

May 2026

Brockport Chapter



Brockport Banter...What's Going On This Month?

Gratitude Edition....

PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

It may seem like a cliché when we state, “you are UUP,” but it reflects an obvious truth. UUP cannot realize our collective goals without active members. As the academic year closes, it seems like a fine time to recognize many who contribute to our success. It is with much pride we bring you the inaugural Brockport Banter Gratitude Edition! In the coming pages we recognize our Brockport Chapter Officers and leaders. Before we proceed I would like to add a few more notes of gratitude and recognition.

This year has been marked by contract negotiations. We are fortunate to have our statewide negotiations team led by Brett Benjamin representing us. Their efforts started early with a broad ranging listening campaign that continued through careful construction of conceptual proposals. That careful planning paid dividends. UUP were able to engage early and efficiently with the state negotiating team, and we now have the real possibility of an on-time contract. Thank you – negotiations team.

To learn about ways you can continue to support their efforts:

<https://uupinfo.org/negotiations/>

A great contract calls for strong state support. UUP is fortunate to have a highly effective legislative team led by Director Chris Black. Active member support for legislative action is coordinated by a statewide outreach committee led at the state level by Pamela Malone (Empire) and Bekkie Bryan (Cortland) and locally by Sara DiDonato. Thanks to their collective efforts we were able to secure strong state support for SUNY and accomplish many of our legislative goals. Legislative support is likely to become more essential in the coming years – so please consider making a contribution to our voluntary political action fund. As you may know, none of our dues money supports political action – so even a dollar a paycheck helps:

<https://uupinfo.org/votecope/>

Over the coming year we plan to introduce our statewide leadership team through a series of features in this newsletter. Until then, we offer thanks for their ongoing work on our behalf, which largely takes place outside our view.

Thank you statewide officers, President Fred Kowal, Vice President of Professionals Carolyn Kube, Vice President for Academics Alissa Karl, Secretary Treasurer Jeri O’Byran Losee and Member Development Officer Patrick Romain. Our leadership team is supported by a detailed oriented and creative research department led by Dr Mary Taber. Our communications team led by Director Michael Lisi keeps us all informed, and our organizing team with Kristie Sammons at the helm keeps our ranks strong. All their efforts are made possible by an administrators and IT officers too numerous to mention – we thank you all.

At Brockport, we have enjoyed great support this year through what has been a challenging Individual Development Award cycle. IDA is a negotiated benefit that serves our members well – but has proved frustrating this year due to staffing issues with the state. It took a long-time to receive approval for our grants and we apologize to those who were inconvenienced. We are planning adjustments locally, and statewide, for next IDA cycle. For now, I would like to recognize Laura Merkl and her team as well as the Brockport IDA committee for their work to make the best of a difficult situation.

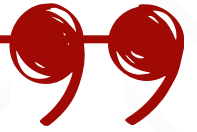
Another committee that has been working hard this year is our College Review Panel. This is a contractual committee that makes recommendations about appeals for denials of salary increase or promotions requests. This is a challenging task and we thank you for your service. We also elected UUP members of the College Committee on Professional Evaluation this year. Once we have members from the college appointed, we will be undertaking training.

UUP enjoys a collaborative relationship with BASC, campus events, parking, and numerous administrative staff across campus. We appreciate you all. Finally – I would like to offer a HUGE thank you on behalf of all members to two people who truly make our chapter work. Jamie Guilian our Labor Relations Specialist with her wise counsel and strong advocacy and Jen Osborne our Chapter Assistant with her superior organization, creativity and kindness.

Thanks everyone for a great academic year and enjoy the summer months! ~Susan



Thank You TO OUR VP'S



SARA DI DONATO

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMICS

The Brockport Chapter is grateful to have a stellar VP of academics in Sara Didonato. This year we would especially like to highlight Sara's pivotal role in reigniting our chapter's advocacy efforts. Sara coordinated a solid group of Brockport members to attend advocacy day in Albany and organized multiple visits to local legislators in their home offices. These activities are a vital contribution to our statewide efforts to secure a strong budget and fulfill our legislative aims. Looking forward, these actions will become ever more crucial to our campus fiscal health, so please let us know if you would like to join Sara as we look to build our outreach team next year.



GARRETT ROE

VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONALS

Brockport UUP are grateful to have Garrett Roe serving as our VPA. A relative newcomer to the role, Garrett has quickly mastered the basics and is now bringing new ideas to the chapter. This year we would especially like to highlight his innovation "The Professional's Pulse" where he brings members together for coffee and conversation. At these sessions Garrett shares important information, listens to member concerns and generally enjoys a social gathering.

UUP PROFESSIONALS PULSE

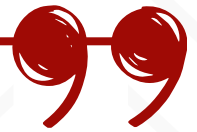


APRIL 2026

SARA VISITING LEGISLATORS



Thank You



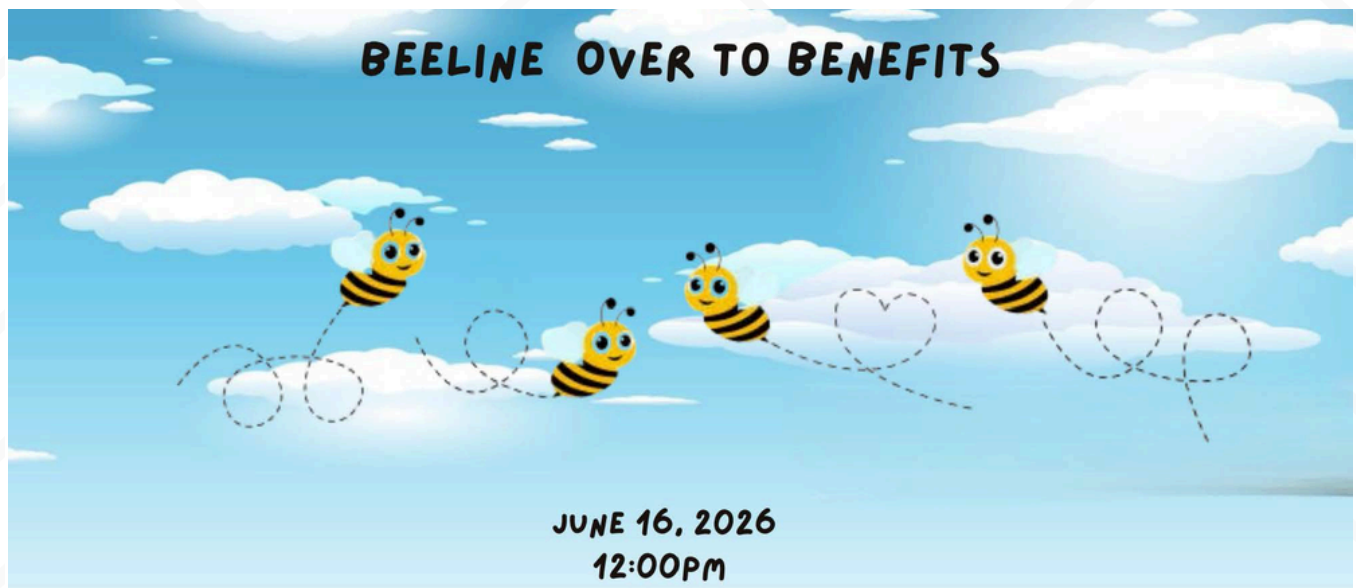
TO OUR STATEWIDE BENEFITS TEAM

**UUP Member Benefits Team, Powered by Actual
Intelligence and Kindness...**

The Brockport Chapter of UUP would like to say a big thank-you to the UUP Benefits Team. These are the folks who always answer the phone and help solve problems. We appreciate the monthly zoom sessions you hold to inform members of all the non-contractual benefits available to them

Sign up for the next session:

<https://uupinfo.org/calendar/>

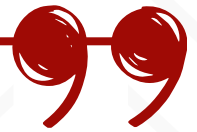


We also appreciate the way you respond to members inquiries in a timely, efficient, and considerate way. We are proud to recommend that members reach out to you. Thanks for all you do.

WORKSHOPS OFFERED REGULARLY INCLUDE:

- UUP 101
- PRE RETIREMENT
- PUBLIC STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
- UUP BENEFITS

Thank You TO OUR OFFICERS



**BRITTANY PROFIT-
RHEINWALD**
MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT



KELLY CARY
MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT



DANNY TOO
TREASURER



MATT KOTULA
VICE PRESIDENT
OF CONTINGENTS



SHERYL GONZALES
REOC REPRESENTATIVE



DEBRA FROMM FARIA
RETIREE COORDINATOR

At the Brockport Chapter we are fortunate to have a wonderful set of experienced officers we know we can rely on. Brit Proffit Rheinwald and Kelly Cary represent us on the statewide membership committee, recruit and connect with members on campus. Matt Kotula serves on the statewide contingent officers committee and stays abreast of issues impacting this important constituency. Danny Too is our longstanding treasurer who balances our budget with much care and good cheer – we appreciate you Danny. Sheryl Gonzalez helps us coordinate visits to REOC. She does so with efficiency and a warm welcome. Thank-you Sheryl we hope to make more visits to REOC next year. Finally, our retired members are very fortunate to have Debra Fromm Faria welcoming newcomers and coordinating informative bi-annual social activities. Thank you Debra, we all aspire to join you one day!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Brigette Meskell

Collection Assessment & Development Librarian
Drake Memorial Library



My name is Brigette! I am an LGBTQI+ member and advocate, local DJ, cat-lover, and media lover. My favorite creator is David Lynch (r.i.p.)...

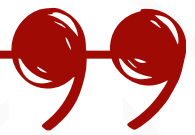
On Brockport's campus, I am the Collections Assessment & Development Faculty Librarian at Drake Memorial Library. My work at the library has centered on important topics that concern paradigm shifts in higher ed. I consistently remain apprised of evolving issues such as AI literacy, information ethics, accessibility, assessment, equitable access to resources, and more.

I have been involved in UUP as an executive board member since 2023 (my first year of employment here). UUP called to me because I am a passionate community member who values justice, advocacy, and the rights of professionals in higher education.



Thank You

to Brigette for always being our
DJ for our events!



SPRING DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Twice a year UUP brings together members representing chapters from across the state for a Delegate Assembly. This is the place where members share information, participate in education sessions and make collective decisions on behalf of the union's 42,000 members.

This April, your Brockport delegates traveled to Albany where they attended sessions on such things as chapter "mapping," job security, health benefits, and immigrant rights. They also discussed emerging issues for professionals and academics, shared information about effective policies and practices, and received updates on legislative advocacy and contract negotiations.

This spring was also an election for statewide officers. Your delegation cast ballots in elections for our Statewide President, Secretary Treasurer, Membership Development Officer and Executive Board. Fred Kowal was successfully reelected to the presidency, while Jeri O'Bryan and Patrick Romain were endorsed to serve again as Secretary Treasurer and MDO.

Next spring we will be holding elections for delegates to represent our chapter. Please consider running for this important position, we will hold information sessions about the role in the fall.

Thank you to our delegates who served this year!

Jie Zhang, Patrick Walter, Michael Oher, Hunter Lincoln, Robert Schnieder, Ann Best



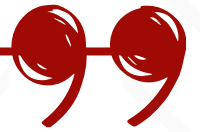


MAY DAY

“RAISE THE STAKES” ACTION & CELEBRATION

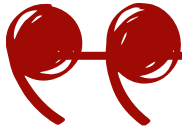
UUP Brockport was heartened and grateful to everyone who turned out for our contract campaign and celebration on May Day. We held this event in conjunction with every chapter across the state – the idea was to send a message that we stand firmly behind our negotiations team. Clearly, the bigger the turnout the more powerful the message. Even though the weather was against us, you did not let us down. Many of you showed up and planted a stake and signed postcards in solidarity. Due to a scheduling snafu we shared the Alumni House with First Friday’s so there was lots of fun conversation and socializing. Thanks to Bridgette Meskell for keeping our feet tapping to fun tunes! Even without the sun, everyone enjoyed sweet treats from the ice cream truck. Much appreciation to Jen Osborne our Chapter Assistant for her superior organization.





MAY DAY





AI REPORTING FORM

Is AI technology being introduced, and threatening all or part of your work?

- The State Legislator has added a policy that protects public sector work from AI encroachment. To ensure this is being upheld, you can report ways AI is threatening all or part of your work.



- To submit the AI Intake form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UUPAI>

Contact Information from Statewide & the Chapter at Brockport:



UUP STATEWIDE

- UUPINFO.ORG
- UUP BENEFITS: 800 887 3863
- [HTTPS://UUPINFO.ORG/BENEFIT S/BTF/](https://uupinfo.org/benefit-s/btf/)
- P.O. BOX 15143 ALBANY, NY 12212-9954

BROCKPORT CHAPTER

- BROCKPORT@UUPMAIL.ORG
- [UUPHOST.ORG/BROCKPORT](http://uuphost.org/brockport)
- BROCKPORT_UUP
- BROCKPORTUUP
- 585 395 2208
- SUNY BROCKPORT, COOPER HALL SUITE B4G

QUICK FACTS



+UUP STATEWIDE HAS WORKSHOPS REGULARLY

- PSLF
- RETIREMENT
- BENEFITS
- UUP 101 COURSES
- [HTTPS://UUPINFO.ORG/C ALENDAR/](https://uupinfo.org/calendar/)

+OUR CHAPTER HAS WORKSHOPS MONTHLY



+VOTE COPE

- THIS PROGRAM GIVES MEMBERS A CHANCE TO DONATE TO POLITICAL ACTIONS.
- FOR MORE INFO VISIT [HTTPS://UUPINFO.ORG/V OTECOPE/](https://uupinfo.org/voteco/)