

Potsdam UUP Chapter News

November 2011 Issue



We're Not There Yet...

Officers	Phone
President Laura Rhoads	2260
Vice President for Professionals John Cote	2730
Vice President for Academics James Petercsak	2469
Affirmative Action John Cote	2730
Officer of Contingents (Vacant)	
Treasurer Kevin Hennessey	3106
Secretary (Vacant)	
Membership Development Officer Wilda Rowe	3002
UUP Chapter Office Chapter Assistant Nancy Richards	3177

Next Chapter Meeting!
Nov. 16th, 2011
Knowles Dining Hall
4:00PM Start of meeting
5:00PM Dinner

And this applies to a few items. The contract negotiations proceed, but we are not at the point of an agreement. Read on page 2 about the current status of the negotiations process.

The governor is calling for another 2.5% decrease in the budgets of state agencies for the 2012-13 fiscal year. This would obviously affect SUNY as well, so we will be calling upon everyone to advocate for SUNY and accessible higher education in the coming months.

We are also "not there yet" with regard to the concept of "shared services". President Schwaller has reiterated several times that this process will not involve job losses at each campus, Potsdam nor Canton, but the union will continue to monitor the proposals and whether there will be impacts on the terms and conditions of our members. Our VPP, John Cote, has been working on a joint committee with Canton members to talk about shared services' issues, so please contact him if you have questions or concerns in your area.

The attack on public employees continues in many states. In Wisconsin, Florida, Ohio, and other states, the rights of collective bargaining are being stripped away. The Occupy Wall Street movement has even touched upon Potsdam, and solidarity is more important than ever. While we have much to be thankful for, through the actions of our union, the struggle never ends. So, we are not there yet.

Where we are certain is that we will be holding a chapter meeting on November 16th in the Knowles Dining Hall, 2nd floor, at 4:00PM. This meeting will be followed by a dinner at 5:00PM with music by our own Crane students. We will be joined by special guests: J. Philippe Abraham, UUP statewide Vice-President for Professionals, and Ed Quinn, UUP statewide Membership Development Officer. Please come to meet with colleagues and hear about the latest news from Albany.

If you have ideas on workshops, training, or other activities, please let us know! If you would like to get more involved in union activities, consider becoming an area representative for your department- contact John Cote, Jim Petercsak or myself to find out how you can become engaged in our union chapter!

Laura Rhoads, Chapter President



Contract Negotiations

October Negotiations Wrap-Up

UUP's Negotiations Team completed its schedule of October meetings with state negotiators during sessions on October 13, 14, and 26. Topics covered included compensation, health benefits, and other contract articles UUP has opened for discussion. Most sessions focused on detailing UUP member needs and identifying outdated contract provisions that hamper fair and effective working conditions at SUNY institutions.

Through the October meetings, UUP's negotiators presented the state with explanations of members' concerns and experiences related to all areas covered by our contract. Health benefits were a focal point of much of the discussion during these sessions. While no agreements have been reached on any contract items, UUP continues to move forward with a planned sequence of discussions aimed at reaching a fair and equitable contract. Monetary and non-monetary items are being presented as essential to a final overall agreement.

UUP and the state are scheduled to meet again on November 10 and 11.

Additional updates will be posted on the UUP website (www.uupinfo.org) as negotiations develop. Feel free to contact Chief Negotiator Jamie Dangler at contract@uupmail.org for further information or to submit questions or comments.

Heather Sullivan Catlin (Sociology) raises a point about the contract at last fall's chapter meeting.



Jamie Dangler provides an update on the negotiations process at a Negotiations Committee meeting on Oct. 22 in Cooperstown.

Jason Schreer (Biology) looks over contract information at a chapter meeting last Fall.



UUP Honors Ed Alfonsin at Fall Delegate Assembly; Delegates elect new Vice-President for Professionals

Edward Alfonsin has been a valuable member of the Potsdam campus for over thirty years, and has contributed his time both locally and at the statewide level for UUP. He was a teacher, adviser, and even a department chair in English and Communications. Even after retiring, he continued teaching and serving the campus through both UUP and Faculty Senate activities. As a strong unionist, he was a chapter president, grievance officer and continues as an academic delegate. UUP honored him at the Fall Delegate Assembly in Albany, September 2011, for the Outstanding Active Retiree of the Year award. Ed offered several words of wisdom, and as you see from the picture, Ed still displays another of his life's loves, trains! Thank you Ed for your dedication and many volunteer hours to the campus and to UUP!

Also at the Fall Delegate Assembly in Albany, Laura Rhoads and David Butler show off what a shared campus might look like:



John Marino was honored for his years of service as the statewide Vice-President for Professionals:



Albany chapter Vice President for Professionals J. Philippe Abraham was elected to fill the term of John Marino, who left this position to join NYSUT as the associate director of field services for UUP. Abraham had been serving in this position on an interim basis until the special election at the Delegate Assembly.

Below, Philippe and VP Academics Fred Floss participate in a panel discussion about academic freedom:





We're on the
Web!
[http://potsdamuup.
wordpress.com/](http://potsdamuup.wordpress.com/)

Committee on Professional Evaluation

The College Committee on Professional Evaluation, whose purpose is to provide a forum for review of “unsatisfactory” evaluations, has five members, three of whom are elected at large by and from the Professional employees on campus, and two appointed by the President of the College.

If you received an unsatisfactory and wish to have the evaluation reviewed by the committee, please contact either

College Review Panel

The “College Review Panel” is a means for Professionals to apply for promotion or to appeal a decision regarding salary increase requests; the Panel makes recommendations to the College President. The Panel consists of five to seven members elected at large by and from the Professional employees on campus. If you have been denied a promotion or salary increase request, please contact the chapter office so that the panel can be assembled to review your case.

Laura Rhoads (X2260) or Mary Dolan (X4816) to request information or set up a committee meeting.

Who are Your Chapter Representatives?

Academic Delegates

Ed Alfonsin
George Gonos
Lynn Hall
Marc Leuthold
Anjali Misra
James Petercsak

Professional Delegates

John Cote
George Kahn
Wilda Rowe

VOTE-COPE

Please consider making a contribution to VOTE-COPE- one or two dollars per paycheck would be of invaluable assistance to this fund. Decisions on the use of VOTE-COPE funds are made by statewide committees, on issues that affect union members, and are used to fight for legislation that protects all members, active and retired. Support for candidates is considered at the national, state and local levels, and the decision to support these candidates is based on their voting record or platforms for higher education and organized labor. VOTE-COPE funds are also used to support UUPers who go to Albany and visit legislators to talk about our needs, or to meet with local legislators while in their home district offices.

Fill out a VOTE-COPE card today! Amounts can be deducted directly from your paycheck. Cards are available in the chapter office. Every dollar does make a difference.

Upcoming Events

- Chapter Meeting and Dinner, November 16th, 4:00-7:00PM, Knowles Dining Hall
- Executive Committee meeting, December 2nd, 12:00 noon-1:30PM, MacVicar 104
- Labor-Management meeting December 9th, 11:00AM, 7th fl. Boardroom, Raymond Hall

Potsdam Chapter

Potsdam UUP Chapter Meeting and Dinner

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

4:00PM Meeting followed by dinner starting at 5:00PM

Knowles Conference Center

2nd Floor Dining Area



Please join us for this meeting and dinner with special guests J. Philippe Abraham, Statewide Vice President for Professionals, and Edward Quinn, Statewide Membership Development Officer.

RSVP to uup@potsdam.edu or call X3177 by Nov. 11th.

(Buffet dinner will include both chicken and vegetarian options)

Are you keeping your family's best interests in mind?

The importance of having a will cannot be overstated – this crucial legal document protects your family during their time of grief and ensures that your wishes are honored.

Drafting a will can help provide peace of mind for you today and prevent unnecessary stress for your family in the future. It also allows you to name a legal guardian if you have children under the age of 18. In addition, a will ensures that your estate will be distributed according to your desires.

A power-packed legal punch

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan – provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. – provides access to legal advice and assistance that is crucial when looking to create or update a will.

Each year, the plan provides for one simple will or update at no charge. A simple will provides for the proceeds of one's estate to be distributed to a specifically named beneficiary(ies), with an alternate distribution plan in the event that the primary beneficiary predeceases the writer of the will. With a simple will, proceeds are distributed outright with no conditions attached.

In addition to the simple will, you will receive a durable power of attorney, living will and health care proxy – all important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.



Discounted rates

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of \$85 per year or \$55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee. Members eligible for payroll or pension deduction can take advantage of further savings.

Do you have other legal issues that you need assistance with, such as dealing with a speeding ticket or selling your home? The plan offers NYSUT members legal assistance for a variety of personal legal matters.

You will have access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys; these attorneys will make phone calls and write third-party correspondence at no charge to resolve personal legal situations on your behalf before they become major problems. In

addition, when you enroll in this plan, you will receive two coupons for free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

How to get started

You can enroll in the voluntary plan online by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or printing a descriptive brochure and enrollment form. Feel free to also contact NYSUT Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** with any questions about the plan.

Please note: if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.

The Legal Service Plan provided through Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 33.33% of annual participation fees received for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

Nov./Dec. '11

Current Area Reps and Membership Committee- Where can you help??

Name	email	Phone	Area
John Cote, VPP	cotejb@potsdam.edu	267-2186	Campus Mail
James Petercsak, VPA	petercjj@potsdam.edu	267-2469	Crane
School of Arts and Sciences			
George Gonos	gonosgc@potsdam.edu	267-4805	Sociology
Marc Leuthold	leuthomd@potsdam.edu	267-2244	Art
Karen Johnson Weiner	johnsokm@potsdm.edu	267-2941	Anthropology
Joel Foisy	foisyjs@potsdam.edu	267-2084	Mathematics
Brian Snee	sneebj@potsdam.edu	267-3257	Eng/Comm
Jack McGuire	mcguirjp@potsdam.edu	267-2914	Politics
Kevin Smith	smithkd@potsdam.edu	267-2560	History
Cliff Rossiter	rossitcs@potsdam.edu	267-2270	Chemistry
Jay Pecora	pecorajw@potsdam.edu	267-2547	Theater
School of Education and Professional Studies			
Bob Vadas	vadasre@potsdam.edu	267-2534	Secondary Ed
Lynn Hall	hallla@potsdam.edu	267-2540	Literacy
David Kistler	kistleds@potsdam.edu	267-2994	Business Admin.
Crane	???		
Marianne Hebert			
Marianne Hebert	hebertm@potsdam.edu	267-3308	Libraries
Wilda Rowe	wilda@potsdam.edu	267-3002	Extended Ed.
Carolyn Corcoran	corcorcr@potsdam.edu	267-2162	Financial Aid