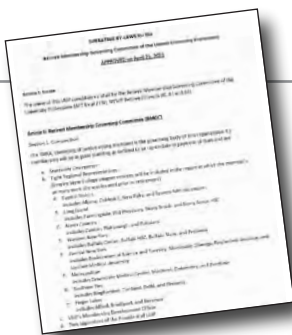




5—RMGC takes on retiree challenges



18—RMGC bylaws amended

**Also inside:**

- 2 — Letter to the editor
- 3 — Message from the RMGC chair
- 6 — Retirees publish
- 7,16 — Regional and chapter meeting reports
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# The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retired Members of United University Professions

## More than 1,800 vote for RMGC leaders

Charlie McAteer of the Stony Brook Chapter was re-elected as chair of the Retired Membership Governing Committee. He also serves as the one elected retiree delegate and as a member of the statewide Executive Board.

More than 1,800 valid ballots were cast out of the approximately 6,750 retired

members of UUP.

Retirees also elected five new members to the RMGC. The committee is comprised of one regional leader from eight areas around the state: Capital District (Region A); Long Island (B); North Country (C); Western NY (D); Central NY (E); Metropolitan (E); Southern Tier (F); and Finger Lakes (G). Two presidential

appointees will be named at a later date.

Newly elected members include: Betty Shadrick, Capital Region; William Giangarra, Long Island; David Ballard, Western NY; Michael Lyon, Central NY; and Gary Moore, Finger Lakes.

**The official election report can be found on page 13.**

## Fighting for full pension benefits

by Brenda Seckerson  
Albany

*(Author's note: If you receive a New York state pension, retired from 2019 and beyond, and wish to learn if what is described in this article pertains to your situation, please contact the New York State and Local Retirement System directly. UUP does NOT oversee these pensions. For more information, sign in to your NYSLRS account to send an email; go to <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retirement/contact-us>; or call (886) 805-0990 or (518) 474-7736.)*

The journey of how I finally received my full pension from New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS), nearly two-and-a-half years after retiring, may be a journey you need to take and don't even know it. I retired from the University at Albany in September 2020 after 14 years serving as the full-time Employee Assistance Program (EAP) coordinator. When retiring, I knew that it typically took several months for different calculations to occur before a person's final pension amount is determined. I kept watching for the value of my unused sick leave to be calculated into the pension amount. (Unused sick leave is used twice for retirement benefits: once to calculate retiree health insurance benefits and once to add to the overall time served as an employee to establish one's pension. About every six months I would send an email to NYSLRS about the

see PENSION, page 6

## Members elect chapter officers for retirees

Chapter officers for retirees were elected in April to run for a two-year term, from July 1, 2023 to May 31, 2025.

The following retirees were elected to serve in this post:

- Albany—Betty Shadrick
- Alfred—Gary Moore
- Binghamton—Robert Mess
- Brockport—Debra Faria
- Buffalo Center—Russell Crispell
- Buffalo HSC—Gail Willsky
- Buffalo State—Joseph Marren
- Canton—John Nixon
- Cobleskill—TBD
- Cortland—Jo Schaffer
- Downstate Medical—Shirley Patterson
- Delhi—TBD

see RETIREE OFFICERS, page 2

## 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  
**Patrick Romain** / Membership Dev. Officer

### RMGC Members (2023-2026)

**Charlie McAteer** Chair and Delegate  
 158 Montrose Dr. cfmcateer@gmail.com  
 Port Jefferson Stn., NY 11776 (631) 474-3541

**Betty Shadrick** Capital District (Region A)  
 bps505@gmail.com (518) 356-3217

**Bill Giangarra** Long Island (Region B)  
 Mr.G1angarra@gmail.com (631) 754-7417

**Ray Guydosh** North Country (Region C)  
 r.guydosh@gmail.com (518) 566-8769

**David Ballard** Western NY (Region D)  
 Ubfast99@yahoo.com (716) 688-7996

**Mike Lyon** Central NY (Region E)  
 lyon689@gmail.com (315) 399-7251

**Eric P. Russell** Metropolitan (Region F)  
 ericprussell@hotmail.com (917) 446-5414

**Loraine Tyler** Southern Tier (Region G)/Secty.  
 tylerll@oneonta.edu (607) 433-2452

**Gary Moore** Finger Lakes (Region H)  
 MooreGE@retired.alfredstate.edu (585) 455-0525

**Doreen Day** Presidential Appointee  
 jtsdor@optonline.net (631) 924-2962

**Ottilie M. Woodruff** Presidential Appointee  
 ottwood79@roadrunner.com (716) 773-3158

**MDO Patrick Romain** Ex-officio  
 promain@albany.edu (518) 377-6915

**Rich Tyler** Finance Chair  
 richard.tyler@oneonta.edu (607) 433-2452

### UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinators

Walter Apple wapple@uupbenefits.org  
 Gretchen Sarnowicz gsarnowi@uupbenefits.org  
 Daniel Quackenbush  
 dquackenbush@uupbenefits.org

### Publications Consultant

Karen Mattison karenuemattison@gmail.com

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

### United University Professions

P.O. Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212-9954  
 518-640-6600 1-800-342-4206  
 fax: 1-866-812-9446

<https://uupinfo.org/retiree/>

## Letter to the editor

### Congrats to Stony Brook adjuncts

#### To the editor:

After a year of organizing and advocacy, Stony Brook UUP has gotten an agreement that will raise the salaries of adjuncts. Instead of \$1,250 a course, it will now be \$1,833 and \$5,500 for a three-credit course. And full-time lecturers will have a two-year (term of service) instead of one year.

Congratulations and cheers for Stony Brook UUP!

— **Judy Wishnia**  
**Stony Brook**

## Protect yourself against ID theft

*(The following article first appeared in the NYSUT Retiree Council 19/Long Island newsletter. It is reprinted with permission.)*

Online, in the mail, even in person, your identity can be at risk.

Here are some guidelines from the NYS Office of the Attorney General:

- Be careful about whom you give out personal identification information.
- Never provide any personal, bank account or credit card information to anyone who contacts you through a telephone solicitation.
- Tear up/destroy all ATM and bank receipts, bank checks, expired credit cards and any other papers that include personal information.
- Only give out your Social Security number when necessary. Never store your Social Security card in your wallet.
- When creating passwords or PINs, never use the last four digits of your Social Security number, birth date or anything else that might be discovered easily by thieves.
- Monitor your credit card statements. Although it costs about \$8 apiece, it is a good idea to review your credit reports at least once a year, by contacting the following bureaus: Equifax, (800) 685-1111; Experian, (888) 397-3742; and TransUnion, (888) 680-7289.

## RETIREE OFFICERS

*(continued from page 1)*

- Empire State—Brenda Henry-Offor
- ESF—John View
- Farmingdale—TBD
- Fredonia—Joy Bilharz
- Geneseo—Wes Kennison
- Maritime—Barbara Warkentine
- Morrisville—James Engle
- New Paltz—Glenn McNitt
- Old Westbury—Eileen Landy
- Oneonta—Loraine Tyler
- Optometry—TBD
- Oswego—Lawrence Fuller
- Plattsburgh—Ray Guydosh
- PolyTech—TBD
- Potsdam—Jeff Reeder
- Purchase—Warren Lehrer
- Stony Brook—Joel Rosenthal
- Stony Brook HSC—TBD
- System Admin.—John Schumacher
- Upstate Medical—Debra Benware

## From RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer

### Some new, some returning for 2023 and beyond

**Y**our RMGC will be hitting the ground running this summer with a virtual meeting to finalize the regional leadership retreats, as well as to plan out activities and initiatives for this coming year.

Topics will include retiree VOTE-COPE campaigns, working on retiree luncheons, researching how to get multiple payment options for your UUP bills (in addition to check and direct bank transfer), including much-desired credit card payments.

Your RMGC will be meeting in person at the union's Fall Delegate Assembly in Rochester. We look forward to discussing the future 2025 UUP Retiree Issues Task Force (as recommended in the 2016 task force proposal), as well as possible issues to be brought up with that presidential-appointed group charged with looking at our past, present and future.

After the UUP 2023 election cycle was counted, the newly elected retiree leaders took their offices and duties on June 1. The Retired Membership Governing Committee is listed on pages 2 & 13. It has six new members and seven returning members (which includes our RMGC finance chair) to serve our close to 7,000 UUP retirees in their three-year term (2023-26). Note that in the Finger Lakes region, candidate Ralph Toscano has withdrawn; Gary Moore from Alfred will serve as regional representative through 2026. This is in accordance with the revised Operating By-Laws of RMGC shown on pages 18 to 23, Article VI,

Section 6 Vacancies, part a.

In the statewide/regional RMGC elections, we had 26.7 percent ballots cast, with more than 1,800 votes for all the contested elections. This is a 5 percent increase over the 2020 RMGC elections for these positions. Many thanks to those who voted for their retiree leadership. It shows we retirees are involved in our UUP structure.

We in the RMGC would like to welcome the 32 newly elected chapter officers for retirees, listed on pages 1 & 2, which includes 12 new and 20 returning office-holders, who serve two-year terms (2023-25). Thank you for stepping up to be part of the UUP retire leadership team.

We are planning three regional two-day training retreats this fall that will include RMGC members, chapter officers for retirees, appropriate staff and speakers. These will be divided by the three NYSUT Retiree Councils that UUP retirees represent. The UUP/NYSUT RC 40 workshop will be in Rochester in October, just prior to the UUP Fall Delegate Assembly for the Western, Finger Lakes and Central NY regions. The Retiree Council 41 workshop will be in the Albany area for the Southern Tier, North Country and Capital District regions. The Retiree Council 42 workshop will be on Long Island for the Metropolitan and Long Island regions.

These two-day retreats will include an updated UUP Retiree Leadership Handbook, training, discussions and working



with fellow regional retiree leaders to work on and plan retiree events in their respective regions and campuses for the next two years. I will be requesting NYSUT Retiree Organizing Grants of \$1,000 for each of the three regional retreats.

A NYSUT retiree leader will be invited to speak about the relationship UUP retirees have with NYSUT's regional retiree council structure, and events/activities with more than 260,000 retirees throughout New York and Florida.

We are hitting the ground running—or at least walking fast! Stay tuned and hope to see you at a fall regional retiree event!

### 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!





# Retiree meeting highlights: April 21, 2023

by Loraine Tyler  
Oneonta

The union's Retired Membership Governing Committee met to discuss myriad issues related to retirees. The meeting was held Oct., 14, during the 2022 Fall Delegate Assembly in Albany.

The following represents the draft meeting minutes.

Present were: Charles McAteer, chair; Ray Guydosh, North Country; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Loraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Stacey Johnson, Western NY; Doreen Day, presidential appointee; Jo Schaffer, Central NY; Glen McNitt, Capital District; and outgoing Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey; and Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services coordinator.

Virtual: Dan Marrone, Long Island.

Absent: Paul Griffen, Finger Lakes; and Otilie Woodruff, presidential appointee.

Guests: Richard Tyler; chair of the RMGC Finance Committee.

Retirees present: Barbara Warkentine, Maritime; Jeri Anne Jerminario, Oneonta; Jeanne Galbraith, Stony Brook HSC; Deb Benware, Upstate; Henry Flax, Downstate; Nand Relan, Stony Brook HSC; Robert Mess, Binghamton; Charles Wrigley, Stony Brook; Shirley Patterson, Downstate; Nick Koridis, Stony Brook; Larry and Cindy Fuller, Oswego; Ed Drummond, Stony Brook HSC; Tom Matthews, Geneseo; John Schumacher, System Administration; Ezra Zubrow, Buffalo Center; Dave Ritchie, Cortland; and Harry Johnson, Buffalo Center.

McAteer called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes of the Jan. 10, 2023, meeting were approved as corrected. Moved and seconded by Guydosh and Schaffer. Carried.

Approval of Agenda: Moved to discuss Pearl Brod award to the last item.



PHOTOS BY NICK KORIDIS

Around the table, from left, are retiree leaders Robert Mess, Binghamton, Shirley Patterson, Downstate; Carol Gizzi, Stony Brook HSC; Nand Relan, Stony Brook HSC; Eric Russell, Downstate; Rich Tyler, Oneonta; Loraine Tyler, Oneonta; Jeri Anne Jerminario, Oneonta; Chair Charlie McAteer, Stony Brook; Ray Guydosh, Plattsburgh; Jo Schaffer, Cortland; Stacey Johnson, Buffalo Center; Doreen Day, Stony Brook HSC; Deb Benware, Upstate Medical; and Betty Shadrack, Albany.

## Chair Report—McAteer

- Update on UUP database upgrade proposal for RMGC members. Walter and Charlie have been trained. District reps will have access to district information. Chair and presidential appointees will have access to all retiree information. Training will follow the elections. Officers for retirees will work with the chapter assistants.

- Update on UUP VOTE-COPE, the ORP auto-deduction option and UUP Outreach. Director of Legislation Chris Black is working with NYSUT to get an auto-deduct, which could start Jan. 1, 2024. Seventy-five percent of UUP retirees are in the ORP system.

- There are 6,738 current retirees.

- L. Tyler moved and Guydosh seconded that all district reps have requested funding for meetings in the spring and fall for 2023. Seconded by Reports of the meetings should be sent to the Active Retiree. Carried.

## MDO Tom Hoey

- Proud of achieving the right to vote by the RMGC chair at Executive Board meetings.

- Acclamation from group for a job well done. We'll miss Tom's participation.

## Finance Committee Report and 2023-24 Budget Proposal—R. Tyler

- Balance as of Feb. 28, 2023:
  - Revenue, \$328,855.46 (dues \$323,574.92)
  - Expenses, \$151,154.58
  - Fund Balance, \$828,623.47
 Motion and second to approve report by Guydosh Johnson. Passed.
- 2023-24 Budget Proposal
  - Beginning Balance, \$624,009.46
  - Revenue, \$352,270.14
  - Anticipated balance, \$628,539.32
 Schaffer and L. Tyler moved to adopt budget. Passed.

## Retiree Benefits Report—Apple

- NYS Empire plan and HMO changes



Above, RMGC Finance Chair Rich Tyler, left, discusses revenue and expenditures during a recent committee meeting. Taking notes is Loraine Tyler and looking over materials is Chair Charlie McAteer.

Below, Walter Apple, right, UUP retiree member services coordinator, outlines some of the benefit changes and enhancements for retirees.



in July. See Empire Plan report for details.

- New ID cards will be issued July 1.
- Costs of COVID-19 official testing will be shared.
- Challenges to the Affordable Care ACT—will continue preventive care.
- Starting July 1, there will be a premium decrease of 2.7 percent.
- Business cards available as soon as statewide and chapter elections are complete.
- The new system for Davis Vision will accept credit cards. In the future, Key Bank will offer a drop box. Checks will clear much faster.

**Old Business**

- Update on RMGC and chapter officer

for retirees elections 2023: Charles McAteer, chair; Ray Guydosh, North Country; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Loraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Betty Shadrick, Capital District; William Giangarra, Long Island; Dave Ballard, Western NY; Michael Lyon, Central NY; Ralph Toscano, Finger Lakes. Congratulations.

- Discussion and vote on proposed amendment of the RMGC bylaws to create a vice chair position. Motion to approve by Schaffer and seconded by Guydosh. Carried.
- Pearl H. Brod Award nominations were reviewed. Selection of up to two winners. Three nominees: Daniel Marrone, David Ritchie and Eric Russell. Marrone and Ritchie selected by secret ballot.

**New Business**

- Update on RMGC, RC40-42 and UUP co-sponsor of NYSUT 2023 RA retiree resolutions. UUP Board agreed to support resolutions passed at the January meeting.
- Update on fall 2023 RMGC/officers for retirees leader training. Will request \$3,000 grant from NYSUT to support overnight retreats:
  - Western, Finger Lakes
  - Central, Rochester DA
  - Southern Tier/North Country/Capital Region, Albany
  - Long Island/Metropolitan, Nassau County
- New retiree handbook will be covered.
- Adjournment at 6:35 p.m.



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**socsvcs@nysutmail.org**

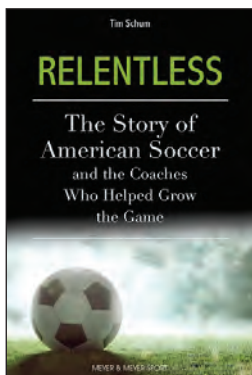
**NYSUT Social Services** is a free and confidential benefit for all members, in-service and retired, and their families. Tell your concerns to one of our staff professionals who will make an assessment and suggest strategies which may improve your situation. We provide follow-up and reassurance through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



## Retiree pens book on soccer

**T**im Schum, a Binghamton Chapter retiree and long-time coach, has written a book about the growth of soccer in America, and the dedicated coaches who took the sport to new—and unexpected—heights.

Schum's book, *Relentless: The Story of American Soccer and the Coaches*



*Who Helped Grow the Game*, was published by Cardinal Publishers Group in December 2022. Schum is a retired professor of physical education and coached the men's soccer team for 29 years. He boasts a 259-125-43 overall record.

*Relentless* "is a story of individual and collective action, of coaches coming together to improve the sport and expand its reach," according to the publishers. "From coaching methodologies to stan-

dardizing rules, improving the play on the field and the perceptions beyond it, persistent coaches were instrumental in creating the game played and watched today.

"*Relentless* tells the landmark and previously untold stories of resolute coaches, their love of the

game, and how they transformed the sport in the United States."

Before he retired from coaching in 1992, Schum led the Colonial men's soccer team to eight NCAA Tournament titles and were six-time SUNY Athletic Conference champions.

Schum's long list of accolades includes being inducted into the National Soccer Coaches of America Hall of Fame in 2004.

## Retiree contributes to book on contingents

Cortland retiree Anne Wiegard is listed as a contributor in a new book edited by Eric Fure-Slocum and Claire Goldstene.

The book, *Contingent Faculty and the Remaking of Higher Education: A Labor History* (University of Illinois Press, January 2024), is part of The Working Class in American History series.

Read about it here: <http://bitly.ws/Hwtz>

A former UUP statewide Executive Board member, Wiegard has gained national recognition for her advocacy on behalf of contingent academics.

## Article published

Farmingdale retirees Ira Stolzenberg and Dan Marrone have written an article on baseball great Gil Hodges' long-awaited election into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The article, "Two Fans' Quest for Gil Hodges in the Baseball Hall of Fame," was published May 26 in *The Nassau Observer*. Read it here: <http://bitly.ws/HwnD>

## PENSION

(continued from page 1)

calculation status. Soon the responses were basically a "cut and paste" reply, stating that I was in the "queue" but they could not give me a timeline as to when I could expect an update to my pension.

About 18 months after retiring, I called NYSLRS instead of emailing. Speaking with a representative, I was informed that, in 2019, there was an upgrade of the computer system and an "irrevocable problem" occurred regarding the ability to calculate the unused sick leave portion of a pension. NYSLRS representatives were not allowed to provide any specific information as to when this calculation would occur. (Note that this computer issue predated the pandemic and the impact that COVID has had on staffing.)

I began to speak to other individuals who retired from SUNY and those who retired from different state agencies about what I'd discovered. I encouraged them to check with NYSLRS to see if their unused sick leave had been incorporated into their pension. Two such individuals not only

discovered that their unused sick leave hadn't been calculated, but that NYSLRS had not received that information from their employer. This prompted the retirees to follow up and to get that information to NYSLRS, which no doubt put them farther back into the "queue" to have their full pension determined.

In March of this year, two and a half years since retiring, I had serious questions. Not only was the extensive delay of getting my full pension my concern, but no doubt there are untold numbers for New York state retirees completely unaware that they do not have their full pensions.

I wrote a letter to State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli to pose the following questions: How many retirees are in this "queue" awaiting recalculation to take place? How many retirees believe they have their full pensions and are unaware that they don't? What if a retiree dies before receiving back pay? Do beneficiaries receive any back pay or does the state keep those funds? Will this back pay incorporate interest on the

funds that are being withheld by NYSLRS and earning interest?

Just shy of six weeks of sending the letter to the state comptroller, I received notification from the Benefits Calculations and Disbursement Services indicating that my pension had been recalculated with all of the details regarding the increased monthly pension amount and the amount owed to me since I retired in 2020.

While I am happy to have this finally resolved, I have not received a response from the state comptroller's office regarding the questions I raised—questions that should be of concern for every retiree.

If after several contacts with NYSLRS you don't receive sufficient information about your unused sick-leave pension calculation, write to DiNapoli directly like I did. Perhaps numerous letters to his office will be what it takes to address this ongoing pension problem.

Contact the state comptroller at: Thomas DiNapoli, Office of New York State Comptroller, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12207.

# RMGC and retiree news from the chapters, regions

## Long Island

by Dan Marrone  
Farmingdale

**M**ore than 100 members of the Long Island region's five chapters met April 4 at the Radisson Hotel in Hauppauge.

Guest speakers were Drs. Michael Motta, chair of the SUNY University Faculty Senate Governance Committee, and Keith Landa, UFS president. The speakers concentrated their presentations on the topic of "Shared Academic Governance."

Host Dan Marrone, a member of the UFS Governance and Undergraduate Programs committees, and RMGC regional representative encouraged SUNY retirees to volunteer on various UFS committees.

Following the UFS presentation, RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer spoke of the latest UUP developments concerning retirees. He then introduced speakers from the New York StateWide Senior Action Council and the American Red Cross.

Joan Perrini spoke in-depth on NYSUT activities.

UUP Stony Brook Chapter President Andrew Solar-Greco detailed the oral history project he began, with reminiscences from Judy Wishnia, one of the founders of the Committee on Active Retired Membership (the predecessor of the RMGC).

Recent Stony Brook Chapter retiree Nick Koridis served as photographer at the meeting.



NICK KORIDIS PHOTOS

Above, 104 retirees and guests attend the UUP Long Island Region meeting at the Radisson Hotel, Hauppauge, April 4.

Below, SUNY UFS President Keith Landa, standing, addresses retirees. Looking over the materials are Barbara Maertz and Michael Smiles of Farmingdale State College, left, and Farmingdale Chapter assistant Deb Amato. UFS Governance Committee Chair Michael Motta, Charlie McAteer (red shirt) and Dan Marrone are seen in the background.



## New Paltz

by Glenn McNitt  
New Paltz

**M**ore than 20 New Paltz retirees and guests met April 7 for a late morning/early afternoon meal and informational presentation regarding senior citizen issues involving Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, housing, and other issues currently before federal and state legislatures and administrations.

The event was held at Garvan's Restaurant and Gastropub. Guest speakers were President Barry Kaufmann of the New York Alliance for Retired Americans, UUP Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey, and RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer.



Above, Barry Kaufmann, president of the New York Alliance for Retired Americans, addresses the New Paltz retiree gathering. Other speakers included, from right, RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer and UUP statewide Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey. Right, Glenn McNitt welcomes everyone to the event.



See Metropolitan region news on page 16

## Are You Up-To-Date on Your Preventive Services?

Medicare covers a full range of preventive services to help keep you healthy and find problems early, when treatment is most likely to work best. Ask your doctor what services are right for you, and use the space below to track appointment dates, times, and other important information.



- One time “Welcome to Medicare” Preventive Visit—within the first 12 months you have Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) \_\_\_\_\_
- Yearly “Wellness” Visit—get this visit 12 months after your “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit or 12 months after your Part B effective date \_\_\_\_\_
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- Alcohol Misuse Screening and Counseling \_\_\_\_\_
- Blood-based Biomarker Test \_\_\_\_\_
- Bone Mass Measurement (Bone Density Test) \_\_\_\_\_
- Cardiovascular Disease (Behavioral Therapy) \_\_\_\_\_
- Cardiovascular Screenings (cholesterol, lipids, triglycerides) \_\_\_\_\_
- Colorectal Cancer Screenings \_\_\_\_\_
- Depression Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- Diabetes Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- Diabetes Self-management Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Flu Shot \_\_\_\_\_
- Glaucoma Test \_\_\_\_\_
- Hepatitis B Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- Hepatitis C Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- HIV Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- Lung Cancer Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- Mammogram (screening for breast cancer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Medical Nutrition Therapy Services \_\_\_\_\_
- Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program \_\_\_\_\_
- Obesity Screening and Counseling \_\_\_\_\_
- Pap Test and Pelvic Exam (includes a breast exam) \_\_\_\_\_
- Pneumococcal Shots \_\_\_\_\_
- Prostate Cancer Screening \_\_\_\_\_
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Screening and Counseling \_\_\_\_\_
- Counseling to Prevent Tobacco Use and Tobacco-caused Disease \_\_\_\_\_

“Your Guide to Medicare Preventive Services” has more information, like costs and conditions that may apply, about these and other preventive services. Visit [Medicare.gov/publications](https://www.medicare.gov/publications).

This product was produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.



CMS Product No. 11420  
Revised August 2021





PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSEMBLYMAN FLOOD

## NYSUT Committee of 100

UUP retiree and in-service (retiree-in-training) K-12 leaders and higher ed activists from Suffolk County met March 9 with several state lawmakers during NYSUT's annual Committee of 100 legislative event. The unionists met with Assemblyman Ed Flood, seated above, who represents the Suffolk County district in which Stony Brook University is located. In the shot are RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer, right, UUP Stony Brook Chapter President Andrew Solar-Greco, third from right, and NYSUT Florida Retiree Council President Felicia Bruce, fifth from right.



## Retiree breakfast

Hundreds of retiree leaders met for the Local and Retiree Council Presidents Conference, held April 27-28, in advance of the 2023 NYSUT Representatives Assembly. Shown, from left are NYSUT retiree leader Joan Perrini, RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer, Stony Brook retiree Nick Koridis, RMGC regional rep Doreen Day of Stony Brook and an unknown unionist.



## NYSUT higher ed Rally

Dozens of UUPers gather in support of public education at NYSUT's New Era for Higher Education rally at the Capital's Million Dollar staircase, March 9. Among those lining the staircase were RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer and rep Doreen Day, UUP officers and Executive Board members, former UUPer and current NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer Phillippe Abraham, students and legislators.



NICK KORIDIS

## UUP contract rally

More than 700 activists—including Albany retiree Betty Shadrick, above—marched, chanted and cheered their way into a week of campus actions for a fair contract, with a rousing April 21 rally on the Albany campus just prior to the UUP 2023 Spring Delegate Assembly. The Albany rally was the first of more than two dozen planned contract actions by UUP chapters around the state, as the UUP Negotiations Team works hard to achieve a tentative agreement. UUP President Fred Kowal set a tone of activism and urgency at the rally: "We do not ask, we do not plead; we demand. We demand it and we earn it, because we do the work of the state university system."



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# One hundred miles from home

by Jo Schaffer  
Cortland

One hundred miles from home is nothing much for anyone who needs to travel to Albany for a UUP meeting or Delegate Assembly. We do it all the time. For regional UUP reps, 100 miles from home is just an hour and half of quiet car time. And one hundred miles from home is all that is needed to quick start one of the best UUP kept secrets—MetLife AXA Travel Assistance coverage for an unanticipated medical emergency or even prescription replacement.

This important coverage is available as a free benefit for active and retired members of UUP.

For a full description of all available benefits, ask your chapter assistant or UUP Benefits to send you a copy of the MetLife Travel Assistance brochure.

Better yet, here are the numbers to access the coverage, especially if you are planning any immediate travel plans: Within the U.S., (800) 454-3679; outside the U.S., (312- 935-3783

## Personal story

I always carry a copy of the Travel Assistance brochure in the glove compartment of my car and, better yet, with my passport.

And, I am happy to report, it was with me last October when I was in Paris enjoying the first visit to my favorite city after these three years of COVID travel restrictions. The weather was perfect, the museum offerings enticing, and the cafes were open for dining outside.

It was at the end of one such lovely day when I stepped awkwardly out of a taxi, torquing my body into a cracking s-curve.

Arriving back chez moi, I called the U.S. number for MetLife to find out which English-speaking hospital emergency room was closest to my local address. It took 40 minutes to get through (collect calls don't work with cell phones), but I reached a sympathetic person who proposed St. Joseph's Hospital on the Left Bank. I thought I could wait until morning, but by then I couldn't move. I called an ambulance, paid up front, and was delivered to the hospital in record, cobblestone-jolting time.

Well, English was not on the menu but my French sufficed. After the usual long wait in the emergency room, with tests, blood work, scans, etc., I was admitted later that day with a bi-lateral double fracture of the sacrum.

After a couple days of stabilization, I called my son, in Florida, to give him the

MetLife information. Turns out, they would not proceed without a copy of my Health Care Proxy, which would enable him to make decisions on my behalf. Fortunately, I had a copy in my travel folder that I sent by phone. (Add this to your list of what you should all have when traveling.)

Things started to happen quickly after that. My son was flown to Paris the next day to assist me; an American nurse was flown as well, to certify that I could be safely repatriated. By the day after, an ambulance came to gather all of us for a trip to the airport to fly Air France, business class, to JFK, where a car and driver were waiting to take me and the nurse back to Cortland and the hospital at home.

I spent a couple of weeks in hospital, followed by rehab, and continue to recuperate at home. I have translated all the French hospital records, which are needed for reimbursement from the Empire Plan for the Paris hospital expenses—since Medicare does not cover overseas events.

My point. If you're 100 miles from home, be prepared. Carry the MetLife brochure and contact information, and a copy of your Health Care Proxy.

You never know when you will need them.

## Organizing Your Vital Records booklet available online, by mail

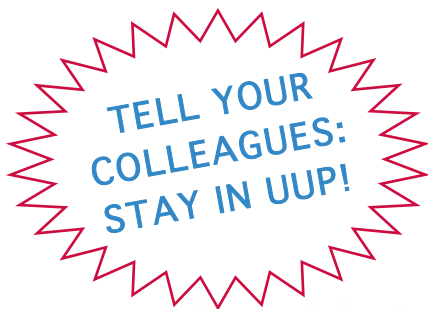
Having your personal information in one place makes it easier to deal with the unexpected. The Retired Membership Governing Committee (formerly COARM) created a checklist designed to be an organizing tool that will help you and your family more easily navigate moments of change. It will assist you in 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](mailto:wapple@uupbenefits.org) or at (800) 342-4206.







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; Liberty 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](http://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.

**UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS  
OFFICIAL 2023 ELECTION REPORT  
RETIRED DELEGATE CHAPTER  
(40901)**

Election results are listed in descending order of votes received. Tie votes are listed in rank order as determined by lottery. Winners are designated by an "X" except for delegates. Delegates are listed in rank order of votes received.  
\* = NO ONE ELECTED — Call the Co-Chairs of the Constitution and Governance Committee.

**The term of office for each position is from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2026.**

**DELEGATE AND CHAIR OF THE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Mcateer, Charles (Stony Brook)	784	X	
Reagan, Thomas (Esf)	331		
Lyons, Patrick (Buffalo Center)	194		
Zubrow, Ezra (Buffalo Center)	184		
Wardlaw, Roosevelt (Buffalo Center)	105		
Mandeville, Thomas	2		
Glauber, Daniel	1		
Kreb, David	1		
Lewis, Sandra	1		
Russell, Eric	1		
Sturm, Phyllis	1		
Thomas, Glenn	1		
Tyler, Richard	1		

**CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION (REGION A)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Shadrick, Betty (Albany)	119	X	
McNitt, F Glenn (New Paltz)	78		
Lewit, Jon	1		

**LONG ISLAND REGION (REGION B)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Giangarra, William (Stony Brook Hsc)	230	X	
Relan, Nand (Stony Brook Hsc)	161		
Balkon, Nancy	1		
Bonnett, Aubrey	1		
Douglas, Cody	1		
Drummond, Ed	1		
Feliciano, Joe	1		
Landy, Eileen	1		
Malone, Dan	1		
Mcateer, Charles	1		

**NORTH COUNTRY REGION (REGION C)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Guydosh, Raymond (Plattsburgh)	76	X	
Mandeville, Thomas (Plattsburgh)	22		

**WESTERN NEW YORK REGION (REGION D)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Ballard, David (Buffalo Center)	142	X	
Lyons, Patrick (Buffalo Center)	130		
Johnson, Anastasia	2		
Lewis, Sandra	2		
Formato, Mike	1		
Johnson, Stacey	1		
Zubrow, Ezra	1		

**CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION (REGION E)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Lyon, Michael (Upstate)	177	X	
Fuller, Lawrence (Oswego)	104		
Borgester, Bill	1		

**METROPOLITAN REGION (REGION F)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Russell, Eric (Downstate)	122	X	
Lee, Lisa Lupsuet (Downstate)	67		
Aragon, Rola	1		
Vincus, Mirce	1		

**SOUTHERN TIER REGION (REGION G)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Tyler, Loraine (Oneonta)	176	X	
Dangle, Jamie	1		
Howard, Jackie	1		
Tyler, Richard	1		

**FINGER LAKES REGION (REGION H)**

Candidate	Total	Winner	Notes
Toscano, Ralph (Brockport)	56	X	
Moore, Gary (Alfred) H	41		
Packard, Earl (Alfred) H	12		
Griffen, Paul	1		

I = ineligible for office

V = ineligible to serve due to receiving less than 5 votes

We certify that this election was conducted in accordance with the UUP election procedure and that this report constitutes the official election report. Ties were resolved by lot.

**Signatures on File**

Rob See & Michael Barclay  
Co-Chairs, Constitution and Governance Committee

**Signature on File**

Jeri O'Bryan-Losee  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Tellers:** List of tellers on file.

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023



## NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

# Universal Life Insurance with Convalescent Care Benefit

provided by:

**Trustmark**<sup>®</sup>  
benefits beyond benefits

- Innovative universal life insurance product provided by Trustmark<sup>®</sup>, combining life insurance coverage with a convalescent care benefit that can be used to pay for long-term care services.
- **Limited time offer!** In-service members ages 18-64 who enroll between May 1 and June 16, 2023 may qualify for guaranteed coverage (no medical questions) up to \$50,000.
- Retiree members up to age 70 may elect coverage up to \$100,000 by answering some medical questions.

### LIVING BENEFITS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

You could require long-term care services at any point in your life, which could cost hundreds of dollars per day. This universal life insurance program includes a convalescent care benefit that can help pay for these services at any age. Policyholders with a qualifying claim can collect up to 4% of their universal life death benefit per month for up to 25 months -- helping to cover the cost of long-term care services such as an in-home health aide, assisted living facility, or nursing home care.

### LIFE INSURANCE

Protecting your loved ones is one of life's greatest responsibilities. Along with the grief that comes with losing a family member, survivors may suddenly be faced with costly expenses, debts, and a loss of income. Your death benefit can be used to help pay these expenses or for other items such as tuition or savings.

### YOURCARE360 ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDE

This program includes access to YourCare360, providing an online resource that can help to guide you and your family through the caregiving journey.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,  
visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org)  
or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

May-Jun 2023



# Gompers: ‘To be free, workers must have choice’

by Daniel Scott Marrone  
Farmingdale

**S**amuel Gompers’ complete quote is: “To be free, the workers must have choice. To have choice they must retain in their own hands the right to determine under what conditions they will work.”

His “Advice on Freedom”—proclaimed repeatedly throughout his lengthy career protecting workers—remains unassailable wisdom. Originally surnamed “Gompertz,” the family was poor and Jewish. In the early 1800s, they immigrated from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to a grimy section of East London, England, called Spitalfields. Samuel Gompertz was born here in 1850. In 1863, his family immigrated to the U.S. and changed its surname to Gompers. His family of eight barely eked out a living, rolling cigars while cramped in a Houston Street tenement slum located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan Island.

Sam Gompers overcame his humble beginnings using innate leadership skills. A year after immigrating to America, the nimble cigar rolling 14-year-old was admitted as a member of Local 15 of the United Cigar Makers Union. Within a short time, the Cockney dialect of his youth was soon replaced by the competent voice of an energized American organized labor leader. Barely five feet tall, but towering in dedication and leadership ability, Gompers was elected president of his union in 1875. In that governance capacity, he began to coordinate with other union leaders. He sought economic power for workers by bringing together what he deemed “one big union.”

In 1880, he brought together skilled-trade workers into the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which was renamed in 1886 as the American Federation of Labor. The AFL quickly became the nation’s largest labor union. Except for one year, Gompers led the AFL from its inception until his death in December 1924.

Throughout these years, the AFL practiced “pure-and-simple unionism that focused primarily on economic rather than political reform as the best way of securing workers’ rights and welfare,” according to his autobiography *Seventy Years of Life And Labor: An Autobiography* published posthumously in 1925).

Gompers provided AFL members with the benefits of American capitalism. In 1894, he was defeated by an avowed Socialist, who proved to be ineffective and extremely unpopular among AFL membership. By a huge margin, Gompers defeated the incumbent in 1895 and remained AFL president until his death.

In 1902, the U.S. faced a nationwide labor strike. United Mine Workers of America, better known by the cropped acronym “UMW” due to the union representing both Canadian and American workers, had walked off their jobs, citing unbearably hazardous working conditions and grossly inadequate wages. Fearing that the nation could face the winter of 1903 without fuel, President Theodore Roosevelt intervened in labor-management negotiations. After several weeks with the coal mine owners refusing to negotiate with the UMW, Roosevelt strong-armed mine owners in accepting nearly every union demand. Gompers widely praised

Roosevelt’s actions. Gompers was later criticized for favoring the Republican president over the Democratic candidate. Gompers responded, “The AFL is not the Democratic Party. It is not the Republican Party. The AFL is the workers’ party.”

In the 1912 presidential election, Gompers supported New Jersey Gov. Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, rather than incumbent President Robert Taft and former ally, Roosevelt.

Close cooperation between Wilson and Gompers proved crucial 53 months later when the U.S. entered the Great War. Gompers immediately ordered the AFL to cease workplace disruptions that would impede production of war-related goods. During the war years, Gompers embarked on whistlestop train excursions that evolved into national tours supporting Wilson and America’s pivotal role in WWI. Following the armistice in 1918, Gompers and the AFL were viewed positively by the American public.

AFL membership soared. Gompers toured Canada and Mexico recruiting members to the AFL. While in that latter nation on December 12, 1924, Gompers suffered a stroke. Knowing his end was near, he requested to be immediately brought back to the U.S. so that he would die in his beloved nation. On December 13, shortly after the train carrying him crossed from Mexico into San Antonio, Texas, Gompers died—as he wished—on American soil.

The years between WWI and WWII saw an increasing use of assembly line industrial processes requiring lesser-skilled workers. Since the AFL focused on skilled labor, it was understandable for production line workers to want their own union. For them, the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) was formed in 1935. Twenty years later, the AFL merged with the CIO to form the nation’s largest organized labor federation with a combined membership of 12.5 million. UUP is affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

## Gompers honored at Labor Hall of Honor

Samuel Gompers has been recognized for his pivotal role in establishing organized labor in America. He was one of the first inductees into the U.S. Department of Labor’s “Labor Hall of Honor,” established in 1988 and located in the DOL’s Washington, D.C., building.

It recognizes “those Americans whose distinctive contributions in the field of labor have elevated working conditions, wages, and the overall quality of life of America’s working families,” according to the department website [dol.gov](http://dol.gov).

On display at the Labor Hall of Fame is a plaque that contains Gompers’ facial image, as well as his profound quotation, “To be free, the workers must have choice. To have choice they must retain in their own hands the right to determine under what conditions they will work.”

*(Daniel Scott Marrone, Ph.D., is a distinguished service professor emeritus from SUNY Farmingdale. He was the college’s first recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities.)*



# Inflation outlook

by Bernard Mudd  
Empire State College

The first published submission I wrote for this newsletter closed with the following, "... suggesting even more trillions in debt is needed will only debase our currency further. Sounds pretty Third World to me ..." Regrettably, we are moving closer to this realization more than I ever hoped. Perpetual budget deficits and the resulting increase in the federal debt is unquestionably not transitory. It will certainly produce elevated, systemic inflation impacting our standard of living for years to come, especially for a retiree.

Why? Our national debt has to be financed somehow, and over the past decade, the Federal Reserve stepped in by monetizing much of the debt for the federal government. Until recently, the repercussions of this policy were thought to be negligible and quite manageable as suggested in Modern Monetary Theory; i.e., where a government can print as much money as it needs, thus never will be broke. But this viewpoint is now being seriously challenged.

Please note, Wikipedia.com defines monetization in its opening two paragraphs as follows: "*Debt monetization or monetary financing is the practice of a government borrowing money from the central bank to finance public spending instead of selling bonds to private investors or raising taxes. The central banks who buy government debt, are essentially creating*

*new money in the process to do so.*

*"This practice is often informally and pejoratively called printing money or money creation. It is prohibited in many countries, because it is considered dangerous due to the risk of creating runaway inflation."*

Moreover, in the last 15 years, the federal debt rose from \$11 trillion to \$30 trillion with the Federal Reserve purposefully keeping interest rates at historic lows through its "Quantitative Easing" policy. Also, fifteen years ago, the national debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio was 63 percent and is now 120 percent, according to the St. Louis Federal Reserve. It is projected to reach 231 percent of GDP by 2050, according to the July 2022 Congressional Budget Office report.

Why is this noteworthy? The World Bank says a country reaches a tipping point in growth when the debt-to-GDP ratio approaches or exceeds 77 percent; i.e., any gain in growth is simply reduced by the debt burden. Similarly, the proposed tax increases on the wealthy and corporations to pay their "fair share" will not begin to reduce the increases built into future federal spending and annual deficits, but like it or not, taxing wealth will reduce growth if adopted. In brief, this is a classic blueprint for lowering everyone's standard of living as economic growth is a prerequisite for raising the standard of living.

A quick history lesson tells us that the impairment to our standard of living from

the possibility of persistent inflation can be quite severe for a New York State retiree. For example, from 1977 to 1981, the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) rose on average 10 percent per year resulting in a loss of purchasing power of nearly 50 percent. Even the New York State Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Benefit, which was enacted in July 2000 for state retirees, is no match for this destructive nature of elevated inflation. This is why inflation is known as a "hidden tax." Not only do you become poorer, you have less government services as debt servicing requires more and more dollars. Please note, the debt-to-GDP ratio during this time period was approximately 31 percent, well below the World Bank's tipping point of 77 percent and substantially lower than our current 120 percent debt-to-GDP ratio. The last time the United States was near this level, according to the Federal Reserve, was just after World War II; it was 119 percent in 1946.

In summary, we have seen this danger and risk play out in nations throughout our lifetime, and quite frankly, I never thought it would happen here in the United States when the economic and social consequences are so obvious. The inflation we are experiencing now will result in a measurable lower standard of living and will be a much more enduring part of our life. Inflation is the price (the "hidden tax") we will pay when it comes to prolonged government deficit spending and more than a decade of purposeful low interest rates to finance it.

## Metropolitan

by Eric Russell  
Downstate

The Metro Region held a meeting June 2 at our usual haunt, Puglia in Little Italy.

A record 40 people attended.

Our presenters were Redetha Abraham-Nichols, Brooklyn HSC Chapter president and a member of our statewide Negotiation Team; Michelle Gittleman from AAUP Rutgers; and Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services representative.

Abraham-Nichols and Gittleman led a lively discussion on the

similarities and differences between Rutgers and SUNY—and the difficulty in getting an equitable contract. The primary difference in the process revolves around the Taylor Law, which took away union members' right to strike. As has been demonstrated in several university systems recently, this right is still a very effective negotiating tool.

Apple then led a discussion of the recent changes in our benefits through the Empire Plan.

Most of the attendees participated in the discussions and we met long after our official closing time.

# Whose red lines?

by Lawrence Wittner  
Albany

In the conflict-ridden realm of international relations, certain terms are particularly useful, and one of them is “Red Lines.” Derived from the concept of a “line in the sand,” first employed in antiquity, the term “Red Lines” appears to have emerged in the 1970s to denote what one nation regards as unacceptable from other nations. In short, it is an implicit threat.

Vladimir Putin, self-anointed restorer of the Russian empire, has tossed about the term repeatedly in recent years. “I hope nobody will get it into their heads to cross Russia’s so-called red line,” he warned in April 2021. “Where it will be drawn, we will decide ourselves in each specific case.” These red lines, although addressing a variety of issues, have been proclaimed frequently. At the end of that November, Putin announced that Russia would take action if NATO crossed its “red lines” on Ukraine, saying that the deployment of offensive missile capabilities on Ukrainian soil would serve as a trigger. In mid-December, as Russian military forces massed within striking distance of Ukraine, the Russian foreign ministry demanded that NATO not only rule out any further expansion, but remove any troops or weapons from NATO members Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Balkan countries and obtain Russian permission before holding any military drills in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, or Central Asia.

Finally, on Feb. 24, 2022, Putin—ignoring a U.S. offer to negotiate some of these items—sent a massive Russian military force pouring into Ukraine in a full-scale invasion. “This is the red line that I talked about multiple times,” he said, and “they have crossed it.” Most nations were not impressed by this justification, for the Russian invasion and subsequent annexation of large portions of Ukraine were clear violations of international law and, as such, were condemned by the United Nations General Assembly and the International Court of Justice.

Of course, Putin’s red lines and interna-

tional aggression, though particularly blatant, are hardly the only features of this kind that have appeared throughout Russian or world history.

The United States has a lengthy record in this regard. As Professor Matthew Waxman of Columbia Law School has written, the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 involved “drawing a red line—with an implicit war threat” against “any European efforts to colonize or reassert control in the Western Hemisphere.” Given the relative weakness of the United States at the time, the U.S. government did not attempt to enforce President James Monroe’s grandiose pronouncement. But, with the emergence of the United States as a great power, its government expanded the Monroe Doctrine to justify frequent U.S. meddling in hemispheric affairs, including conquering and annexing Latin American territory. Even in recent decades, when U.S. annexations have become a relic of the past, the U.S. government has engaged in military intervention in other lands, especially in the Caribbean and Central America, but also in Asia and the Middle East (where President George W. Bush drew what he called “a line in the sand”).

In recent years, as China’s military and economic power have grown, its government, too, has begun emphasizing its red lines. Meeting with U.S. President Joseph Biden in mid-November 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared that Taiwan was the “first red line that must not be crossed.” Xi did not mention the tension-fraught situation in the South China Sea, where China had set up military fortifications on islands claimed by its neighbors, including Vietnam and the Philippines. But here, as well, China had red lines—leading to the current dangerous confrontations between U.S. and Chinese warships in the region. Sharply rejecting a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague that denied China’s control of the area, the Chinese government continued to build up fortifications on the disputed islands. Furthermore, Chinese troops have continued for more than six decades to engage in violent military clashes with Indian troops along

the disputed border, in the Himalayan region, between their two nations.

Although it could be argued that red lines are only an innocent expression of what a nation considers unacceptable in world affairs, it’s worth noting that they are employed especially by major nations. The “great powers,” after all, have the military strength to give their warnings some credibility. Conversely, smaller, weaker nations do not usually bother to issue such pronouncements, as their warnings—and even their interests—are rarely taken as seriously. For this reason, the issuance of red lines usually boils down to a matter of what nation has the power to compel other nations to accept its demands.

Consequently, red lines lead inevitably to spheres of influence that other nations are supposed to respect—including a U.S. sphere in Latin America, a Russian sphere in Europe, and a Chinese sphere in Asia. Naturally, people and nations living in the shadow of these major powers are not enthusiastic about this arrangement, which explains why many Latin Americans want the Yankees to go home, many Europeans fear Russian hegemony, and many Asians are wary of the rise of China.

Another problem with the issuance of red lines is their tendency to inspire international conflict and war. Given their roots in the professed interests of a single nation, they do not necessarily coincide with the interests of other nations. In this competitive situation, conflict is almost inevitable. Where, in these circumstances, is there a place for collective action to fashion a common agreement—one recognizing the fundamental interests of all nations?

Rather than a world of red lines proclaimed by a few powerful nations, what humanity needs is a strengthened United Nations—a global federation of nations in which competing national priorities are reconciled and enforced through agreements, treaties, and international law.

Setting red lines for the world is too important to be left to individual, self-interested countries. They should be set—and respected—by all.



# **OPERATING BY-LAWS for the Retired Membership Governing Committee of the United University Professions**

**APPROVED on April 21, 2023**

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this UUP constituency shall be the Retired Membership Governing Committee of the University Professions (AFT local 2190, NYSUT Retiree Councils 40, 41 and 42).

## **Article II: Retired Membership Governing Committee (RMGC)**

### Section 1. Composition

The RMGC consisting of twelve voting members is the governing body of this organization. Its membership will be in good standing as defined to be up-to-date in payment of dues and are:

- a. Statewide Chairperson
- b. Eight Regional Representatives:  
(Empire State College chapter retirees will be included in the region in which the member's primary work site was located prior to retirement)
  - A. Capital District  
Includes Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz, and System Administration
  - B. Long Island  
Includes Farmingdale, Old Westbury, Stony Brook, and Stony Brook HSC
  - C. North Country  
Includes Canton, Plattsburgh, and Potsdam
  - D. Western New York  
Includes Buffalo Center, Buffalo HSC, Buffalo State, and Fredonia
  - E. Central New York  
Includes Environmental Science and Forestry, Morrisville, Oswego, Polytechnic Institute, and Upstate Medical University
  - F. Metropolitan  
Includes Downstate Medical Center, Maritime, Optometry, and Purchase
  - G. Southern Tier  
Includes Binghamton, Cortland, Delhi, and Oneonta
  - H. Finger Lakes  
Includes Alfred, Brockport, and Geneseo
- c. UUP's Membership Development Officer
- d. Two appointees of the President of UUP

Upon retirement from the post of RMGC chairperson, that individual will continue to serve, ex-officio, as a non-voting member of the RMGC for a period of three years from the date of said retirement, unless they are elected or appointed as a RMGC member.

## Section 2. Duties

- a. Duties are those stated in the UUP Constitution. These are:
  1. To work to encourage and promote retired membership.
  2. To make recommendations with regard to organizational structure wherein retirees and the Union may continue their mutually beneficial relationships.
  3. To propose means whereby the interests of retired members are referred to appropriate bodies.
  4. To support actively, as a key partner, the advancement of UUP's policy, legislative agenda and report to the President, the Executive Board, and the Delegate Assembly.
  5. To consider such other matters as may be referred to it.
- b. Members of the RMGC shall assume responsibility for the following committees:
  1. The chair may appoint a chair and committee of retiree(s) for assistance, when necessary, with approval by the RMGC such as financial, outreach, newsletter, website, benefits, or any other ad-hoc committees.
  2. The chair shall serve as ex-officio member of all RMGC committees.
  3. Any committee chair, who is not a voting member of the RMGC will serve, ex-officio, as a non-voting member of the RMGC.
  4. Any appointed committee member and chair's position will end at the beginning of the next RMGC term.

## Section 3. Meetings and Quorum

- a. The RMGC meeting shall be called by the chair or a majority of the RMGC voting members.
- b. The meeting may be held in-person, electronic conference (zoom or approved equal) or a hybrid (combo) of the two methods.
- c. A quorum is to be defined as a majority of voting RMGC members in good standing.

## Article III: Purpose

- a. To promote and ensure the interests of the retired members of UUP both current and prospective.
- b. To support the mission of UUP according to its Constitution.
- c. To promote mutual assistance and cooperation with other organizations with which it is affiliated.

## Article IV: Affiliations

UUP retirees are affiliated with the New York State United Teachers Retiree Councils 40, 41 and 42, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the New York Statewide Senior Action Council, and other appropriate retiree organizations.

**Article V: Finances – Dues, Budget, and Disbursements**

- a. All financial transactions will be in accordance with UUP fiscal policy standards and pre-approved by the RMGC.
- b. Dues for the membership shall be assessed each fiscal year (September 1<sup>st</sup> thru August 31<sup>st</sup>). Retiree dues (and other funds, if any) shall not be comingled with active membership funds and are spent only for the benefit of the retired membership. The joint RMGC / Finance Subcommittee will review the dues for needed changes, if any, and the subcommittee's chair or designee will submit the recommendation for a vote by the RMGC.
- c. The joint RMGC / Finance Subcommittee, in coordination with the UUP Finance Department, shall be responsible for development of the yearly RMGC budget. The subcommittee's chair will submit the recommended budget for a vote by the RMGC. Much of the information needed for budgeting will come from the UUP Finance Department, but some must be provided by the RMGC Chair and the Regional Representatives. The Chair must provide an estimate for expenses of governing and for travel to meetings. Regional Representatives, with consultation from the Officers for Retirees in their regions, must estimate the cost of regional meetings with the retirees they represent. A form for this purpose will be provided and must be turned in to the UUP Director of Finance.
- d. The Director of Finance will keep the financial records and approve disbursements.

**Article VI: Terms of Officers and Election Procedures****Section 1. Chairperson**

The chairperson of RMGC shall be elected at large by and from the retired membership of UUP in accordance with the UUP Constitution for a period of three years, starting June 1<sup>st</sup> as per UUP Constitution. The chairperson shall be eligible to serve for no more than three consecutive terms.

**Section 2. Regional Representative**

Each region shall elect a representative by and from the retired membership of UUP in that region in accordance with the UUP Constitution for a period of three years, starting June 1<sup>st</sup> as per UUP Constitution. The regional representative shall be eligible to serve for no more than three consecutive terms.

**Section 3. Vice Chairperson**

The vice chairperson of RMGC shall be a member of the RMGC, nominated by the chairperson or RMGC member and elected by the RMGC for a period of up to three years or until the next RMGC election cycle, whichever is shorter.

**Section 4. Secretary**

The secretary of RMGC shall be a member of the RMGC, nominated by the chairperson and approved by the RMGC for a period of up to three years or until the next RMGC election cycle, whichever is shorter.



## Section 5. Resignation and Removals

- a. Any member of the RMGC may resign at any time giving written notice to the chair or secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, if no time was specified, then upon receipt.
- b. Any member of the RMGC may be removed for cause by a vote of two-thirds of the RMGC voting members present, providing that the vote to remove shall represent a majority of the voting RMGC members.
- c. If a RMGC voting member is removed, it takes effect immediately. No RMGC member will be removed without written cause and will be notified prior to a RMGC meeting that will discuss removal. The notification will include the written cause and offer the opportunity to reply to that document in writing and/or at that RMGC meeting.

## Section 6. Vacancies

- a. In the case of a vacancy, the candidate receiving the next largest number of votes in the most recent election (either chair or regional representative) shall assume the position. If there is no such person or all the eligible persons decline, the RMGC chair may propose a temporary appointment for a regional representative position with the approval of the RMGC, for the remainder of the term for such position.
- b. If the vacancy is the RMGC chair, the position must be filled by the order of the statewide election results. If no one accepts the position then a statewide special election must be conducted to fill the position, since this position occupies a seat on the UUP Executive Board.
- c. If the vacancy is from one of the UUP President's appointments, the RMGC chair will notify the President of that vacancy and request a new appointment from the UUP President.

## Article VII: Duties of Officers

### Section 1. Chairperson

- a. The chair shall serve as the Elected Retiree Delegate to the UUP Delegate Assembly, the NYSUT Representative Assembly and the AFT Convention.
- b. The chair shall convene and preside over at least three RMGC meetings per year (September 1st thru August 31st) and may convene and preside at retiree retreats as appropriate.
- c. The chair shall conduct the business pertinent to retiree affairs and shall report those activities to the President, Executive Board, Delegate Assembly of UUP, and retiree membership as appropriate, with assistance from UUP's central office for printing and mailing, as necessary.
- d. The chair shall recommend to the President of UUP a retiree liaison for these statewide committees: Outreach, Finance, Membership, and any ad-hoc committees formed that may deal with retiree issues.
- e. The chair shall work with the RMGC and UUP retiree services coordinator(s) to keep the *RMGC & Officer for Retiree Handbook* up to date and coordinate retiree leadership retreats at least every two years in line with chapter officer for retiree elections.
- f. The chair shall edit and solicit articles for *The Active Retiree* newsletter and other retiree publications and submit to UUP's central office in Albany for statewide printing and mailing.

### Section 2. Regional Representatives

- a. The regional representatives shall represent their respective regions and develop and maintain a working relationship and network of communication with their chapter Officers for Retirees to assist with retiree activities in their regions.
- b. The regional representatives shall report back to the RMGC all activities and needs from their respective regions.
- c. The regional representatives shall submit regional communications to UUP's central office in Albany for printing and mailing.

### Section 3. Vice Chairperson

- a. The vice chairperson, when the chairperson is unavailable shall conduct the RMGC meeting and any authorized RMGC event. In addition, the vice chairperson shall represent the chairperson at regional/campus retiree meetings when the chairperson is unavailable.

### Section 4. Secretary

- a. The secretary shall take minutes of RMGC meetings and retreats and provide copies of them to the RMGC. In addition, the secretary shall send a summary of the minutes to the editor(s) of the retirees' newsletter, *The Active Retiree*, for publication and the posting of that newsletter on the retiree website.

## Article VIII: Nomination and Election of Officers

Nominations and election procedures for elected officers of the RMGC shall be in accord with the UUP Constitution.

## Article IX: Amendments

### Section 1. Initiation

Amendment to these Operating By-Laws may be proposed by any retiree member to the RMGC for consideration and possible adoption. Any amendment shall be considered at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the RMGC.

### Section 2. Procedure

Publication and electronic announcement of such amendment to the membership shall be necessary, at least 21 days prior to consideration by the RMGC.

### Section 3. Adoption

Adoption of any amendment shall be by a two-thirds vote of the RMGC members present, providing that an affirmative vote shall represent at least a majority of the voting RMGC members and if passed the revised Operating By-Laws will be effective immediately and be posted on the RMGC website as soon as possible.



#### Section 4. Operating By-Laws Review Task Force

A review task force shall be formed at least every six years by the chairperson and approved by the RMGC to review these operating by-laws and propose any amendments for consideration in accordance with Article IX Amendments.

#### Article X: NYSUT Regional Division of Retiree Membership

- a. Regional division of retiree membership shall be in accord with the UUP Constitution and these operating by-laws Article V, Section 1.b: A thru H.
- b. The eight regional representatives and one chairperson will be divided into the three NYSUT retiree councils as follows to conform with the three NYSUT retiree votes per retiree council:
  1. Retiree Council #40 three primary delegates are the elected RMGC regional representatives from D-Western New York, E-Central New York & H-Finger Lakes. The two retiree alternates from RC 40 are chosen from elected chapter Officers for Retirees and RMGC members from those three regions and approved by the RMGC.
  2. Retiree Council #41 three primary delegates are elected RMGC regional representatives from A-Capital District, C-North Country & G-Southern Tier. The two retiree alternates from RC 41 are chosen from elected chapter Officers for Retirees and RMGC members from those three regions and approved by the RMGC.
  3. Retiree Council #42 three primary delegates are the elected RMGC chair and elected regional representatives from B-Long Island & F-Metropolitan. The two retiree alternates from RC 42 are chosen from elected chapter Officers for Retirees and RMGC members from those two regions and approved by the RMGC.

#### Article XI: Newsletter and Website

A retiree newsletter, *The Active Retiree*, shall be published at least three times a year and be posted on the UUP website. The RMGC will work with UUP to maintain a retiree page(s) on the main UUP website and have it accessible from the NYSUT retiree website.

#### Article XII: Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of meetings and the transactions of this organization in all matters not specifically provided for in the UUP Constitution and in these Operating By-Laws.

**uup** *The Active Retiree*

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