



# Unifier

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS



FARMINGDALE CHAPTER



February 2017



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## Let Us Introduce You...

*To the latest billionaire-funded plan to change our lives in New York State.*

According to the New York State Constitution, every 20 years, we are asked on the ballot whether there shall be a constitutional convention to revise and amend the state constitution. We voted "no" 20 years ago.

On November 7, 2017, we shall be asked again. And this time there will be an enormously funded effort to persuade people to vote "yes."

New Yorkers must hold on to their rights and freedoms and *vote against* this convention. Surely after the attacks in so many states on public education, voting rights, the environment, and workers' rights, we must realize that a constitutional convention, convened by mega-lobbied politicians, could bring disastrous constitutional limitations that attack our freedoms and the basic rights and protections which our current constitution upholds:

- ◆ The right to a free public education (Article 11.1)
- ◆ Prohibition of reductions in public pension benefits (Article 5.7)
- ◆ Rights to workers' compensation (Article 1.18)
- ◆ Rights pertaining to union membership and collective bargaining (Article 1.17)
- ◆ Social welfare rights (Article 27.1)
- ◆ Prohibitions on the use of state monies to assist religious schools (Article XI.3)
- ◆ A budget role for the state Legislature
- ◆ Adirondack "Forever Wild" protections
- ◆ State land and forest protections

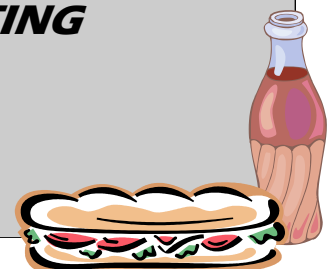
So when you hear "Constitutional Convention," please don't have patriotic thoughts of George Washington watching Alexander Hamilton and James Madison debate at Independence Hall. Rather think of hedge fund folks on Wall Street with dreams of bulldozing forests in the Adirondacks and allowing retired teachers to supplement their penurious pensions by working (part-time) at Walmart. ◆

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2017

11:00 am ◆ Gleeson Hall room 104

Please join your fellow UUPF members for lunch.



# Professionals' Corner

## Your Union Needs You!

By Solomon Ayo

Welcome back to the Spring Semester! I am sure that some members are still reflecting on the 2016 election shockwave: the energized Union members, progressives across the nation and people who were in the forefront of electing the first female President of the free world were no doubt disappointed. It was a big disappointment for unions in many states with the loss of political leverage being a major concern. More importantly, are the possible challenges to the many gains your Union has won

for you through the years in terms of benefits. These include: paid vacations, wage increases, pensions and insurance plans, safety laws, workmen's compensation laws, Social Security, the 8-hour work day, unemployment benefits and job security, to name just a few.

These union successes were not served to the organizations on silver platters! The bodies of unions across the nation fought a good fight for equity and respect to win these battles. So the political obstacle that the Union

faces today from our adversaries; though it is shocking, it is not new. The question is, what are you going to do about it? A loss of political leverage like this is what makes the union stronger. Currently, the Union leadership is re-evaluating what went wrong and has begun to chart a new course to protect your job.

However, each and every one of us have a role to play too, in protecting all the gains at stake relative to your livelihood.

You can begin by familiarizing with your local government politicians and with your state and your federal representatives. It is very important that they see you and hear your concerns. That is exactly what the big corporation lobbyist do to protect their interest. It is also very important to follow through with the regular call-to-action via emails by our Union leadership in Albany. To assist, you can get regular update if you visit the <http://uupinfo.org/> and register your private email. Please do Your part to make Your union stronger. ♦

Isn't it interesting how companies cry broke when workers want a 5 cent raise but always have millions laying around to pay union-busting "consulting" firms?



Rebuilding America \$1 at a time

# President's Message

Congratulations to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force (DEI), led by Dr. Veronica Henry, Executive Assistant to the President, on its report and plan submitted to System Administration. This past fall all 64 SUNY campuses were required to submit a DEI report and plan, explaining how their campuses promote the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion. FSC's plan was among the 20% that were deemed most successful, and even among the top 20%, ours was labeled "outstanding."

This is important because it implies that our campus has an

overall respect for the entire community. There are no "Others" at FSC.

Thus we in UUPF always expect to see respect for the FSC workforce-- for *all* of our members—as evidenced in locally determined salary and pay, job security, working conditions, workload, support for advancement, benefits, civility, and freedom of expression.

That includes both the 39% and the **61%** identified in the table on the other page.

We, as well as SUNY System Administration, expect Farmingdale to be "outstanding."



In Solidarity,  
*Vicki Janik*

## EAP Corner

### New Year's Resolutions you can actually keep

By Kathy Devine, Employee Assistance Program

Quite often after you lose a loved one, you say to yourself..."I really should make/revise my will. Or perhaps you wonder if you have designated a beneficiary on your pension, life insurance, IRAs, savings accounts, annuities. Then life gets in the way and you forget all about it. How about making 2017 the year you

finally do it!

Even if you did the above years ago but have recently married, divorced, remarried or had children you need to revisit and re-evaluate your wishes. Have you named a guardian for your children in the event that you and your spouse pre-decease them when they are still minors?

Your Employer Assistance Program (EAP) has legal forms to assist you including Health Care Proxy, Power of Attorney, Living Will as well as your Last Will and Testament.

Don't put it off another year. I wish you and your family a healthy and happy 2017. ♦





# UUPF Working Weekends

## Winter Delegate Assembly

Saratoga Springs, NY

January 29-30, 2017

Your UUP Farmingdale representatives bringing your issues to those with the power to affect positive change.



# Officer for Retirees

By Barbara Maertz

Retired members of UUP reached a milestone last year going over the 5,000 member mark for the first time. Many retirees want to access the benefits available to them from UUP and NYSUT for dental, vision and insurance coverage as well as a large number of consumer discounts to help them in retirement.

To help in this process, a new local chapter Officer for Retirees is on the nominating petition you just received and will be up for election this year for the

first time at every campus in the UUP bargaining unit. This Officer will be a voting member of the Farmingdale Executive board to bring retiree issues to the board's attention. The officer will be expected to plan the two retiree meetings held on campus in the spring and fall and the pre-retirement seminar usually held in the fall every two years. Another function of this officer for retirees is to monitor legislative issues concerning retirees and bring them to the attention of the

Executive Board and the retirees and the members on the Farmingdale campus. This officer will not necessarily be a delegate to the Delegate Assembly which meets three times a year, but may run as a delegate if they so choose. The officer for retirees could be a retiree or an active member who wishes to do the work for retirees.

Farmingdale has been a leader for many years in having a retiree member on its exec board beginning with our founder, the wonderful Pearl Brod, Russ Tuthill and Barbara Maertz, but



the growth in the number of retiree members has encouraged this change so that now all the chapters can have Officer representation.

The Farmingdale Officer will work with the Long Island Region Coordinator and the Officers from Stony Brook, The SBHSC and Old Westbury. The Region Coordinator is a member of the COARM board and does have to travel to the Delegate Assemblies and participate in the operation of the retirees for budget and planning.

I am retiring this year as the LI Region Coordinator, but will remain if elected as the Farmingdale Officer. It has been enjoyable to meet with retirees from all the Long Island chapters for the last 10 years, but it is time to turn it over to someone else. Please watch the mail for your election ballot and vote. ♦

**By the numbers**

Did you know that

**79%**

of union workers are more likely to have access to retirement plans than nonunion workers?

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, 2014 statistics

# UUPF: By the Numbers

## FSC BARGAINING UNIT: DECEMBER 15, 2016

ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONALS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	% PART-TIME
ACADEMICS	231	517	748	<b>69%</b>
PROFESSIONALS	190	132	322	<b>40%</b>
GRAND TOTAL	421	649	1070	<b>61%</b>

NOTE: UUPF also has 154 retiree members not included in this table

[SOURCE: UUP DATA RECEIVED FROM SUNY]

This means 69% of academics--well over double the number of full-time staff--teach part-time. This is the highest percentage in SUNY, save at Empire State College.

Similarly unusual, 40% of professionals at FSC are part-time. Just *how* unusual is this? Compare FSC to our neighbors: Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC, and Old Westbury:

## DISTRIBUTION OF PROFESSIONALS: DECEMBER 15, 2016

CAMPUS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	% PART-TIME
FSC	190	132	322	<b>40%</b>
STONY BROOK	1136	102	1238	<b>8%</b>
STONY BROOK HSC	2221	278	2499	<b>11%</b>
OLD WESTBURY	133	9	142	<b>6%</b>

[SOURCE: UUP DATA RECEIVED FROM SUNY]

## AND OUR STUDENT POPULATION

Continuing to grow: Fall 2016

FULL TIME: 6942

# Statement for Charles McAteer for the COARM Long Island Representative Seat

My name is Charlie McAteer and I am running for the COARM's Long Island Representative. I worked at Stony Brook University for 37 years prior to retiring as a Professional in the Campus Planning, Design & Construction group in 2015. I have lived on Long Island my whole life, and am a proud product of the SUNY system in both my undergrad., graduate work and professional training. I have held several chapter officerships (Treasurer and Vice President for Professionals) and UUP statewide committee assignments (Outreach/RELAG, Finance and Task Force for Retiree Issues). I have had the honor of receiving statewide awards for Advocacy & Organizing from two organizations (UUP 2016 Judy Wishnia Advocacy Award from Outreach Committee and the AARP-NY 2016 Organizer of the Year for their Statewide Legislative Advocacy Group).

This brief Biography shows I am committed to working and excelling in the work I do for my organizations and here is what I plan on doing for You on Long Island as a retired member of our UUP Union. I want to work with the newly created chapter Officer for Retirees from the Four Long Island chapters (Stony Brook HSC, Stony Brook, Farmingdale & Old Westbury) as well as Empire State chapter members who worked on Long Island when they retired. I was the author of the UUP constitutional Amendment to create this missing link in our COARM structure that being a contact person in each UUP chapter, the new Officer for Retirees. As your COARM representative statewide representing Long Island these officers for retirees will be the link working with myself, your chapter and COARM to better serve your needs and assist in organizing our very popular UUP Long Island Retiree Luncheons. I look to continue the tradition of having these Fall & Spring get-togethers in both Nassau and Suffolk counties.

I ask for your support for my candidacy for the Committee on Active Retired Membership's Long Island Representative Position so that I can continue the great work of Barbara Maetz who has served in this position for the past ten years. I look forward to representing our collective interests as UUP retirees both here on Long Island and up in Albany with UUP's COARM structure. I will look to work with Walter Apple our UUP Retiree Issues Coordinator, your Officer for Retirees and You our Retiree helping advocate for our issues and communicating important information/changes when we receive it. I ask for your Vote.

*Thank you*

*Charlie McAteer*





## FARMINGDALE CHAPTER

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Doug Cody

Henry Ellis

John Masserwick

Anjana Mebane-Cruz

Margaret Porciello

Robert Reganse

Fayez Samuel

Lou Scala

Mike Smiles

**Professional**

Barbara Maertz

Debbie Nilsen

Darleyne Mayers

Solomon Ayo

Yolanda Segarra

## United University Professions

## Constitutional Convention: Fact Sheet and Concerns

On **Nov. 7, 2017**, the people of New York state will be asked the following question on the ballot: Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" This question appears every 20 years under the New York State Constitution (Article 19, §2).



**UUP says vote 'NO'  
on this question.**

**Here's why.**

The NYS Constitution establishes the fundamental rights we enjoy as citizens of New York state, as public employees, and as retired public employees. A Constitutional Convention would become the vehicle to further the attacks on public education, unions and collective bargaining, pension security for retirees, and other basic rights and protections.

**The following are some of the basic rights and protections under attack across our state and nation. A Constitutional Convention could further threaten them.**

- ◆ The right to a free public education (Article 11, §1)
- ◆ Prohibition of reductions in public pension benefits (Article 5, §7)
- ◆ Rights to workers' compensation (Article 1, §18)
- ◆ Rights pertaining to union membership and collective bargaining (Article 1, §17)
- ◆ Social welfare rights (Article 27, §1)
- ◆ Prohibitions on the use of state monies to assist religious schools ("Blaine Amendment" Article XI, §3)
- ◆ A budget role for the state Legislature
- ◆ Adirondack "Forever Wild" protections

### CHAPTER MEMBERS on STATEWIDE COMMITTEES

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Comm of VPs for Professionals

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Membership

**Robert Reganse**

Task Force on Retirees

**Louis Scala**

Grievance

**Mike Smiles**

Comm of VPs for Academics

\* Committee Chair

The UUPF Newsletter welcomes articles and letters submitted by members of the Farmingdale community. Remember, this is your newsletter. Share your thoughts with us. We want to hear from you. Persons who have material they wish to submit should contact Yolanda Segarra at youupf@gmail.com. *The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of UUPF.*