



5—RMGC members meet virtually in July



6—A look back at UUP's take on retiree issues, 1993

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The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retired Members of United University Professions

Brod awardees feted for service

Jeane Galbraith and the late Sandy Spier, UUP retiree members beloved for their quiet dedication to their union and their communities, are this year's recipients of the Pearl H. Brod Award.

Spier, a former retiree officer at UUP's Downstate Medical Center Chapter, died last spring just weeks after being nominated by her Downstate colleagues.

Spier was known as a highly effective political activist, and especially so earlier in the administration of former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, when UUP realistically worried that the state would try to close Downstate Medical Center. The chapter rallied a coalition of community activists and faith leaders, and Spier was deeply involved in that effort. Downstate Chapter President Rowena Blackman-Stroud described her as "... a dedicated, passionate advocate for organized labor who has selflessly given of her time to create positive change as a UUP member, and a member of the Downstate Chapter ... she was see **AWARDEES**, page 9



PHOTO COURTESY OF MDO TOM HOEY

New and returning leaders discuss retiree issues

**by Charlie McAteer
RMGC Chair**

On Oct. 13, the Retired Membership Governing Committee and chapter officers for retirees took part in a virtual Retired Leadership Retreat.

Of the 40 invited members, 31 were able to sign on to the full-day event, including UUP President Fred Kowal, UUP Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey, NYSUT ED 51-53 At-Large Director Florence McCue and UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple.

McCue talked to the group about the relationship among UUP's more than

6,000 retirees and NYSUT's 240,000-plus retirees, as well as the NYSUT Retiree Council (RC) structure. In New York state, there are 45 regions and one in Florida; UUP retirees make up RC 40 (Western, Finger Lakes and Central NY), RC 41 (Southern, Capital and Northern NY) and RC 42 (Metropolitan/NYC and Long Island). By the way in January 1993, UUP retirees numbered just under 1,000—how we have grown!

- Other discussions focused on:
- The UUP retiree website at www.uupinfo.org/retiree;
 - UUP retiree history;
 - VOTE-COPE and outreach by retiree see **ISSUES**, page 9

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Frederick E. Kowal/President
Carolyn Kube/VP for Professionals
Alissa G. Karl/VP for Academics
Jeri O'Bryan-Losee/Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas C. Hoey/Membership Dev. Officer

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

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In memoriam

Let us remember those who have passed away since spring 2021:

Yash MyeraunAlbany
 Lawrence SnyderAlbany
 Thomas JamisonAlfred
 Lewis ScottAlfred
 Joseph GilbertBrockport
 William HullfishBrockport
 Wolodmyr PylyshenkoBrockport
 Thomas RosiaBrockport
 Charles FrakeBuffalo Center
 Jorge GraciaBuffalo Center
 John LarkinBuffalo Center
 Carolyn CleversleyBuffalo HSC
 Clarence RumphBuffalo HSC
 Eva TamogaBuffalo HSC
 Paul AndruczykBuffalo State
 Jennifer VaraBuffalo State
 Jeanne EhmannCortland
 Bozidar DjordjevicDownstate Medical
 Anthony GidariDownstate Medical
 Allan PappDownstate Medical
 Dorothy PfeiferDownstate Medical
 Malik SharifDownstate Medical
 Mohammed SiddiquiDownstate Medical
 Harriet Davis-KramESC
 Jeffrey WeissESC
 Ralph SandersESF
 Leonard SmithESF
 Patrick DamoreFredonia
 Edwin LawsonFredonia
 John ThompsonOneonta
 Carl GruningOptometry
 Robert KasprakOptometry
 Charles EchelbargerOswego
 Mario RabozziOswego
 Edward ThibaultOswego
 Marguerite EisingerPlattsburgh
 Charlotte CullenPotsdam
 Frederick McCarthyPotsdam
 Thomas KondakjianStony Brook
 William BauerStony Brook HSC
 Ellen ClarkStony Brook HSC
 Margaret CulhaneStony Brook HSC
 Thomas D'ZurillaStony Brook HSC
 Michael SallustioStony Brook HSC
 Barbara CurranUpstate Medical
 Sharon MausUpstate Medical
 Arnold MosesUpstate Medical
 Barbara RokahrUpstate Medical
 Linda SteerUpstate Medical

From RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer

Let's be civil

I wanted to address the letter to the editor that ran in the last edition about publishing retiree letters that may not be in the mainstream of what some people think or believe.

I sometimes disagree with some of the letters or even articles that are printed in *The Active Retiree*, but we are a higher education union and expressing opinions is part of our heritage. It's up to each of us to determine if the statements hold water or not (see this issue's letters to the editor on page 4).

The Active Retiree will print items from all walks of life, but I urge you to keep it civil. And I expect counter articles and letters will appear so one does not always have the last word.

We will not print articles or letters that uses foul language. I believe people can express an opinion without profanity. We will also edit or omit snide comments about fellow UUP retirees.

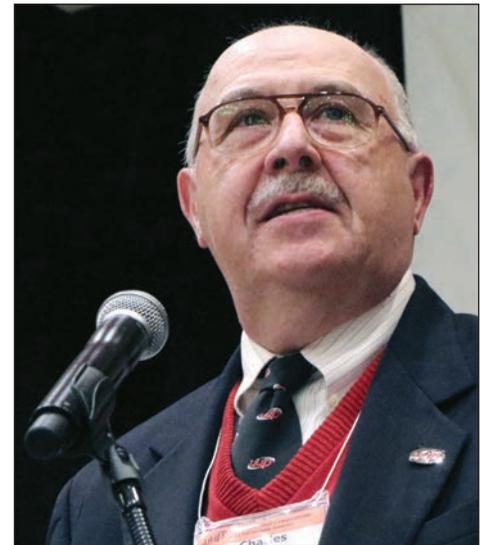
I think many of you may remember the Point/Counterpoint discussions on TV back in the day, when one had to show command of the facts and make their respective arguments. Civic debate was part of our growing up. How I miss that today!

I will note if you see me on one of the many Zoom meetings for UUP, NYSUT, NYSARA or even AARP, there is a painting of an American flag in the background, by artist Faith Ringgold, called "Freedom of Speech" (1990) and which hangs in The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The painting (www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/491970) depicts First Amendment freedom of speech and press. This—along with the paraphrase "I may not agree with what you have to say, but will defend your right to express it to the last" (both Voltaire and Patrick Henry speaking of a free press)—is what I believe in.

I look forward to your submissions for the Winter 2022 edition of *The Active Retiree*.

Constitutional amendment

In the last edition, I mentioned the 2016 UUP Retiree Task Force recommendations. I am pleased to report there are discussions and proposed language being considered for a UUP Constitutional amendment at a 2022 Delegate Assembly. The amendment, if adopted, would allow some limited voting powers to the retiree delegate cur-



rently serving as a non-voting member of the UUP statewide Executive Board (who is also the RMGC elected chair).

Watch this space for further updates, as well as our UUP News/Info and Monday Alert emails.

Continue to stay safe (what constitutes "safe" these days also can be debated!). I look forward to seeing you when the All Clear Signal is given and we can meet face-to-face again at our UUP retiree regional gatherings.

List of chapter officers for retirees: Updated

An updated list of chapter elected and appointed officers for retirees—who have agreed to serve their chapters in myriad ways, such as attending chapter executive board meetings, and helping to facilitate in-district and statewide advocacy efforts—are listed below.

Welcome aboard!

Albany.....Betty Shadrick
 Alfred.....Gary Moore
 Binghamton.....Robert Mess
 Brockport.....VACANT

Buffalo Center.....Anastasia Johnson
 Buffalo HSC.....Gail Willisky
 Buffalo State.....Ottillie Woodruff
 Canton.....VACANT
 Cobleskill.....Clifford DaVis
 Cortland.....Jo Schaffer
 Delhi.....Jacqne Howard
 Downstate.....Shirley Patterson
 Empire.....Jay Gilbert
 ESF.....John View
 Farmingdale.....Daniel Marrone
 Fredonia.....Joy Bilharz
 Geneseo.....James Bearden
 Maritime.....Barbara Warkentine

Morrisville.....James Engle
 New Paltz.....F. Glenn McNitt
 Old Westbury.....Nancy Nearman
 Oneonta.....Loraine Tyler
 Optometry.....VACANT
 Oswego.....Lawrence Fuller
 Plattsburgh.....Raymond Guydosh
 Polytechnic.....Walter Johnston
 Potsdam.....VACANT
 Purchase.....Warren Lehrer
 Stony Brook.....Joel Rosenthal
 Stony Brook HSC.....Irene Stern
 System Admin.....John Schumacher
 Upstate.....Debra Benware

Free tuition, loan forgiveness aren't free

by Bernard Mudd
Empire State College

When I lived in California in the 1970s and '80s, the state experimented with free community college, until it became painfully obvious that planning for class size was nearly impossible.

Here's why: Many potential students would sign-up for a particular class, but the final number of actual enrolled students would be significantly smaller, with some courses being cancelled altogether. Another obstacle dealt with hiring adjuncts to teach courses.

Early financial commitments by the colleges were necessary to ensure faculty were available to teach, but quickly turned costly for faculty since the actual class size was not fully determined until at least the second week of classes. Plus, some classes had to be cancelled and faculty were let go. Nobody was happy with so many unknowns.

The last major hurdle was identifying a physical classroom, since the class size was unknown until after the semester

started. It was difficult to decide who goes in which classroom; it became a true guessing game. The bottom line was that students needed to have skin in the game (a.k.a., tuition) for the educational system to work effectively and efficiently.

And, yes, California abandoned this experiment and decided to charge tuition. Some say for budgetary reasons, but others say it was an insane scheme doomed to failure from the outset.

For whatever reason, those in power today want to try it again, promising free perks for partisan benefit rather than implementing a meaningful college tuition program that serves all stakeholders instead of the chosen few.

We may need to have history repeat itself for those who fail to recognize these obvious details.

Likewise, forgiving student loans is not free. These loans do not go away. An individual somewhere in the economy must pay for these loans with his or her labor. It may be an employee producing a product or service at a large or small business, or it may be increasing the national debt with added interest payments. Either way, it

will require a person to toil today or in the future to produce the economic surplus to pay for student loan forgiveness.

Moreover, this is a penalization for those who worked to pay their way through college, those who paid off their student loans whether they graduated or not, and those who simply chose not to go to college. Forgiving student loans is a destructive incentive for those who chose to work hard to pay their college debt.

Lastly, whether it is free two-year community college or student loan forgiveness, these two impractical programs will stigmatize the perceived value of higher education in the public arena. It will not only allow private, elite universities to continue to operate solely for the influential and privilege few, but it will amplify these distinct differences as time passes. A two-tier system is not a desirable goal for higher education in the United States nor in any other segment in our society. In the final analysis, nothing is free, including a college education, and these proposed programs robs the dignity of a person who chooses to go to college as one of their life-time achievements.

Letters to the editor

We should educate, not indoctrinate

To the editor:

This is in response to Mr. (Daniel) Arcieri's letter in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *The Active Retiree*. In his criticism of Bernard Mudd's article "Where will the far left take us? (in the Winter 2021 issue), Mr. Arcieri states that "There is no room in *The Active Retiree* for any opinion that is deleterious and unhelpful to UUP's agenda."

I am of the opinion that our colleges and universities are to educate, not indoctrinate, students in the free exchange of

diverse ideas—to help students learn how to research topics for presentation and how to evaluate ideas that are presented to them.

Unfortunately, our society seems to be heavily involved in a "cancel culture." So if you don't like someone's ideas, then you don't let them speak at all, or you interrupt them while they are speaking ... (such as) a high-level official in the government. Say, maybe, in Communist China or Russia.

— Charles E. Johnson
Delhi Chapter retiree

'Healthy organizations' do not limit opinions

To the editor:

I was disappointed to read (Daniel) Arcieri's letter to the editor in the Spring/Summer 2021 edition. It seems Mr. Arcieri is not interested in opinions that disagree with his own and that such opinions are a "waste of time, ink and space."

Any healthy organization, like society at large, does not limit

opinions, stifle thought or only publish one-sided arguments.

One of the tenets of academic freedom is freedom of speech and thought. I would encourage UUP and its publications to keep free thought and balanced writing as part of their publications.

— Anthony Palmiotti
Maritime Chapter retiree

Retiree meeting highlights: June 1, 2021

by **Lorraine Tyler**
Oneonta

The union's statewide Retired Membership Governing Committee met virtually June 1.

Present were RMGC Chair Charles McAteer; Ray Guydosh, North Country; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Lorraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Paul Griffin, Finger Lakes; Otilie Woodruff and Doreen Day, presidential appointees; and UUP Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey, officer liaison.

Staff present were Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple; and Director of Member Benefits/Fund Administrator Doreen Bango.

Guests included Jo Schaffer, immediate past chair; and Barbara Maertz and Richard Tyler, RMGC Finance Committee.

McAteer called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. The Code of Conduct was read. Minutes of March 9 were adopted as written.

Chair Report—McAteer

- Bango gave a travel assistance update. UNUM is no longer able to offer the policy. MetLife has been selected as the carrier for the life insurance policy and the travel assistance program, as soon as paperwork is completed in each state with our retirees. Meanwhile, our life insurance is continued through UNUM. Cost will be a little higher (\$150,000 per

year vs. \$125,000), but the rate is guaranteed for five years, as we are at the end of our UNUM contract period.

L. Tyler and Russell moved the report to be accepted. Carried.

- Retreats were held Oct. 5-6 in Albany in conjunction with the NYSUT Retiree Council meeting and Oct. 13-14, to piggy back on the UUP DA in Rochester.

Participants: RMGC members and chapter officers for retirees. A hybrid component may be offered.

- Subcommittee for Planning: McAteer, Schaffer, Russell, Maertz and Apple.

- A list of newly elected officers for retirees was distributed (see below); they took office June 1.

MDO Comments—Hoey

- There are 5,962 retirees.

- Negotiations Team and Negotiations Committee members will be announced at the upcoming DA.

McAteer requested that a retiree be appointed to the Negotiations Committee.



HOEY

Finance Report—Barbara Maertz

- Data on accompanying finance statements are accurate through May. Fixed UUP expenses will be added 4th quarter.

Ending balance is \$537,328.27.

- District meetings are encouraged for fall pending COVID expectations.

- Woodruff and L. Tyler moved to accept the report. Carried.

Regional Reports/Meeting Requests

- L. Tyler and Day moved to fund in-person fall meetings pending CDC rules. Carried.

Pearl H. Brod Retiree Award

- Nominees: Ezra Zubrow, David Kreh, Jeannie Galbraith, Sandy Spier

L. Tyler and Russell moved to recommend Spier be posthumously honored with a Brod award at the 2021 Fall DA. Galbraith was also recommended for the award. Carried. (See related story on page 1.)

After discussion, it was decided that outstanding volunteer work in the community, and service to UUP and SUNY after retirement be the criteria. Retirees should be retired at least five years before nomination.

Comments by Walter Apple

- UUP continues to offer virtual pre-retirement meetings on campuses and statewide. Some in-person meetings will occur, when allowed.

- Next meeting will be virtually in July.

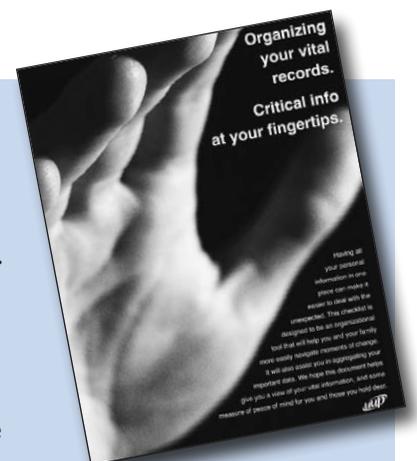
Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Organizing Your Vital Records booklet available online, by mail

Having your personal information in one place makes it easier to deal with the unexpected. The Retired Membership Governing Committee (formerly COARM) created a checklist designed to be an organizing tool that will help you and your family more easily navigate moments of change. It will assist you in aggregating your important data.

We hope this document helps give you a view of your vital information, and some measure of peace of mind for you and those you hold dear," said RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer.

The document can be found on the website at <http://uupinfo.org/reports/reportpdf/OYVR2016fillable.pdf> or by contacting Walter Apple, retiree member services coordinator, at wapple@uupbenefits.org or at (800) 342-4206.



Looking back...

Former President Reilly's thoughts on retiree membership

(Editor's note: The following article first ran in the January 1993 issue of The Active Retiree, when Buffalo State Chapter retiree Norma Klayman was chair of the then-named Committee on Active Retired Membership; the elected body of UUP retirees is now called the Retired Membership Governing Committee. Current RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer thought you might enjoy this still-relevant article by the late John M. "Tim" Reilly, right center, who served as UUP president from 1987-1993.)



"Colleagues Still!"... That's the title of a publication we wrote for the AFT about retirement legislation. It's also a phrase that expresses a view we hope all academic and professional employees of the State University will adopt toward staff who elect to retire. Whatever paths people choose to follow after retirement from SUNY, our union needs the opportunity to continue learning from their experience, just as we all personally wish to retain the pleasures of the collegial friendships we have built over time.

Naturally, after retirement people develop interests and priorities different from ones they had while working at SUNY. They have new, or additional, legislative and political goals. They approach professional service differently than they once did. Even their investigative energies and teaching skills may move in new channels. So while continuity remains urgent for a community numbering retired people within it, power to steer a new course becomes a high value for retired people themselves.

A Role for Retired Members in the Union

Reconciliation of the impulse for continuity with the inevitable tendency to take new directions sometimes creates a contest of values, and certainly always challenges UUP. We now have nearly 1,000 dues-paying retired members, but UUP has not yet confronted the challenge of defining their union role. On the one hand, we have sometimes thought of retired members as though they are identical to the actively employed members in campus chapters—identical, except that retirees have more time available to serve the program of people who do not yet share the condition of retirees. On the other hand, we have also sometimes sequestered retired members, encouraging them in activity with neither access to union resources, nor full involvement in UUP's and SUNY's collegial communities.

Solving the Problem

When we see the situation of retired members for what it is—a situation presenting the need for both continuity and autonomy—then we are ready to find reconciliation. In recent months we

have begun to make progress. The standing Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM) proposed the organization of several regional groupings, and won the approval of the Delegate Assembly to write the new structure into the union's constitution. With authority to select officers, set agendas, convene meetings and sponsor events, the regional groupings give form and forum to the retired membership. At the same time as the retirees created the new regional groupings, they also lobbied the Delegate Assembly to enlarge COARM in order to involve more retirees in self-governance. These successes drew a template for retired members to become a visible and effective constituency in the union.

Two pending actions will add detail to the plan. The first action is meant to settle the question of dues for retired members. The second provides a vehicle for constituency program.

Dues and Self-Governance

Generally speaking one becomes a member of an organization by paying dues. Obvious? Yes, but how much should the dues be? How, and by whom, should the level of dues be set?

Not so obvious!

Representatives of retired members and UUP officers have met several times on the matter. Together we think we have drafted a sound new proposal. Here's how it will work: Annually the elected leaders of the retired union members will meet with UUP's financial officers to inspect the last complete audit and determine the actual costs of expenditures that are exclusively for retirees. That amount divided by the number of retired members will be the basic dues for the new year. At once everyone will see that a steady increase in the numbers of retired members will most likely keep individual basic dues level. Besides basic dues, though, there could also be supplementary assessments, if retired members decided to levy them. Note that retirees alone would make the decision about this supplementary assessment, using any method they choose that guarantees fairness to the

constituency, and retirees alone would determine how to expend the assessment, whether on new benefits or any other purpose satisfactory to the retired membership.

We like this dues proposal, and will promote it in the Winter Delegate Assembly at the end of January, because it gives power for self-governance and accountability to retirees themselves. In short, the dues proposal assumes retired members know their own minds.

Retired Members in Political Action

The belief that retired members know their own minds also informs the organization of the new Retired Members Legislative Action Group (RELAG). The idea for this also arose in discussions between leaders of retirees and UUP officers. Ask retired state employees in New York to name one thing that would make their lives healthier and more secure. Don't you think a lot of them, perhaps even a majority, would ask for a better dental plan? A dental plan is a good example of the way retirement creates a new priority. And how do you get a better dental plan when you are retired? Not in contract negotiations, because state law restricts direct bargaining on retirement issues. Legislation—that's the only way to win improvements for retired members. And it's a truism that the best lobbyists for retired citizens are, of course, retired citizens.

These seemingly simple propositions led us through yet another meeting, this one bringing together retiree leaders from each region, UUP's legislative chair, members of her standing committee and, again, UUP officers. As we followed the train of reasoning, we discovered that the possibilities it presented were much more than simple.

Retirees, we thought, might use their regional groups to lobby in local districts and to enlist people for lobbying visits to Albany.

They could pursue the immediate goal of an improved dental plan, but at the same time they could consult their members and talk to legislators about additional requirements for a dignified retirement. The ad hoc action group of retirees could have a distinct agenda, while also working closely with the union's standing committee on legislation, and drawing upon its networks and experience.

Emerging from long discussion, there it was: a model for resolution of the desire for continuity and the need for constituent autonomy, a model focused on practical ends that could appeal to many, many retired members.

Time to Participate

For some of you reading this special letter, what I write is an update that we hope will give you more reasons to join actively in the new retired members' structure and program. For those of you beginning retirement, this is an appeal to retain your UUP membership.

SHARE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 8 !!

Becoming a retired member of UUP should not be a sentimental act, although we trust there is sentiment involved. Signing a union membership card now, just as much as the first time you did it, ought to be an instance of enlightened self-interest. There should be something in it for you.

This report is meant to say there is. It is meant also to declare that UUP wants your full participation and looks forward to the growth of your constituency. Return your new membership card today. There's work for us to do ... together.



**Problems come in many forms.
So does the help NYSUT provides.**

1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206
socsvcs@nysutmail.org

NYSUT Social Services is a free and confidential benefit for all members, in-service and retired, and their families. Tell your concerns to one of our staff professionals who will make an assessment and suggest strategies which may improve your situation. We provide follow-up and reassurance through difficult times and periodic telephone contact for those in need. No question or concern is unimportant to us.



United University Professions

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

THE BENEFITS OF UUP

Whether you're retired or just thinking about retirement, you don't have to stop being active in UUP.

Retired Membership is open to any UUP member in good standing who has retired from SUNY with a minimum of five continuous years of UUP membership in good standing. If a member has fewer than five years of continuous bargaining unit employment, the member must have continuous membership in good standing for the length of their employment in the bargaining unit.

Benefits of Retired Membership include:

- \$1,000 of life insurance coverage;
- Value Advantage discount vision program;
- Opportunity to purchase UUP's voluntary dental and vision plans;
- Opportunity to purchase additional programs: Aflac, Collette Tours; Libery Mutual and MetLife Group Universal insurance;



RMG Committee Chair
Charlie McAteer

MetLife Legal Plans; Mid-Island Mortgage; Real Estate Advantage Program; and Trupanion pet insurance.

- Discount products and services from: Apple; BJ's Wholesale Club; Barclays Center; Brooklyn Nets; Enterprise Rental Car; Goodyear; hp Academy; NYCB Live; NYPIRG Fuel Buyers Group; The Walking Company; and TicketsatWork.

- Opportunity to participate in and/or purchase NYSUT, AFT and NEA discounted programs and services.

In addition, Retired Members have the right to vote and to serve in elected and appointed positions, such as the chair of the Retiree Membership Governing Committee (RMGC). The RMGC chair also serves as the elected delegate to UUP Delegate Assemblies and as a nonvoting member of the UUP Executive Board. Retired Members may be elected as a regional RMGC representative, or as a chapter officer for retirees.

MISSION STATEMENT of the Retired Membership Governing Committee

The statewide Retired Membership Governing Committee (RMGC), through education and action, shall advocate for retiree benefits on the state and national levels for current and future retirees and for the UUP agenda for public higher education, and shall work with other organizations to improve the lives of seniors.

www.uupinfo.org/retiree



Retired Membership Application

Retired from: Campus _____ Date of Retirement _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Secondary Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Dues are assessed on an annual basis.

Send check for \$50 payable to: UUP, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212-9954
Current Retiree Members are asked to update their information using this form.

Marrone named to SUNYwide bylaws committee

SUNY Farmingdale retiree Daniel Marrone was recently appointed to the SUNY Distinguished Academy Bylaws Committee, effective Nov. 1.

The committee oversees governance rules and procedures for the state university's Distinguished Academy.

"I look forward to serving on the SUNY Distinguished Academy Bylaws Committee," Marrone wrote in an email to committee Chair Stephen Fliesler, a SUNY distin-



MARRONE

guished professor at the University at Buffalo. "In 2008, I was promoted to SUNY distinguished service professor and received the Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2011. I was very active with the Distinguished Academy from 2012, the year it was established, until my retirement in 2015."

Marrone serves as the Farmingdale Chapter officer for retirees. He has written two books and nearly 150 published articles. He received the union's Best of the Best Award in 2019 for articles printed in *The Voice* and *The Active Retiree*.

AWARDEES

(continued from page 1)

always advocating for our members."

A longtime member of the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, Spier threw her considerable energies into social justice efforts in the borough, and

she worked especially hard to build bridges among diverse religious and cultural groups.

Rita Pearl, Spier's fellow congregant at First Unitarian, remembered "Sandy's



SPIER

heartfelt commitment to a better and more equitable world for everyone."

Among Spier's many projects at First Unitarian: organizing the yearly friendship dinner between the congregation and the local Muslim community.

Elections expert, mentor

Galbraith's service to UUP has spanned the statewide and chapter levels. At Geneseo, she was an academic delegate and chapter secretary; at Stony Brook HSC, she was an academic delegate, chapter

secretary, vice president for academics and an interim chapter president. She served on the statewide UUP Executive Board, and as statewide secretary for three terms, from 1989 to 1995.

But it was through her work after her retirement, on the UUP Elections and Credentials Committee—newly renamed the Constitution and Governance Committee—that many younger UUPers got to know Galbraith. As a member and then co-chair of Elections and Credentials, a role she shared with David Kreh of Cortland, she directed elections at many Delegate Assemblies and was renowned for her knowledge of election procedures. Although she and Kreh are no longer committee chairs, they remain members of Constitution and Governance.

A gifted quilter, Galbraith once put her creative skills to good use for UUP by donating a quilt to an auction that supported the UUP College Scholarship Fund. The quilt quickly sold.



GALBRAITH

Galbraith's colleagues Henry Flax, a Downstate retiree, and former statewide secretary Eileen Landy nominated her, with supporting statements by Kreh and statewide Vice President for Professionals Carolyn Kube. Landy warmly described Galbraith in a nomination letter as a mentor with a sense of humor and vast institutional knowledge of the union.

"She was generous with her expertise and always willing to answer questions and explain policies and procedures," Landy wrote. "Her generosity continued after her retirement; I relied upon her wisdom until I left office in 2017."

The Pearl H. Brod Award

The Brod award is named for the late Pearl H. Brod of Farmingdale, a longtime academic delegate who served as elected chair of COARM (now the Retired Membership Governing Committee) from 1999-2003, and as the Long Island regional rep from 1993-2009. The award was renamed in Brod's honor in 2011.

Go to <https://uupinfo.org/awards/pdf/PearlBrodApp.pdf> for more information and an application.

ISSUES

(continued from page 1)

Sandra Lewis, the union's statewide VOTE-COPE coordinator;

- the roles of the RMGC's elected and appointed members, as well as chapter officers for retirees; and
- presentations on the updated UUP Retiree Leaders handbook; on retiree fiduciary and fiscal responsibility, by retiree Finance Committee member Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale; and on pre-retirement planning by Walter Apple.

A Q&A and wrap-up concluded the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The discussions and knowledge-sharing were great for new and returning retiree leaders. Many thanks to those who contributed and spent the time on a full range of UUP retiree topics.

It should be noted and thanks given to NYSUT for a \$3,000 Retiree Council Organizing Grant to help offset the costs for this event, including the new handbook and UUP Retiree Leader shirts.

Imagine ...

A world with U.S.-China cooperation

by **Lawrence Wittner**
Albany

On Sept. 10, 2021, during an important diplomatic meeting, U.S. President Joseph Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping affirmed the necessity of a better relationship between their two nations.

Xi said that “when China and the United States cooperate, the two countries and the world will benefit.”

At the moment, however, the governments of these nations seem far from a cooperative relationship. Intensely suspicious of one another, the U.S. and China are increasing their military spending, developing new nuclear weapons, engaging in heated quarrels over territorial issues, and sharpening their economic competition. Disputes over the status of Taiwan and the South China Sea are particularly likely flash-points for war.

But imagine the possibilities if the U.S. and China did cooperate. After all, these countries possess the world’s two largest military budgets, operate the two biggest economies, and have a combined population of nearly 1.8 billion people.

Instead of preparing for a military confrontation, the U.S. and China could turn over their conflicts to the United Nations for mediation and resolution. Aside from averting a potentially disastrous war, this policy would facilitate substantial cuts in military spending, with savings that could be devoted to bolstering U.N. operations and funding their own domestic social programs.

Instead of continuing as the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gasses, these two economic giants could work together to fight the escalating climate catastrophe by reducing their carbon

footprint and championing international agreements with other nations to do the same.

Instead of blaming one another for the current pandemic, they could work cooperatively on global public health measures, including massive production and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines and research on other potentially horrendous diseases.

Instead of engaging in wasteful economic competition and trade wars, they could pool their vast economic resources and skills to provide poorer nations with economic assistance.

Instead of denouncing one another for human rights violations, they could admit that they both had oppressed their racial minorities, end this mistreatment, and provide reparations.



We “could again save the planet if the people of the world (dare) to imagine a better way ...”

— *Lawrence Wittner*
Albany Chapter

Although it might seem that such a policy reversal is impossible, something roughly comparable happened in the 1980s, when the U.S.-Soviet Cold War came to a sudden, unexpected end. In the context of a massive wave of popular protest against the heightening conflict and, particularly, the growing danger of nuclear war, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan had the wisdom to see that the two nations had nothing to gain and a great deal to lose by continuing down the path of rising military confrontation.

A similar turnabout could again save the planet from disaster—particularly if, as in the case of the Cold War, the people of the world, daring to imagine a better way, decide to set the governments of the two most powerful nations on a new and more productive course.

(Lawrence Wittner is a professor of history emeritus at the University at Albany and the author of Confronting the Bomb published by Stanford University Press. Find out more about Wittner at <https://www.lawrencewittner.com>)



What your beneficiaries need to know

Don't forget to remind your beneficiaries that, upon your death, they need to inform the campus Human Resources Department *and* contact UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter

Apple at (800) 342-4206. If they don't contact the campus or UUP, they won't get the survivor's benefits: that's \$3,000 from the state and \$1,000 from UUP. Remind them to make the calls!

Check out all your union membership has to offer!

Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (a Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

Financial Counseling Program

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone and virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

NYSUT Member Benefits

Every Dollar Counts!

These are just two of the dozens of endorsed programs & services available to union members and their families.

Whether it's insurance products, financial or legal services, or discounts, shopping or travel, NYSUT Member Benefits offers numerous programs that can help you save time and money while protecting those you care about most. Many of these programs can be purchased through payroll or pension deduction for greater convenience and savings opportunities.

Member Benefits also provides the advocacy role that is so important should an issue or concern arise. We encourage you to take the time to explore the Member Benefits website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
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