

The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retiree Members of United University Professions

Retirees: Get out the vote for pro-union candidates

by Jo Schaffer
COARM Chair

To those of you living in New York, please don't feel so complacent that New York will rest a blue state.

Some Republican politicos have touted that Long Island is up for Trump grabs; that some of the Southern Tier is vulnerable to a disillusioned voting population; that Buffalo will fall into the Great Lakes with a great big red splash. We should never take an election result for granted.

Many of you, with some discretionary time, can volunteer locally to stuff envelopes, make campaign calls for the candidate of your choice, place signs on your lawns to give name recognition to some candidates, and otherwise get engaged communally in the process.

According to our COARM records, many of you live outside the New York frontiers, enjoying the milder, warmer or hotter climates of New Mexico, Arizona, North and

see CANDIDATES, page 2



DONALD FELDSTEIN

COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, right, shakes hands with Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner at the NYSUT Presidents Conference on Endorsements in August. Miner was part of a panel discussion about the challenges women face in politics. See the list of endorsed candidates on page 7.

Trump and the working class

by Bill Scheuerman
Oswego

I'm a post middle-age white guy with deep working-class roots. My parents were blue-collar workers, and I worked many blue-collar jobs before becoming a college professor. I've been a union member since my teen years.

In short, I understand the anxiety of working people who rightly feel screwed over as they struggle from paycheck to paycheck. I've been there.

I see a lot of working people on TV saying they're supporting Donald Trump because he "hears" them. Well, I have news for these voters. The only person Trump hears is himself counting his billions. He says he'll make life wonderful again for American workers but, believe me,

Trump is no friend of working people.

After winning the Indiana primary, Trump promised a cheering crowd of Hoosiers that he was going to bring jobs back to America. Sure, and there's a bridge over the East River that's for sale! Just look at his record on outsourcing jobs to other countries. According to Gabby Morrongiello in the *Washington Examiner*, since 2011, some 1,200 shipments of outsourced Trump goods came into the U.S. from foreign manufacturers. Trump-brand products ranging from slippers to body soap and most everything in between were made in China, Japan, Mexico, South and Central America, and even Europe.

Trump makes millions off outsourcing, but he also makes big bucks off the backs of workers at home. He opposes a mini-

mum wage hike and rants on Fox News against high taxes and wages for all American workers.

"Whether it's taxes or wages," Trump said, "if they're too high, we're not going to be able to compete with other countries."

The countries he's talking about are not the industrialized democracies of Europe—where taxes are higher and workers make good wages, have universal health care, paid family leave and free university education. No. He's talking about countries that keep unions out and pay workers semi-starvation wages. In fact, this is the business model Trump uses in running his Las Vegas hotel.

Workers at unionized Las Vegas hotels have free health care, pensions, and earn

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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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Candidates ...

(continued from page 1)

South Carolina, and Florida. These are the so-called pink or purple battleground states in which the polls indicate a closer race than perhaps that of New York. The election might go in either direction. With your participation and political involvement in supporting those candidates who support your best interests, you have the "power" to keep Social Security stable and Medicare healthy. Help make sure these states become blue.

If you need information about where and how to help protect your self-interests, please email me or any of the others listed at left as representatives

of COARM for more information and ways in which to participate. We can provide you with local contacts near your retirement localities. And last, but most importantly, continue to contribute to VOTE-COPE as UUP and retiree dues cannot be used for political action.



NYSUT, AFL-CIO list of endorsed candidates, p. 7



Trump ...

(continued from page 1)

over \$3 an hour more than workers in Trump's Las Vegas International Hotel.

When Trump's workers tried to unionize, Trump hired a union-busting law firm and consultant and, according to the National Labor Relations Board, threatened workers with reprisals, suppressed free speech, and promised job opportunities to workers who rejected the union. His hotel even suspended five workers for wearing union buttons. Thankfully, all were reinstated by the NLRB. Management's anti-union tactics were so nasty the NLRB issued three separate unfair labor complaints. After workers won their union representation election, Trump, rather than negotiate a contract as required by federal law, filed an appeal in a last-ditch attempt to break the new union. The NLRB again ruled against him. So much for giving workers a living wage.

As for lowering taxes, Trump keeps changing the details of his tax-cut proposals, but they all favor the rich. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, his most recent proposal would increase millionaires' after tax incomes by 17.9 percent, but give middle-class households an after-tax boost of less than 5 percent. In other words, he plans to give rich people more than three times as much in tax breaks as the middle class. But it's even worse. Experts say Trump's tax plan would raise the deficit by trillions, leading to cuts in Social Security and Medicare.

American workers are angry, and rightly so, that both political parties have ignored them for decades. But don't count on a Trump presidency to bring jobs back to America or to raise American wages and incomes.

From the COARM Chair

First things first

If you have been having too much fun on vacation or just plain enjoying your retirement or otherwise occupied, you may not have noticed that the country is engaged in presidential election mania. Many other crucial issues have been pushed to the side during this national debate.

During the last few weeks, even the nightly Olympics coverage had to fight for ratings against the news channels' latest reporting on campaign events and tweets.

Among the most important of those sidelined issues was the previously heated campaign and publicity for next year's New York State Constitutional Convention vote.

First things first. After the 2016 presidential election is when we should return to the discussion of whether to have or have not the New York Constitutional Convention when we vote in 2017.

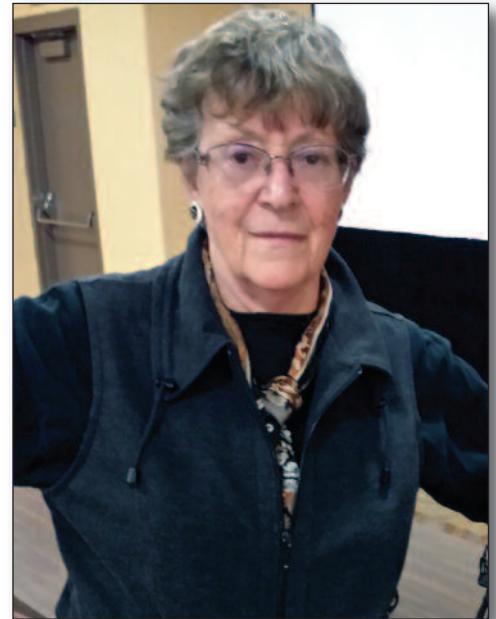
First things first. Our union, in joint meetings with our labor affiliates—NYSUT, AFT, AFL-CIO—have, after thoughtful membership participation and discussions, endorsed candidates they think will best address the issues we have stood for over the decades of our existence—quality public education, health care for all, the right to bargain collectively, and so on. Those endorsed candidates can be found on the following pages.

In preparation for the endorsement,

at those meetings and on these pages, I slogged through the platforms passed by the committees of both major political parties. I really mean "slogged." The platforms are readily available on the web. You, too, can work your way through pages of highfalutin, sometimes elegant language, and end up with the same conclusions I reached.

The Republican platform called for a return to another *Friedrich v. California Teachers Association* case to diminish union political activity; went on for paragraphs denying a women's right to choose or have control over her body; wanted to diminish Medicare benefits; raise the retirement age; limit Medicaid provisions to states; increase the expansion of charter schools; eliminate marriage equity; allow religious groups to discriminate in business and services based on these previous items; and, in shrouded language, privatize Social Security.

In contrast, slogging away, the Democratic platform talked of preserving Social Security by raising the cap on contributions for incomes over the present level; planning ways to protect Medicare and Medicaid by lowering the age of eligibility to younger and healthier participants; renegotiating and lowering interest rates on college loans; examining lowering or eliminating community college tuition; and protecting the guarantee of excellent public education.



This is not the time to sit back and not participate in this most important of presidential elections. Among almost 5,000 UUP retiree members, we represent years of voter and election experience. My first vote for president was for Adlai Stevenson in 1956. We know the value of our vote and our energetic commitments to the future of our children, our grandchildren and ourselves.

First things first!



Where they stand



Republican candidate Donald Trump

Donald Trump is running a campaign fueled by oppressive and hateful rhetoric. He has offered anti-American “solutions” to banish citizens based purely on religious beliefs. He has derided women, immigrants and veterans, and made juvenile remarks about people with disabilities.

All people should be treated with dignity and respect, and the president of the United States should share these most basic values. Donald Trump does not share the values of working families.

In fact, Donald Trump as president would make the lives of working people measurably worse. He is one of the most anti-worker presidential candidates in American history.

Donald Trump:

JOBs & THE ECONOMY

- Thinks wages are too high and that corporations should threaten to move production to force down the wages of working people.
- Supports right-to-work laws that gut unions and take away power from working people.
- Refuses to recognize a union election at his hotel.
- Promises to put union-busting corporate CEOs in charge of trade negotiations.
- Outsources his own products to low-wage countries like Bangladesh.
- Exploits immigrant workers in the United States.

CRIME

- Believes a good way to fight crime is to empower law-abiding gun owners to defend themselves.
“Our personal protection is ultimately up to us.”

IMMIGRATION REFORM

- Plans to erect a wall across the southern border and force Mexico to pay for it.
- Would restrict the granting of visas to the U.S.
- Would create a “deportation force” to remove some 11 million undocumented immigrants.
- Would reverse a U.S. law that grants American citizenship to any child born in the U.S., regardless of whether the child's parents are undocumented immigrants.
- Would bar immigrants from any nation that has been compromised by terrorism (this is an “expansion” of his earlier plan to bar all foreign Muslims from the U.S.)

HEALTH CARE

- Would repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- Would bring “free-market principles” to the health care industry.
- Would block-grant Medicaid to the states.

ENVIRONMENT

- Opposes current policy goals to reduce methane emissions by 40-45 percent through standards for new and existing sources.
- Opposes policies that: put much of Alaska’s oil reserves off limits; decreased production on federal lands by 10 percent; put 87 percent of Outer Continental Shelf reserves out of service; and shut down Atlantic lease sales.



Democratic candidate

Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton—endorsed for president by the AFL-CIO, AFT and NEA—has a long history of advocating for working families. She supports paid family leave, earned sick days, equal pay for women, affordable child care, and the right to unionize and bargain collectively.

As president, Hillary Clinton has pledged to:

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Make community college tuition free.
- Make income-based loan repayment simple and broadly available.
- Increase Pell grants and cut interest rates on federal student loans.
- Enable borrowers to refinance student loans at current low interest rates.
- Provide grants to states and colleges that ensure no four-year college student must borrow for tuition.

LABOR

- Strengthen unions and support workers' rights to collectively bargain.
- Fight for pay equity for women, and paid family leave.
- Raise the minimum wage.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Address systematic irregularities in the criminal justice system that disproportionately affect communities of color.
- Ensure access to educational and economic opportunities for poor and low-income families.
- End racial profiling and an era of mass incarcerations.

JOBs & THE ECONOMY

- Invest in roads, bridges and renewable energy infrastructure needed for a 21st-century economy.
- Invest in manufacturing to bring back well-paying jobs and ensure a skilled workforce.
- Boost worker income through incentives for companies that share profits with employees.
- Provide a \$1,500 tax credit to companies for every worker they hire and train.
- Level the playing field for working families through a 4 percent “fair share surcharge” on annual incomes of more than \$5 million.
- Strengthen financial reform and regulations to rein in Wall Street excesses.

HEALTH CARE

- Preserve and expand the Affordable Care Act.
- Protect families from soaring health care costs driven by mega-mergers in the health care industry.
- Cap out-of-pocket health care costs, especially for prescription drugs.
- Repeal the so-called Cadillac tax on job-based health plans that shift costs onto workers.
- Establish federal nurse-to-patient ratios that ensure patients receive the best possible care.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

- Preserve Social Security and protect it from privatization.
- Protect Medicare from privatization and cuts.
- Drive down drug costs for seniors.
- Oppose efforts to raise the retirement age.

Why should I give to VOTE-COPE?

- 1** VOTE-COPE funds help protect collective bargaining rights.
- 2** VOTE-COPE funds give members and students valuable opportunities to deliver UUP's message to legislators by attending advocacy days, in-district meetings/events and fundraisers.
- 3** VOTE-COPE funds support candidates who fight to protect public higher education—our University, our students, our patients, our jobs and our retirement benefits—regardless of party affiliation.
- 4** VOTE-COPE funds give us a voice against the formidable forces pushing to privatize campus resources.
- 5** VOTE-COPE funds allow us to challenge misperceptions and promote solutions to the real problems we face.



**What dues can't do,
YOU and VOTE-COPE can!**



UUP RETIREE MEMBER

UUP VOTE/COPE Voluntary Contribution • United University Professions • P.O. Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212-5143

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Address (Include Street, City, State, ZIP) _____



Contribution

\$50 \$75 \$100

Other \$ _____

Signature _____

Date _____

UUP Retiree Members who belong to the Teachers' Retirement System or the Employees' Retirement System can request a Pension Deduction Authorization Card at 800.342.4206.

NYSUT, AFL-CIO endorsement recommendations for 2016

Below is the complete list of NYSUT endorsements. Statewide candidates marked with an asterisk* were also endorsed by the New York AFL-CIO.

U.S. SENATE

Chuck Schumer*

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- 1 Anna Throne-Holst
- 2 DuWayne Gregory
- 3 Thomas Suozzi
- 4 No endorsement
- 5 Greg Meeks
- 6 Grace Meng
- 7 Nydia Velazquez
- 8 Hakeem Jeffries
- 9 Yvette Clark
- 10 Jerrold Nadler
- 11 Daniel Donovan Jr.
- 12 Carolyn Maloney
- 13 Adriano Espaillat
- 14 Joe Crowley
- 15 José Serrano
- 16 Eliot Engel
- 17 Nita Lowey
- 18 Sean Patrick Maloney
- 19 Zephyr Teachout
- 20 Paul Tonko
- 21 Elise Stefanik
- 22 No endorsement
- 23 John F. Plumb
- 24 Colleen Deacon
- 25 Louise Slaughter
- 26 Brian Higgins
- 27 Diana Kastenbaum

NYS SENATE

- 1 Kenneth LaValle*
- 2 No endorsement
- 3 Tom Croci*
- 4 Phil Boyle*
- 5 No endorsement
- 6 No endorsement
- 7 Adam Haber*
- 8 No endorsement
- 9 Todd Kaminsky*
- 10 James Sanders Jr.*
- 11 Tony Avella*
- 12 Michael Gianaris*
- 13 José Peralta*
- 14 Leroy Comrie*
- 15 Joseph Addabbo*
- 16 Toby Ann Stavisky*
- 17 No endorsement
- 18 Martin Dilan*
- 19 Roxanne Persaud*
- 20 Jesse Hamilton*
- 21 Kevin Parker*
- 22 No endorsement
- 23 Diane Savino*

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 24 Andrew Lanza* | 23 Stacey Pheffer Amato* | 87 Luis Sepulveda* |
| 25 Velmanette Montgomery* | 24 David Weprin* | 88 Amy Paulin* |
| 26 Daniel Squadron* | 25 Nily Rozic* | 89 Gary Pretlow* |
| 27 Brad Hoylman* | 26 Edward Braunstein* | 90 Shelley Mayer* |
| 28 Elizabeth Krueger* | 27 Michael Simanowitz* | 91 Steven Otis* |
| 29 José Serrano* | 28 Andrew Hevesi* | 92 Thomas Abinanti* |
| 30 Bill Perkins* | 29 Alicia Hyndman* | 93 David Buchwald* |
| 31 Robert Jackson* | 30 Margaret Markey* | 94 Brian M. Higbie |
| 32 No endorsement | 31 Michele Titus* | 95 Sandra Galef |
| 33 Gustavo Rivera* | 32 Vivian Cook* | 96 Kenneth Zebrowski* |
| 34 Jeffrey Klein* | 33 Clyde Vanel* | 97 Ellen Jaffee* |
| 35 Andrea Stewart-Cousins* | 34 Michael DenDekker* | 98 John Allegro |
| 36 Jamaal Bailey* | 35 Jeffriion Aubry* | 99 James Skoufis* |
| 37 George Latimer* | 36 Aravella Simotas* | 100 Aileen Gunther |
| 38 David Carlucci* | 37 Catherine Nolan* | 101 No endorsement |
| 39 Chris Eachus | 38 Michael Miller* | 102 Peter Lopez |
| 40 Terrence Murphy* | 39 Francisco Moya* | 103 Kevin Cahill* |
| 41 Terry Gipson* | 40 Ronald Kim* | 104 Frank Skartados* |
| 42 No endorsement | 41 Helene Weinstein* | 105 Joe Torres* |
| 43 Kathy Marchione* | 42 Rodneyese Bichotte* | 106 Didi Barret* |
| 44 Neil Breslin* | 43 Diana Richardson* | 107 Steve McLaughlin* |
| 45 Elizabeth Little* | 44 Robert Carroll* | 108 John McDonald |
| 46 No endorsement | 45 Steven Cymbrowitz* | 109 Patricia Fahy* |
| 47 Joseph Griffo* | 46 Pamela Harris* | 110 Phil Steck* |
| 48 Patty Ritchie* | 47 William Colton* | 111 Angelo Santabarbara* |
| 49 Jim Tedisco | 48 No endorsement | 112 No endorsement |
| 50 John DeFrancisco* | 49 Peter Abbate Jr.* | 113 Carrie Woerner* |
| 51 James Seward* | 50 Joseph Lentol* | 114 Dan Stec* |
| 52 Fred Akshar* | 51 Felix Ortiz* | 115 Bill Jones* |
| 53 David Valesky* | 52 JoAnn Simon* | 116 Addie Russell* |
| 54 No endorsement | 53 Maritza Davila* | 117 Ken Blankenbush* |
| 55 Rich Funke* | 54 Erik Martin Dilan* | 118 Marc Butler* |
| 56 Joseph Robach* | 55 Latrice Walker* | 119 Anthony Brindisi* |
| 57 Catharine Young* | 56 Tremaine Wright* | 120 William Barclay* |
| 58 Leslie Danks | 57 Walter Mosley* | 121 William Magee* |
| 59 Patrick Gallivan* | 58 Nick Perry* | 122 Clifford Crouch* |
| 60 No endorsement | 59 Jamie Williams* | 123 Donna Lupardo* |
| 61 No endorsement | 60 Charles Barron* | 124 Christopher Friend |
| 62 Robert Ortt* | 61 Matthew Titone* | 125 Barbara Lifton* |
| 63 Timothy Kennedy* | 62 No endorsement | 126 Diane Dwire* |
| | 63 Michael Cusick* | 127 Albert Stirpe Jr.* |
| | 64 Nicole Malliotakis* | 128 Pamela Hunter* |
| | 65 Paul Newell | 129 William Magnarelli* |
| | 66 Deborah Glick* | 130 Bob Oaks* |
| | 67 Linda Rosenthal* | 131 Brian Kolb* |
| | 68 Robert Rodriguez* | 132 Philip Palmesano* |
| | 69 Daniel O'Donnell* | 133 No endorsement |
| | 70 Inez Dickens* | 134 Peter Lawrence |
| | 71 Herman (Denny) Farrell* | 135 Mark Johns* |
| | 72 Guillermo Linares* | 136 Joseph Morelle* |
| | 73 Dan Quart* | 137 No endorsement |
| | 74 Brian Kavanagh* | 138 Harry Bronson* |
| | 75 Richard Gottfried* | 139 No endorsement |
| | 76 Rebecca Seawright* | 140 Robin Schimminger |
| | 77 Latoya Joyner* | 141 Crystal Peoples-Stokes* |
| | 78 José Rivera* | 142 Michael Kearns* |
| | 79 Michael Blake* | 143 Monica P. Wallace* |
| | 80 Mark Gjonaj* | 144 No endorsement |
| | 81 Jeffrey Dinowitz* | 145 John Ceretto* |
| | 82 Michael Benedetto* | 146 Steven Meyer* |
| | 83 Carl Heastie* | 147 David DiPietro |
| | 84 No endorsement | 148 Joseph Giglio* |
| | 85 Marcus Crespo* | 149 Sean Ryan* |
| | 86 Victor Pichardo* | 150 Andrew Goodell |



GENERAL ELECTION—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

- Register in person by Friday, October 14th
- Register by mail: Postmarked by Friday, October 14th and received by October 19th
- Apply for absentee ballot in person by Monday, November 7th
- Apply for absentee ballot by mail: postmarked by Tuesday, November 1st
- Deliver ballot in person by Tuesday, November 8th
- Deliver ballot by mail: postmarked by Monday, November 7th and received by Saturday, November 12th

VOTE 411: ELECTRONIC VOTER GUIDE

The electronic voter guide, Vote 411, has gone live for the Presidential Primary. Check for information on primaries and races. [\(3/9/2016\)](#)

- Use the QR Code (left) to reach Vote 411 on smartphones and tablets.
- Go to www.vote411.org to enter your address and see the ballot for just your address (more still coming, too).



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