



## COARM reorganizes to expand efforts

By Judy Wishnia  
COARM Chair

For the last several years, COARM has been trying to find ways to involve more retirees in its activities, to be a stronger force within UUP and other labor and retiree organizations, such as the Alliance for Retired Americans. Various proposals, such as creating a council or a chapter, have been discussed. But most people seem happy with the current committee structure.

There are currently 10 members of COARM: seven regional chairs who hold meetings in their regions, two members appointed by the UUP president, and a committee chair. However, as we grow in size (we are now more than 3,300 strong) it is clear that our committee could use more activists to address issues affecting SUNY, UUP and, of course, the many retiree needs.

Regional meetings are fine places to meet old friends and colleagues and to hear speakers. But there are many other concerns that need attention. COARM now has a sub-committee working on elder abuse. But what about maintaining and improving our benefits? What about reforming Medicare

“There are many concerns that need (our) attention.”

— Judith Wishnia  
COARM Chair

and keeping drug prices low? What about long term care? These are all issues affecting us and the next generation of retirees.

In addition, Vice President for Academics Fred Floss has asked us to be part of a mentoring system for younger employees, so they will become acquainted with the work of UUP and its long commitment to academic freedom and democracy.

In October, COARM held a retreat and passed a resolution aimed at involving more people and strengthening COARM and the union. It expands COARM’s working base without changing the constitution, and provides for a solid financial plan.

The resolution is as follows. COARM

invites you to join in efforts to strengthen UUP, and to make retirement enjoyable, full of useful activity, and secure. Be active on your campus, come to regional meetings, join a UUP committee, mentor a new colleague and, above all, be well!

### Resolution on Internal Organization of COARM

Resolved, that the following positions be designated by COARM for service at the state level: Acting Associate Chair of COARM to preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair and to perform such duties as agreed upon with the Chair. Recorder of COARM, to take minutes of COARM meetings and retreats and to perform such other duties as agreed upon with the Chair.

That the following positions may be designated, if needed, by the liaisons in each of the regions: Acting Associate Regional Chair, to organize and preside over regional meetings in the absence of the regional chair—Acting Associate Chairs may attend COARM meetings in accordance with UUP policy. Regional Recorder to take minutes see **COARM**, page 9

## Service Corps ‘re-imagines’ SUNY retirement

By Judy Wishnia  
COARM Chair

On a sunny day in November, more than 75 SUNY administrators, retired academic and professional faculty—including a dozen UUP activists—met in Albany for the inaugural conference of the SUNY Retiree Service Corps.

Entitled “Re-Imagining SUNY Retirement,” the conference explored ways to address the aims of the Service Corps. The SUNY Retiree Service Corps was formed in early 2008 through the joint efforts of the University Faculty Senate and SUNY System Administration. The goal was to encourage campuses to establish retiree centers and programs that link the

valuable and largely untapped resources and experience of SUNY retirees with their campuses and with organizations in their communities. These centers also aim to serve as a social network for retirees.

Connecting retirees with each other and with community service is the central mission of the Retiree Corps. Dr. Ram Chugh, retired from Potsdam, is the executive director, and two UUP retirees—Bob Kasprak of Optometry and COARM Chair Judy Wishnia of Stony Brook—sit on the Advisory Council.

Among the main presenters were Barry Culhane and Jeanette Brown of the Association of Retirement Organizations, a national group that shares data about retiree

organizations.

The most important and useful segment of the conference was the presentation by representatives of existing campus retiree groups, who discussed how they organized, who attends and how they develop their programs. Currently there are about 15 SUNY campuses with some sort of emeritus organization or facility where retired SUNY personnel can meet and enjoy programs. One of the major aims of the Corps is to promote and expand such centers.

Most interesting was the period of open discussion, during which attendees spoke of their activities on behalf of retiree members and their campuses. Although there was much see **SERVICE CORPS**, page 9

## The Active Retiree

### UUP Officers

**Phillip H. Smith**/President  
**John J. Marino**/VP for Professionals  
**Frederick G. Floss**/VP for Academics  
**Eileen Landy**/Secretary  
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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 ...

# It's time to PRESS on

By Henry Geerken  
 SUNY Cobleskill

I don't "tweet," although I have noticed a "squeak" every now and then when I get up from a low-slung chair.

I don't "twitter," which makes me a dinosaur amongst my younger relatives. I was told by one of my grandchildren that "I had better get with it or the parade would pass me by."

So, there was nothing left for me to do but to bring myself into the 21st century. I did this by calling the "Close Cover Before Striking College of Advanced Technology" (CCBSCAT). I had planned to attend one of those outstanding SUNY colleges that are located near every senior citizen throughout the state. But the one nearest me no longer taught relevant courses because the faculty all had better paying jobs elsewhere in this expanding economy. So, after sending \$19.95 to CCBSCAT, I was enrolled and got my first assignment, entitled *Knowledge In Scientific Studies* (KISS).

I got a disc in the mail, which I put in my laptop. Lo and behold, this article is being brought to you by BOLOGNA, also known as Best Optical Logistic Operations Going Nowhere Anyhow. I got version 3.7. (It is my understanding that the governor has the same system, but his is version 2.9.)

I have to take a moment and explain how this works. This is an interactive system so advanced that only a few people in the CIA know about it, along with half of what used



Geerken

to be Russia and current-day China.

You will see a series of prompts. Following the prompts will allow you to answer me directly. Get your index finger ready. To continue, PRESS RIGHT HERE (1).

Ah, I see that you are ready, so I will continue.

Do you think Obama is doing a good job?

PRESS (1) for YES or PRESS (2) for NO.

Do you think that the recession is over?  
 PRESS (1) for YES or PRESS (2) for NO.

Will you miss a COLA payment this year?  
 PRESS (1) for YES or PRESS (2) for NO.  
 (Press harder next time and make sure you do not have any finger overlaps.)

Do you think members of Congress should enjoy the same health care system as senior citizens?

PRESS (1) for YES or PRESS (2) for NO.

Instead of Cheerios, are you eating MEOW mix because it is cheaper?

PRESS (1) for YES or PRESS (2) for NO.

Did you think this was a "real" survey?  
 PRESS (1) for YES or PRESS (2) for SILLY!

Do you think that Henry Geerken is one of the funniest writers you have ever met?  
 PRESS (1) for YES.

Thank you for your participation. Your input is of great help to us. We value you as one of our satisfied readers.

Remember this was brought to you by BOLOGNA. (The same system used by New York state in budget preparations.)

## In memoriam

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

Pierre Aubrey, Buffalo  
 Harriet Babcock, Morrisville  
 Morris Budin, Binghamton  
 Mary Cadenhead, Buffalo  
 Gary Day, Buffalo  
 Donald D'Elia, New Paltz  
 Ram Desai, Buffalo State  
 Ronald Dilcher, Brockport  
 John Dornbush, Albany  
 Jerome Eckstein, Albany  
 Berkley Eddoms, Buffalo  
 John Etherington, Oswego  
 Francis Femminella, Albany  
 Charlotte Frasier, Brockport  
 Joseph Garcia, Albany  
 Paula Glick, Stony Brook

Anita Glick, Old Westbury  
 Paul Hackett, Plattsburgh  
 Joseph Hennessey, Potsdam  
 John Henry, Upstate Medical  
 R. Hollingsworth, Stony Brook  
 Janie Jenkins, Buffalo State  
 Harry Kalish, Stony Brook  
 Alice Kaminsky, Cortland  
 Harry Kolker, Albany  
 William Lyon, Cortland  
 Bernard Mason, Binghamton  
 Carlton Meyers, Buffalo HSC  
 John Moran, Fredonia  
 Thomas Mroziak, Buffalo  
 Carl Odenkirchen, Albany  
 George Pasti, Plattsburgh

J. Robert Pedersen, Brockport  
 Billy Reed, Brockport  
 Joanne Rein, New Paltz  
 Patricia Rogers, Albany  
 Eli Seifman, Stony Brook  
 Geraldine Tarnoff, Binghamton  
 Dennis Tillman, Albany  
 Stephen Torok, Oswego  
 Philip Trinchera, Buffalo  
 Andre Varma, Stony Brook HSC  
 Bartlett Wagner, New Paltz  
 Samuel Wayne, Brooklyn HSC  
 Phillip Weaver, Buffalo State  
 Paul Wilbur, Oswego  
 Dean Yager, Optometry  
 George Zimmerman, Oneonta

*From the COARM chair*

# We must fight for the America we deserve

**W**hen Barack Obama was elected, I, as many of you, felt that the United States had reached a new stage in our history. We had moved beyond the intense racism that has plagued our country since the first slaves arrived on our shores. The scenes of people of all races and religions cheering at the inauguration gave me hope for a rebirth of our nation, where education would be valued, diplomacy would replace aggression and social justice would prevail.

But now I am worried about my country. The racists, the extreme right-wingers, have not been cowed. Indeed, they are blossoming. Aside from the vitriole spewed on TV by the likes of Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh, there are the organized armies of so-called tea-baggers to scare me.

This summer, I attended two town hall meetings. The first one was in June in my home community of Setauket, held at the aptly named Neighborhood House. Our Congressman, Tim Bishop of the 1st Congressional District (eastern Long Island), a great believer in grass roots democracy, holds numerous such meetings during congressional intercessions. This one was to be on health care, so my husband and I decided to go. We were surprised to see hundreds of people milling outside. Wow, all these people supporting health care reform! And then we saw the signs—the vicious, racist, anti-Obama signs. You're familiar with them, so I won't describe them.

The small meeting room was packed and the hundred or so who remained outside continued to bang on the windows throughout the meeting. Rep. Bishop said he would answer all questions and asked people to be civil. But as soon as he opened his mouth to speak, he was shouted down. The comments were shocking. "I pay for health care, to hell with anyone else." A man who rose to say how much he appreciated the excellent care his father, a World War II vet,

"I am worried about my country. The racists ... have not been cowed. Indeed, they are blossoming."



**WISHNIA**

was getting at the government-run VA hospital (on the Stony Brook campus), he was greeted with shouts and cat-calls. By the end, the crowd was so raucous (and they had their signs on wooden sticks) the police were called to escort Rep. Bishop to his car.

As a European historian with numerous family members who perished at the hands of the Nazis, I could only think that this is what it must have been like in Germany in 1932. Thank heavens New York state does not allow guns at meetings.

Despite the near riots at town hall meetings throughout the summer, in late August, Rep. Bishop was brave enough to hold another meeting at a large district high school. The 900 seats were filled an hour before the meeting and hundreds more milled outside. But this time the police were there to keep order, and the Long Island unions had alerted their members. I was happy to see some of our UUP members and my NYSUT retiree friends in the crowd.

I would estimate that the pro-health-care supporters outnumbered the "antis" but once again screaming and shouting interrupted Rep. Bishop when he tried to negate the lies about "death panels" and "socialism." When the chair asked for a moment of silence for Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, who had died the day before, there were boos and jeers.

I saw a woman with a sign attacking gov-

ernment-run health care. Noting her age, I asked if she was on Medicare. She said yes and when I asked her if she would give it up because it was a government program, she stalked off.

Most distressing was that *Newsday*, the Long Island paper, gave its front page to a picture of the screamers.

Why do I write such a lengthy report? I do this because I am frightened. These people are a well-organized group out to destroy not only health care reform but Obama and all that he stands for. (As I write this, the health care bill being discussed is a weakened version that does little to curb high premiums and excessive profits.)

When they say they want their country back they mean no immigrants, no blacks, no Hispanics, no liberals, no intellectuals, no uppity women and absolutely no unions. (They would not allow the representative of the Long Island Labor Federation to speak.) They want a white male ultra-conservative country.

We must not let them win. We should be in the streets, at rallies, at our representatives' offices. We must not be silent or they will win. Their America is not the one we want and deserve.

*Judith Wishnia*



# Regional meetings

## SOUTHERN TIER

### Cortland retirees cover budget woes, new museum

By Jo Schaffer  
Cortland

**O**n Oct. 4, a fall brunch for academic and professional retirees was held on the SUNY Cortland campus.

COARM Regional Representative Jo Schaffer organized and co-hosted the bi-annual COARM emeriti gathering, in conjunction with a long-standing arrangement with the College Administration and Foundation.

UUP, its chapter president and the campus president had equal time at the microphone. The subject for all three this year was the devastating New York budget and its impact on SUNY. All of the 65-plus attendees were put on notice that they would be called to action in the fight to restore financial plasma to SUNY.

On a lighter note, Cortland Chapter President Jamie Dangler gave a PowerPoint presentation on the newly proposed Museum for Cortland Life. The presentation focused on the Brockway historic trucks and farm machinery portion, the incorporation of local museums, and the new space in a former barn and business.

Dangler's extra-curricular interest and passion in this new venture held the audience's attention.

Another Southern Tier regional meeting is scheduled for the Oneonta and Delhi chapters for Thursday, Nov. 19, at a restaurant in Oneonta.

Discussions are also under way for a regional meeting for the Binghamton University retirees.

## Oneonta, Delhi retirees updated on the issues

By Jo Schaffer  
Cortland

**A** COARM meeting was held Nov. 19 in Oneonta for two of the four regional campuses.

The brunch was held at the Stella Luna restaurant, with 23 retirees from Delhi and Oneonta on hand to hear Jo Schaffer, Southern Tier representative, report on the new SUNY initiative, "Re-Imagining SUNY Retirement." She also spoke on new benefits for retirees and opportunities for them to learn more about the serious budgets issues facing New York and SUNY. She also shared information about some of the emeriti benefits and programs on other SUNY campuses.

Oneonta Chapter President Bill Simons spoke about the severity of state budget cuts and said he would be calling on retirees to help in the fight to protect SUNY. He also explained how SUNY flexibility legislation could result in differential tuition at SUNY.



JO SCHAFER

Oneonta Chapter President Bill Simons chats over brunch with Oneonta retiree Chris Bulson, left.

In parting, Schaffer gave copies of retiree membership information to chapter representatives to help in organizing and enabling better communication with the retiree membership.

All agreed that another meeting in the spring would be welcome.

## Central NY retirees share food and ideas

By Pat Stempel  
Upstate Medical University

**T**hirty-five enthusiastic retirees and guests attended the Central New York fall retiree brunch Oct. 8 at Rico's Restorante in East Syracuse. Retirees from the Morrisville, ESF, Empire State and Upstate Medical University chapters were treated to multiple courses of excellent food.

After an opportunity to socialize, Central New York COARM Regional Representative Pat Stempel discussed topics that came up during the statewide COARM retreat and Fall DA.

She said COARM is researching elder abuse, as 1 in 17 elders will be abused, neglected or exploited, often by family members or trusted others. COARM is also developing a tool that will be helpful to retirees in life planning.

Stempel told CNY retirees that the database containing 20 million names and Social Security data was stolen from Express Scripts, the former prescription drug carrier for New York state employees. Most UUPers received a letter outlining what to do if members believe their personal information has been compromised. Further information is available on the UUP Web site at [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org).

The flu vaccine is being provided at SUNY

medical centers. The shingles vaccine is covered under the Empire Plan if it is given by a participating physician.

The need for all to become involved in health care reform was discussed. UUP is in favor of H.R. 676, which provides for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all Americans.

Stempel discussed the benefits of UUP retiree membership, including the ability to purchase vision and dental insurance, and \$1,000 free life insurance, to name a few.

A program of campus benefits for Upstate retirees is in the process of being implemented.

Upstate Chapter President Carol Braund discussed the proposed cuts to SUNY and the impact these cuts would have on the university and the students. She urged all UUP and COARM members to be politically active and to contact their legislators.

The main presentation was given by attorney Danny Mevecand and his legal assistant, Sharon La Rouche. A detailed handout and forms were provided regarding wills, trusts, health care proxies, and powers of attorney. A lively question-and-answer period followed.

Stempel announced that a spring brunch will be scheduled, as well as a meeting in the Oswego/Morrisville area in 2010.

# WNY retirees discuss human trafficking, social services

By Pat Baker  
Brockport

**T**he College at Brockport hosted the Oct. 20 meeting of UUP Active Retirees of Western New York, who enjoyed an excellent lunch and speakers on two topics of interest to the group.

The morning speaker was Amy Fleischauer, LSMW, director of Human Service/Human Trafficking at the International Institute of Buffalo.

Though surprising to many, human trafficking is a problem in Western New York, where in the last three years there have been 20 cases involving more than 100 victims. The area is on the border, has both agricultural and urban places to hide and hospitable suburbs as well, Fleischauer said.

Fleischauer, who has degrees from Lemoyne College and Columbia University, has found her work in domestic violence and social work useful to her present position, where she deals with illegal immigrants, refugees and migrants who are being exploited.

The institute's goals include helping immigrants and refugees become self-sufficient members of the community. The institute also identifies and then helps victims of human trafficking to integrate into the community. In 2008, more than 9,000 people benefited from the institute's programs and services.

Justice is sought under the U.S. criminal code whose definition of illegality states: "Whomever knowingly recruits, harbors, transports, provides or obtains by any means, any person for labor or services in peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude or forced labor ..."

**Right, Amy Fleischauer talks about efforts to stop human trafficking in Western New York.**

**Below right, Scott Hicks of NYSUT Social Services outlines the programs available to retirees.**

The group was led through the elements of human trafficking, which include process (recruiting, moving a person, etc), means (fraud, force, coercion) and end (involuntary servitude, slavery, sex trade).

The uneducated and undereducated—those from poor areas of the world such as Myramar—are particularly susceptible to promises of a good life in America. (Fleischauer noted that the average refugee spends nearly eight years in camps.) Everyone needs to be alert to the problem, which is often there but just not "seen," Fleischauer said.

Help in finding victims is needed. A list of what to look for in trafficked persons was presented. These include: evidence of being controlled; not being able to move or leave a job; signs of physical abuse; lack of English language skills; recent arrival from Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and India; and lack of official papers or other identification.

Human trafficking is big business, a global problem with millions of people affected, Fleischauer said. Unfortunately, it is still under the radar of most people, with

too little effort and resources dedicated to detecting and dealing with it.

In keeping with the desire to better inform the membership on union services, Scott Hicks, LCSW, from NYSUT Social Services, with the aid of a video on the various services, offered considerable information about the scope of the services available. He said NYSUT Social Services offers information and help on everything from adaptive equipment to various support groups.

Hicks discussed problems concerning debt and health care counseling, long-term care and other member benefits, entitlements and legal plan referrals. He stressed that NYSUT Social Services has an extensive referral list that can be used to seek additional or specialized expertise.

Hicks encouraged members to contact NYSUT Social Services with questions at (800) 342-9810 ext. 6206.



PAT BAKER PHOTOS



## Correction

The June 2009 issue of *The Active Retiree* incorrectly reported the writer and photographer of the Central NY region report. The article was written and photographs taken by Regional Rep Pat Strempele of Upstate Medical University.

*The Active Retiree* regrets the error.

## Western NY slates May 4 meeting

The Active Retirees of Western New York are slated to meet at 10:30 a.m. at Fanny's Restaurant in Amherst on May 4, 2010.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for this special program.

The morning speaker is Rebecca E. Albert, LMT, who will discuss the many

health and wellness benefits of therapeutic massage.

Following lunch and a short business meeting, Karima Amin will speak on the topic "Prisoners are People Too."

Invitations to all members will be mailed in early April.

# Regional meetings

## Capital District COARM up and running

By Al Magid  
Albany

In late August, the executive committee (Don Cohen, Jim Kiepper, Hy Kuritz and Al Magid) met over lunch at The Desmond in Albany to plan the 2009-2010 events calendar. It was decided to organize two speaker/luncheons, to be held in November and May.

The first speaker/luncheon was on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the Alumni House on the UAlbany campus, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event kicked off with a social hour, followed by a delicious buffet. About 30 SUNY retirees, their spouses and other guests from the SUNY campuses in Albany, New Paltz and Cobleskill attended the event.

Prior to the main speaker, UUP Retiree Services Coordinator Anne Marine reported on various benefits issues impacting UUP retirees, and Active Retiree Don Cohen highlighted the Nov. 12 meeting at SUNY headquarters to consider systemwide retiree issues, interests, activities and programs.

A robust Q-and-A followed the presentations by Marine and Cohen.

The main speaker at the Capital District COARM speaker/luncheon Nov. 18 was Al



KATIE GEERKEN

Left, Al Magid of Albany shares his observations on peace in the Middle East following a five-week visit to Jordan, Israel and Egypt.

Magid, a political scientist who retired at the end of 2002 after 35 years at UAlbany.

Drawing on his observations and encounters during a recent five-week visit to Jordan, Israel and Egypt, Magid spoke on “Cold Peace, Not So Cold Peace: Israeli-Egyptian and Israeli-Jordanian Relations, With Implications for the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab Conflicts.”

Highlighting factors within each of the three countries and the region at large, Magid outlined why, presently and in any foreseeable time frame, Israeli-Egyptian and Israeli-Jordanian relations are not likely

to improve significantly and why the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab conflicts are unlikely to be resolved. Another robust Q-and-A followed Magid’s presentation.

COARM’s Capital District Executive Committee is already hard at work organizing the speaker/luncheon to be held in May in Albany or some other venue in the greater Capital District.

The Executive Committee invites the 350 SUNY retirees in the Capital District region to make suggestions as to future speakers and other programs, and also possible venues. Suggestions should be directed to Al Magid at [magid2@juno.com](mailto:magid2@juno.com).

(Don, Jim, Hy and I are grateful for the logistical support for the Nov. 18 event provided by Anne Marine and UUP Coordinator of Research/Legislation Rob Trimarchi, and to UUP Publications Specialist Karen Mattison for arranging publication of this article.)

## Long Island retirees discuss wide range of issues

By Barbara Maertz  
Farmingdale

Forty-two retirees from Farmingdale, Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC and Old Westbury met for brunch on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Farmingdale University Club.

There was wide-ranging discussion concerning benefits that retirees have at each campus and benefits they would like to get. It was decided that each campus will develop a brochure to be given to UUP members at retirement. Brochures will contain contact information for statewide officers and staff, and benefits vendors, as well as campus contacts useful to retirees, such as human resources, health and wellness, and library.

Many thanks to Judi Bird of Farmingdale

and COARM Chair Judy Wishnia of Stony Brook for doing the research on their respective campuses.

Wishnia presented information from the “Re-Imagining SUNY Retirement” conference held Nov. 12 in Albany, and reported on a number of topics, including volunteerism and mentoring.

UUP Farmingdale Chapter President Yolanda Pauze welcomed the guests. She asked for a “GO” team of retirees to do legislative advocacy with marches, visits to lawmakers’ offices, and coalition building.

Pauze also explored the idea of retirees mentoring new faculty on tenure and promotion issues with an eye toward developing future UUP activists. Sign up sheets for both initiatives were distributed.

Ed Alleyne of Stony Brook HSC gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on elder abuse. This has been a COARM issue for the last two years, with the goal of raising the public consciousness concerning the emotional, financial, social and physical abuse of elders.

Long Island Regional Representative Barbara Maertz urged the retirees to respond to a local survey developed by Russ Tuthill to help in future planning for programs. Tuthill spoke about wanting to tailor programs to fit the needs of members, now and in the future. Many attendees submitted their ideas and the group will assess the responses before the spring meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively slated for Aug. 21, 2010.



# Elder abuse bills moving in Legislature, Congress

By Don Cohen  
Albany

While health care reform, Afghanistan and climate change have monopolized national attention and politics, there has also been a flurry of legislative activity, both in Washington and Albany, devoted to the elder abuse issue.

A number of new bills have been quietly making their way through committees, on their way to a final vote in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the New York state Legislature. Overall, the workup of legislation has been impressive, with the likelihood of favorable final passage for a number of bills.

What follows is a description and status of bills passed by the U.S. Senate Committee on Aging, chaired by Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-Wisc.) and moved on for approval by the Senate Finance Committee.

- Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging American Act (S.245)—This bill addresses the severe shortage of health care personnel who are trained for older adults by expanding education and matching state training grant opportunities in geriatrics and long-term care for licensed health care professionals, direct care workers and family caregivers.

Active Retiree Ed Alleyne of Stony Brook HSC, a COARM Elder Abuse Committee member and a professional nurse administrator, delivered a statement at the DA that reinforced the manpower issue by pointing out

that only 1 percent of all nurses are certified gerontological nurses; the same 1 percent holds for the number of physicians that are certified gerontologists.

- Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act (now included in both House and Senate bills under Section 3-07 of the Medicare and Prescription Drug Improvement Act of 2003 and currently operating pilot programs in seven states)—This act establishes a nationwide program for national and state background checks on direct access employees of certain long-term care facilities and providers. It provides federal matching grants to conduct the checks.

Also, the act would give states grants and a lot of direction about how to significantly improve their background screening processes for any worker seeking a position in a health care facility, e.g., nursing home or health care agency, who would have direct access to a frail elder or individual with disabilities.

- Elder Justice Act (S.795 and H.R.2006)—This legislation calls for a funding stream of \$300 million to both retain and/or create 5,000 jobs that would help an estimated one million adult abuse victims, which represents the national average of reported abuse.

- Reporting the Incidence of Elder Abuse in NY State (S.5376)—Authored by state Sen. Jeffrey Klein, chair of the Senate Aging Committee, this bill—which passed the Senate 57-0 on April 27, 2009, and was sent on to the Assembly—represents the first

attempt to capture the incidence of elder abuse in New York state. It centers on the collection responsibility in the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYSOCFS) and requires that all relevant data on abuse and neglect be collected and reported to NYSOCFS by state and local agencies, Office of Attorney General, Office of Prevention for Domestic Violence, Department of Health, and Office of Mental Health and Disabilities. County social services and adult protective services would also be required to report incidents of elder abuse.

The act also requires that NYSOCFS define elder abuse and the minimum age of a senior, and create interagency reporting systems and a uniform base metrics in order to compare data from different state and local agencies.

In other business:

- Alleyne and Active Retiree Eric Russell of Brooklyn HSC gave a PowerPoint presentation on “psychiatric nursing education and the elderly,” which the committee will preview at the 2010 Spring Delegate Assembly, and make available to interested COARM and UUP members.

- During the Elder Abuse Committee meeting prior to the 2009 Fall DA, Bob Kasprak of Optometry arranged a special presentation by Ann Marie Cook, president and CEO of LIFESPAN, a multiservice advocacy and educational agency that deals with elder abuse issues. Her agency is currently conducting the first-in-the-nation, in-depth study of elder abuse prevalence in New York state.

## North Country rep shares a few thoughts

By Ed Alfonsin  
Potsdam

The North Country received more national attention in the recent Congressional election than at any time since the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway 50 years ago. A number of our UUP retirees, as well as some of the not-yet-retired folk, were involved in the political campaigns. That participation ranged from endorsement meetings for our Labor Councils to calling on phone banks to the most important activity of all, voting.

Our new member of Congress, Democrat Bill Owens, within 48 hours of being sworn in, was able to vote in favor of the House health care reform bill, a priority for many

unions nationally.

Although North Country retirees in UUP, NYSUT and PEF have not been inclined to take part in union-specific regional activities, Potsdam College sponsored a luncheon reception that about 50 retirees (mostly UUP members) attended. In addition, one of the deans sponsored a program for retirees that featured three newer faculty members discussing their research.

Across part of our region, NYSUT has a retiree organization that originally was designed as a joint NYSUT/UUP venture, but had very few UUPers involved. In recent months, we've had some discussions about reinvigorating that body.

With the medical folks allowing me to drive again, I'll be available whenever

members might want to get together to deal with union issues. That can be part of campus chapter functions or a separate meeting, with or without speakers or presentations. The North Country Region belongs to its members and they can determine what is important to them and how we should deal with those issues.

And I'd like to hear from members about what they're doing right now so these columns don't continue to read like my journal entries. Reading about what other retired colleagues are doing is not only interesting, but can also trigger new ideas for all of us.

Send your thoughts and comments to me at ealfonsin@uupmail.org or to 141 Ames Road, Potsdam, NY 13676.

# COARM

## members tackle lengthy agenda

By Jo Schaffer  
Cortland

**T**he Committee on Active Retired Membership met Friday, Oct. 2, in conjunction with the 2009 Fall Delegate Assembly in Rochester.

Attending the meeting were Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale, Frank Maraviglia of ESF, Ed Alfonsin of Potsdam, Patricia Stempel of Upstate Medical University, Eric Russell of Brooklyn HSC, Chair Judy Wishnia of Stony Brook, Jo Schaffer of Cortland, Harvey Inventasch of Cortland and Jack Richert of Buffalo HSC.

Guests included Pearl Brod of Farmingdale, Jack Morganti of Buffalo State, Don Cohen of Albany, Florence Brush of Cortland and Bob Kasparak of Optometry.

The following are the draft minutes:

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COARM Chair Wishnia reported on the events of the retreat, held Oct 1, including the reorganization of COARM (see related story, page 1), as well as financial reporting and NYSUT Retire Council proposed amendments.

Schaffer moved, Alfonsin seconded the motion to accept the amended Rock resolution on the reorganization of operating procedures for COARM. The resolution would help to facilitate a more equitable sharing of responsibilities regarding the increased workload of dealing with more than 3,300 members in statewide regions. Added was the request that UUP President Phil Smith ask chapter presidents to identify retiree liaisons.

Passed without dissent.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Maertz reviewed the newly presented proposed budget for 2009-10.

Inventasch asked for more time to consider a dues increase. Discussed keeping three years' worth of fund balance for unpredictable expenses and new initiatives, such as a UUP Retiree Membership Card (to



Above, Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale goes over COARM's proposed budget during a committee meeting at the 2009 Fall DA in Rochester.

include benefit information), a Survivor Guide, and COARM banner.

Maraviglia moved, Alfonsin seconded approval of budget. Passed without dissent.

In addition, the COARM Finance Committee (Maertz, Schaffer and Inventasch) will review a potential dues increase.

The Finance Committee was also charged to review the possibility of raising the insurance death benefit.

It was also noted that the dues notice should include a third-party notice for renewal.

### MORE DISCUSSION

- Health care reform issues were discussed. Asked that COARM be more involved.

- RELAG reported that UUP Outreach Committee Co-chair Glenn McNitt of New Paltz said the legislative agenda will be determined by the end of the year.

- The Sub-committee on Elder Abuse

advocated in the community on proposed 2010 legislation. There was discussion about including senior/retiree issues in any legislation.

- Stempel and Schaffer reported on their work on a Survivor Guide. They were asked to investigate finding an additional funding source to help underwrite expenses.

COARM agreed to move forward with the guide.

- Cohen proposed a working group for his issues.

### REGIONAL REPORTS, REQUESTS

Long Island—Nov. 18, and a spring meeting;

Central NY—Oct. 8 fall meeting, and perhaps a special meeting in Oswego;

North Country—Reported that very few retirees are interested in attending regional meetings;

Capitol District—Nov. 18, and a spring meeting;

Western NY—Oct 20 fall meeting;





Above, Florence Brush of Cortland comments during the RELAG meeting, as John Hain of New Paltz listens.

Left, Judy Wishnia talks to a COARM resolution during the DA.

Below, Jay Gilbert of ESC, left, and Ed Drummond of Stony Brook HSC listen to the debate.



Southern Tier—Oct 4 meeting in Cortland, and a fall meeting in Oneonta and Delhi, tentatively set for Nov 19; and

Out of state—Brod requests a limited regional meeting for February or March in central Florida.

### RESOLUTION

COARM agreed to submit a resolution to the Delegate Assembly, asking union delegates to add its voice to those demanding the removal of the current head of the Social Security Administration. The resolution cited Commissioner Michael J. Astrue's failure to live up to the agency's mission.

Schaffer moved, Alfonsin seconded.

Passed without dissent in committee (and was later adopted by DA delegates).

### SUNY SERVICE CORPS

Wishnia reported she had been attending the SUNY University Service Corps meetings about involving SUNY retirees. A meeting was scheduled for Nov. 12 in Albany.

She will send information out.

It was suggested that retirees ask campus presidents to fund their attendance. COARM will see how many are interested in attending and then approve a limited number and finite amount of funds to cover attendance and other accommodations.

## COARM ...

(continued from page 1)

at regional and liaison meetings and to prepare reports for *The Active Retiree*.

That the following work groups be appointed by the Chair with the concurrence of COARM members:

Finance Subcommittee—to track COARM expenditures, to prepare budgets, to make recommendations on the level of dues and to coordinate with the UUP Finance Committee.

Benefits Work Group—to deal with the benefits of retired members, to recommend to retirees actions to be taken to retain such benefits, to work for the improvement of benefits provided by UUP and its affiliates such as vision and dental insurance, and to coordinate with RELAG.

Prevention of Elderly Abuse Work Group—to make recommendations to COARM on needed legislation and other actions that would help prevent abuse to the elderly.

Publications Work Group—to prepare publications that would be helpful to retirees, to assist the Chair as an editorial board for *The Active Retiree*, and to write and solicit articles for *The Active Retiree*.

Out of State Members Work Group—to analyze data on out-of-state membership and propose meetings out of state as appropriate.

## Service Corps ...

(continued from page 1)

enthusiasm about the successes of these centers, there was some discussion of how some campuses close their doors when people retire without recognizing their years of service to the institution.

There was also discussion about inclusion. It was noted that some emeritus groups are aimed at academic retirees, ignoring the valuable contributions of professionals. It was also noted that UUP has been holding retiree meetings for more than a dozen years.

Aside from encouraging emeritus groups, the Service Corps has established a Web page that will be expanded to serve as a resource center, database, discussion forum, clearinghouse for volunteering activities and link to SUNY campus retiree programs.

It is also exploring the creation of a SUNY-wide association of campus-based retiree programs to promote greater communication and interaction among campuses, as well as the creation of a SUNY-wide ID card.

The Service Corps is committed to working with other organizations, including unions, to promote cooperation and networking.

# 2010 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, 2010**

**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 2010 Fall Delegate Assembly.**

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

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

**DEADLINE: April 15, 2010**

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Occasionally, MAPers are asked for their opinions. Sometimes "MAP Alerts" include the opportunity to win valuable prizes offered by Member Benefits or providers of its endorsed programs.

Since MAP Alerts are sent from Member Benefits, your e-mail address is not shared with any outside parties.

If you haven't yet joined, simply complete a brief sign-up form on the Member Benefits Web site, [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org), and within three weeks, you'll start to receive MAP Alerts.

If you participate in any Member Benefits-endorsed voluntary insurance and legal programs, you have a new online capability available.

For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits at 800-626-8101, visit [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org) or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

This service, called **My Program Participation**, allows you to look up information about the endorsed programs you participate in at any time, day or night. Information includes the payment methods you are eligible for as well as the method used (payroll/pension deduction or direct bill); deduction amounts; premium amounts and coverage information if provided by the vendor to Member Benefits; and phone numbers for the vendors.

In addition, if you are covered by a Member Benefits-endorsed Group Legal Service Plan provided to you by your local association, benefit fund or employer, this information will also be displayed.

My Program Participation offers convenience and is especially beneficial if you participate in multiple programs through payroll or pension deduction. Your check stub shows one total deduction amount. With MPP, you can immediately see the individual amounts that comprise the total deduction.

Go to [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org) for the My Program Participation navigation bar on the left-hand side of the home page. Because MPP is housed in a password-protected area of the site, you will need to do an initial login to establish your account. Due to privacy issues, you will be asked to create your own enhanced security code to access the look-up service. Instructions are on the Web site.





# Season's Savings

During the holiday season and all through the year, you can save on great gifts and take advantage of exciting offers available only to union members.

Here are a some of the ways your union membership can help you delight everyone on your list — while getting the best value for every dollar you spend!

Special union discounts make holiday shopping a joy!

## Computer and Internet Deals

- Save up to 12% on **Dell computers**—laptops, desktops, printers and more.
- Use **Union Plus Voice** with your broadband connection and save 25% on your phone bill.
- Get high-speed dial-up **Internet service** that's 5 times faster than 56K for only \$14.95 a month.



## Clothing Discounts

- Get up to **10% off** quality comfortable union-made apparel.
- Wide selection for **all ages and sizes**—everything from gift shirts, henleys, sweats and jeans to dresses, oxford shirts and pants to kids' tees and sneakers.
- You also can order **gift certificates** for your friends.



## Entertainment Specials

- Save up to 40% on **movie tickets**.
- Find bargain prices and great selections at **Foxall's Book Store**, the largest unionized Internet bookseller.
- Get discount **DVD rentals** at Blockbuster.
- Save on **Broadway shows** and **sporting events** in selected cities.



## AT&T Wireless Saving

- Take an additional **10% off** the regular rate of any individual or family **calling plan** purchased at an **AT&T Wireless store** and also receive a \$50 in-store credit when signing up for service\*.



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