

The Active Retiree

Election Special Edition

February 2015

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 list of candidates for Retired Delegate and Regional Members of the statewide Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM), and the 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. 31, 2014. Nominations closed Feb. 4, 2015. Ballots will be mailed no later than Feb. 13, 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 below.

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

Dave Kreh & Jeanne Galbraith, Co-chairs, Elections & Credentials

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 and photo 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 2015 ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS NOMINATION LIST

Retired Delegate and Chair of the Committee on Active Retired Membership

Alteri, Barbara M. (Upstate)	E	Robin, Abigail J. (New Paltz)	A
Ballard, David P. (Buffalo Center)	D	Schaffer, D. Jo (Cortland)	G
Bentley, Patricia W. (Plattsburgh)	C	Solnick, Bruce B. (Albany)	A
Braun, Antoinette (Stony Brook HSC)	B	Torok, Carole E. (Utica/Rome)	E
Casarella, Gary A. (Buffalo Center)	D	Wardlaw, Roosevelt (Buffalo Center)	D
Domst, Andrea (Fredonia)	D	Williams, Benjamin J. (Stony Brook HSC)	B
Leff, Arlene (NYSTI)	A	Wolpin, Miles D. (Potsdam)	C

Committee on Active Retired Membership

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION (Region A):

(Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz, NYSTI, System Admin.)

Leff, Arlene	(NYSTI)
Magid, Alvin	(Albany)
Robin, Abigail J.	(New Paltz)
Solnick, Bruce B.	(Albany)

LONG ISLAND REGION (Region B):

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

Braun, Antoinette	(Stony Brook HSC)
Maertz, Barbara T.	(Farmingdale)

NORTH COUNTRY REGION (Region C):

(Canton, Plattsburgh, Potsdam)

Nixon, John T.	(Canton)
Wolpin, Miles D.	(Potsdam)

WESTERN NEW YORK REGION (Region D):

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

Ballard, David P.	(Buffalo Center)
Bush, Edward W.	(Buffalo Center)
Johnson, Anastasia K.	(Buffalo Center)

CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION (Region E):

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

Alteri, Barbara M.	(Upstate)
Torok, Carole E.	(Utica/Rome)

METROPOLITAN REGION (Region F):

(Downstate Medical Ctr., Maritime, Optometry, Purchase)

Russell, Eric P.	(Downstate Medical)
------------------	---------------------

SOUTHERN TIER REGION (Region G):

(Binghamton, Cortland, Delhi, Oneonta)

D. Jo Schaffer	(Cortland)
----------------	------------

Statements for Retired Delegate/COARM Chair

Miles D. Wolpin Potsdam

Will bring a more conservative perspective to decision-making.

D. Jo Schaffer Cortland

A decision to seek election as the statewide chairperson for the UUP Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM) is not an easy one. Following the superb leadership of Judy Wishnia is a daunting task. She has set the bar extraordinarily high with her years of dedicated commitment to preserving and protecting our earned benefits, higher education union goals and pertinent articles for the award-winning *Active Retiree* publication.

As a role model, I have tried, over the years, to emulate Judy's example of union leadership, but in my own way and style.

When UUP was founded, I was there. I have served without prejudice under the presidencies of Nuala Drescher, Tim Reilly, Bill Scheuerman, Fred Floss, Phil Smith and Fred Kowal—for the good of all our members. I have walked picket lines, attended and written articles as a professional and delegate to the DA, the RA and AFT assemblies for over 30 years; as the chapter Vice President for Professionals; as a member of the statewide Executive Board; as chapter president for three terms; and as UUP's membership development officer for four terms; and now as the elected Southern Tier retiree representative for six years;

and as a rep to the Alliance for Retired Americans; and serving on the newly accredited UUP/NYSUT Retiree Council 40-42.

Of all the accomplishments, large and small, during this "lifetime" of union service, I am most proud of creating, with Nuala Drescher and Mary Edwards, the UUP Committee on Womens' Issues and, as the MDO, the award categories for the Mitchell yearly awards and Retiree of the Year honoring our union activists.

As the MDO, I was committed to assisting chapters develop membership involvement by creating calendars of timed activities and means of union service, enabling our members to participate more fully in the activities of UUP.

I have also worked as the regional rep to help create distribution lists to enable COARM to be in touch with our members on a regular basis, to have campus/area meetings in the region to enable more members to attend COARM meetings. Additionally, I have been a strong promoter of regional or local advocacy being sensitive to the difficulty of our members to get to Albany, especially in the winter. Recently, I served with Barbara Maertz on the COARM sub-committee to preserve and protect our insurance and travel benefits.



Needless to say, there is much more to be done by COARM to involve the retirees in support of UUP activities. Not only would it be ideal for the retirees to be committed to the fight to preserve and protect our earned benefits against those who would diminish them, but to work to make sure they are there for future UUP retirees.

I would work to involve those UUP retirees who live out of state, whether year round or winter escapees, to organize as a force in their adopted retirement communities from Arizona to Florida. Many retirees have found second careers, volunteer countless hours in community work and put their years of learning and experience to good purposes. These good deeds need to be recognized as good publicity for UUP.

More importantly, I would continue working with the active membership, indeed continue teaching them, that retirees have much to offer their "active" colleagues. We represent the living history of unionism, UUP in particular, which must not be forgotten. I often find myself at chapter meetings reminding my younger colleagues that we have "been there and done that."

Let's use the knowledge of our retirees and together, let's move the union on!

***Candidate Statements for Regional Members
of COARM on the Back Page***

Patricia "Patty" Bentley Plattsburgh

In the upcoming election, I am seeking to be elected as the Retiree Delegate and Chair of the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM). COARM represents the nearly 5,000 UUP retirees and is the single voice for retirees on the UUP Executive Board.

Additionally, the Retiree Delegate must be a link to the active members in UUP and our affiliates, NYSUT, AFT and NEA, as well as to our retiree-specific affiliates, ARA and the Senior Action Network. The delegate routinely informs members of activities and helps coordinate the publications of an award-winning newsletter—the only vehicle that we know reaches every member.

I have served UUP and SUNY with energy and enthusiasm since I joined the faculty at SUNY Plattsburgh in 1977 as an associate librarian. Many of you know me through my service as chair of the Legislation Committee, service on the UUP and NYSUT boards of directors, the AAUP National Council, or on two Negotiations Teams and as an active member of SUNYLA or as an advocate for LGBT issues and recognition at all levels. I retired as a librarian and associate in women's studies in 2011. I have been grateful every day for the quality of my life and health. I thank the union for those benefits. I have had extraordinary opportunities and colleagues and I want to continue the work of representing and working with one of our most important populations—retirees



who have interests, passion and strong voices for justice and fairness.

We must encourage more retirees to be active in improving and preserving the benefits we worked for. I will keep you informed of relevant state and federal issues of concerns to retirees. I am committed to encouraging UUP retirees to play an active role in these matters.

We need to improve methods of communications with our colleagues, no matter where they have "landed" for retirement. While most of our retirees are predictably centered in New York, we have a significant percentage who now live out of state, but who retain their interest in SUNY, public higher education and, particularly, in Social Security, Medicare and the implications of the Affordable Care Act.

If elected, I will encourage COARM members to become more connected and active in UUP retiree issues. I'd like to be sure that we are giving as many people as much notice, encouragement and support to maximize our "imprint." To do this, I want to see better coordination for UUP retirees to attend meetings, fund-raisers and regional meetings of our affiliates, including the SUNY Retirees Council, the NYSUT regional retirees events, and area events involving labor, religious and service coalitions that bear on our interests. Better coordination of these activities can only result in better representation.

I believe I have the interest, personality and experience to do it—as long as I have your help and advice. I want to hear from you. I'd like your support and your vote.

Thank you!

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Frederick E. Kowal/President
J. Philippe Abraham/VP for Professionals
Jamie F. Dangler/VP for Academics
Eileen Landy/Secretary
Rowena J. Blackman-Stroud/Treasurer
Arthur M. Shertzer/Membership Dev. Officer

COARM Members (2013-2015)

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. maertzbt@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

Arthur M. Shertzer, Ex-officio member

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

UUP Associate Director of Communications
 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.

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



Statements for Regional Members of COARM

Alvin Magid: Capital District—Region A

I have served several terms as regional chair of the Capital District Region of COARM. My experiences have provided me great satisfaction relating to my sense of having been effective.

As Capital District chair, I've worked with an executive committee adept at mounting imaginative and stimulating forum/brunches each October and May, those events held at Alumni House on UAlbany's main campus and centered on guest speakers addressing important issues mostly of public policy in the political, economic and educational spheres, domestic and international. I want to be available to help shape and guide those events. Attendees have come mostly from the Albany, New Paltz and Cobleskill campuses, providing an opportunity for retired SUNY academics and professionals to meet and exchange. The proceedings have been enriched also by the participation of UUP personnel, Walt Apple and Rob Trimarchi, presenters of important and timely



information about SUNY retiree benefits and other matters.

As a regional representative on the statewide COARM, I continue to engage SUNY retiree issues and concerns that have state and even national resonances, affording me many opportunities to see, think about, and act upon matters of both narrow focus and broad sweep. Because UUP is affiliated with NYSUT and, in turn, with the AFT, my attention has been drawn

increasingly to the crosscutting policy interests and engagements of all three union organizations. I hope that someday my connection with COARM in the Capital District Region and on the state level will provide me with opportunities to be involved with important retiree issues connecting up with NYSUT and the AFT.

That interest, too, motivates me to seek reelection as chair of the Capital District Region of COARM. I will appreciate the

Barbara Maertz: Long Island—Region B

Representing the Long Island Region for the last six years has been a rewarding and interesting venture. I have come to know many of you at the local brunch meetings that we have in spring and fall. The Stony Brook meetings have grown to over 100 attendees and the Farmingdale meetings are at 35 to 45. Through these events, much information has been given to retirees about dental, vision and UNUM benefits and the status of Social Security, Medicare and government initiatives like IRMAA legislation.

We have tried to make an impact on our local legislators through advocacy and informed you about UUP and NYSUT issues for our active working brothers and sisters. Together we have sent letters to legislators and signed many letters of support for Downstate Medical Center.

Being the Long Island regional coordinator means representing you at the COARM committee meetings at the DAs and the COARM summer retreats. At those meetings, I have served as the Finance Committee liaison and coordinated the

COARM negotiations with UNUM to retain the \$1,000 life insurance policy and the Assist America travel option as our members overwhelmingly wanted to have.

I enjoyed working with Judy Wishnia and the other regional coordinators over the years to bring fiscal soundness to the budget process, a listserv to keep our members informed, interesting programs for our meetings and pre-retirement seminars to our almost-retired members.

So what's next? Hopefully after the election, I can continue to work with others to expand the COARM representatives to each campus, support the legislative program of UUP through continuing advocacy with our NYS legislators to protect our benefits and support our teachers in the fight against business interests promoting the takeover of our schools through overly zealous testing and short changing their budgets.

Please help by voting for me to remain Long Island regional coordinator for COARM when the ballots come to your home in February.

Thank you.

Miles D. Wolpin: North Country—Region C

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

John T. Nixon: North Country—Region C

UUP has been important to me since starting SUNY employ in 1975. I have been a delegate to DAs many times, SUNY Faculty Senate for four years. I believe I can be an effective voice for the North Country.

Edward W. Bush Western NY—Region D

I retired from the Buffalo Center campus in August of 2013. I was active in the union and a delegate for many years. I wish to remain active as a retired delegate that is why I am placing my name on the ballot.

D. Jo Schaffer: Southern Tier—Region G

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