

Election Special Edition

Watch for ballots soon; deadline is March 13

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. 26, 2012. Nominations closed Feb. 6, 2013. Ballots will be mailed no later than Feb. 15, are due March 13, and will be counted March 13-15. 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, Chair, Elections & Credentials Committee

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*.

Statements longer than 500 words were 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.

By reason of the office, the Retired Delegate is also Chair of COARM and a nonvoting Executive Board Member.

UUP 2013 ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS NOMINATION LIST

Retired Delegate and Chair of the Committee on Active Retired Membership

Patricia W. Bentley	(Plattsburgh)	Abigail J. Robin	(New Paltz)
John C.G. Boot	(Buffalo Center)	Charles R. Simpson	(Plattsburgh)
Andrea Domst	(Fredonia)	Samuel von Winbush	(Old Westbury)
Lydia L. Johnson	(Stony Brook HSC)	Doris R. Weisman	(Stony Brook HSC)
Gary E. Krolikowski	(Empire State College)	Judith Wishnia	(Stony Brook)

Committee on Active Retired Membership

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION (Region A):

(Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz, System Administration)
Alvin Magid (Albany)

LONG ISLAND REGION (Region B):

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

Barbara T. Maertz (Farmingdale)
Samuel von Winbush (Old Westbury)
Doris R. Weisman (Stony Brook HSC)
Judith Wishnia (Stony Brook)

NORTH COUNTRY REGION (Region C):

(Canton, Plattsburgh, Potsdam)

Patricia W. Bentley (Plattsburgh)
John T. Nixon (Canton)
Charles R. Simpson (Plattsburgh)
Miles D. Wolpin (Potsdam)

WESTERN NEW YORK REGION (Region D):

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

Harvey S. Axlerod (Buffalo Center)
Andrea Domst (Fredonia)
Anastasia K. Johnson (Buffalo Center)

CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION (Region E):

(Environmental Science & Forestry, Morrisville, Oswego, Upstate Medical University, Utica/Rome)
Patricia D. Stempel (Upstate Medical)

METROPOLITAN REGION (Region F):

(Downstate Medical Ctr, Maritime, Optometry, Purchase)
Eric P. Russell (Downstate Medical)

SOUTHERN TIER REGION (Region G):

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

Statements for Retired Delegate/COARM Chair

Judith Wishnia Stony Brook

We have come a long way since COARM was formed 35 years ago. We now have more than 4,000 retiree members and, thanks to our regional chairs, hundreds of us meet in regions and on campuses to connect to old friends and to hear interesting speakers.

Our newsletter, *The Active Retiree*, continues to win prizes from both NYSUT and AFT. Our special committee has done wonderful work on elder abuse and other issues of concern to seniors. We have been active in many political campaigns and have been advocating for SUNY and retiree issues in Albany and in our local areas. We are connected to other retiree organizations such as the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA), the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) and, after many years of trying, we are now officially members of the NYSUT Retiree

Council, giving us the ability to bring higher ed issues to the almost 200,000 NYSUT retirees.

But there is still much work to be done to insure that UUP retirees are in the forefront of protecting our dignity and our security.

- On the national scene: We must not allow seniors, who helped to build the middle class, to be victimized in the struggle over the national budget. We must organize to support maintenance and improvement of Social Security and Medicare, strengthening our connection with organizations such as the ARA and RPEA.

- On the state level, we must make sure that the commitments made in our contracts are honored, that our pensions and health coverage are maintained and kept at a low cost.

- On the UUP level, since we now have over 4,000 members, it is time to rethink how we are organized and how we can involve more members

in our activities.

We are in the process of instituting an email list of all our members so we can reach them with important information. We will be thinking about the expansion of COARM membership. We will be thinking of moving to more campus meetings. We will be thinking about how to serve members who do not live in NY state. We will be thinking about how to improve *The Active Retiree*. PLEASE tell us about your ideas for improving COARM's work at judith.wishnia@stonybrook.edu.

- Finally, on the SUNY level, we must join with our active colleagues in fighting for a budget which will enable SUNY to maintain access and its excellence in teaching and research, and we must work to stop the creeping privatization of our hospitals.

I ask you for one more term so I can work with both our retirees and active members in achieving these goals.

Charles Simpson Plattsburgh

My name is Charles Simpson. In fall 2012, I retired as a professor of sociology from SUNY Plattsburgh after more than 34 years. I would be honored to have the opportunity of continuing my past work with United University Professions. For the last several years, including the present year, I have been a chapter delegate. As an active member of the Corporatization and Globalization Committee, I contributed a paper at the 2012 Spring DA on the history and evolution of study abroad programs. I am also active in the Labor and Higher Education Committee.

If selected as Retiree Delegate, I would continue to participate in the work of these committees, as well as take on the specific interests of UUP

retirees, both present and future. I understand the mission of UUP in general and the Retiree Delegate in particular to be a champion of public higher education in New York against the myriad forces arrayed against it. These include business interests seeking a reduction in the size and mission of SUNY, attempting to privatize University services, outsource its functions, and replace tenured academics and professionals with contingent employees. Other opponents of an effective SUNY include state legislators unaware of the central role of public higher education in the state's quality of life, culture and economy, and narrow cultural interests hostile to the shared university governance and academic freedom that is the mark of the teaching and professional staff.

Retirees, present and future, have

vested their careers and identities in high-quality public education and its many benefits for students and the wider public. Retirees have, in addition, distinct interests in the financial health of the SUNY system and the outcome of contract negotiations affecting retiree benefits. As Retired Delegate, I would consider it a privilege to defend the interests of those who have served SUNY in the past, understanding that this is based on the continuing health of the system.

Retirees are anything but minds in neutral. We continue to explore the world and comment on it from our own disciplinary perspectives. We remain active intellectuals. But many of us find a reduced set of opportunities to intellectually contribute. With this in mind, should I be elected, I would like to

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work on the creation of a UUP Speakers Bureau of Retirees, available to participate as guests in university classes and other public forums, sharing our experience and insights as tempered minds. Such a resource could be organized via the

Internet and accessed directly by host instructors. As one element in a cultural bridge, it would continue to affirm the intellectual life of retirees and broaden the base of SUNY advocates.

Thanks for your consideration of my candidacy.

Statements for Regional Members of COARM

Alvin Magid Capital District—Region A

I seek re-election to the UUP Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM), representing the Capital District Region.

My continuing strong commitment to the interests of SUNY retirees, academic and professional, and of UUP is reflected in the following activities:

1) I have been an active member of COARM, which is based on seven regions in New York state. As such, I have participated in statewide COARM's meetings in different venues, among them the UUP Delegate Assembly held three times during each academic year. I have been an active participant also in various statewide COARM committees.

2) As a member of COARM, I have been an active participant in the proceedings of the plenary sessions at each UUP Delegate Assembly, and in various UUP committees.

3) As chair of Capital District Region COARM over several terms, I have

spearheaded the convening of semi-annual forum/brunch meetings, in October and May, with distinguished speakers from near and far who have addressed a wide range of topics—educational and political/public policy, domestic and international. These meetings have drawn audiences of SUNY retirees, academic and professional, from the Capital District Region campuses at Albany, Cobleskill and New Paltz. It is my intention to continue this "tradition," aided by an executive committee comprising Capital District Region SUNY retirees.

4) My strong commitment to SUNY retiree interests can be seen also in the fact that I am a co-plaintiff in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court by NYSUT, in alliance with UUP, against the state of New York: *Kuritz et al. v. State of New York et al.* The suit deals with the issue of whether the state's unilateral decision to increase premiums for individual and dependent health insurance coverage of individuals who retired between Jan. 1, 1983, and Oct. 1, 2011, was legal.

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Phillip H. Smith/President
J. Philippe Abraham/VP for Professionals
Jamie F. Dangler/VP for Academics
Eileen Landy/Secretary
Rowena J. Blackman-Stroud/Treasurer
Edison Bond Jr./Membership Dev. Officer

COARM Members (2011-2013)

Judith Wishnia, Chair
3 Quincy Ct. jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu
Setauket, NY 11733 (631) 751-3810

Jo Schaffer, Southern Tier Region
31 Pearl St. schaffer@twcny.rr.com
Cortland, NY 13035 (607) 753-7245

Patricia D. Stempel, Central NY Region
3767 Mooney Dr. pat28@aol.com
Marietta, NY 13110 (315) 636-8048

Alvin Magid, Capital District Region
2200 Grand Blvd. magid2@juno.com
Schenectady, NY 12309 (518) 377-9542

Barbara T. Maertz, Long Island Region
17 Daria Dr. maertztbt@farmingdale.edu
Oakdale, NY 11769 (631) 957-2499

Eric P. Russell, Metropolitan Region
134 Smithfield Ct. ericprussell@hotmail.com
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Patty Bentley, North Country Region
18 Sanborn Ave. plattpatty@gmail.com
Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518) 569-5327

Harvey Axlerod, Western NY Region
11427 Mauna Kea Lane axlerod@buffalo.edu
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Frank L. Maraviglia, Presidential appointee

John A. Richert, Presidential appointee
751 W. Ferry St. #8-Cd jrichert@buffalo.edu
Buffalo, NY 14222 (716) 881-1839

Edison Bond Jr., Ex-officio member
1530 E. 54th St. ebond@uupmail.org
Brooklyn, NY 11234 (718) 951-4003

UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator
Walter Apple wapple@uupmail.org

UUP Publications Specialist
Karen L. Mattison kmattiso@uupmail.org

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

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

United University Professions
P.O. Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212-5143
518-640-6600 1-800-342-4206
fax: 1-866-812-9446

Statements for Regional Members of COARM

Barbara Maertz Long Island—Region B

I have enjoyed being the Long Island Rep for COARM, getting to know so many of you at our brunch meetings in the spring and fall. You are a vital, energetic group interested in the chapter union activities, attacks on our hospital and university funding, and the global issues of Social Security and Medicare.

This year, the Long Island group should get more involved with the campaign to protect Downstate Medical from closing and fight for increased hospital funding statewide because what affects one campus can affect all

campuses in the future. We need to send those emails and support our working union brothers and sisters.

It has been especially important to reach our Stony Brook members more easily by having meetings at the hospital dining facility. While we could not do so this fall because of Superstorm Sandy, we plan to get together this April. We have been so graciously welcomed and helped there by the UUP SB President Carol Gizzi and her administrative assistant, Sharon Hines.

At Farmingdale, we have been meeting and greeting new retirees and returning friends through the efforts of Debby Amato and UUPF President Yolanda Pauzé. At this spring meeting,

one of our members who is a published bird photographer, Stan Mehlman, will show us the tricks to getting better photos on those travels we all take.

One of the most important functions I do, statewide, is helping prepare the annual budget for COARM and keeping track of expenses throughout the year. The subcommittee seeks the input of all our retirees to plan for COARM to represent our history, our Elder Abuse Committee meetings, and continue to challenge attacks on our benefits in Medicare/Social Security.

I am asking for your vote to continue as your rep at the COARM meetings statewide and to continue to plan for the Long Island Region meetings.

Charles Simpson North Country—Region C

Editor's Note: See his candidate statement under "Statements for Retired Delegate/COARM Chair," beginning on page 2.

John Nixon North Country—Region C

I have taught at both SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton since 1975—full time at Potsdam until 1982, then Canton from 1982 until 2010; and part time at Potsdam from 1982 until 2011. Since retirement, I have continued at Canton part time to develop a new bachelor's program in applied psychology.

I have served as UUP academic delegate for Canton several times, and have been UUP departmental representative for many years. The union has been an

important part of my and my wife's (she retired from Canton in 2010) professional lives.

I feel strongly that the union movement has been a major force in creating and maintaining a middle class in the U.S., and that we are under widespread pressure to be eliminated in our society. UUP and NYSUT can be part of the re-kindling of a union movement that will help to improve the lives of many professionals and their families.

I would like to be a continuing part of that process by serving on the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM).

Jo Schaffer Southern Tier—Region G

This is a short statement to all my Southern Tier retiree colleagues on behalf of my candidacy to be your COARM representative once more.

Over the years in that position it has been my honor and pleasure to organize regional meetings where I can

meet up with you, hear your concerns, and present new and important information directly to you. More importantly for me, those meetings have been a wonderful way to get to know so many of you. I have enjoyed that interaction with you—learning of the many ways you were active in the union, the University and in your communities.

As you are particularly aware, the struggle to improve or just maintain our retiree-earned benefits goes on. It is a never-ending fight to keep what we earned. It is only with your participation and concern that we can move forward together.

I ask once more for your support for another term as your regional representative.