I fear and loathe political extremists, but no one should be denied "Free Speech". As a proud UUP member since 1987 and now serving on the UUP Farmingdale Executive Board, I urge my fellow union members to speak out firmly in support of "Freedom of Expression" and "Academic Freedom" at college campuses.

(Daniel Scott Marrone, Ph.D., is a distinguished service professor emeritus from SUNY Farmingdale. He was the college's first recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities.)



What your beneficiaries need to know

Don't forget to remind your beneficiaries that, upon your death, they need to inform the campus Human Resources Department *and* contact UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter

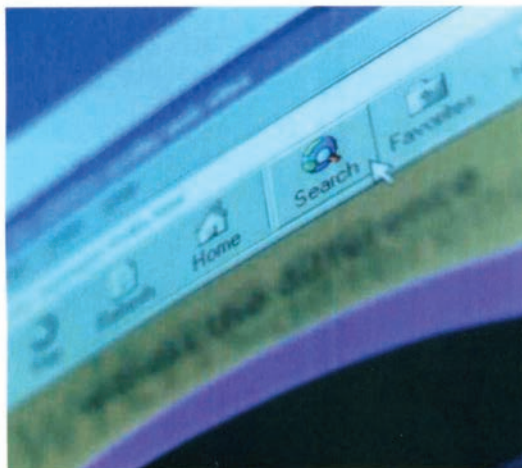
Apple at (800) 342-4206. If they don't contact the campus or UUP, they won't get the survivor's benefits: that's \$3,000 from the state and \$1,000 from UUP. Remind them to make the calls!



United University Professions
P.O. Box 15143
Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143

Presorted
First-Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit #370

Searching for answers ?
Let us help.



- Relationship Issues
- Care for aging parents
- Substance abuse
- Medicare/Medicaid questions
- Chronic illness and Disabilities
- Reassurance through difficult times

Contact NYSUT Social Services
1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206 or socsvcs@nysutmail.org
Free and Confidential

