



the Downstate Update

NEWSBRIEF

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

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CONGRATULATIONS

Colleagues,

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hazel Williams, who has been elected to fill the unexpired term as the Downstate Chapter Vice President for Professionals.

Hazel takes over for Paula White, who has retired and stepped down from her VPP post Feb. 26. We thank Paula for her service to our chapter and to UUP. She is a dedicated unionist who truly cares about UUP. We will miss her and we wish her well.

The Governing Board, at its June 16 meeting, also voted to appoint Khadija Sikriti as Chapter Membership Development Officer. Khadija replaces Hazel as MDO. The MDO is an appointed position.

We look forward to working with Hazel and Khadija in their new chapter leadership positions.

MESSAGE FROM FRED KOWAL, UUP STATEWIDE PRESIDENT ON JUNETEENTH

Colleagues,

As you know, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order yesterday, which has established June 19 — Juneteenth — as a state holiday. As such, state employees will have the day off, or will be granted a comp holiday if they are required to report to work.

Juneteenth is an incredibly important day in American history. It is the day that the last of the enslaved Americans were informed that they were free, by US military forces occupying Texas in 1865 — months after the surrender of Confederate forces at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. Today, as we face — I hope — a reckoning of the racist history of our nation, the holiday takes on incredible importance for all of us.

I would like to invite you to do two things. First, to register for the Poor Peoples' Campaign, a major (unfortunately virtual) event on Saturday, led by the Reverend William Barber. Though this was planned a long time ago, the timing for this event could not be better. Please take part and encourage your colleagues to do so as well. UUP will join the digital Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington, the largest digital gathering of poor, dispossessed and impacted people, faith leaders, and people of conscience. This 2.5 hour program will broadcast on Saturday, June 20 at 10am and 6pm, and again on Sunday, June 21 at 6pm. You can find more information, RSVP and join the event at www.june2020.org.

Please share this invitation with your colleagues, friends and family. The Poor People's Campaign also developed a [digital toolkit](#) with sample posts, graphics and more ways to amplify the event.

Second, on a more personal level, at this time in our nation's history, I invite you to take some time to consider how our union can be a part of the great, important work of social change that hopefully will be occurring right now. We can change the world — if we all take part.

Thanks very much for all you do and please take care...

In Solidarity,

Fred

Remote Presentation on Promotion

“What you should know”

HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO

JUNE 25, 2020

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Details to follow!!

UUP Downstate Chapter

President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud

VP for Academics: Karen Benker

VP for Professionals: Hazel Williams

Secretary: Ellen McTigue

Treasurer: Fred Houston

Grievance Chair: Simon Abe Gerecht

Officer for Contingents: Donovan Lorde

Department Rep Coordinator:

Rowena Blackman-Stroud

Retirees Officer: Sandy Spier

UUP/NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist

Lisa Mouscardy Willis

Chapter Assistant

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Chapter information

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