

Election Special Edition

Watch for ballots soon; deadline is March 11

This election special edition of *The Active Retiree* is sent to each retired member of UUP. It includes the schedule, list of candidates for Retired Delegate and Regional Members of the statewide Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM), and the up to 500-word statements by candidates for Retired Delegate and Regional Members of COARM who chose to submit them.

The notice of election/call for nominations was mailed to each retired member as of the certification date for this election, Jan. 1, 2009.

Nominations closed Feb. 4. Ballots will be mailed no later than Feb. 20, are due March 11, and will be counted March 11-13. Results will be published in *The Active Retiree*.

The valid nominations for retiree positions are listed on page 2.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to vote for your retired representatives. Look for your ballot shortly.

David H. Kreh and Robert E. Rees
Co-chairs
Elections and Credentials Committee



The vote that counts,



In accordance with union policy, all candidates running for Retired Delegate and Regional Member of the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM) are eligible to submit a 500-word statement for publication in an election issue of *The Active Retiree*. By reason of the office, the Retired Delegate is also Chair of COARM and a non-voting Executive Board Member.

Statements longer than 500 words are set in smaller type to ensure fairness for all candidates. The statements are printed as received, with minor editing for consistency of style.

The following pages contain the statements of those candidates who chose to submit them.

United University Professions 2009 Active Retired Membership Elections Nomination List

Delegate and Chair of the Committee on Active Retired Membership

Betz, Brian R. (Oswego)	E
Daloia, Ronald J. (Upstate)	E
Rasheed, Mohammed A. (Brooklyn HSC)	F
Rock, William C. (Brockport)	D
Wishnia, Judith (Stony Brook)	B

Committee on Active Retired Membership

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION (Region A):

(Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz, New York State Theatre Institute, System Administration)

Magid, Alvin (Albany)	A
Puretz, Susan L. (New Paltz)	A

LONG ISLAND REGION (Region B):

(Farmingdale, Old Westbury, Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC)

Goldsmith, Frank E. (Stony Brook HSC)	B
Maertz, Barbara T. (Farmingdale)	B
Padilla, Edith (Stony Brook)	B

NORTH COUNTRY REGION (Region C):

(Canton, Plattsburgh, Potsdam)

Alfonsin, Edward J. (Potsdam)	C
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WESTERN NEW YORK REGION (Region D):

(Alfred, Brockport, Buffalo Center, Buffalo HSC, Buffalo State, Fredonia, Geneseo)

Rock, William C. (Brockport)	D
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CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION (Region E):

(Environmental Science & Forestry, Morrisville, Oswego, Upstate Medical University, Utica/Rome)

Betz, Brian R. (Oswego)	E
Daloia, Ronald J. (Upstate)	E
Stempel, Patricia D. (Upstate)	E

METROPOLITAN REGION (Region F):

(Brooklyn HSC, Maritime, Optometry, Purchase)

Marcus, Joseph C. (Brooklyn HSC)	F
Rasheed, Mohammed A. (Brooklyn HSC)	F
Russell, Eric P. (Brooklyn HSC)	F

SOUTHERN TIER REGION (Region G):

(Binghamton, Cortland, Delhi, Oneonta)

Schaffer, D. Jo (Cortland)	G
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ELECTION



for Retired Delegate/COARM Chair

Judith Wishnia SUNY Stony Brook

Even as we are full of hope that an Obama administration will bring an improved economy, better international relations and a return to social justice, we must be realistic about the terrible state of our economy where millions of jobs are being terminated and retiree benefits are being threatened. We have already seen huge losses to our retirement funds with the downturn in the stock market and every day we hear of attempts to curtail retirement benefits.

- I pledge to continue to do my best to work for the maintenance of all our benefits, both federal and state.

- I pledge to continue to work with NYSUT and AFT (I sit on two NYSUT retiree committees) and with the Alliance for Retired Americans (I am on the Long Island Board of Directors) to protect Social Security,

Medicare and our secondary medical coverage, including prescription drugs.

- I will press for more regional and campus meetings where colleagues can not only socialize with colleagues but will have stimulating discussions. I will be looking into ways to expand our meetings to other states where we have active retirees.

- I will continue to inform our membership about all issues and events through *The Active Retiree* and our listserv (Please join: it is the fastest way to get information to you in these difficult times: uupretirees-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.)

- I will be advocating enlarging the membership of COARM so that more retirees can be involved in our activities and our decision making. We must encourage more local participation.

- I will urge our retirees to fight not only for our benefits but for the survival of SUNY, the institution where most of us devoted our professional lives

and which serves as an important educational opportunity for the citizens of this state.

Beyond our work for our own retiree benefits and for the SUNY system, I believe that COARM and all our retirees can affect wider influence as we work to improve the lives of all workers in this country. We are currently looking into the issue of elder abuse and we should be expanding our concerns to other issues affecting retirees, such as good housing, home health care, social isolation, lower prices for prescription drugs and the expansion of Medicare to cover long-term care. I will be asking our members to work on these issues.

In addition, we should be supporting universal health care for all Americans and work with other unions to maintain and expand their salaries and benefits. Together we can maintain our hard-earned benefits, our standard of living and our dignity.

William C. Rock SUNY Brockport

I am asking you to vote for me to serve as the Retired Delegate whose major function is to serve as Chair of COARM.

During the past six years,

COARM has spent too much time debating what type of organization the retirees should have at the state level and too little time meeting the needs of retirees. I want to change this.

I have served as the Regional Chair for Western New York for

the past eight years. Working with 16 liaisons from the eight colleges and university centers in our region, I have put on full regional meetings, including luncheons twice a year each year.

As Chair of COARM, I want to be
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ELECTION



for Retired Delegate/COARM Chair

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 certain that retirees throughout the state are as actively involved in UUP as are our retirees in Western New York. The type of involvement will vary depending on a region's needs. One size does not fit all.

There is also a need to improve the way the committee functions at the state level. Too often, meetings turn into shouting matches with little being accomplished. Subcommittees appointed by the Chair or group often do not meet because there has been no follow up by the Chair to make this happen.

Within the existing structure of

COARM, I want to develop a system of subcommittees in whose work many retirees may be involved, to track said committees to be certain they are meeting, and to act on items brought to the full committee so we may move forward. When we need support for very important matters, such as preserving our benefits and protecting our retirees from elderly abuse and exploitation, I want COARM to present resolutions to the Delegate Assembly to gain the support of all our members.

The most important challenge to all of us is to protect our benefits. In particular, we must work

with our local legislators to be certain that our health insurance benefits are not reduced. We must fight to keep the state paying the Medicare Part B insurance cost for our members. The governor would like to save money on our backs, and we must work to prevent this.

I need the support of retirees throughout the state to be elected Retired Delegate, and I am asking each of you for that support. In addition, I am asking Western New York retirees to vote also to continue my service as their Regional Chair for another two years.

Thank you for your consideration.

for Regional Members of COARM

Alvin Magid **Capital District Region**

I seek reelection as Regional Chair for the COARM Capital District Region with these considerations and goals in mind:

First, I will continue to promote communication among SUNY retirees in Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz, the NYS Theatre Institute and System Administration, in their common interest.

Second, always but especially in this time of spreading economic distress, strong unionism

is in the interest of the general population and of the active workforce and retirees, in the public and private sectors. For the first time in nearly a decade, administrations in Washington and Albany evince a strong interest in unionism and the welfare of active workers and retirees. Within the UUP, COARM lends strong support to unionism and to the welfare of active and retired SUNY academics and professionals. I remain deeply committed to promoting those interests.

Third, I will continue to counsel COARM and UUP to develop close ties at the state level and nationally with public- and private-sector unions and other retiree organizations which promote retiree health and other essential benefits.

Fourth, in the interest of public-sector unions and their active worker and retiree members, I will impress on COARM and UUP the need to reassess NY state's Taylor Law with a mind to its possible amendment or abrogation.

for Regional Members of COARM

Barbara Maertz Long Island Region

Dear Fellow Retirees, my name is Barbara Maertz and I am a candidate for Region Coordinator for Long Island as a retiree from the Farmingdale Chapter.

I have been active in the Farmingdale Chapter for 30 years and 20 years in leadership positions such as treasurer, VP for professionals, president and currently as legislation chair.

While still actively working part-time in the chemistry department for three days a week during semesters, I have begun to get involved in COARM activities at the state and local levels.

Why am I getting involved? Pearl Brod is the answer! Pearl showed me how important it is

to maintain contact with retirees, how much history and experience that they have and their value to the local chapters and the union as a whole.

For the last several years I have attended the fall and spring regional retiree meetings held at Farmingdale. I have seen the valuable work that Pearl did in bringing former colleagues back to the campus, as well as many from Stony Brook and Old Westbury. I picked up several tips and benefits and best choices to make for my retirement years.

Recently, I have become budget liaison from the UUP Finance Committee to the COARM subcommittee to formulate their budget. I have been a Finance Committee member for over 10 years.

UUP is headed for serious diffi-

culties in the next few years because of the lack of leadership at SUNY and the economic problems in the country and state.

We all need to do our part to help in the legislative activities of UUP to protect our benefits, our pensions, and the jobs and benefits of our active members.

While retirees need to help them, our active members must be reminded to support retiree benefits and pensions too. They must remember that they will be retired one day and be in the same boat as us. We all need to remember that a rising tide lifts all boats.

I would like to continue the active retiree work of Pearl Brod. Please vote for me and help me to serve as your LI Region Coordinator. Thank you.

Edward J. Alfonsin North Country Region

The UUP Constitution specifies a North Country representative for the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM). I ask for your consideration as I seek reelection to that position.

Regional representatives try to be available by special meetings, visits, e-mail, telephone or in other ways, offering information about regional or statewide activities or providing referrals about benefits or other matters. At the state level, we deal with issues affecting all retired members of UUP.

During my COARM service, I have tried to schedule special luncheons, most recently last fall jointly with regional retiree leaders of the Public Employees Federation (PEF), but have learned anew that most of the retired members of both unions in our area seem to prefer not to gather as retirees. Nonetheless, with the kind invitations of our UUP chapter presidents at Canton, Potsdam and Plattsburgh, I've been able to attend chapter functions at each campus during the last year and I plan to continue if reelected. Making certain that all retired members of each chapter are on

mailing and e-mail lists is an ongoing concern of mine as well.

My work for UUP retirees goes back much earlier than my own retirement. Over two decades ago, I proposed to a constitutional revision committee I was chairing that retired members should have voting rights—still in the UUP Constitution. As UUP's membership development officer, I helped to develop the structure which is now COARM; the name itself came from Plattsburgh retiree Eugene Link, founder and legend in UUP.

During my current term, I proposed the resolution suggesting
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ELECTION



for Regional Members of COARM

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 a new approach for the UUP Benefits Department to try for improving dental coverage for retirees; within a few months, new dental insurance was available for us—still not ideal, but improved over previous plans. When the previous UUP president decided in spring 2007 not to recommend retired members for UUP committees (other than COARM and the Retiree Legislative Action Group), I used my parliamentary and constitutional knowledge to develop an objection based on UUP constitutional grounds—a position sustained

by the UUP Executive Board and recognized by President Phil Smith in committee appointment recommendations. Retired committee members serve at least two major purposes—mentoring newer members and preserving UUP contractual organization leave days for use by not-yet-retired members, especially useful nowadays as we face severe budgetary problems.

Finally, on a personal note, some of you know that over the last few years I've had a number of major medical problems. I try not to allow such to interfere with my life, but the experience has

allowed me to share thoughts about surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, recuperation and paperwork.

In our union spirit of camaraderie and caring, anyone wishing to talk about such things can do so at any chapter function I attend, to call (315/386-2582) or send an e-mail (ed@northnet.org). I won't practice medicine without license, but I try to be a good listener.

Thanks for your past trust; I hope you believe that I can continue as an effective representative by voting for me.

William C. Rock **Western New York**

I am asking retirees in Western New York to support my candidacy for Regional Chair.

I want to continue to work with

the liaisons from the colleges and university centers in our area to have two regional luncheon meetings each year. Our region is viewed as the model for involving our members, and I want to keep it that way.

If elected, I will also continue to represent you as a member of COARM and to fight to protect our benefits.

Thank you all so much for your help and support in the past.

Patricia D. Stempel **Central NY Region**

Greetings. My name is Patricia (Pat) Stempel and I am a candidate for the position of Central New York Delegate to the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM). There are

pressing issues facing retirees in Central New York as New York state is facing a huge deficit and is looking at any and all cost-cutting measures. We cannot afford to have our benefits cut. Retirees need to be informed about the issues, so that we can have a voice. To this end, retiree

information will be on the Web page for Upstate Medical and in the *UUP Advisor*. As a delegate I will work to enhance retiree information at the other Central New York campus. Working relationships need to be established between the retiree groups at all
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for Regional Members of COARM

(continued from previous page) of the campuses, so we can problem solve together. If elected, I will visit each of the campuses.

I assisted in organizing the Central New York Retiree Luncheon, which was held Sept. 26, 2008. I attended the COARM meeting at the Delegate Assembly in Albany in January and obtained funding for a second luncheon this spring. I

have been attending the COARM meetings at the Delegate Assemblies so that I am better informed regarding all statewide retiree issues. I am also a member of the UUP statewide nursing committee. This allows me to be involved in discussions regarding retiree health concerns.

I am a member of the executive board of Upstate Medical. I have been working with President Carol

Braund to obtain benefits for retirees in our chapter. Retirees have many campus benefits in other parts of the state.

I am a RN with a master's degree in nursing and in health service administration. I have the experience, education and motivation to unite Central New York retirees. I would appreciate your vote.

Thank you.

Mohammed A. Rasheed Metropolitan Region

Qualified from India, as a bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery.

Member ABQUARP (American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians).

Member affiliate (American

College of Medical Quality).

Worked as senior case manager, Downstate Medical Center, for more than 16 years.

Has exemplary interpersonal and event-planning skills.

Has experience with organizing discharge-planning meetings.

Has conducted orientation for medical students.

Retired in December 2006. Since retirement, has worked on and off on temporary basis, when possible.

Multilingual: fluent in Urdu, Hindi, Persian.

Future plans: Interested in becoming involved in civic engagement.

D. Jo Schaffer Southern Tier

I am asking for your support and vote to be the Southern Tier COARM Representative. I am now finishing up a term as UUP President Phil Smith's appointee to COARM, during which time I organized, distributed and helped tally the results for the first comprehensive survey on benefit and activity satisfaction. See the results in a previous issue of *The Active Retiree*.

I feel strongly that the South-

ern Tier retirees deserve more dedicated services, benefits information and active participation than the one luncheon meeting in two years has provided them. For the Cortland Chapter, I provide the e-mail distribution list of over 90 people with weekly updates from the national Alliance for Retired Americans, and its regional chapter, with current information regarding the protection of benefits and ways in which to increase awareness of current solutions to some of the more

pressing problems associated with retirement. I share my experience and service with the NYS and Cortland County Long Term Care Council as well. These crucial information links should be extended to our entire region. Additionally, I put together bi-annual well-attended meetings featuring our academic colleagues reporting on current research or interests.

Please join me with your vote to help make the Southern Tier retirees a more active, involved and informed group of colleagues.

The Active Retiree

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Phillip H. Smith/President
John J. Marino/VP for Professionals
Frederick G. Floss/VP for Academics
Eileen Landy/Secretary
Rowena J. Blackman-Stroud/Treasurer
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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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