

## 'Retiree Council'

### *UUP Executive Board sends proposal back to task force*

By Judy Wishnia  
SUNY Stony Brook

**O**n Dec. 1, the statewide UUP Executive Board voted to refer a proposal to create a Retiree Council back to the Task Force on Retiree Issues. The board has asked the task force to carefully articulate the problems its recommendations will solve.

The task force proposal was designed to organize the union's 2,900-plus retirees so that UUP and SUNY benefit from retirees' experience, expertise and advocacy, while at the same time encouraging new leadership to develop at the chapters.

Last year, it was proposed that retirees form a separate chapter with representation at the Delegate Assembly (DA). That concept was presented to delegates to the Winter DA. While there was a good deal of support for the idea of a separate chapter, some chapters argued that they needed their retirees in order to field a full delega-

**Send your comments  
to Judy Wishnia  
at 3 Quincy Court,  
Setauket, N.Y. 11733**

tion. Rather than encourage a divisive situation, it was decided to table the chapter proposal.

UUP President Bill Scheuerman then created a task force with the charge of reaching a compromise that would allow retirees to have a viable organization, while still recognizing chapter needs.

In the fall, the Potsdam chapter submitted a proposal to create an all-retiree member council with an executive board similar in number to the COARM committee. The proposal would have allowed retirees to serve as delegates and officers at their home chapters. The delegates sent that proposal to the task force as well.

The task force met several times and, after consideration of all views, agreed on the following proposals:

- Retirees would be part of a Retiree Council with an executive board consisting of two officers (president and financial officer), seven regional representatives and

14 at-large representatives from any of the seven geographic regions. Regional and campus meetings of retirees would continue to meet as they have in the past.

- The 23 representatives would be seated as delegates to UUP Delegate Assemblies.

- Retirees would be restricted from being elected to the offices of president or vice president at the local chapters. Current positions would be held until the next election.

- Chapter delegates should be active members. Retirees who are elected and are not members of the Retiree Council would see **TASK FORCE**, page 11

### **COARM meets at Fall DA**

From right, COARM members Horace Ivey of Upstate Medical, Frank Erk of SUNY Stony Brook and Barbara Silverstone of Upstate discuss a number of issues during a daylong meeting at the recent Fall Delegate Assembly in Rochester. In addition to hearing RELAG, regional and financial reports, COARM members discussed retiree benefits, election changes and retiree perks. Meanwhile, DA delegates passed a resolution calling on SUNY to grant emeritus status to academics and professionals. Full story on page 9.



KAREN L. MATTISON

## The Active Retiree

### UUP Officers

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

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

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## Life as I see it ...

# The heart of UUP

By Henry F. Geerken  
 SUNY Cobleskill

I never knew what a union was all about until our daughter Katie was born. Diane was on the Executive Board at the time and I was a chapter officer. When people found out that Katie has Down Syndrome, that's when our lives began.

All of a sudden Katie had thousands of aunts and uncles. She attended her first Executive Board meeting at 6 weeks old and stole the show. We went from Henry and Diane Geerken to Katie's mom and dad — we lost our identities.

At that time, the outpouring of prayers, thoughts, concerns and advice — this overwhelming concern and love — was a very emotional high for us. I suddenly realized that a union is not just getting greater salaries or better terms and conditions of employment, but it was about people caring for each other. That's the real heart of UUP.

Since that time, many Delegate Assemblies have come and gone. Leadership roles have changed and there are many new faces (as it should be in the natural progression of life). Some hair got grayer,



Geerken

some of us got fatter, and other interests started to take over our lives.

Then, my health changed. I went from never having a pain to suddenly finding out that I needed five-artery bypass surgery. It was quite a shock to me and my family.

At the end of a nine-and-a-half hour surgery, the word started coming in. My union brothers and sisters

started by sending cards and e-mails to support Diane and Katie. And I know your prayers were with me because friends who were at the hospital said my surgeon was brilliant and awesome.

I sit here recovering nicely, but still very emotional. I am looking at a massive pile of cards and e-mail messages from so many of you that there is no way I could ever individually say thank you enough or express my love to each and every one of you. I have messages from people I haven't seen in 10 years, but they remembered me.

What can I say? How can I tell you how I feel? Each of you will always be a part of me and I hope that I will always be a part of you.

Love never dies.

## In memoriam

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

Edgar Barton, Plattsburgh  
 Marvin Bloom, SUNY Buffalo  
 Leroy Callahan, SUNY Buffalo  
 Salvatore Cudia, Fredonia  
 Bernard Defrin, Farmingdale  
 Stephen Dellaquilla, Brockport  
 Ellen Gangarosa, Brockport  
 Virginia Gigantelli, Upstate Medical  
 J. Gordon Hall, SUNY Buffalo  
 Joseph Harkin, Brockport  
 Ross Hudson, Canton  
 Stuart Lamb, Cobleskill  
 Joseph Leese, Albany  
 Rachel Li Mandri, Brooklyn HSC  
 Eugene P. Link, Plattsburgh  
 Susan Losee, Albany  
 Truman Lunn, Alfred  
 Enid Margolis, SUNY Buffalo  
 June McCartney, Buffalo State

Thomas Povlock, Oneonta  
 Edward Ritter, Genesee  
 Thomas Rogers, Canton  
 Alois Rohr, Maritime  
 Eugene Rozycki, Fredonia  
 Donald Savage, Buffalo State  
 James Schaffner, Alfred  
 W. Roy Slaunwhite, Buffalo HSC  
 Martin Spencer, Oneonta  
 Mary Ellen State, SUNY Buffalo  
 Edward Stephany, Brockport  
 Margaret Stewart, Albany  
 Richard Teevan, Albany  
 George Waddington, Oneonta  
 Elizabeth Ward, Stony Brook  
 George Wexler, New Paltz  
 Charles Wilson, Cortland  
 Gerald Wolf, Brooklyn HSC

*From the COARM chair*

# Politics rule!

Occasionally I hear members ask why we stress politics so much. After all, we are retired: time to relax, play golf, visit grandchildren. Why worry about politics?

It is true that retirement does offer leisure time to do many interesting things, but it is also true that “politics” affects all of us every day. And, for seniors, good “politics” allows us to have the health and financial security to enjoy that leisure.

The recent election is a good example of how important it is to be politically aware and active. A heartfelt thanks to those of you who worked on campaigns and to those who voted. While many people voted for Democrats because of the failed Iraq war and disillusionment with President Bush, the election results should affect much-needed domestic legislation that is important to all our citizens and, of course, seniors.

We can now hope that privatization of Social Security will finally be a dead issue, although President Bush may still try to

change the system with some sort of “compromise.” Indeed, while Social Security is expected to be solvent for the next 30 years or so, it does have to be made more financially stable. One way to do that is to raise the cap after which contributors no longer have to pay. It is time for the wealthiest citizens — who benefited so much from the tax cuts — to contribute their full share to the Social Security fund. We must also make sure that Social Security funds are not “borrowed” to create private accounts or to pay off our huge national debt. And certainly, there must be no privatization.

Medicare reform must also be addressed. Although most UUP retirees are not involved in the Part D prescription plan, many of our friends and neighbors are currently struggling with decisions or with the disastrous “doughnut hole.” We must make sure that Medicare is allowed to negotiate for lower drug prices, as do other federal agencies. Even more desirable would be to take prescription

drug coverage out of private hands completely and turn it over to the more efficient and less costly Medicare system. The “doughnut hole” must also be fixed so that seniors who reach that level (given the cost of drugs, this happens very quickly) do not have to pay the full price for their drugs.

Democrats have declared that they are planning to address these issues with legislation but, frankly, we should be going beyond Part D. The Medicare Reform Act includes a gradual privatization of the system as more and more money will be going to private HMOs.

And then there is the new means test for Part B. Starting Jan. 1, Medicare recipients whose income is higher than \$80,000 for a single person and \$160,000 for a couple (based on gross income before taxes and deductions) will be paying more. This negates the founding principle of Medicare: health coverage as a right for all. So, Congress must address the entire Medicare system, keep it



**Wishnia**

solvent and out of private hands. If we were really dreaming of real reform, it would be wonderful to expand Medicare to include long-term care and, of course, to have single-payer universal health care for all.

For active workers, the new Congressional leadership plans to raise the minimum wage. I would also hope that attacks on labor unions, such as the recent Kentucky River decision, will be rescinded and that funds for education, including Pell grants, will be increased. Politics rule!

*Judith Wishnia*

## Briefly

### Public sector unions score Medicare Part B victory

When Medicare was first introduced, New York state agreed to pay for member contributions to Part B for its employees. Those of us who are retired now receive a quarterly check refunding what we pay into Part B.

Recently, the state attempted to negate that agreement. The case was argued Oct. 19 before the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, Third Judicial Department, by lawyers for the public sector unions. UUP was represented by Robert Reilly of the NYSUT legal staff.

On Nov. 22, the court handed down its decision: The state must continue its agreement with the unions. The decision states in

part: “Based on the plain language of the Civil Service Law legislative history of Civil Service Law 11 and respondents’ (the State of New York) correct long-standing interpretation of that statutory scheme, respondents’ new interpretation is arbitrary, capricious and contrary to law. Therefore, petitioners (UUP, Et al) were entitled to a judgment annulling that interpretation.”

Kudos to UUP for an important victory for active members and retirees.

### What are you up to?

We want all you Active Retirees out there to tell us what you’re up to and what you’re working on.

Send us an article — or just a blurb, if time is short — so we can share your sto-

ries with other Active Retirees.

Send your information or article to: COARM Chair Judith Wishnia at [jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu) or to 3 Quincy Court, Setauket, N.Y. 11733.

### Long-term care issues remain a concern for union retirees

Many older people face the problem of how to receive the needed care that families are unable to provide. Nursing homes are expensive and can wipe out a lifetime of savings. Medicaid is available for those who have little or no assets, but that can leave healthy spouses with financial problems.

One possible solution is long-term care insurance. Two plans are recommended for see **BRIEFLY**, page 11

# Regional meetings

## Western New York

By Pat Baker  
Secretary

**N**early 60 UUP retirees and guests enjoyed two excellent presentations at the Western NY retirees semi-annual meeting, held in Batavia Oct. 24.

First, COARM Western NY Regional Chair Bill Rock of SUNY Brockport conducted a brief business meeting consisting of discussion centered primarily on the new dental and vision insurance programs and future programs/meetings. About half of the group is participating at this time.

The morning's speaker, New York State Canal System Director Carmela Mantello, eloquently made the case for the state canal system's continuation and improvement. She emphasized its potential as a major Empire State resource. Participants were treated to a comprehensive handout from a PowerPoint presentation about the canal system.

In 1992, the canal system (including four major canals: Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca and Oswego) came under the control of the Thruway Authority in order to secure funding to halt the physical disintegration of the canals. While many physical improvements have occurred during the last 15 years, the focus has been on the canal as a transportation system, with limited concern for the promotion of the system's potential uses for recreation and tourism. Since Mantello assumed the position of director about a year ago, there has been an increased emphasis on using the canal system in multiple ways, such as helping the local economies through promotion of recreational opportunities and tourism. Numerous initiatives are under way, including one that uses the canal system to help create an Empire State Greenway.

Mantello has applied knowledge and experience gained from her prior position as the head of the Hudson River Greenway to help further the concept of a statewide greenway system by connecting many existing projects to promote growth of the various areas through a system of grants and gifts. It appears that new and enthusiastic leadership has invigorated the canal system to the extent that its potential will be better utilized.



PAT BAKER

From left are: COARM Western New York Regional Chair Bill Rock, New York State Canal System Director Carmela Mantello, New York State Canal System Deputy Director Richard Harris, and NYSUT Regional Coordinator for Financial Services John Aguglia.

(However, since virtually all of the system's funding comes from Thruway revenues, the thought of possible Thruway toll removal is viewed with considerable uneasiness.)

On a positive note, future utilization of this state resource is a potential major engine for generating increased economic, recreational and community growth. Envisioned is a system that, when fully utilized, will see each canal-side community part of an entity devoted to promoting the canal system's possibilities, according to Mantello. The creative ideas and enthusiasm displayed bode well for the system's future.

During the afternoon session, NYSUT Regional Coordinator for Financial Services John Aguglia presented copious amounts of invaluable information about identify theft and its ramifications.

Aguglia began with a quiz regarding knowledge and habits related to preventing identify theft — most participants would have done much better if they had taken the quiz *after* his presentation.

A lively session ensued, with a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation, handouts, and numerous questions. It became

evident that even well-educated and alert people can do much more to protect themselves if they want to foil persons bent on stealing identities.

According to Aguglia, identify theft is an increasingly frequent and very grave problem, whereby individuals find their financial and personal data highjacked by larcenous and clever thieves willing to take advantage of the unwary. For example, Internet "plishing" is used to attract individuals to a familiar — but counterfeit — Web site, where they answer personal/financial questions because they believe they are at a secure site. (Secure sites have a closed padlock on the edges of the screen.)

Telephone scammers phone and announce the winning of a prize, but require personal data to award it; a bank or other institution may request validation of account information. Even the mailbox is a danger spot, especially if the red flag is raised, signaling the mail carrier that there is outgoing mail. Secure mailboxes are a must — as is ownership of a cross-cut paper shredder. The latter is needed to foil dumpster divers and others

see WESTERN NY, page 11

# Southern Tier

By Jo Schaffer  
SUNY Cortland

**C**OARM Southern Tier Regional Chair Jo Schaffer reports that on Sunday, Nov. 5, UUP's Southern Tier — in conjunction with the office of the SUNY Cortland president — held a luncheon meeting. Seventy-eight guests were present.

After a brief report on the state of the college, Schaffer had her turn in urging the attendees to vote their self-interest and long-term concern in things educational by protecting state pensions, the sanctity of Social Security, the integrity of health insurance and the restoration of Pell Grants,

among other current issues.

A current member of the Exercise Science and Sports Studies Department, Jim Hokanson gave a presentation on his research into “geriatric” fitness, which he illustrated with a series of positive and negative exercises for continuing fitness during the winter months. This was helpful for retirees who stay in the north or those who are heading south.

There will be a Southern Tier regional meeting in mid-spring, when the snows have melted and there is an updated membership list.

Schaffer would appreciate any suggestions and ideas for a convenient meeting

place (not the new rest area on I-81) located between Delhi, Binghamton and Cortland, perhaps for lunch or an early dinner. Also, send her your ideas on topics of interest to discuss during the meeting.

Schaffer will be involved in helping organize a Southern Tier Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) with the regional NYSUT/NEA retirees and other Southern Tier unions.

Meanwhile, Schaffer continues to attend ARA meetings held monthly in Syracuse. If there are Syracuse-area retirees — from Oswego to Utica — who are interested in participating in regional ARA meetings, contact Schaffer for dates, times and places.

# North Country update

By Ed Alfonsin  
SUNY Potsdam

**T**hanks to those who responded to the invitation to a retiree luncheon in Lake Placid in October.

Disappointingly, the response was much too low to justify holding the session, but I'd like to thank those who wanted to be there or who took the time to respond that they had other obligations.

Rescheduling for spring is a possibility. The program would be open for whatever speakers or topics our members would like to have covered. In addition, I can ask for an invitation to North Country chapter meetings if retirees would prefer that. Any thoughts can be sent to me at 141 Ames Road, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676, at ealfonsin@uupmail.org or at ed@northnet.org.

While I had looked forward to the luncheon, other events in October that were not officially activities of COARM come to mind when I think about what it means to be a retired member of UUP and a member of COARM.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, I traveled to the Plattsburgh campus with Dorothy Codkind, a Potsdam retiree and a founder of UUP, for a memorial gathering for Eugene and Beulah Link. The ceremony was prepared by UUPers Doug Skopp and Patty Bentley of the Plattsburgh chapter. Other retired UUPers present were former

UUP statewide President Nuala Drescher (representing President Bill Scheuerman), former Vice President Fred Miller, as well as Plattsburgh members.

Gene was a founder of UUP both on the Plattsburgh campus and the state level. Among my most cherished memories is the opportunity I had to be an officer with him and to learn from him when he was UUP's membership development officer and I was serving as statewide secretary.

The “gathering” was truly a celebration of the lives of Gene and Beulah. As most UUP retirees know, Gene died this April at age 98;

Beulah died four years earlier, in November 2002. For us in UUP, Gene's vision of the role of retirees was of great import: We should not forget that for a good 25 years, Gene's concern and his name for our visible structure — the Committee on Active Retired Membership — have endured. (These thoughts were excerpted from a lengthier note about the gathering that I sent to the UUP retiree e-serv list. If anyone would like a copy, please drop a note.)

Also in October, while in Buffalo, I had the pleasure of having dinner with UUP's

second president, Samuel Wakshull, and his wife, Evelyn Hartman Wakshull, UUP's executive director in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Both were among my most important mentors about collective bargaining, unions, affiliations and UUP. Jo Wise, a retiree from SUNY Buffalo who was chair of UUP's retiree organization at the start and a director on the NYSUT board, joined us for a wonderful evening with a nice balance between memories of UUP's early days and looking at how UUP has evolved. Evelyn and Sam, both in very good health and as forceful as ever in their conversation, spend several months each year in Spain; I was fortunate that they were still in Buffalo, albeit cleaning up after the big snowfall.

At the last Delegate Assembly, a proposal from the Potsdam chapter that would have created a new UUP Retiree Council was referred to a task force, set up by the UUP Executive Board, to study and make recommendations regarding retiree structures and roles in UUP. I'd urge everyone to read at least the rationale for any proposals and to communicate your thoughts either to me or to your chapter delegates. COARM had endorsed the Potsdam proposal, by the way, at its meeting during the DA.

While COARM is mostly regional in see **NORTH COUNTRY**, page 11



GENE LINK

# Summary of RELAG meeting minutes

By Harvey Inventasch  
SUNY Cortland

The co-chairs welcomed the returning members of the committee and introduced the new ones.

Minutes were adopted as presented.

Recent history of the committee was reviewed for the new members and those who may have missed the spring meeting of the committee and its record of advocacy in Albany and in the regions.

Discussion ensued concerning suggestions for advocacy during the coming year. There was strong support for health care:

- Especially to reduce costs to retirees who have no children and are paying for family coverage.
- Legislation to prevent, permanently, the diminution of health benefits instead of the annual bill that has been required.

Discussion continued about a recent AP article concerning the potential bankruptcy of state and local governments having incurred liability for pension and health benefits into the future.

(SUNY Outreach Committee Chair Glenn McNitt indicated that the game plan was to oppose reductions that may be proposed.) There was

great concern that the new state administration will consist of “new” players with whom UUP has no relationship and, for that reason, it would be a while before we can have the influence we must have.

- ORP COLA must be included in our proposed legislation again.
- Three percent contribution be eliminated for ORP members.

The co-chairs urged the committee to make every effort to attend the regional training sessions for advocacy led by McNitt. The first one has been announced for Woodbury. Check with UUP for time and location. Others will be announced soon. Try to get as many retirees to attend

as practicable. Statewide Membership Development Officer Ed Quinn suggested that RELAG work more closely with NYSUT through the SUNY Outreach Committee.

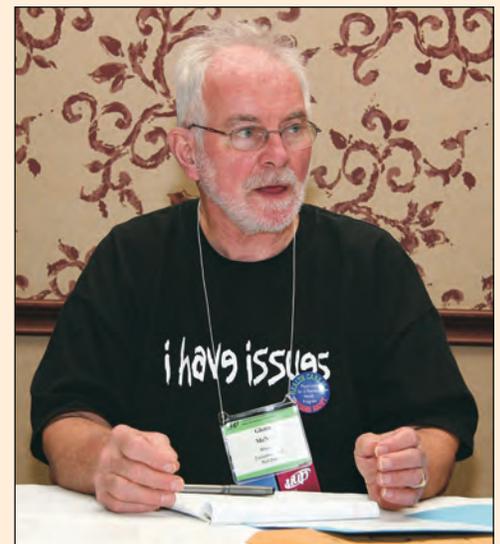
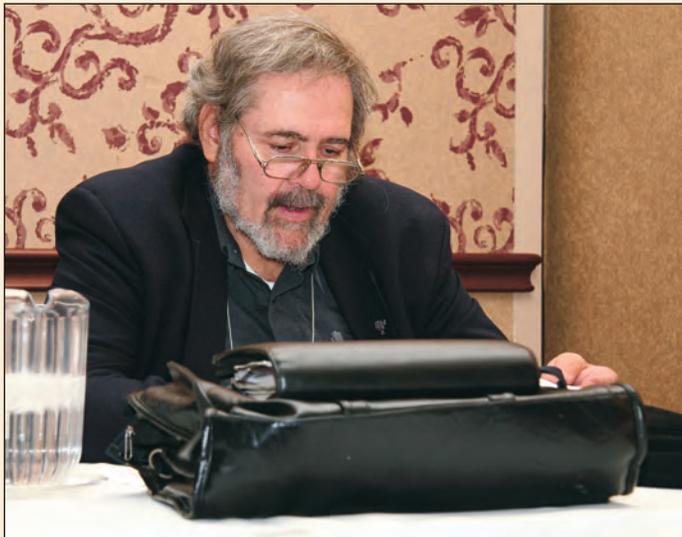
Lamendola has been appointed to the SUNY Outreach Committee. It appears that Richert will soon be appointed. They will serve as RELAG liaisons and report in writing at our next meeting concerning their activities in this regard.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the state of New York in the matter of Section 167-a of the Civil Service Law relating to the percentage the state paid to reimburse dependents for their Medicare

Above, RELAG Co-chairs Jack Richert, left, and Harvey Inventasch discuss legislative issues of concern to retirees.

Left, retiree Eric Russell of Brooklyn HSC looks over the meeting agenda.

Below, SUNY Outreach Committee Chair Glenn McNitt talks with RELAG members about the union’s legislative agenda.



Part B premiums to abrogate this practice needs to be addressed. UUP, via NYSUT, has filed an appeal. (See related story, page 3.)



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## United University Professions

December 4, 2006

Dear UUP Member:

We are writing to advise you of changes to the UUP procedures for electing delegates to the 2008 and 2009 NYSUT and 2008 AFT conventions.

We have been advised by legal counsel that since NYSUT and AFT include locals from private institutions, **election procedures for convention delegates must meet the standards of the Landrum-Griffin statute**. As a general proposition, delegates from a local are to be nominated and elected at-large by the Inservice members of the local. UUP's constitution defines Inservice members as Regular members.

Therefore, UUP's procedures for electing delegates to the NYSUT and AFT conventions now require that 1) only Regular members nominate and elect UUP delegates to these conventions; and 2) delegates be elected at-large.

**Retired members of UUP may be nominated, elected and serve as UUP delegates to the conventions, but may not nominate candidates or vote in the election. All nominators must be Regular members of UUP.**

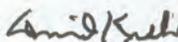
Also, since these delegates must be nominated and elected at-large from the local (UUP is local 2190 of the AFT) our election procedures no longer provide for Chapter Representative delegates.

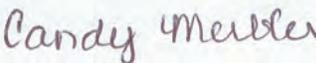
Please remember these changes as you follow our new procedures in the NYSUT and AFT affiliate elections.

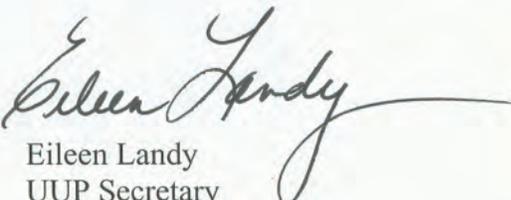
Our Chapter and Retiree elections are internal and these election procedures remain unchanged.

If you have any questions, please contact Eileen Landy at [elandy@uupmail.org](mailto:elandy@uupmail.org) or 1-800-342-4206.

In Solidarity,

  
David Kreh  
Co-Chairs, Elections and Credentials Committee

  
Candy Merbler

  
Eileen Landy  
UUP Secretary

# 2007 Outstanding UUP Active 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 15, 2007**

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

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

UUP Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Years of retirement from SUNY \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Nominee Activities

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

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

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

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

*(If additional space is needed, attach a separate sheet.)*

**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.

*Applications will be reviewed by UUP's Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM). The award will be presented at the 2007 Fall Delegate Assembly.*

**Send completed nomination form, including letters of endorsement, to:**

**COARM Chair Judith Wishnia  
c/o United University Professions  
P.O. Box 15143  
Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143**

**DEADLINE: April 15, 2007**

# SUNY Albany opens Emeritus Center

By Don Cohen  
SUNY Albany

A standing-room-only crowd celebrated the grand opening of the new SUNY Albany Emeritus Center on Nov. 1, 2006 — the new University home for 600 retired faculty and professionals in the Capital District — with a champagne party and programs that honored the vision of the university's late President Kermit Hall and the key leaders whose long quest was finally realized.

Provost and presiding chief officer, Susan Herbst, began the festivities with the ribbon-cutting to the new, comfortable multi-purpose facility and meeting area that offers four computers, fax machine, scanner, copier, telephone and provisions for receiving messages for emeriti use. It also includes free available parking to its first-floor location in the University Administration Building. A plaque honoring Dr. Hall was also dedicated in the new center.

The inaugural program included remarks by honored guests: John O'Connor, SUNY vice chancellor; UUP Vice President for Professionals John Marino; William Hedberg, assistant to the provost; Center Vice President Toby Clyman; and UUP Capital District COARM Chair Don Cohen.

Cohen cited the major contribution made by center President and UUPer Bill Reese, who was ill and could not attend the celebration. It was Reese's scrutinizing of board minutes beginning in the 1970s that cited the "obligations" the university owed its emeriti faculty, including a meeting space, an opportunity to continue one's research, receive mail, and participate on university committees, among others. Reese compiled



With scissors in hand, UUP Active Retiree Don Cohen, second from right, helps cut the ribbon to mark the formal opening of the new Emeritus Center at SUNY Albany.

his findings into a dossier sent to then President Hall that led to his decision to find a campus "Center for Retirees." A 2001 SUNY Board of Trustees (Article XV, Title D) policy underscored that commitment. Chancellor O'Connor in his remarks affirmed SUNY's backing for the Emeritus Center idea.

Also present and commended for their advocacy and support for the center were statewide COARM Chair Judy Wishnia, and Jack Richert, a founder and board member of the Buffalo Emeriti Center, the first of its kind in the SUNY system. Albany

Chapter President Candy Merbler also received praise.

The Emeritus Center celebration also featured a tribute by Patricia Snyder, founder and director of the New York State Theatre Institute, and a staged reading of Anton Chekhov's one-act play "Swan Song" by the Theatre Voices, directed by Grayce Burian.

The historic event ended with a reception hosted by the university and arranged by the center's board of directors: Iliana Semmler, George Hastings, James Kiepper, Ray Ortali, Hans Pohlsander, Hyman Kuritz, Reese, Clyman and Cohen.

## Delegates adopt resolution to push for emeritus status for all

By Judy Wishnia  
SUNY Stony Brook

A number of our retirees have complained that they do not get the campus privileges to which they are entitled. COARM has found that, on some campuses, neither academics nor professionals receive what the SUNY Board of Trustees has mandated.

At the 2006 Fall DA, the following resolution was submitted by COARM and passed unanimously by the delegates:

"Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees Policy, Article XV, broadly states in Title D:

Privileges After Retirement that: Emeritus status shall be conferred on university faculty (08 bargaining unit members) who retire in good standing and that they shall be entitled to append the term 'Emeritus' to the title of their Academic and Administrative Post (interpreted as professional status), and

"Whereas Emeritus rank shall carry with it such of the following privileges which in the judgment of the chief administrative officer, are feasible: use of library and study facilities, use of office and laboratory space, eligibility for research grants and e-mail access and representation of the University

in professional groups, and

"Whereas the defining terms for retirement in Title A, B and C of this article refers to Professional staff as well as Academic faculty, and

"Whereas the accommodation of these privileges granted to Academic and Professional faculty varies from campus to campus,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the UUP president, Executive Board and Delegate Assembly reconfirm these privileges ... and that they should be actively sought through campus negotiations in the labor/management arena for all UUP retirees."

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## BRIEFLY ...

(continued from page 3)

UUP retirees. One is a NYSUT plan and the other is the New York State Partnership for Long-Term Care. Both cover, among other benefits, nursing home care and home health care. The plans can be expensive but, considering the cost of most nursing homes, it can be very feasible. It is best to compare plans to see which will suit your needs and pocketbook.

For more information on the NYSUT plan, check with UUP Retiree Services Coordinator Anne Marine. For the state plan, go to <http://www.nyspltc.org>.

### Nursing home guide available

Crucial information that nursing home residents and their families have needed for years are now available to download for free on the AFT Web site.

The easy-to-use guide, *20 Common Nursing Home Problems — and How to*

*Resolve Them*, includes information on how to use residents' legal rights to get more and better care from nursing homes. Too often, nursing homes take advantage of consumers' lack of knowledge, using common practices that may actually violate federal nursing home law.

The guide spotlights these shady practices and gives positive, practical advice on how to counter them and help family members and friends get the care they deserve. The author, Eric Carlson of the National Senior Citizens Law Center, has handled hundreds of cases involving residents' rights and has broad knowledge of nursing home realities. Visit [www.unionvoice.org/ct/ud1cCwF1xuu9/retireespage](http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/ud1cCwF1xuu9/retireespage) to download a free copy. For a printed and bound version, contact NSCLC at [www.unionvoice.org/ct/md1cCwF1xuuY/nslc](http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/md1cCwF1xuuY/nslc) or call (202) 289-6976, ext. 201.

Printed copies are available for \$9.95,

plus shipping and handling, with substantial discounts for bulk purchases.

### What is COARM?

The charge of the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM) is to:

- encourage retired membership in UUP;
- recommend organizational structures that promote a mutually beneficial relationship between retirees and the union;
- propose ways to refer retirees' interests to the appropriate UUP bodies; and
- report to the president, the Executive Board and the Delegate Assembly (DA).

COARM is made up of 11 members. Seven are elected by and from the retired membership; two are appointed by the UUP president.

Also on the statewide committee are the membership development officer and the retiree delegate to the DA, who serves as COARM chair and as a nonvoting member of the UUP Executive Board.

## NORTH COUNTRY ...

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membership, much of what we deal with is for all retirees and for UUP generally. That is why the committee prepares recommendations, such as last winter's resolution (adopted by DA delegates) that resulted in new dental and optical plans.

We have members working in the political sphere on important state and national issues like Social Security and Medicare Part B reimbursements.

Of local interest, COARM has encour-

aged the establishment of retiree centers, such as the new one on the Albany campus. Statewide, the SUNY Campus Governance Leaders group, which meets during the University Faculty Senate plenary sessions, is also looking at the status of retired academics and professionals. I urge all members to communicate with governance officers with any concerns along these lines.

Best wishes to Active Retirees this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

## WESTERN NY ...

(continued from page 4)

looking for old bills, checks, etc.

Aguglia warned the attendees never to carry any information with them displaying their Social Security number, for fear of having it stolen or copied.

This was a very important presentation because the consequences are so grave, namely destruction of financial security along with the time and expense of remedying the situation. Incidentally, a paper shredder was awarded to a lucky

individual in a drawing at the presentation's completion.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the member institution liaisons met briefly to discuss potential programs and locations for future meetings.

There will be a liaisons' planning meeting Jan. 9 at noon at Fanny's in Buffalo.

The spring 2007 membership meeting also will be held at Fanny's on May 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

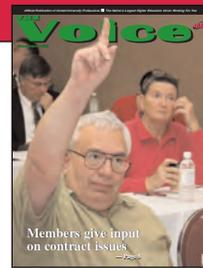
## TASK FORCE ...

(continued from page 1)

be allowed to serve as delegates only after all active elected delegates are seated.

- Retirees would be restricted from being appointed chair of any statewide standing committee.
- Retirees would be eligible to chair any ad-hoc statewide committees and any chapter committees.
- Retirees could be members of all statewide committees.
- Local chapters should have a retiree member on the chapter executive board.
- The financial officer would be subject to UUP audit and UUP standards and policies and would act in consultation with statewide fiduciary officers.
- A separate structure from the Regular Members is needed to conform with the NYSUT Retiree Council.

(Editor's note: Please send any comments and recommendations to Judy Wishnia at 3 Quincy Court, Setauket, N.Y., 11733. She can also be reached by phone at (631) 751-3810 or by e-mail at [jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu).)



# Reader Survey Coming Soon

The UUP Communications Department is looking for feedback from readers of the union's membership magazine, *The Voice*.

A Reader Survey will be in the January 2007 issue, and all Active Retirees are encouraged to respond.

Additional comments can be sent to UUP Director of Communications Denyce Duncan Lacy at [ddlacy@uupmail.org](mailto:ddlacy@uupmail.org) or to her attention at the UUP Administrative Office, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212.