



8—Retirees share ideas at 2018 Winter DA



15—UUPers rally outside U.S. Supreme Court



16—Award nominations due April 16

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# The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retiree Members of United University Professions

## Janus v. AFSCME: Unpacked

by Felicia Bruce  
NYSUT Retiree Council 43

**J**anus is the last name of an Illinois state worker. Mark Janus does *not* belong to AFSCME—the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the national union representing public sector workers. Mark Janus does *not* like paying (fees equal to) union dues, even though he benefits from AFSCME negotiations and collective bargaining. Conservative, anti-union forces are funding his challenge to the existing practice of every worker contributing some portion of their wage to offset negotiations conducted by labor organizations.

Under current law, because the union bargains with management on behalf of all employees (members and non-members), every worker pays a fair share towards underwriting the costs of negotiations. Non-members are exempt from full payments and costs related to political activities.

There are 22 states without Right to Work (RTW) laws. In those states, all workers protected by contract negotia-

tions must pay some portion (Agency Fee) of union fees. The current law is based on the National Labor Relations Act and a 1976 Supreme Court case *Aboud v. Detroit Board of Education*.

### BACK STORY

ALEC, Heritage Foundation and other conservative groups have wanted to dismantle unions for decades. The Supreme Court refused until last year when *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* was heard. With the passing of Justice Scalia, the eight remaining justices were deadlocked 4-4 and the past precedent, *Aboud*, remained. Blocking the nomination of Merrick Garland, Mitch McConnell held the SCOTUS seat empty until a Republican president could

get his choice on the bench. Now, with arch conservative Neil Gorsuch occupying the ninth justice's seat, a 5-4 decision seems probable.

### IMPLICATIONS

Ending mandatory union dues/agency fees could cripple America's public-sector unions, the last bastion of union strength in the country. Without mandatory fees, every state becomes, in effect a RTW state. Every union will have to re-sign members each year and will be burdened with the expenses of negotiating, representing and defending workers without remuneration. Few employees will be incentivized to join the union at all thus reducing their power and

see *Janus*, page 15

**“Ending mandatory union dues/agency fees could cripple America's public-sector unions, the last bastion of union strength in this country.”**

— Felicia Bruce, Vice President  
NYSUT Retiree Council 43/Teacher Retirees in Florida

# 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 Stn., 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

**Ottillie 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  
 thoey@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](http://www.uupinfo.org)**



Check out the video on the life and legacy of former UUP President Sam Wakshull at <https://goo.gl/D99ra7>

## In memoriam

Let us remember those who passed away:

Alberto Carlos, Albany  
 Tara Das, Albany  
 James Kiepper, Albany  
 Donald Layton, Albany  
 Charles Petitjean, Albany  
 Suzanne Wood, Alfred  
 Maria Carra, Binghamton  
 Vincent Cordi, Binghamton  
 Walter Boston Jr., Brockport  
 Frederick Gravetter, Brockport  
 Albert Brown, Buffalo Center  
 Philip Coppens, Buffalo Center  
 Francis Cozzarelli, Buffalo Center  
 Marilyn Haas, Buffalo Center  
 Frank Holden, Buffalo Center  
 Michael Lavin, Buffalo Center  
 Jan Roalsvig, Buffalo Center  
 Helen Lees, Buffalo HSC  
 Peter Nickerson, Buffalo HSC  
 Melvin Hoffman, Buffalo State  
 Leonard Cohen, Cortland  
 Ali Kawi, Downstate Medical  
 Martin Salwen, Downstate Medical  
 E.F. Thebaud, Downstate Medical  
 Shing Wong, Downstate Medical  
 George Bragle, Empire State  
 Marilyn Wright, ESF  
 Russell Bird, Farmingdale  
 Adam Khan, Morrisville  
 Jay Bloom, New Paltz  
 Robert Presbie, New Paltz  
 Foster Brown, Oneonta  
 Fred Miller, Oneonta  
 Kenneth Rishel, Oneonta  
 Jerry Shannon, Oneonta  
 Walter Wager, Oneonta  
 Constance Bond, Oswego  
 Walter Freimanis, Oswego  
 William Klock, Plattsburgh  
 John Shout, Plattsburgh  
 Miles Wolpin, Potsdam  
 Marjorie Zwiefel, Purchase  
 David Bolotine, Stony Brook  
 Susan Chesler, Stony Brook  
 Stuart Cohen, Stony Brook  
 Robert De Zafra, Stony Brook  
 Diane Fortuna, Stony Brook  
 Joanna Harris, Stony Brook  
 Franco Jona, Stony Brook  
 Bernard Lane, Stony Brook  
 Thomas LaRusso, Stony Brook  
 Peter Paul, Stony Brook  
 Robert Schneider, Stony Brook  
 Bernard Tunik, Stony Brook  
 Thomas Cottrell, Stony Brook HSC  
 Roger Dee, Stony Brook HSC  
 Ping-Wu Li, Stony Brook HSC  
 Joseph Melendez, Stony Brook HSC  
 John DeGrazio, Upstate Medical  
 Francis Morgenstern, Upstate Medical  
 Douglas Robertson, Upstate Medical  
 Allen Silverstone, Upstate Medical  
 F. Deaver Thomas, Upstate Medical  
 David Putman, Upstate Medical

## From the COARM Chair

# Playing for keeps

**W**ell, Groundhog Day has come again and again and yet again! And so again has come the governor's Executive Budget with the usual cuts to SUNY in all its aspects: the cuts to EOP/EOC programs, the lack of funding for the Excelsior programs, the attacks on the subsidies to our medical schools, lack of funding for increased instructional lines, and the cuts to Medicare benefits for retirees via caps on reimbursement, among other less publicized items.

As has been queried by many of our long experienced SUNY colleagues, "What again, still?" (see Judy Wishnia's article, p. 11) must we always have to spring forward like Punxsutawney Phil to defend SUNY, which is so obvious a jewel of service and importance to the total picture of a healthy New York economy and future?

I am not going to belabor the obvious that we are in a continuing anti-intellectual, anti-education and anti-cultural era that has dogged our professional lives for decades. So, like Phil, we have to spring forward to again defend all of our academic and professional values.

Modern technology will serve us well in

this continuing battle. We don't have to go to Albany to be effective in our battle. We have, obviously, emails (from your non-edu addresses), mobile telephones, Facebook and Instagram, and the written word on paper with which to wage battle. You can stay close to the hot computer, the fireplace or radiator and still do good work.

COARM will be working closely with UUP to provide you, the Active Retirees, with issue-based white papers, prepared statements, fighting words, telephone numbers and addresses, and fact supported outreach program notes to use in this restoration fight. Please use that information liberally and often to educate and convince our elected reps of our case.

However, we can't afford to be parochial in our battles. Recently, we have learned that the president's 2019 federal budget cuts \$554 billion in Medicare spending over 10 years, which is of concern to anyone over 65. It cuts up to \$250 billion in Medicaid spending, which has implications for anybody who has a loved one in a nursing home. Trump wants to cut \$214 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as food stamps, a vital source of help for the working



poor. There are major moves to make the prescription drug coverage more and more limited. Certainly, there is no move to negotiate drug and pharmaceutical costs as was "promised." Most of this spending will have to be picked up by the states, which makes it all the more important to continue our fights in both venues—state and federal.

COARM with UUP will be sending you contact telephone numbers for your senators (in New York we can thank the two of them for their continued support) and representatives, especially for those of you who live out of state.

La lutte continuera!

## Did you know: Survivor's benefit program for NYS retirees

by **Walter Apple**  
UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator

**T**he 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 University 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.

# COARM and retiree news from the chapters, regions

## Capital District

by Al Magid  
Albany

On Oct. 11, Capital District Region COARM held its semi-annual fall 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 "Climate Change: Science, Politics and Policy," a hot-button issue in the United States and across the world, especially with the Trump administration determined to renounce America's once proud leadership role around the international consensus that bold action must be taken to address the issue of climate change with its insidious implications.

Featured speakers were Suzanne Hagell, Ph.D., and Mark Lowery, both climate policy analysts in the Office of Climate Change, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The guest speakers dealt with many aspects of the topic, among them the causes of climate change, now and throughout history; the scientific basis for the proposition that climate change, if not effectively dealt with worldwide, poses great—possibly apocalyptic—risks; the basis for resistance to the very idea of profound high-risk climate change; the Trump Administration's perspectives on climate-change science, politics, and policy; the geostrategic implications of Trump Administration policy and practice with regard to climate change for the United States and for China, the latter determined to take over from the US the leadership role in the international community on a wide range of key issues; and the best practices in dealing with the phenomenon of climate change.

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

A UUP retiree member services officer was on hand to speak about 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 May.

## Binghamton

by Bob Pompi  
Binghamton

On Nov. 27, 29 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 global warming.

The Binghamton retirees were joined by COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple, and Loraine Tyler, COARM Southern Tier regional representative.

Corinna Kruman, retiree services and records manager of Binghamton University human resources, made arrangements for the venue and an outstanding buffet.

After a lively discussion on the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court case *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* and the consequences of the draconian tax code revision now under consideration in Washington, D.C., we enjoyed a very tasty lunch.

Following lunch, Tim Lowenstein, a distinguished professor of geology, gave a presentation on climate change in which he outlined the varied lines of scientific research showing how global warming is specifically connected to human activities. Global warming does not seem to be a "Chinese hoax," he said.

After a vigorous question-and-answer session, the retirees left well fed and very well enlightened.

## Downstate

by Sandy Spier  
Downstate

Downstate UUP retiree members held their first meeting on Feb. 20. The first order of business was a welcome and introduction.

The accomplishments of UUP and other labor unions were given; especially the defeat of the referendum to hold a constitutional convention to amend the New York State Constitution.

The importance of our present campaign to defeat a favorable *Janus* decision before the U.S. Supreme Court was reported. Members were aware of its significance, which if favorable toward plaintiff Mark Janus, would jeopardize unions financially.

Our advocacy activities in Albany (in the offices of our representatives) to sustain and improve funding for SUNY campuses and the state-run hospitals were shown.

Consulting the UUP home page for very good updates and information concerning us all was encouraged.

The agenda part of the meeting/brunch was concluded by the 12 attendees introducing themselves with brief personal stories of life in retirement.

The highlight was guest presenter Cathie Wright-Lewis—an author, teacher and historian. She read from her recent book *Passion's Pride*. The characters take readers on a spiritual journey that linked the Twin Towers to the slave trade in that same area dating back to the 1500s. She told of the skills of iron work and designs that the Africans brought from West Africa. They were enslaved and forced to build the real iron wall of Wall Street. They incorporated their iconic symbols, such as the Sankofa, into the structures; these symbols have spread across the world. Lewis introduced us to an excellent museum located near Wall Street, The African Burial Ground National Monument, which consists of an indoor visitor center and exhibition and an outdoor memorial.

## Southern Tier

by Loraine Tyler  
Oneonta

The chapter officers for retirees are working very well in the Southern Tier. Joe Greenfield of Delhi, Robert Pompei of Binghamton and Dianne Galutz of Cortland worked alongside Southern Tier representative Loraine Tyler of Oneonta, and were instrumental in arranging for destinations and very interesting speakers.

The Oneonta/Delhi brunch was held at the Hospitality Center in Delhi's student run restaurant, Signatures, on Nov. 2. Christine Viafore gave tips for using Facebook to 29 members and seven guests.

Immediately following, UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple presented a pre-retirement seminar to 25 future retirees.

## Cortland

by Dave Ritchie  
Cortland

More than 35 Cortland-area retirees and friends went mushroom foraging Nov. 3 at the Benn Conger Inn!

It all started with greetings and socializing, then some brief updates on UUP issues and upcoming events by Cortland's Officer for Retirees Dianne Galutz and others.

Following a delightful blueberry chicken entrée and tasty luncheon, Timothy Baroni, a distinguished professor emeritus of biology from SUNY Cortland, took us on an engaging tour of New York's edible (and not so edible) fungi using visual means.

With arresting photographs and interesting stories, Baroni guided us through some of the common and rare species to be found in our state. While he certainly focused on edible species—probably what he's most often called on to talk about to a social gathering—he expanded our learning by delving into some poisonous and some beautiful species.

A recent retiree, Baroni has ranged around the northeastern U.S., into Canada, and to more exotic places like Belize to capture and research fungal organisms.

In 2017, his *Mushrooms of the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada* field guide was published (Portland, OR: Timber Press), including excellent pictures, description, and habitat for at least 100 species not covered in other guides. Baroni kept us following along without a muddy misstep, answered questions with alacrity, and we left a lot wiser and much impressed with the rich variety of fungi in our state.



**Baroni**

## Long Island

by Barbara Maertz  
Farmingdale

UUP retirees from Long Island learned the important things to know before a disaster strikes from Dr. Margaret Sukhram, a volunteer of the American Red Cross and a professor at Old Westbury. The retirees got a certificate from the Red Cross and full training in meeting the needs of the family.

Sukhram was a volunteer in Texas helping many families secure housing, replace medications and fill out numerous papers for FEMA and insurance companies. She has firsthand knowledge of being in a shelter, scared and alone.

While the media has been full of stories about the hurricanes and forest fires in many parts of our country, Sukhram reminds us that a fire in your home is the most common form of disaster to strike us every day. When any disaster strikes, you need your insurance papers, your medication list and critical meds and the phone numbers of emergency contacts.

We have those contacts in our cell phones, but if you have to evacuate the house suddenly, you may not have the phone with you. So, pack a "GO" bag with copies of all your important papers, put some extra meds in there, add water, flashlight, food and a whistle, place it under your bed and you will sleep more comfortably.

Among the other information learned at the COARM brunch on Oct. 27 was the reason behind the Vote No! campaign against a state constitutional convention. UUP Farmingdale Chapter President Vicki Janik reminded us that pensions protections would be subject to review, and our state parks would be subject to possible mining and development. Also, our union protections would be in danger if voters decided to hold a constitutional convention. Hopefully, by the time you read this, UUP members and retirees will have voted No and we will have been successful in stopping this proposal. (We were!)

UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple was here to explain the dental benefits and choices and meet with anyone who had questions about individual retiree benefits issues.

COARM Long Island regional representative Charlie McAteer explained union advocacy and urged the retirees to commit to email contacts with the legislators on UUP issues.

Farmingdale Chapter Officer for Retirees Barbara Maertz announced that a pre-retirement seminar would be held in April for all those ready to retire within the next five years.

**More regional coverage  
on page 6**

## Stony Brook

by Charlie McAteer  
Stony Brook

Approximately 90 people gathered Oct. 23 at the Stony Brook University campus Hilton to hear a great discussion by former COARM chair Judy Wishnia on the Vote No! campaign to reject a state referendum to hold a state constitutional convention.

We had greetings and discussion of campus issues from both UUP chapter presidents from Stony Brook: Carolyn Kube and Kevin Moriarty.

Guest speaker William Achnitz from the non-profit project Long Island Green Homes ([longislandgreenhomes.org](http://longislandgreenhomes.org)) spoke about the potential energy saving measures open to Long Islanders.

For more information on a free home energy audit, or rebate and/or low-cost financing programs through New York state and PSEG-LI, call 800-567-2850.

UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple updated attendees on retiree benefits. A lively discussion followed.

Long Island regional representative Charlie McAteer wrapped up the discussion and invited retirees to sign up to be part of the local advocacy program for UUP. McAteer is working on creating an information-sharing webpage with COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, UUP Communications and other interested UUP retirees.

All were reminded to look for the invite for the upcoming meeting in April.

## Farmingdale

by Barbara Maertz  
Farmingdale

Can you imagine your loved ones coming to greet you as you come into the yard? Can you imagine a family caring for the young ones teaching them to find food?

Can you imagine the emotions of love, mourning, joy and tears expressed for one another?

Of course, we imagine these emotions in humans. But at the Stony Brook COARM meeting, we learned that these same emotions are exhibited in the animal world.

Dr. Carl Safina, an award-winning endowed professor of nature and humanity at Stony Brook showed our members photos and videos of animals expressing their emotions. Safina has traveled to elephant herds, wolf packs, lion prides, whales and dolphins learning how these animals think and feel. He took us on this journey with him at our meeting and made us all understand, feel and love these animals in a new way.

His book, *Beyond Words*, and other books he has written support the Safina Center in research, advocacy for animals and teaching about empathy and communication in the animal world.

Before discovering the animal world, the retirees heard about the constitutional convention issue from former longtime COARM Chair Judy Wishnia. They were asked to sign reminder cards indicating their opposition to this question, which will be on the ballot in November. The cards will be returned in early November to remind us about the issues and encourage us to Vote No to the constitutional convention.

UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple outlined the new legal plan for UUP members and the latest updates for other benefits. He will go into greater detail about benefits at the fall meeting.

The spring retirees meeting at Stony Brook was the final meeting as representative for Barbara Maertz. After 10 years, she is happy to hand over the role of Long Island COARM rep to Charlie McAteer from Stony Brook. McAteer will have officers for retirees at each chapter to assist him, including Irene Stern at Stony Brook HSC, Barbara Maertz at Farmingdale and Dolores James at Old Westbury.

Thanks go out to the Farmingdale and Stony Brook chapter assistants Debby Amato and Diana Tischler, respectively, for their help in organizing these events.

## 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 <http://bit.ly/1kJD2LR> or by contacting Walter Apple, retiree member services coordinator, at [wapple@uupmail.org](mailto:wapple@uupmail.org) or at (800) 342-4206.



## Canton retiree publishes another book on human behavior and solving global problems

In the year before retiring, SUNY Canton professor Stephen Ledoux got a comprehensive, technical book published, titled *Running Out of Time—Introducing Behaviorology to Help Solve Global Problems*.

The book addresses a growing need among traditional natural scientists. While working to solve global problems, many of them have noted that human behavior drives these problems, and their solutions require changes in human behavior. So they have called for a natural science of behavior that can help, which is the topic of this earlier book.

Interest in the causes of human behavior, however, are far more widespread. Witness the large number of books related to this topic on the self-help, new-age, and psychology shelves in stores and online lists. But these books leave out the causes of behavior discovered by natural science. Yet, these causes are valuable aids to humanity, helping to solve local and global problems.

To satisfy this wider audience, Ledoux spent the last year writing a general audience primer about the 100-year-old natural science of human behavior known as behaviorology. His new book is titled *What Causes Human Behavior—Stars, Selves, or Contingencies?* It was released this year by BehaveTech Publishing in Ottawa, Canada.

“Behaviorology is the natural science extension of biology that addresses why human behavior happens; it is a natural science to help build a sustainable society in a timely manner,” Ledoux said. “Behaviorology, which is not any kind of psychology, helps people understand human behavior through the variables discovered by experimental research. The findings apply across every behavior-related field, from families and education and autism to work and government and diplomacy.”

Emphasizing plain English rather than technical jargon, Ledoux’s book uses ordinary examples of everyday human behaviors to convey, in a friendly and conversational manner, a basic comprehension of behaviorology. The book is written for anyone concerned to understand human behavior in a wide range of areas including concerns about environmental issues and human survival.

The first half of the book describes some principles, methods, concepts, and practices of behaviorology. Then the second half provides some initial scientific answers to some long-standing human questions, such as questions about values, rights, ethics, morals, language, consciousness, personhood, life, death, and reality. The last chapter emphasizes interconnections with solutions to global problems. At the back, the book contains an appendix, by B. F. Skinner, about the “aircrib,” along with a glossary, bibliography, and index. Also, a dozen mini-review comments from professional readers around the world grace the book’s back cover and first couple of pages.

Dr. Richard Malott, a professor at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, describes Ledoux’s book as “a strong, non-compromising, theoretical and philosophical argument that the answers come from behaviorology, the natural science of behavior, that the answers do not come from astrology, theology, etc., or from psychology, the mentalistic unnatural science of the mind. And he supports his argument with examples of effective, science-based applications of applied behaviorology (applied behavior analysis) and with analyses of human behavior in everyday life, going from simple behaviors, to complex verbal behavior, with suggestions that behaviorology is crucial to the solutions of the world problems of overpopulation, sustainability, and global warming. But also, he’s not afraid to make these complex topics more readable by using an occasional contraction, an informal expression, and even a little humor, i.e., he’s way cool.”



**Ledoux**

Dr. Julia Fiebig, a professor at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., says, “This is an accessible book for learners both new and seasoned in the natural science of behavior. It is indeed a journey that takes the reader from the beginnings of this natural science, provides clear overviews and examples of principles, and ultimately gives context to the importance of a more widespread understanding and application of behaviorology to the challenges we face in our global society and culture.”

Michael Rauseo, a doctor of psychology (Psy.D.) with the Los Angeles Unified School District, makes this comment, “In the prevailing academic order of 21st-century society, the complex subject of the behavior of organisms, particularly regarding the causes and effects of human behavior, is controlled by the explanatory myths that are inherent to psychology. This book presents a threat to that prevailing academic order. So every person prepared to actually discover why people do what they do must read it.”

And Dr. Michael Clayton, a professor at Missouri State University, Springfield, says this book “is an accessible and thorough primer to a modern science of behavior. It is very difficult to find both the breadth of topics and in-depth detail that Ledoux offers in this very readable and important contribution to the field.”

*(Dr. Ledoux, a Canton resident for more than 30 years, now resides in Los Alamos, N.M. His books are available from the usual sources, including the main distributor, Direct Book Services.)*

# Report from Winter DA COARM meeting

by Stacey Johnson  
Buffalo Center

The following are minutes of the COARM meeting held during the union's Winter Delegate Assembly, Jan. 28-29 at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs.

Members present: Sandra Harper, presidential appointee; Stacey Johnson, Western NY; Alvin Magid, Capital District; Charles McAteer, Long Island; and Eric Russell, Metropolitan.

Guests: Judith Wishnia, Stony Brook; Bob Kasprak, Optometry; Barbara Maertz, Farmingdale; Jeri Anne Jermi-naro, Oneonta; Janet Frankel, Oneonta; Glenn McNitt, New Paltz; Dave Curry, Plattsburgh; Sandra Michael, Binghamton; Clifford DaVis, Cobleskill; Eloise Briere, Albany; Horace Ivey, Upstate Medical University; Gregory Threatte, Upstate; Joy Bilharz, Fredonia; Carol Braund, Upstate; Henry Steck, Cortland; Sandra Spier, Downstate Medical Center; David Peckham, Upstate; state-wide Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey, officer liaison; and Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services coordinator.

Minutes: Moved and seconded the motion to approve minutes of the COARM 2017 Fall DA meeting. Passed.

McAteer gave the chair's report by Jo Schaffer, who was not present due to illness. The report included suggestions for a web page, state work force issues that affect retirees; an article to be written for *The Active Retiree* on survivor's benefits.

## Treasurer's Report—Maertz

Region reports were distributed.

Information for the next fiscal cycle 2018/2019 must be in by Feb. 19. A request will be mailed out by Feb. 5. The information is to be sent back to Tina George. Call the chapter retiree officers for their plans. They should communicate with their region's officer. Retiree meetings are paid for by COARM. Chap-



KAREN L. MATTISON PHOTOS

Above, statewide MDO Tom Hoey addresses COARM members, as Charlie McAteer of Stony Brook listens. McAteer was leading the meeting for COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, who was unable to attend the DA.



Left, Stacey Johnson of Buffalo Center and Ed Drummond of Stony Brook HSC listen to the discussion.

ters are responsible for anything done in conjunction with the chapter, and is a campus responsibility.

After Feb. 19, a budget will be prepared by the Finance Committee—Ed Drummond of Stony Brook HSC, McAteer, Maertz and Richard Tyler of Oneonta. Budget will have final approval at the 2018 Spring DA.

Chapters must check with the region representatives re: events. Spring events should be in now. If they were not approved, and they are before the DA, please send request for approval to Region Director to be submitted to Jo for electronic approval. Otherwise, please get information from chapter retiree officers re: this spring, post DA, or 2018/2019, for approval.

Motion to approve the treasurer's re-

port was moved by Russell and seconded by Magid. Passed.

## New business

- NYSUT ED52 is March 7 in Albany. If you plan to attend, apply for funding beforehand.

- Official retiree membership is now 5,064.

- Motion: Approve requests for meetings was made by Al Magid and seconded by Sandra Harper. Passed.

Meetings planned:

- Capital District: Albany 5/1, New Paltz (spring), Cobleskill. April.

- Central: Upstate, ESF, Morrisville, Oswego

- Southern Tier: Cortland, Binghamton, Oneonta/Delhi.

- Western NY: Alfred, Buffalo State,



Buffalo Center

- Metro: Downstate 2/16, Optometry, Brooklyn 2/20.
  - Long Island: Suffolk, Stony Brook Chapter meetings:
  - Albany semi-annual brunch, Cobleskill, New Paltz
  - Southern Tier: Oneonta/Delhi at Delhi, Cortland and Binghamton
  - Western: Fredonia
  - Long Island: Stony Brook, Farmingdale
  - North Country: Plattsburgh
- Participation via teleconferencing was discussed.

**Membership Report—MDO Tom Hoey**

- UUP hired Kristie Sammons as director of organizing.
  - On 2/24, there will be a protest against *Janus* in NYC. If you are a Metro member please join. UUP is developing strategy to keep and recruit members, should *Janus* pass.
  - On 2/26, there will be a bus to Washington. D.C. Check the UUP webpage for details.
  - Retirees are being asked to do district advocacy.
  - 2/13 is EOP/EOC Advocacy Day.
  - Pearl Brod retiree award: Applications must be submitted by email. The application can be found on the UUP website. Will be mailed to chapter officers. Henry Steck asked that they should be acknowledged with a receipt. One can self-nominate for this award.
  - VOTE-COPE: Extensive discussion, especially re: how to donate.
- Negotiations were discussed; retirees do not have access to member information re: negotiations.

Motion by Barbara Maertz, seconded by Sandy Harper: Ask Chair Jo Schaffer to ask UUP to create a COARM webpage from the main UUP website; COARM will be responsible for the content. Approved.

Schaffer and McAteer will attend the NYSUT ED 52 March 7.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.



Downstate Medical Center Chapter members Sandy Harper and Henry Flax focus on the issues being raised during the COARM meeting held during the 2018 Spring DA in Saratoga Springs.



Above, Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale, left, discusses the COARM budget, as Bob Kasprak of Optometry and Sandra Spier of Downstate Medical Center listen.



Right, Dave Curry of Plattsburgh and Greg Threatte of Upstate Medical University participate in the COARM meeting.

# Should we pay the staggering economic and human costs of nuclear weapons?

by Lawrence Wittner  
Albany

Last October, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reported that its estimate of the cost for the planned “modernization” the U.S. nuclear weapons complex over the next three decades has risen to \$1,200,000,000,000.00. For those of you not familiar with such lofty figures, that’s \$1.2 trillion. Furthermore, when adjusted for inflation, the cost of the program—designed to provide new weapons for nuclear warfare on land, in the sea, and in the air, plus upgraded or new facilities to produce them—grows to \$1.7 trillion.

That \$1.7 trillion could provide an awful lot of healthcare, education, housing, parks, public transportation, roads, public radio, clean water, child nutrition, disability benefits, Social Security, and other public services to improve the lives of Americans. But, of course, it won’t. Instead, this enormous economic burden of paying for nuclear weapons will fall heavily upon (or perhaps destroy) whatever is left of such programs after the current Republican administration and Congress finish gutting them through budget cuts.

Much the same incredibly costly nuclear “modernization” is happening today in the eight other nuclear-armed nations, where the welfare of their citizens is being sacrificed on the altar of national military “strength.”

Although, in each country, proponents of this nuclear weapons buildup contend that it makes their citizens safer, the reality is that these countries are arming against one another and, therefore, that their publics will become more endangered than ever.

Take the example of what ready access to nuclear weapons is doing to the rela-



Wittner

tions between the United States and North Korea. U.S. President Donald Trump certainly appears to believe that the United States is endangered by the advance of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, just as North Korea’s Kim Jong Un apparently

feels that North Korea is endangered by the U.S. government’s vastly superior nuclear forces. And their fears have some validity. Naturally, the apprehension felt by both men is exacerbated by the reckless threats of nuclear war each has leveled against the other’s country.

Indeed, as the U.S.-North Korean confrontation has heightened, fears have grown that the two nations might be drifting toward a nuclear war. Speaking recently at the University of Pennsylvania, retired U.S. Navy Admiral James Stavridis, a former allied commander of NATO, estimated that there was at least a 10 percent chance of nuclear war between them. Discussion of a U.S.-North Korean nuclear war has also grown among U.S. government officials. Meanwhile, worried members of Congress and the public have begun to rally behind legislation (the Markey-Lieu bill) that would prevent the U.S. President from

“Do we really need more?  
Or, conversely, wouldn’t the world  
be better off without them?”

— Lawrence Wittner  
Albany

initiating a nuclear first strike.

Even when nations are led by more rational officials, there are numerous ways that nuclear weapons can be unleashed with horrific consequences. For example, nuclear weapons might be drawn upon by nuclear-armed nations when a conventional war gradually escalates into a higher level of destructiveness. Or they might be resorted to by an increasingly desperate nuclear-armed nation when it is losing a conventional war. Or they might be fired in defense of a nation when an “enemy attack” is mistakenly reported. Or they might be accidentally launched or dropped. Or terrorists might steal or purchase them from a national arsenal and employ them in their next jihad.

Any of these scenarios would result in a catastrophe. A single nuclear weapon, it is estimated, can slaughter hundreds of thousands of people through its enormous blast, fire, and radioactive fallout. A study cited by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War contends that if only 300 of the weapons in the Russian nuclear arsenal were employed to attack U.S. cities, 90 million Americans would die in the first half hour. A comparable U.S. nuclear attack on Russia would produce similar devastation. Furthermore, the destruction of the entire economic, communications, and trans-



Wishnia

## Forever mobilized

**A**t the end of World War II and the defeat of fascism, the United States entered a period of optimism. The economy was booming, unions were strong, wages

were rising, and thanks to the G.I. Bill, education was expanding. I thought that if I and others fought for social justice, by the time I was old, we would be living in a country that was war free, non-racist and a center of social justice.

I was wrong.

We—I and thousands of brothers and sisters, hoping to defeat racism—joined the March on Washington and were thrilled to hear Martin Luther King Jr.. And indeed, in the following years, schools were desegregated, voting rights were expanded, Jim Crow laws abolished and finally, we had a black U.S. president.

But now, the voting laws have been weakened, and Obama's achievements destroyed. I and others went to Washington again and again to march against the Viet Nam war and militarism. And, indeed, the war ended.

But now, we are in an endless war in the mid-east, threatened with more war and with a military budget that is so large, food stamps and Medicare will be cut. I joined the feminist movement, marching to gain control over our bodies and to take our place in the economy. The result was *Roe v. Wade* and women becoming physicians, scientists and, yes, female professors.

But now, abortion rights are under attack, contraception not covered in many areas and although we have female Senators and even female university presidents, women are still paid less than men. I marched for improved health care and indeed, we got Medicare, Medicaid and the CHIP program.

But now, Medicare and Medicaid are being cut, millions are without health insurance and drug prices are through the roof. I became active in my union, fighting for the rights of our members. But now, unions are under attack. There are dozens of “right-to-work” states and the Janus case threatens our very existence. We fought for public higher education and indeed, state universities expanded and community colleges were founded in every state. But states have cutting their financial support of public colleges and students are drowning in debt.

Instead of a just society, we have an oligarchy that runs the government for the rich.

But I am optimistic. Millions of women marched and are still marching for our rights. The #MeToo movement has exposed sexual harassment. Scientists, warning of the danger of global warming, have mobilized. The Dreamers are in the streets and in congressional offices. Black Lives Matter has reached thousands and finally, candidates with the values we cherish are running for office, organizing to get out the vote in November 2018.

So yes, the country is not what I thought it would be. But we keep fighting and we will win. We have won many victories over the years and will do so again.

Go to rallies, support your union, and work for a November electoral victory.

portation infrastructure by these attacks would soon lead to the deaths of the vast majority of survivors by disease, exposure, and starvation. And today there are about 15,000 nuclear weapons in existence, with over 90 percent of them in the arsenals of the U.S. and Russian governments.

Do we really need more? Or, conversely, wouldn't the world be better off without them?

Actually, most countries are already mov-

ing down the road toward a nuclear weapons-free world. Last July, the official representatives of most of the world's nations, meeting in a UN-sponsored conclave, voted 122 to 1 (with 1 abstention) for an international treaty prohibiting countries from developing, testing, manufacturing, possessing, transferring or threatening to use nuclear weapons. However, the nine nuclear-armed nations boycotted the conference and are not among the countries

backing this Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons—at least not yet.

Given the staggering economic and human costs of nuclear weapons, isn't it time that the nuclear nations got on board?

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

# Report from 2017 Fall DA COARM meeting

by Loraine Tyler  
Oneonta

The following are draft minutes of the COARM meeting held during the union's 2017 Fall Delegate Assembly at The Desmond in Albany.

Present: Jo Schaffer, chair; Loraine Tyler, recorder and Southern District; Charles McAteer, Long Island; David Curry for Patty Bentley, North Country; William Borgstede, Central NY; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Sandra Harper, presidential appointee; Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey, officer liaison.

Also, Clifford DaVis, Nancy Ives, Joyce Haines, Mac Nelson, Lawrence Fuller, Frank Goldsmith, Jay Gilbert, Joy Bilharz, David Curry, Molly Casarella, Gary Casarella, Betty Shadrick, Horace Ivey, Abigail Robin, Carol Braund, Carole Torok, James Bearden, Henry Flax, Gwendolyn Veira, David Peckham, Cindy Fuller, John Nixon, Sandra Spier, Joy Bilharz, Derrick Decker, Richard Tyler, Glenn McNitt, Yvonne Thomas and Irene Stern.

Staff: Walter Apple

Schaffer called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. and welcomed all. District representatives were introduced. All members are now called Active Retiree Members.

Spring DA minutes—Borgstede moved and McAteer seconded that the minutes be approved as submitted. Carried.

## Chair's Report—Schaffer

- Schaffer explained the process of approval for electing Chapter Officer for Retirees. Officer for Retirees are UUP members and responsible to the chapter executive board. They should be well-respected, empowered, engaged.

- Apple did two pre-retirement workshops at this DA, which were well attended.

- The Active Retiree* needs authors. Regional representatives need to write



KAREN L. MATTISON PHOTOS

Above, COARM Chair Jo Schaffer addresses the committee. Seated beside her, from left, are Charlie McAteer of Stony Brook; Cliff DaVis of Cobleskill, Carole Torok of SUNY Polytechnic, and Carol Braund of Upstate Medical University.



Left, Gwen Viera of Buffalo State and Irene Stern of Stony Brook HSC participation the meeting.

articles regarding activity in their districts.

- Schaffer and Apple attend as many regional meetings as possible. Schaffer has been busy traveling to retiree events including NYSUT Retiree Council 52 and district meetings.

- As unionists, we are under attack. Project Veritas program funded by wealthy anti unionists. They try to trick unionists into making statements that can be used against unions.

- In-district advocacy is just as important as advocating in Albany. Retirees need to get involved.

- Check out the SUNY Retirees Service Corps website. Listed are services provided for retirees by campus. If your campus is not providing these benefits, take issue to chapter Executive Board.

**Treasurer's Report—Charles McAteer**

- Fund balance as of Aug. 31, 2017—\$396,828.81

Expenses covered for publishing *The Active Retiree*, retreats for new Retiree Officers, COARM elections, regional meetings, UNUM Life Insurance, postage, partial salary and benefits for Apple and Karen Mattison.

- Tyler and McAteer moved that the Treasurer's Report accepted as submitted.

- Approval of funding requests for COARM brunches. Moved and seconded the motion to fund district events.

Capital District—Betty Shadrick (for Alvin Magid). Two meetings are planned for October 2017 and May 2018 to be held at the University of Albany. Scope of regional meetings need to be enlarged to include more campuses and more locations. A meeting will be held in the spring in New Paltz.

**Long Island—McAteer:** A meeting for retirees from Stony Brook and Stony Brook HSC is planned for Oct. 23, 2017. Anticipated attendance is 120. A meeting for retirees from Farmingdale and Old Westbury is planned for Oct. 27 with approximately 40 retirees. The four officers for retirees from the Long Island colleges will be attending the NYSUT Long Island Retiree Conference at \$34 per attendee.

**North Country—Curry (Bentley):** An October meeting is planned for Plattsburgh. Proposed meeting in Potsdam and/or Canton is also planned. The focus of both meetings is the ConCon.

**Western NY—Johnson:** Mid November meeting planned for three areas: Buffalo/Fredonia, Brockport and Geneseo/Alfred.

**Central NY—Borgstede:** Three meetings will be held before Election Day. The focus will be ConCon.

**Metropolitan—Russell:** Sept. 19 meeting in Manhattan. Nine people attended. VP Jamie Dangler was the presenter. A winter meeting is planned for Metro and Long Island with an estimated 20 attendees. In November/December a Downstate regional meeting (Metro/Purchase) featuring a speaker on radicalism in the 1960s and 1970s. A SUNY Maritime meeting will be held when the Empire State Ship returns.

**Southern Tier—Tyler:** On Nov. 2, a meeting will be held on the Delhi campus for Oneonta/Delhi retirees. The topic will be Facebook. On Nov. 3, a meeting will be held in Cortland. The topic is Gathering Mushrooms. In December, Bingham-

ton University retirees will meet on campus. The topic is climate change. ConCon will be featured at all meetings. Forty retirees are anticipated at each meeting.

Schaffer requested funds to hold a meeting for retirees living in Florida in the spring.

Regional Reports/Meeting requests. All meetings must be approved prior to the event. Use form provided in the packet. L. Tyler moved and McAteer seconded the motion to approve meeting expenditure requests. Passed.

**New Business**

- We now have 5,211 retiree members. An email list can be divided by region or chapter. All messages must go through Schaffer and Apple to keep control of the number of messages sent. We are now counted in the UUP membership count.

- UUP webpage for Retirees—McAteer

Resolution: Be it resolved that COARM requests the UUP president direct UUP Communications to develop a webpage for COARM. Passed.

- Resolution proposing a UUP/COARM response team—Eric Russell

Schaffer will forward the resolution to Hoey to take to the Executive Board.

- State constitutional convention—League of Women’s Voters and the New York Bar Association support a ConCon. Leaflet is somewhat one-sided. Put emphasis on issues rather than pension



Top, Loraine Tyler of Oneonta helps Dave Curry of Plattsburgh.

Above, Joyce Haines of Empire State and Nancy Ives of Geneseo review materials.

protection. Cost is estimated at more than \$100 million. Once the constitution is opened, everything in it is up for grabs.

Next year is UUP’s 45th anniversary. The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

## Rally for respect

COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, second from right, stands in solidarity with Cortland Chapter members fighting for a fair contract. Joining her are Active Retiree Henry Steck, second from left, and UUP statewide VOTE-COPE Coordinator Jen Drake.

DAVE RITCHIE

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Visit [nysutmbc.purchasingpower.com](http://nysutmbc.purchasingpower.com) or call **800-537-3135** to learn more.



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## UUP rallies in DC to protest *Janus*

**U**UP members and SUNY students joined hundreds of other unionists Monday morning, Feb. 26, in front of the U.S.

Supreme Court, as attorneys inside argued one of the most important cases in the history of the American labor movement.

That case is *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, which started in Illinois, but now endangers public-sector unions throughout the U.S. by threatening to overturn the “fair share” fee system.

More than 1,000 unionists were at the rally, representing a wide array of professionals from across the country. Labor's numbers dwarfed those of the pro-*Janus* supporters, who numbered around 100.

UUP members, who volunteered for the overnight bus ride so that they could claim sidewalk space at dawn in front of the Supreme Court building, said the historic event was too important to miss.

“This one seems very, very straightforward to me,” said Bret Benjamin, a member of the UUP Negotiations Team and a past Albany Chapter president. “Under the guise of free speech, to diminish unions.”

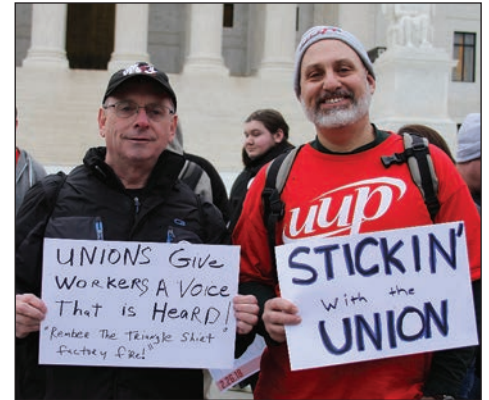


KAREN L. MATTISON



MIKE LISI

Pictured, clockwise, from top: UUPers, students and nearly 1,000 other union backers rallied outside the U.S. Supreme Court building Feb. 26 in Washington, D.C.; MDO Tom Hoey, left, and Albany Chapter delegate Bret Benjamin show off their signs; and UUP President Fred Kowal and VPP Tom Tucker fire up the crowd.



KAREN L. MATTISON

## *Janus*

(continued from page 1)

influence. The combination of a drop-in membership AND in non-members paying agency fees will result in a massive drop in union fundraising. While state governments try to pass RTW laws, right-wing and other anti-union groups use courts to back up their general anti-union politics and propaganda.

### ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES

Public sector unions in well-organized states like NY have helped their RTW brothers and sisters in resisting bad legislation, funded active retired member organizations, supported progressive causes and candidates around the country and helped organize poorer areas. Those days will be over if *Janus* prevails. Quite sim-

ply, there will be no money for anything more than survival. Labor unions have been the muscle behind worker safety, health and benefits and other reforms...which by the way, have benefited ALL WORKERS! That safeguard will end. Protections for social safety nets, the fight to address income inequality, raise the minimum wage...will no longer have the funding to continue. The trend away from worker strength toward the consolidation of power in the hands of a few wealthy individuals is virtually assured as is Neil Gorsuch being the most likely to deal the biggest blow to the power of labor in our lifetime.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE

A fighting labor movement could prevent the Supreme Court from ruling in favor of the *Janus* lawsuit. Mass move-

ments in the past have forced conservative courts to back down from right-wing positions or even let some progressive rulings go through. Labor needs to form strong coalitions, take a proactive, visible, social justice approach to defeating *Janus* and re-energizing the labor movement. It's not too late for unions to help link social justice struggles with demands like a nationwide \$15 an hour minimum wage, Medicare for All, and free public education, to a mass movement to stop *Janus* and the “Right to Work” assault against workers. Yes, we need to EDUCATE, MOTIVATE & ACTIVATE!

(Felicia Bruce is vice president of NYSUT Retiree Council 43/TRIF—Teacher Retirees in Florida. This was published in the TRIF's Winter 2017 newsletter ODDS 'n' ENDS.)

# 2018 Pearl H. Brod Outstanding Retiree Award



**I. Eligibility:** Any active UUP retiree who has rendered outstanding volunteer service to his/her community and has provided exemplary service to UUP and to SUNY *after* retirement is eligible to be nominated. (A candidate may qualify if outstanding in all or any combination of the criteria listed.)

**DEADLINE: April 16, 2018**

Applications will only be accepted via email.

**II. Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

UUP Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Year retired from SUNY \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Nominee Activities** (If additional space is needed, use attached sheet.)

A. Service to Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Service to UUP: \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Service to SUNY: \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D. Other Accomplishments (i.e., continual professional accomplishments) \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Name of Nominator** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Endorsements**

- A. One or more letters attesting to the candidate's accomplishments since retirement from SUNY.
- B. Letters from leaders of organizations served, describing scope and quality of volunteer service to the community, UUP and/or SUNY.

*The award will be presented during the 2018 Fall Delegate Assembly.*

Applications will only be accepted via email. Email completed nomination form, including letters of endorsement, to:

**UUP Retiree Services Coordinator  
Walter Apple at [wapple@uupmail.org](mailto:wapple@uupmail.org)**

**DEADLINE: April 16, 2018**



# Gov. Dewey's choice: SUNY or the U.S. presidency

by Daniel Scott Marrone  
Farmingdale

From Jan. 1, 1943, until Dec. 31, 1954, Thomas Edmund Dewey served as governor of New York state. Dewey ran for the U.S. presidency facing widely popular Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. Four years later, he again entered the race for the presidency—this time against Harry S. Truman. Though “Give ‘em Hell Harry” was polling very poorly during early fall 1948, the former Democratic senator from Missouri, now the incumbent U.S. president, benefitted from the lingering goodwill engendered by multi-termed FDR and his New Deal policies.

Dewey fully realized that Truman would garner nearly the entire Democratic vote in the 1948 presidential election. Dewey had to rely for essentially all of his support on GOP-leaning voters. At that time and for many years hence, the GOP electorate was split into conservative and liberal (also known as “Eastern Establishment”) voting blocs. Dewey strove to appeal to both blocs. However, conservatives such as Senator Robert A. Taft from Ohio, a former rival for the GOP nomination, drove Dewey into a political corner. If Dewey favored government funding for higher education, Taft and the conservative GOP bloc would abandon the New York governor in the 1948 election. This is precisely what occurred. Without conservative votes, Dewey ultimately lost the 1948 election.

Though aching to be president, Dewey refused to abandon his deep-seated ethical

standards. By authorizing and funding the State University of New York, he chose the progressive path for “open access” to higher education in the Empire State. Dewey never became president. What he did help commence, however, was a higher education system that towers in importance. Enrollment at SUNY's 64



Marrone

campuses has generally been robust. For more than a decade it has skyrocketed. Based on 2015-2016 academic year data, the 64-campus SUNY system served nearly 1.3 million students!

Dewey had another monumental achievement as NY governor. Beginning in 1946, Dewey annually petitioned the U.S. Congress for funding to build a statewide highway system. After four years of political maneuvering and arm-twisting Dewey prevailed. In 1950, the Empire State began receiving sizable federal funding to build its highways. The state's highway system clearly demonstrated where Federal funding for road construction and standardization could dramatically improve vehicular transportation.

On June 29, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a long-time supporter for improving and expanding road systems,

signed into law the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act. The nation's interstates are easily—and proudly—identified with “red, white, and blue shields”. In honoring Dewey's tireless advocacy in creating the interstate system, the New York State portion was in 1964 officially named “The Gov. Thomas E. Dewey Thruway.”

“What (Gov. Dewey) did help commence was a higher education system that towers in importance.”

— Daniel Scott Marrone  
Farmingdale

Today, the Thruway encompasses 496 miles of highways that link New York City, Albany, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo, with neighboring states and Canada.

Passing away on March 16, 1971, eight days before he reached 69 years of age, Dewey has left a legacy of virtue and incorruptible public service. For his role in fighting crime and corruption, the New York City Bar Association names its highest award: “The Thomas E. Dewey Medal.” For establishing SUNY and the Thruway, Dewey was a prescient and noble American.

*(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!



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# Immortality

by Mac Nelson  
Fredonia

Most of us would like to be immortal, whatever we might mean by that. History gives examples of wise people who come to know better, and regard the end of life as a blessing. The mythic Greek Tithonus was one such. He asked for and was granted immortality, but failed to ask for eternal youth, so he is doomed to be always with the eternally young and beautiful goddess of the dawn, and always to become older and more decrepit.

As Tennyson wrote,

*The woods decay, the woods decay  
and fall ...*

*And after many a summer dies the  
swan ...*

*Me only cruel immortality  
Consumes ...*

Immortality can be cruel; yet we still yearn for it.

Political leaders may disrupt the world so greatly, cause so much havoc, that they will not be forgotten. But few of us would want Hitler's immortality, or Attila the Hun's. Those who bring children into the world may hope that their seed will flourish after they die. Artists may achieve some form of it through their work, though that's not quite the same thing as personal immortality.

I once learned of another kind. One winter evening in the tiny village of Bemerton in Wiltshire, England, I stopped in the little Anglican Church of St. Andrew's. My traveling partner and I had just had tea with the ladies of the magnificent Salisbury cathedral and, sitting with them, listened to the choir sing Even-song. After such cathedral glories, the tiny church was old, dark, unimpressive, and undistinguished, except for one thing: from 1630 to 1633, its rector had been one of the most interesting and talented men of his time: George Herbert.

After a busy career of high-level governmental activity at a crucial time in the

history of England, Herbert left the great world, was ordained as a minister, and was assigned to this out-of-the-way place. Shortly thereafter, he died of "consumption," probably tuberculosis, at the age of 39.

After only three years in Bemerton, he left behind him a glowing reputation among his parishioners for charity, holiness, and saintly service, and also left a manuscript of his poems. At his death he sent this to a friend, Nicholas Ferrar, the leader of a quasi-monastic community nearby. He asked Ferrar to read it, and publish it if he thought it might "turn to the advantage of any dejected poor soul." If he thought not, would he please burn it. Shortly after his death, it was published as *The Temple*.

I cannot in this brief essay do justice to his poetry. One short example must serve:

*I LOVE (III)*

*Love bade me welcome: yet my soul  
drew back.*

*Guilty of dust and sin.*

*But quick-eyed Love, observing me  
grow slack*

*From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lacked anything.*

*"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be  
here."*

*Love said, "You shall be he."*

*"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on thee."*

*Love took my hand, and smiling did  
reply,*

*"Who made the eyes but I?"*

*"Truth, Lord, but I have marred them;  
let my shame*

*Go where it doth deserve."*

*"And know you not," says Love, "who  
bore the blame?"*

*"My dear, then I will serve."*

*"You must sit down," says Love, "and*

*taste my meat."*

*So I did sit and eat.*

In "Love," the speaker is a pilgrim, a traveler on a hard road, and he knows himself to be "guilty of dust and sin." He comes upon an inn, and the innkeeper—"Quick-eyed Love," Jesus—asks him to come in and rest, and have a meal. The traveler backs off, feeling unworthy. The innkeeper overcomes the traveler's guilt, saying:

*"You must sit down," says  
Love, "and taste my meat. "  
So I did sit and eat."*

"My meat" is Christ's body, as in The Lord's Supper. In sixteen one-syllable words, Herbert states simply and sweetly the vast ideas of communion, redemption and salvation.

OK, certainly poetic immortality. But there's more. As we stood outside the dark church, a man in his middle years approached us and asked if we would like to go into the church. Absolutely, we said: We love Herbert's poetry, and we knew he had preached there and was buried there. The man said that he was the current rector of the church, "one of George's successors." "George??" So familiar? Oh, yes. He told us he had been a policeman, and when he retired, he took orders to fulfill a long-time desire to do church work. "Just like George!" we said, and he smiled and agreed. As we talked with him, and walked about the little church, it became apparent that, at least for him, and probably for the other parishioners, "George" was still around, a saintly, intimate friend and role model. Perhaps something like the innkeeper in "Love."

A short but beautiful life has led to four centuries of living presence in Bemerton. I'd settle for that. I think George would, too.

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



Nelson



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