

# The Alfred Advocate

A L F R E D S T A T E C O L L E G E

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome Joe Petrick
- Wanted: Retiree Ideas
- UUP Website
- Chapter Contacts
- DSI Distribution

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

## POWER IN NUMBERS: WHY BE A UUP UNION MEMBER

NYS and SUNY have numerous tools in their vast arsenal of weapons that they can wield to accomplish their purpose, which, sad to say, is usually to get reelected and/or self-aggrandizement. Few are the people at such high levels of leadership who really care for little else, other, say their personal agenda. Historically we find that political leaders will sacrifice anyone and everyone for their own cause. We, part of the arm of public labor, are not high on the Governor's list of important people. Just check out the way he threatened and cajoled the other unions when they attempted to negotiate new contracts.

The policies of those high up the ladder also supersedes even those who administer at the local level, and it does not bode well for SUNY campuses across the state. SUNY's Shared-Services Alliances are potentially destructive to the very infrastructure of the state college system. Already at least four colleges are being combined into two, with one campus president directing two colleges. Besides the administrative alterations, what I see for SUNY is possibly the eventual elimination of similar programs on different campuses, online courses substituting for in-class instruction.

So, why become a UUP Union member? The only tool we little people have at our disposal is our numbers. Collectively we have power, (*One of the reasons the Wisconsin governor pressed so diligently for the removal of collective bargaining from state's unions*). Elected officials look at numbers. When we show a united front by signing up as UUP members, not just fee payers, we present numbers that those officials cannot ignore. At this critical juncture in SUNY history, if we wish to see New York State's Higher Ed remain focused on its intended purpose of providing the best education for our youth, we must remain united.

For those of you who may still be fee payers, please help us out at this time. Take a moment to sign up to become an active UUP member. There is no extra cost to you, and what you might help accomplish... well, I believe you see the possibilities.

Southwest and Rochester Area: This is SUNY's vision of the future.

Alfred State, Fredonia, Geneseo, Brockport, Alfred Ceramics, 'Invited Community Colleges': Jamestown, Corning, Genesee, Monroe, Finger Lakes.

Where do you see Alfred's future in this?

## DSI DISTRIBUTION

Some of our members have been wondering about this year's DSI distribution. The following information should assist in providing clarification.

The 1% DSI monies in the past have been offered by the state at the end of UUP contract negotiations, and not been part of the negotiations themselves. Although the 1% was to be given to the UUP members the state handed it over to SUNY campus administrators to distribute in a manner of their choosing, each campus administration opting for the method to be used. UUP did not decide how this will be done.

The Alfred UUP Chapter has made several requests to Administration for an across the board distribution of DSI this year, seeing this may be the last pay increase our members will receive for some time. Administration has chosen to follow its previous method of merit style distribution, which it has the authority to do.

Choosing to participate in requesting DSI for this year in an individual choice, UUP remaining non-committal as to the way it is being done. No matter the way DSI is distributed, the entire 1% of the funds must go to UUP members.



## CONTINUING OR PERMANENT APPOINTMENT

We recommend that any employees who have completed seven years of full time service or more, and who have not received a letter of continuing or permanent appointment from the chancellor, contact the union office for more information.

## WELCOME JOE PETRICK PART TIME CONCERNS

The Part-time Concerns Representative to a UUP local chapter monitors the concerns of those UUP represented employees who are part-time employees, on both the academic and professional staff. Although I am a full-time librarian, (and thus not a part-time employee), I empathize with the concerns of contingent employees, and will address those concerns, and, as prescribed by the local UUP Bylaws, report them to the local Executive Committee and the Chapter President.

I have been employed by Alfred State College for eleven years, and for the past six years have been the Alfred State College representative to University Faculty Senate. Although the University Faculty Senator is not responsible for any contact with contingent employees, I have over the years seen a number of situations directly relating to them that has sensitized me to the conditions in which part-time work takes place. Most recently, I attended the UUP committee retreat for Part-Time Concerns officers, and engaged in discussion with part-time faculty and staff from across UUP-represented SUNY campuses.

Although UUP cannot change contractual conditions of employment, there are benefits that the union has negotiated available to part-time UUP employees, depending on the amount of employment at the College. Some of these benefits may include:

1) Eligibility for full coverage in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP), if the employee

teaches two or more classes, or, if a professional employee, earns \$13,870 over a calendar year beginning in July.

2) Those employees qualifying for NYSHIP also qualify for the UUP Benefit Trust Fund, which includes dental and vision benefits, as well as the UUP Scholarship for eligible dependent children attending SUNY state-operated colleges.

3) Part-time employees are also eligible for professional development opportunities. They may for example enroll in one course per semester on a "space available" basis at a SUNY campus whose employees are represented by UUP. Professional development grants are also available for part-time employees through the Joint Management funded committee. Fifteen percent of the funds must be made available to part-time employees.

4) Contingent employees are eligible for pension plans.

These and other benefits are more fully described in the "2007-2011 Fact Sheet for Part-Time Employees," available at: <http://www.uupinfo.org/reports/ptfactsheet.pdf>.

Finally, in addition to reaching out to part-time members of the Alfred State Community, I look forward to offering a workshop on part-time concerns, and will assess interest in a Committee for Part-time Concerns. I can be reached at extension 4311, and look forward to working with part-time UUP employees regarding your concerns.

## WANTED: RETIREE IDEAS AND PARTICIPATION

As read in the **Active Retiree**, Don Cohen is looking for retiree members to get active in their union! He wants them to start by suggesting new program ideas, projects and/or social opportunities for its seven regions. Ideas Include:

- Launching a film & lecture series on "The Aging Brain" (scheduled for the 2011 Fall DA)
  - Advocating new approaches to affordable, quality long-term care.
- Celebrating COARM's 25th anniversary in 2014 with the first statewide union retiree convention in Saratoga Springs.
- Open invitation: Free, noninvasive, 15-minute examination and printout of your heart muscle re: Carl H. Rosner's magnet heart machine.

Send comments/suggestions to Cohen at [bdonco@gmail.com](mailto:bdonco@gmail.com)



RELAY FOR LIFE 2011



“Brighter than Sunshine” team members.  
 \*\*Rachel Bryant, Chapter Assistant—Back right\*\*

The Alfred State Chapter of UUP had sponsored the “Brighter than Sunshine” team at the Relay for Life on July 18, 2011. Relay for Life was a time for individuals to come together and form teams to walk for others who have dealt with or are still dealing with cancer.

The total raised by the “Brighter than Sunshine” team was \$3303.46. With a total of 27 teams and 258 individuals that all came together to raise money for the fight against cancer, a total amount of \$13,933.61 was raised!

The Relay for Life is held to do three main things:

1. Celebrate
2. Remember
3. Fight back

We celebrate with taking a lap for those who have survived any form of cancer. We remember those with the Luminaria Ceremony and those who have lost loved ones due to cancer. Lastly, we fight back! We as individuals will do all it takes to fight back against cancer for those around us who we hold close!

Thank you for all who helped join this fight in sponsoring Brighter than Sunshine this summer for the Relay for Life!

RETIREE E-LIST

As you may or may not have seen in July 2011 Active Retiree, there is an e-list being made for all retirees who would like to join an information network. This is a quick and easy way to share and receive ideas and information. The topics are restricted to issues of concern to UUP, SUNY, the labor movement and retirees. It was said by the COARM Chair Judy Wishnia that it’s an easy way to discuss retiree issues and to post news about regional meetings, benefits, and advocacy.

If you are interested in joining this e-list, please contact Old Westbury retiree Claire Meirowitz at [cmeiroqitz@yahoo.com](mailto:cmeiroqitz@yahoo.com).

ANNUAL RETIREES’ LUNCHEON 2012

Alfred State Retirees’ Luncheon

Date:  
 February 17, 2012

Where:  
 Huntington Hills Country Club  
 2626 Duff Road  
 Lakeland, Florida  
 (863) 853 9393

Contact Persons:  
 John and Anne Joyce  
 2959 Dollar Bonnet Lane  
 Lakeland, Florida 33810  
 (863) 859 9138  
[jjjoycejr1@yahoo.com](mailto:jjjoycejr1@yahoo.com)

Price:  
 Lunches range from about \$10—\$12 including tax and tip

Program:  
 Good conversation with old friends

Reservations:  
 Reservations must be made by February 11, 2011 by contacting the Joyces

Please RSVP by Feb 11, 2012 by contacting the Joyces

I/WE plan to attend the 2012 Luncheon on February 17th  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



UPCOMING UUP OFFICE CLOSINGS	
Wednesday , September	28 - 10/0 5
Monday, October	10
Friday, November	11

United University Professions (UUP) is the union representing more than 31,000 academic and professional faculty on 29 State University of New York campuses, plus System Administration, Empire State College, and the New York State Theatre Institute. UUP is affiliate with the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

**UUP represents SUNY Faculty and other professionals at the bargaining table and works to protect their interests by:**

- Providing funding for professional growth and development through leaves, awards, conferences and other grant programs.
- Achieving improvements in salary, fringe benefits, working conditions and retirement programs.
- Obtaining state resources for the state university through effective legislative and political action.
- Seeking to enhance and preserve the quality of the university.

## U U P A L F R E D C H A P T E R W E B S I T E

UUP Alfred Chapter has been constantly updating their website. <http://uuphost.org/alfred/> We have all of our past, current, and future events listed, a list of UUP officers, DSI information, any forms you may need, and meeting documentation from Executive Board and Labor Management meetings. In order to read the minutes or notes posted online, you must use the following password in all lowercase: alfred01.

**What would you like to see on UUP Alfred State College's Chapter Website?**

**Email Rachel Bryant, Chapter Assistant, with any suggestions/comments**

## U U P A L F R E D C H A P T E R C O N T A C T S

UUP Alfred Chapter Contact: Rachel Bryant, [bryantrl@alfredstate.edu](mailto:bryantrl@alfredstate.edu), 4186

President: Ray Gleason, [gleasord@alfredstate.edu](mailto:gleasord@alfredstate.edu), 4658

VP for Academics: Bob Rees, [reesre@alfredstate.edu](mailto:reesre@alfredstate.edu), 4671

VP for Professionals and Grievance Officer: Bill Schultze, [schultwh@alfredstate.edu](mailto:schultwh@alfredstate.edu), 4033

VP for Wellsville Campus: Roger Drumm, [drummra@alfredstate.edu](mailto:drummra@alfredstate.edu), 3162

Membership Development Officer: Laura Giglio, [giglioll@alfredstate.edu](mailto:giglioll@alfredstate.edu), 4123



Bill Schultze



Roger Drumm

## Let TripMark.travel be your one-stop travel shop!

- 1) Do you have plans to take a vacation with your loved ones this fall?
- 2) Looking to book a fantastic getaway to a beautiful international destination?
- 3) Would you like an easy to use travel site that can help you effortlessly book flights, hotels, vacation packages, car rentals and cruises for personal and business travel needs?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed discount travel program offered by TripMark.travel could help make planning your next trip a breeze. Take advantage of one-stop shopping for all your travel needs: reserve hotels, flights, cruises, car rentals and vacation packages; browse destinations; plan road trips; or book group travel.

### Online security

TripMark offers a simple online interface and advanced encryption technology that ensures that your personal information is kept safe and secure as you plan your next trip.

### Helpful suggestions

To assist with your planning, TripMark also offers a variety of destination guides – offering recommendations for top-rated attractions, restaurants and hotels along with general information about thousands of destinations. Thinking about planning a road trip, but not sure where to go? TripMark's website offers you many options, anywhere from one hour to six hours

*TripMark.travel is a NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 25% of net revenue 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.*

away from a specified zip code, in any direction you choose. You can then search for hotels in the area that you select.

### Strength in numbers

TripMark can even help you with group travel. Whether you're planning a family reunion or vacationing with friends, get assistance and best available deals from the helpful folks at TripMark. For group travel only, get the process started online

by visiting the TripMark page on the Member Benefits website and following the directions listed. There is a different toll-free number dedicated solely to group travel as well as a discount code to use for booking group travel.

### Speak with a real person

Would you feel more comfortable speaking to a travel agent on the phone rather than booking online? TripMark's knowledgeable agents

are available toll-free, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. to assist with your travel planning. Please note that travel agents cannot currently book airline flights if you arrange your trip through one of TripMark's agents; you can either book flights online or contact the airline directly.

### What to do first

To get started with TripMark, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) and click on "TripMark.travel" in the Featured Discounts section of the homepage. There, you'll find toll-free numbers for reservations, cruises and group travel, as well as a link to a NYSUT member-specific TripMark website. You can also contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 with any questions.

