



Unifier

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS



FARMINGDALE CHAPTER



SEPTEMBER 2017



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What UUP Does For You

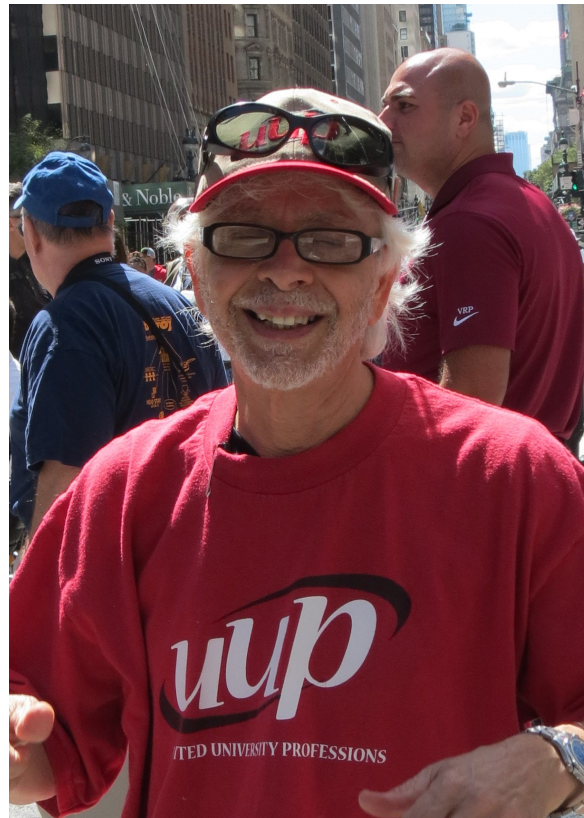
By Lou Scala

I want to thank you for electing me as your Vice President of Academics. I appreciate your support and will do my best to serve you, although I hope you will be patient with me as I grow into this position. I may not know the immediate answer to a question you may have, but I will dig for the answer and get back to you as soon as I can.

Yesterday, I spoke to Jamie Dangler, UUP Vice President of Academics, and asked her about issues of concern to UUP. She responded by saying she would like to see more faculty involvement in the union and suggested that leaders ask our members what UUP can do for them.

She also pointed out that without knowledge of a particular problem, the union is unable to troubleshoot the issue and find a solution. Jamie also told me that newly elected VPs of Academics will meet at the Delegate Assembly in Buffalo on October 12th to discuss these concerns. I'll report back to you about this when I return. Meanwhile, feel free to drop by my office, Ward Hall 302. In closing, two questions: What are the academic issues of concern to you? What can UUPF do to encourage more participation from its academic members?

I look forward to hearing your answers to these questions!

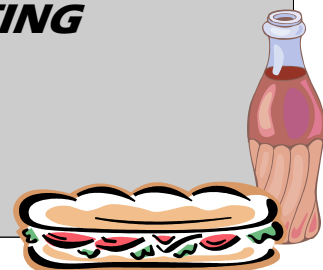


GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, September 28, 2016

11:00 am ◆ Gleeson Hall room 104

Please join your fellow UUPF members for lunch.



Professionals' Corner

By Harry Gabriel Espailat

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for electing me VP for Professionals. I know that many of you don't know much about me, so allow me to introduce myself.

My life in Farmingdale began as a work study assistant for the Computer Systems Department, then professionally as Instructional Support Specialist for the School of Business. Almost ten years have passed since I became part of the Farmingdale family and along the way I met many wonderful people.

Currently, I work in the Information Technology Department for the School of Engineering Technologies, where I continue to work with both professionals and academics. As an Adjunct Associate Professor for the Computer Systems Department, I teach C++, Java, Android Development, C#, JavaScript, jQuery and Web Development.

I have been actively involved with the union since 2014 when I accepted the role of a webmaster. Last year I was appointed Grievance Officer for Professionals, and now I serve you as Vice President for Professionals.

First Order of Business

I have been working all summer with Human Resources and other UUPF Officers in developing a second "promotion cycle". Although professional staff can apply for promotion at any time,

an additional cycle in December will help streamline the process for Human Resources. More details will be provided at the General Membership meeting.

Meanwhile, professionals who are considering applying for promotion should compile the following documents:

- ◆ An Application for Professional Promotion form
- ◆ A copy of your **current** Performance Program
- ◆ A copy of your most recent **previous** Performance Program
- ◆ A copy of your most recent evaluation
- ◆ A letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor (*recommended*)
- ◆ A letter of recommendation from your Dean and/or area Vice President (*recommended*)

- ◆ Annual Report or Professional Achievement Form (*recommended*)
- ◆ Other supportive documents

The new form will include instructions and deadlines and will be available on the Human Resources Forms page. Professionals will be able to apply for either a salary increase or a full promotion with the same form.

Promotion policies have not changed. A lack of response within 45 days from submission is considered a denial. At which point you should contact me to discuss the activation of the College Review Panel.

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can reach me at (631) 420-2196. You can also reach me via email at hespail@gmail.com ◆

Professionals' Conference

We thank all the members who attended the Long Island Regional Conference for Professionals hosted by the Farmingdale Chapter on June 6th at our campus. The dinner event was well attended by professionals from Old Westbury, Stony Brook and Farmingdale. Lynda Larson and Lisa Willis, working together with Solomon Ayo (former VP for Professionals), Vicki Janik, and other Farmingdale Chapter officers, put together an informative event entitled "You've Got Questions."

At the event, the attendees

were broken into groups, and each group was given a different case involving a violation of the contract; the group then proceeded to find contract language that addressed the violation and could be used to resolve it. Afterward, Larson and Willis answered questions from the attendees regarding problems at their campuses. This was my first Regional Conference and it was an enjoyable and valuable learning experience.

Finally, I must mention *the dinner*. Aramark did a fantastic job. It was delicious! ◆

President's Message

Welcome Back

Welcome back to Farmingdale! And especially, welcome to all our new faculty and professional staff!

We are pleased that so impressive a group of new full-time and part-time staff members has joined us this year.

We hope you will enjoy your excellent students, your fine colleagues, an ever more attractive campus (especially the beautiful gardens) and all the benefits that UUPF and Farmingdale have to offer.

I remember when I first came to Farmingdale I noticed two unusual qualities that I hope you will find-- friendliness and a sense of community. I realize now that this emanated both from the union (UUPF) and the administration.

There were

real examples of care for one another everywhere. I remember the extra support--above and beyond the contract-- given to people who fell ill so that they could concentrate on healing, not on their missed work or their health insurance. One person even was given a bed in a trailer where rest and sleep were possible. People at Farmingdale were treated with a kindness that they would hope to receive themselves.

I had taught at many



campuses, but I was really surprised at how different this place was. Like other colleges, Farmingdale had programs and buildings and a calendar and meetings.

But unlike other places, Farmingdale didn't feel as if a hierarchy determined the fate of the community. It had individual, often dissimilar people working together. And so, Farmingdale could be a lot of fun. In this, it was special.

We hope this distinctiveness can continue during your years here. UUPF will do whatever is possible to make it happen. Please join us!

In Solidarity,
Vicki Janik



Have you had your financial check-up lately?

NYSUT Member Benefits launches the new Financial Planning Center!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the launch of our NEW online Financial Planning Center. This enhanced site will assist NYSUT members and their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center provides helpful tools and resources to assist members with a number of crucial decisions regarding financial wellness and retirement planning.



This new site includes more than 100 modules on different financial topics along with a financial fitness check-up to see where members stand with their financial knowledge.

Whether it's planning for retirement, saving for college for your children or considering purchasing a home, the choices we need to make on a regular basis are never easy. If you're already enjoying retirement, you may be dealing with long-term care needs, managing your investments and estate planning.

NYSUT members can get assistance with these questions and more with our NEW Financial Planning Center.

To access the Financial Planning Center (and more than 100 planning modules), visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** and click on **“Financial Planning Center.”**

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE In New York State

By Vicki Janik

You probably realize that the next election, a 2017 off-year election, is extremely important to you. Why? Because one ballot question reads: “*Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?*”

You also probably know that New York State unions emphatically say “**NO.**” Here’s why---

1. Let’s look at New York State today: it has the highest percentage of unionized workers in the country: 23.6% are union members and 25.2% are represented by unions. This contrasts to a state like Texas that has 4% of workers in unions and 5.3% represented by unions.
2. Unionized workers earn more money and have more rights. Nationally, the average weekly wage for union members is \$1,004 v. \$802 for the non-union workers.
3. *The current NYS Constitution includes powerful support for New York State citizens, relative to those for citizens in other states:*

Take the time to read for yourself Article 1.17 of the NYS Constitution on the Workplace:
§17. Labor of human beings is not a commodity nor an article of commerce and shall never be so considered or construed.
No laborer, worker or

mechanic, in the employ of a contractor or sub-contractor engaged in the performance of any public work, shall be permitted to work more than eight hours in any day or more than five days in any week, except in cases of extraordinary emergency; nor shall he or she be paid less than the rate of wages prevailing in the same trade or occupation in the locality within the state where such public work is to be situated, erected or used.

Employees shall have the right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. (New. Adopted by Constitutional Convention of 1938 and approved by vote of the people November 8, 1938; amended by vote of the people November 6, 2001.)

And of Article 1.18 on Workers’ Compensation:

§18. Nothing contained in this constitution shall be construed to limit the power of the legislature to enact laws for the protection of the lives, health, or safety of employees; or for the payment, either by employers, or by employers and employees or otherwise, either directly or through a state or other system of

insurance or otherwise, of compensation for injuries to employees or for death of employees resulting from such injuries without regard to fault as a cause thereof, except [willful self destruction or intoxication]

And Article 5.7 on Pensions:
§7. After July first, nineteen hundred forty, membership in any pension or retirement system of the state or of a civil division thereof shall be a contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired. (New. Adopted by Constitutional Convention of 1938 and approved by vote of the people November 8, 1938.)

Today, this language, often from 1938, is remarkable. It was written for the well-being of the citizens of New York State—for you.

There are also strong protections for the environment (forest preserves, forest and wildlife preservation, reservoirs, **natural resources, development of agricultural lands**), of the bicameral legislature, of suffrage, of the supervision of education (not by one person appointed by the governor) by a *nine-member Board of Regents*, and on and on.

A constitutional convention opens a Pandora’s Box of change.

— Continued on page 11

On the Constitutional

Welcome to UUP's constitutional convention reference page.

Every 20 years, voters must decide whether or not to call a convention to revise the state's Constitution. That referendum, mandated by the Constitution itself, will come before voters on Election Day, Nov. 7, 2017.

If approved, the convention could result in wholesale changes to the state's 240-year-old Constitution, which UUP believes would jeopardize some of the most basic rights and protections that we enjoy as New Yorkers, as public workers, as retirees and as unionists.

The state Constitution guarantees the right to a free public education, to join a union, to protect our health, to care for the needy, to safe jobs, and to protect state lands and forests.

There is much at stake if a constitutional convention is convened:

- ♦ Public pension benefits reductions
- ♦ Workers' compensation rights
- ♦ Collective bargaining rights
- ♦ Social welfare
- ♦ Prohibitions on using state funds for religious schools

- ♦ A budget role for the state Legislature
- ♦ Adirondack "Forever Wild" protections

Here's why you should VOTE NO to a constitutional convention:

The rich will benefit.

Spread
the word..
Vote No!

A constitutional convention **IS NOT** in the best interest of working families, retirees and public education. This is not going to be a "People's Convention," as some well-financed people

would like you to believe. Already, wealthy, anti-labor groups and organizations opposed to public education are mobilizing to push for a convention to serve their own selfish agendas.

The astronomical cost

It cost about \$6.5 million to stage the constitutional convention in 1967, the last time it was held. The overall cost to hold a constitutional convention today is absurd: estimates put the price tag at between \$50 million and \$100 million.

You know what else \$100 million would pay for? It would cover doctors' visits for 625,000 New Yorkers, and a year's worth

of meals for 163,333 of our hungriest children. And it would pay tuition for 3,864 state residents to attend a SUNY school for four years. There are far better ways to spend our money than on a constitutional convention.

Albany insiders will run it

Past constitutional conventions have been run by legislators, judges, attorneys, and special interest groups. Of the 186 delegates to the 1967 convention, 154 held public office. That means lawmakers elected as delegates could double their salaries and fatten their pensions in the process.

It's unnecessary

There are far effective and less costly ways we can make changes to the state Constitution than through a convention. Lawmakers can amend the Constitution; they have done so more than 200 times, most recently in 2015 to create an independent commission on redistricting, and to allow the Legislature to save money by going paperless for proposed bills.

Don't be fooled. A constitutional convention is a boondoggle. It will be detrimental to working families, education and organized labor.

Convention. Just Say “No”

Things you can do:

- ◆ Chapter and Individual Activities
- ◆ Work with Coalitions
- ◆ Donate to VOTE-COPE
- ◆ Check out the UUP Website

Chapter & Individual Activities

- ◆ Distribute brochures to UUP members, family and friends, and community groups you are part of.
- ◆ Ask your colleagues, family and friends to self address an “I pledge to Vote No!” postcard. UUP headquarters will collect the postcards from chapters and mail them back to individuals in the weeks before the election (order postcards by email at avillafa@uupmail.org).
- ◆ Organize door-to-door leafleting in your neighborhoods and brochure drops at supportive businesses, churches and other locations.
- ◆ Ask individuals to host “house parties” and invite neighbors and friends to discuss the issue.
- ◆ Write a letter to the editor for local newspapers or organization newsletters, and invite family and friends to write one, too.
- ◆ Display Vote No! posters.
- ◆ Distribute and wear Vote

No! buttons (available at your chapter office).

- ◆ Spread the word on social media. Follow UUP on Facebook and Twitter; use the hashtag #NYConCon.

Action Plan

Educating others to *VOTE NO!* on the NYS

Give to
VOTE-
COPE!

Constitutional
Convention Referen-
dum

- ◆ Show the video of community and UUP members explaining why they oppose a constitutional convention.
- ◆ Start planning fall “Get out the Vote” activities, including leafleting and phone banking.

Work with Coalitions

- ◆ Attend constitutional convention community meetings and presentations, and speak against the referendum.
- ◆ Offer to invite a UUP representative to speak to local organizations (UUP will send an officer/designee).
- ◆ Possible organizations to contact:
 - Central Labor Councils and other labor groups
 - Church/religious groups
 - NYS Alliance for Retired

Americans chapters, or other

senior citizen/retiree groups

- The League of Women Voters
- Campus/student groups
- Service organizations, e.g., Kiwanis or Lions Club
- Environmental and conservation groups
- Education organizations
- Social welfare advocacy associations
- Government watchdog groups
- ◆ Ask your colleagues, family and friends to bring this issue to the organizations they belong to. Ask them to distribute UUP materials and/or write a letter or article for an organization’s newsletter.

Donate to VOTE-COPE

Those who want a constitutional convention to try and strip away collective bargaining, pensions, and other basic rights will spend billions trying to convince people to vote for the convention.

NYSUT will need to spend as much as possible to inform its members and the general public about what’s at stake. The only way to accomplish this is through voluntary donations to VOTE-COPE, the union’s nonpartisan political action fund.

On the Constitutional

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
- State land and forest protections

A Constitutional Convention could:

Eliminate collective bargaining rights

Consider Scott Walker and Wisconsin's "Act 10" legislation, a model for anti-union interests. It raises employee health care and pension costs, prohibits public employee unions from bargaining over anything other than wage increases based on inflation, bars automatic union dues deductions from paychecks, and requires annual union elections.

Radically change public employee retirement systems, including but not limited employer contributions, employee contributions, and benefits

Changes to the SUNY ORP could also occur. In all likelihood, no one would be protected from changes through "grandfathering."

Change the defined benefits that people expect to receive from TRS or ERS Diminish the Legislature's budget role, giving more power to the Executive Branch

A governor could dictate the

state budget without legislative approval.

Change the role or eliminate the Board of Regents

A former NYS governor proposed eliminating the Board of Regents to give the governor more direct authority over education policy. Regents are appointed by the Legislature, with public accountability.

Why we must mobilize our colleagues and communities to vote 'NO'

- ♦ Groups and individuals that want to alter basic rights protected by the NYS Constitution will get people who support their positions to vote.
- ♦ There are very wealthy, anti-union groups that will spare no expense to curtail collective bargaining and other rights.
- ♦ 2017 is an "off election year." Voter turnout is normally low. We could lose state protections and rights if people who support them stay home on Election Day.

Is a Constitutional Convention the only way to make changes to the state's Constitution?

No. The Constitution can be changed through individual amendments passed by two separately elected legislatures and voted on by the electorate. Changes can be made without opening up the entire Constitution and threatening our basic rights and protections.

Convention. Just Say "No"

How are delegates to a Constitutional Convention selected?

If voters approve a Constitutional Convention on the Nov. 6, 2017, ballot, three delegates per state Senate district and 15 at-large delegates (204 in total) would be elected in November 2018 (the next general election). Delegates can include members of the Legislature, other elected officials, and political party leaders. It's not likely that

convention delegates would be "representative" of a grassroots movement, which convention supporters will claim.

When would a Convention be held and what would it cost?

The convention would take place in Albany in 2019 for an unspecified period of time. The last New York State Constitutional Convention was in 1967 (voters declined to support a

convention in the last two referendum votes in 1977 and 1997) and lasted 5½ months. It cost taxpayers roughly \$6.5 million. In 2015 numbers, that's more than \$46 million!

Check out the UUP website

Go to www.uupinfo.org for updates and information on the constitutional convention. ♦

Memories of Brooklyn

By Barbara Maertz

Long Island UUP retirees who met at Farmingdale in April drifted back down memory lane while listening to Jack Bilello talk about growing up in Brooklyn. Jack is a retired History teacher from Lindenhurst who has written several books about Brooklyn including one that is titled "I still remember Joni James". Jack's talk was titled "Laugh, Cry, Think" and we certainly had a few laughs while listening to him speak about our youth.

There were many stories about uncles, brothers and friends who served in WWII and the Korean war. It seems like every family was affected in those days. Funnier memories of the Brooklyn Dodgers and stickball played in the streets made a number of the retirees smile and nod. Oh, Yes!, we all remembered those. Of course what would Brooklyn be like without memories of the Godfather and the mafia types who lived in the area. However, the most celebrated stories were about Mom and the food served on

Sunday and the family that gathered for dinner. We had apartments that were three and four rooms but there was always space for another relative and a pot of sauce that didn't seem to end. Thank you, Jack for bringing us back to where we all began.

Our meeting contained lots of great information about benefits from Walter Apple and updates on the legislative action that was being passed in Albany. The retiree issues about Medicare reimbursement, IRMMA and the sick leave reduction the governor proposed are all being rejected by the legislators. Another victory for retirees due to the work of UUP President Fred Kowal and the UUP advocates.

Vicki Janik, President of UUPF, reminded all the retirees about the upcoming constitutional convention which will be on the ballot in November. She urged all to VOTE NO on this proposal because of the danger of losing our pension and health care benefits, and the effect it would have, if

passed, on the working conditions of our union brothers and sisters by removing the rights to bargain collectively with the state. Also at risk is the "forever wild" designation of the Adirondacks, opening that area to exploitation by business interests like coal mining and casinos. Not to mention the cost in billions to run this convention.

Barbara Maertz, introduced Charlie McAteer as the new Long Island Coordinator for COARM. Charlie will plan the Stony Brook meeting and represent Long Island at the COARM meetings. Barbara will be the Officer for Retirees for Farmingdale and an Officer for Old Westbury will be appointed by the new President Martha Livingston. Barbara will plan the next meeting of retirees in October at Farmingdale and hopefully in conjunction with the rep from OW.

We hope to see you there as we present Dr. Margaret Sukhram with information about storm preparation from the American Red Cross. ♦

Who Are We Now?

By Harry Gabriel Espallat

It has been 3½ months since I was elected Vice President for Professionals, and during this period, life-changing events have taken place around the country. In one way or another, these events have changed our reality, have contradicted what we stand for as Americans, and have sent a message to the rest of the world implying that our nation is becoming uncivilized and fragmented. I know that all of us—unless you slept through the summer—witnessed the unfolding of these events.

As educated professionals, we must be aware of the repercussions that can arise from endorsing, participating in, or even entertaining these harmful ideas. Neo-Nazism and white supremacy, the rescinding of DACA, and the current effort to hold a New York State Constitutional Convention are topics which are impossible to ignore. They are a direct threat to our way of life.

Neo-Nazism, ultra-nationalism, racism, white supremacism, xenophobia, homophobia are ugly examples of discrimination that, historically, have led to disasters, genocide, and war. History does not lie; just read all the world's horrors born of bigotry. Such atrocities also

blemish our own history. Yet today this does not deter those engaged in such failed ideologies. Today's white supremacists and Neo-Nazis seem to ignore that Adolf Hitler began his genocidal agenda by eliminating fellow Germans who were dissenters, *and* who were, believe me, all white—so were the Poles, the Russians, the French, and the Austrians. That so-called white supremacist movement of a hundred years ago is nothing close to what today's Neo-Nazis claim to represent: "*White Supremacy*" or "*the superiority of the white race*." It was about totalitarian governance, genocide, and complete lunacy. Those who follow and spread their nefarious practices are setting themselves up for failure and, like their predecessors, will go down in history as enemies of humanity.

We must all condemn such a repugnant ideology. I ask any member, who has been a target or who has witnessed any form of discrimination in the workplace, to take a no-tolerance stance and immediately report its occurrence to the proper authorities.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was a policy created under the Obama

administration to protect certain undocumented young people, who came to the United States as children, from deportation. At the President's request, the Trump Administration has chosen to end it, pending further negotiations in Congress. The annulment of the program has put at risk of deportation approximate 850,000 young immigrants who only know this country as their home. The political apparatus in place and the President's agenda has put their future into a black hole.

UUP and leaders from around the country have condemned the President's decision. I stand firmly in solidarity with those who oppose the abolition of the program and personally encourage you to do the same. Our nation is composed of immigrants from around the world: that's the way it has always been! The cultural diversity we enjoy in America is the reason for our greatness. The values we stand for, and our 244 years of progress, is worth more than an immediate and harsh political agenda. The rescinding of DACA is an act of division and nothing more.

The New York State Constitutional Convention is a meeting of elected delegates who propose

...continued on page 12

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE In New York State

Continued from page 5

So *who* actually wants to revisit, revise, and perhaps *reduce* the protections in these articles?

When you Google “New York State Constitutional Convention,” be aware of these posts (in mid-September). After three articles from the past two days, two of three of the first websites are pro-convention:

- ♦ “New York Constitutional Convention Is the Only Way to Clean Up Albany”
- ♦ “NYS Constitutional Convention Clearinghouse”
- ♦ “Vote ‘Yes’ for the NYS Constitutional Convention.”

“Vote ‘Yes’” is funded by a

group called Citizens’ Union, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt citizens’ organization. The article about cleaning up Albany is written by Dick Dadey, the Citizens’ Union Executive Director, who is from Syracuse.

The person who heads Citizens’ Union, is the chairman, Randy Mastro.

Maestro is a “top tier litigator” in the Manhattan firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He took time off to serve as Mayor Rudy Guiliani’s chief of staff and deputy mayor for operations, and later has had such clients as AIG, Bank of New York Mellon, Bear Stearns,

Daimler Chrysler Directors, Home Depot, IAC/Home Shopping Network, Madison Square Garden/Cablevision, and Wynn Resorts. He represented Governor Chris Christie’s office in Bridgegate (charging the citizens of New Jersey a 40% discounted rate of \$650 per hour) and recently represented Robert Mercer of Renaissance Technologies against one of its employees.

It will be valuable for you to ask why this 501(c)(3), with this particular leadership, is perhaps the greatest advocate for change to the NYS Constitution. Be sure to vote in November. ♦

New Staff Orientation

On August 24, Vicki Janik, UUPF president, gave a presentation about UUP to new members at the College orientation lunch, which followed the Convocation and was held in the Campus Ballroom.

Janik told new full-time professionals and academics about UUP—the largest higher education academic union in the country, which comprises 42,000 members at twenty-nine campuses across the state, including at the four hospitals in Buffalo, Syracuse, Brooklyn, and Stony Brook.

At the lunch, newly hired staff had the chance to sign three important cards:

- ♦ the pink membership card

- ♦ the yellow benefits enrollment card that provides dental and eyeglass insurance
- ♦ the blue term life insurance card that provides a free \$6,000 life insurance policy to members.

Lou Scala, UUPF Vice President for Academics, Harry Espaillet, Vice President for Professionals, and Debbie, Chapter Assistant, also attended and met with individual new staff members.

New members are invited to attend all union meetings and social functions, including the first General Membership lunch meeting to be held on September 28 in the Gleeson Hall Lecture Room 103. ♦



**AT
CHANGING TIMES
TUESDAY**

October 24th

4:00 — 6:00 PM

**Hot Buffet
& TWO FREE DRINKS
Compliments of
Your UUP Chapter**

Raffle Tickets on sale
(winners must be present to win)

PLEASE RSVP: uupfdamato@aol.com

Who Are We Now?

Continued from page 10

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Vicki Janik
President
Lou Scala
VP Academics
Harry Espaillat
VP Professionals
Susan Conforti
Treasurer
Debbie Nilsen
Secretary
Doug Cody
Contingents: P/T

Affirmative Action
Anjana Mebane-Cruz
EOC
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Grievance: Academic
Lou Scala
Grievance: Professional
Solomon Ayo
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Robert Elgart
Labor/Management
Mike Smiles
Library Concerns
Megan Margino
Membership
Tom Germano
New Members & Mentors Coordinator
Dolores Ciaccio
Newsletter
Yolanda Segarra
Outreach
Darleyne Mayers
Retiree Concerns
Barbara Maertz
Webmaster
Harry Espaillat

DELEGATES

Academic
Amit Bandyopadhyay
Doug Cody
Bob Elgart
James Jailer
Daniel Marrone
John Masserwick
Fayez Samuel
Lou Scala
Mike Smiles
Tino Posillico
Professional
Solomon Ayo
Darleyne Mayers
Barbara Maertz
Yolanda Segarra
Kristen Malsheimer

amendments to or a rewrite of the state constitution. Of the three topics in this article, the Constitutional Convention is probably the most immediately dangerous to the residents of the State of New York, that is, you and me. I know that myriad articles on the topic are all over of the internet. But, regardless, we cannot overemphasize the importance of staying informed to avoid what could result in an extremely costly mistake. Remember, our very own constitution is at stake.

How our lives and our finances and our environment are conducted can be quickly changed by individuals who do not know the consequences of voting “YES” on the November ballot. Below are reasons you should vote NO as well as the only single reason to vote YES. Reasons to vote “NO”... you’ve read them all:

It wastes money.

- ◆ Experts estimate \$50-\$100 million
- ◆ Lawmakers and judges elected as delegates could double their own salaries and fatten their pensions.

Too much is at stake.

- ◆ Free public education
- ◆ The right to unionize
- ◆ “Forever Wild” protections
- ◆ State lands/forest protections
- ◆ A budget role for the Legislature
- ◆ Worker’s compensation

Most delegates are not ordinary citizens.

- ◆ People from an established party need **1,000** signatures to run.
- ◆ Individuals independent of a political party need **5,000** signatures to run.
- ◆ At-large candidates need **15,000** signatures to run!

It is unnecessary. The NYS Constitution can be amended through the Legislature. We don’t need a constitutional convention to do that.

The ONLY reason you might be tempted to vote “YES”:

You have lost your mind and need an immediate psychiatric evaluation. ◆

CHAPTER MEMBERS on STATEWIDE COMMITTEES

Solomon O. Ayo

Affirmative Action
Grievance

Amit Bandyopadhyay

Contingent Employment

Douglas S. Cody

Contingent Employment

Susan Conforti

Finance

Harry Espaillat

Technology Issues
Comm of VPs for Professionals

Sandy Hustedt

Membership Committee

Vicki K. Janik

Comm of Chapter Presidents
Contingent Employment
Women’s Rights and Concerns *

Barbara T. Maertz

Active Retired Membership
Finance
Outreach

Darleyne E. Mayers

Affirmative Action *

Deborah-Ann R. Nilsen

Membership

Louis Scala

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.*