

Election Special Edition

Watch for ballots soon; deadline is March 16

This election special edition of *The Active Retiree* is sent to each retired member of UUP. It includes the 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, Dec. 30, 2010. Nominations closed Feb. 2. Ballots will be mailed no later than Feb. 11, are due March 16, and will be counted March 16-18. Results will be published in *The Active Retiree*.

The valid nominations for retiree positions are listed below.

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

Dave Kreh and Bob Rees, Co-chairs, Elections & Credentials Comm.

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.

UUP 2011 ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS NOMINATION LIST

Retired Delegate and Chair of the Committee on Active Retired Membership

Borgstede, William R.	(Env. Sci. & Forestry)	Johnson, Lydia L.	(Stony Brook HSC)
Domst, Andrea	(Fredonia)	Stempel, Patricia D.	(Upstate Medical Univ.)
Fiumano, Kathleen M.	(Upstate Medical Univ.)	Wishnia, Judith	(Stony Brook)
Green, Walter	(Stony Brook HSC))		

Committee on Active Retired Membership

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION (Region A):

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

LONG ISLAND REGION (Region B):

(Farmingdale, Old Westbury, Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC)
Green, Walter (Stony Brook HSC)
Maertz, Barbara T. (Farmingdale)

NORTH COUNTRY REGION (Region C):

(Canton, Plattsburgh, Potsdam)
Harsh, Robert A. (Plattsburgh)

WESTERN NEW YORK REGION (Region D):

(Alfred, Brockport, Buffalo Center, Buffalo HSC, Buffalo State, Fredonia, Geneseo)
Axlerod, Harvey S. (Buffalo Center)
Domst, Andrea (Fredonia)
Griffen, Paul B. (Geneseo)

CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION (Region E):

(Environmental Science & Forestry, Morrisville, Oswego, Upstate Medical University, Utica/Rome)
Borgstede, William R. (Env. Sci. & Forestry)
Fluck Jr., Robert R. (Upstate Medical Univ.)
Stempel, Patricia D. (Upstate Medical Univ.)

METROPOLITAN REGION (Region F):

(Brooklyn HSC, Maritime, Optometry, Purchase)
Russell, Eric P. (Brooklyn HSC)

SOUTHERN TIER REGION (Region G):

(Binghamton, Cortland, Delhi, Oneonta)
Schaffer, D. Jo (Cortland)

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Phillip H. Smith/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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Statements for Retired Delegate/COARM Chair

Judith Wishnia SUNY Stony Brook

With over 3,500 members, retirees are now approximately 10 percent of UUP. While we have accomplished much as an organization in the past few years, there are very serious challenges ahead and once again I am asking for your support for another term as COARM chair. I promise to continue to work hard to make COARM an important voice for retirees.

- Thanks to our hardworking regional directors, hundreds of retirees are meeting in the regions and on campuses, to socialize with friends and to discuss important issues. In the next two years, in order to reach more members, we must try to expand these meetings, perhaps to every campus.

- Our publication, *The Active Retiree*, continues to win major prizes from NYSUT and AFT. This year, NYSUT voted us the best newsletter in the state. But we must also find a faster way to reach our members with important information. We have a listserv and although we use it sparingly, there are occasions when it is crucial to get news to our members. For example, this year's changes in the Medicare Part B reimbursement was on the listserv many weeks before *The Active Retiree* went to press.

Please join the listserv at uupretirees-subscribe@yahoo.com groups.com.

- We must expand our connections to the retirees in NYSUT. The K-12 retirees are anxious to support higher education issues, but they need information. I am a member of the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee

and some of our members attend regional meetings. This effort should be expanded and we will continue our quest to be members of a NYSUT Retiree Council.

- A number of UUP retirees sit on the Senate committee establishing a Retiree Service Corps. We anticipate this will increase statewide connections between retirees, and we are urging them to create a statewide determination of emeritus status for professionals.

- We are also making UUP retirees an important voice for all senior citizens. We have a special committee, co-chaired by Don Cohen and Bob Kasprak, working on crucial issues such as elder abuse.

- MOST critical in the next two years is the maintenance of Social Security, Medicare and our NYSHIP health plan. All are under attack and need our advocacy. Our RELAG committee has been hard at work: many retirees go to Albany and to the home offices of our elected officials to educate them about these issues. It is also important to work with the union-sponsored Alliance for Retired Americans, which has led the fight for Social Security. We are all members, dues paid by NYSUT. I sit on the Board of Directors of the Long Island ARA and other retirees are active in their regions. We should be expanding this activity.

- Finally, the great institution where we spent our working lives is now facing severe budget cuts and many of our former colleagues are losing their jobs. We must double our efforts to maintain our public higher education system.

- If you have comments or suggestions, send them to jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

Statements for Regional Members of COARM

Al Magid Capital District-Region A

I seek re-election as regional chair for the COARM Capital District Region (organized around retirees in the SUNY units in Albany, Cobleskill and New Paltz; the NYS Theater Institute; and System Administration) with the following considerations in mind:

These are hard times for American trade unionism: Less than 10 percent of the nation's work force is unionized. Private-sector unionism continues to spiral downward; public-sector unionism has attracted larger numbers, albeit without spiraling sharply upward.

On the face of it, the latter development appears generally good for public-sector unionism. But the appearance is deceptive. In a public climate that is increasingly hostile and punitive, public-sector unions have become easy targets for diverse political, economic and media interests, and many among our nation's increasingly powerless, frustrated citizenry. Without relent those forces assail the legitimacy of public unionism and strive to roll back the hard-earned, well-deserved gains of the nation's public-sector work force, in the educational sphere and the civil service more generally.

The UUP organization and its members are among numerous would-be

public-sector victims of those hostile, punitive forces. In the face of this, it is crucial that the intended victims mount an effective resistance, with well-honed political and informational skills and fortified by an agenda framed to attract wide popular support.

It's what I believe and what I stand for.

As a retired UAlbany professor, my participation in UUP affairs continues to widen and deepen—principally as chair of the UUP's Capital District Region COARM and member of the statewide COARM leadership group representing 3,500 retired UUP academics and professionals, about 10 percent of the UUP's total membership.

Barbara Maertz Long Island-Region B

Hi! Everyone.

There are several reasons that I decided to run for re-election as Long Island Region Chair for COARM.

1. We are all aware of the current fiscal crisis facing the state. There will be job losses and cutbacks in many programs. Pension and benefits programs are under attack for all.

It is very important that UUP safeguard the benefits of its retired members, as well as negotiating for its currently active members. We need, therefore, a strong COARM contingent to speak up for our interests and work

together with leadership to ensure that all prosper.

2. A major activity for UUP is our legislative campaign each year in support of funding for SUNY, both for our members' jobs and our students' services. I would like to encourage our retirees to connect with their local legislator and advocate as strongly as possible for the UUP legislative program.

3. Most of all, I enjoy meeting with our retirees, planning the meetings and participating in the COARM statewide activities. There are many retirees doing exciting travel, volunteering in organizations and giving of your time for others. It is fun to learn about all these things at our DA meetings. I

hope we can bring some of that energy back to the regional meetings on Long Island.

In the two years that I have been serving as Chair for LI, we have had four meetings at the Farmingdale campus. While they have been well attended and stimulating, I have felt that a separate meeting should be scheduled at Stony Brook to serve the needs of our members out east. This request will be incorporated into my budget for 2011 and a meeting will be held in Fall 2011.

If you would like me to remain as Chair for this region to continue these activities, please vote for me in the spring elections.



**More Candidate Statements
for Regional Members of COARM
on the Next Page**

Statements for Regional Members of COARM

Harvey Axlerod Western NY-Region C

My name is Harvey Axlerod, and I seek your vote for regional chair of the Western New York retiree district.

The chore before us is huge. We have almost 1,000 members, and we need to produce stimulating programs that our members seek. Our liaison board works hard, but we seek fresh and innovative leaders. I believe we need to invigorate the membership to attend more meetings, and to participate as leaders. I also think we might consider some grassroots input to do what you want.

Luckily, we had Bill Rock as our chair

for 12 years. This provides us with an established structure. The challenge is to move forward.

What are the issues we must address? There are political issues, such as health care, Social Security and pension that must be made safe. We might move towards more meetings, or perhaps different types of meetings, such as Benefit Fairs. Finally, we might think about having some fun.

So why should you vote for me? In all, I have over 25 years of service to UUP. As a working member, I had a long list of service, including six years on the statewide Executive Board, six years as chapter president for the

Buffalo Center Chapter, 10 years as vice president for professionals, plus service on numerous statewide committees, including Solidarity, Membership, Outreach, Women's Concerns, and Negotiations, just to name a few.

In the last four years as a retiree, I've served as a member of the WNY district liaison group, as chair of the Buffalo Center Retiree Concerns Committee, and as alternate chair for the WNY district.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 716-631-0233 (phone) or at haxlerod@uupmail.org (e-mail).

Thanks for reading this. I hope I can get your vote.

Patricia Stempel Central NY-Region E

Dear friends,

It has been wonderful to be able to meet many of you over the past two years. My name is Patricia Stempel and I am running for re-election as the Regional Chair of COARM for the Central New York district.

During my tenure, we have had regional meetings twice a year to reach out and inform you of what is going on with UUP and with COARM. A meeting was also held in Oswego.

I am proud that I was able to co-author the publication that you received

last fall titled "Organizing Your Vital Records. Critical Info at Your Fingertips." I hope this document will make life easier for all UUP members and retirees.

I have met with Dr. Thomas Wolff regarding the statewide retiree network and how COARM can be involved. Retirees receive different benefits as they retire from their individual campus. I will continue to advocate for all Central New York retirees to receive maximal benefits from their home campus.

If I am re-elected, I will continue to work for you, so that you have the knowledge to be an active and fulfilled

retiree as a member of COARM and beyond.

I plan to hold other meetings that will be closer for retirees from Morrisville and Utica/Rome. Twice a year meetings in the Syracuse area will continue, with speakers on topics of interest to members.

There are many who would like to decrease the health care and other benefits we receive and increase our out-of-pocket costs. We must remain united, organized and strong as COARM members to ensure that we do not lose the benefits that we worked so hard to acquire.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

D. Jo Schaffer Southern Tier-Region G

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 of 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 Southern 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 with them 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.