

February 2026

Brockport Chapter



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

PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

“Systemic change takes time, but individual choice can be immediate.”

— Jamie Arpin-Ricci

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Brockport UUP Newsletter – our latest project to keep everyone informed and engaged with union activities. Our current times are rather cold, sometimes harsh and often chaotic – so I wanted to open with a heart-warming comment about kindness. Recently we have had two members facing prolonged medical absence in need of leave donations. I am proud to report that we received many donations. We have met the need of one colleague and are on the way to reaching that of the other. Your individual acts of generosity may seem small, but they alleviate significant stress and hardship for the recipients. That seems especially noteworthy in these times when making impactful change feels intractable, requiring collective and coordinated action.

On that note, I am pleased to report that both negotiations and the UUP legislative campaign have recently commenced. We celebrated our early start to negotiations on February 4th by wearing red and joining a zoom with others across the state. So many members tuned into the zoom that we maxed capacity. That level of support is important to our negotiations team – who are channeling all our energy and enthusiasm at every meeting with the state. We are at “the table” early this year due to the terrific planning of our statewide officers, support staff, and formidable negotiations team. The team representing us at the table come from chapters across the state, and are representative of all our constituent groups. They appreciate all your input and engagement. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find information about how to log-on to the “members-only” segment of the statewide webpage.

Our statewide legislative team, after considering member input, compiled an ambitious legislative agenda. A record number of UUP members, including six from Brockport, are heading to Albany next week to urge legislators to support our demands.

You will not be surprised to learn that increased aide to SUNY campuses, hospitals, and students are among our top “asks.” You can find the complete legislative agenda on our statewide webpage in the “political action” section. If you wish to support UUP’s legislative push but are unable to travel to Albany – reach out to the chapter office and we will contact you about local legislative visits. Also please consider giving to our Political Action Fund - Vote Cope. None of our dues money goes to political advocacy, so voluntary contributions to Vote Cope are vital. If you can spare even \$1 a paycheck, see the QR code in this newsletter and sign up.

One recent success we have had in the state legislature is the addition of SUNY employees to a policy that protects public sector work from AI encroachment. We need your help to ensure this policy is upheld. If you feel that AI technology is being introduced that may threaten all, or part of your work – please complete and submit the AI Intake form on the statewide website.

Finally for this inaugural edition – an update on UUP Individual Development Awards. This year we had a very large number of applications, many more than in the recent past. The campus committee have now completed their review. Happily, many very strong projects were approved for funding. Sadly others had to be declined or approved for only part of the funds requested. The committee gave preference to applications from those currently without tenure or permanent appointment as well as part-time employees. As per the state guidelines, incomplete applications could not be considered for funding. The campus approvals have now been submitted to the state. Once we receive a satisfactory review from the state we will be able to send out notifications to applicants. Many thanks to the members of the committee and a special thanks to Laura Merkl for invaluable help with logistics.

In our next newsletter we will feature a report on advocacy day, information about participation in an upcoming No Kings Rally, as well as our spring new hire event.

In Solidarity, Susan Orr (Chapter President)



NEW CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Things to know:

- To participate in contract voting you must be able to log into the Members only page on the Statewide website. Please take some time to see if you have an account set up, and if not, get on and make sure you can log in!
- Negotiations with the State started on February 4th! We are at “the table” early this year.

Members Only: First Time Log In

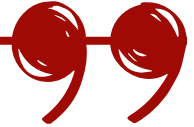
- Visit:
<https://uupunion.org/myuup/MembersOnly/>
- Click the link to create a new account, you will need your 5 digit employment code from your payroll information, and your UUP member ID.
- Can't find your UUP ID number? Please call 518-640-6624 to speak with a representative.
- Need more help? Don't wait, call Statewide or the Chapter Office for assistance!

KICK-OFF & FIRST DAY OF NEGOTIATIONS



Feb. 4th Executive Board Meeting

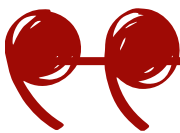
ADVOCACY DAY IS FEBRUARY 24TH



How can you get involved?

- If you are interested in participating in local legislative visits, contact the Chapter at **brockport@uupmail.org**, or our VP for Academics and Outreach, Sara DiDonato.
- If you haven't yet, VOTE COPE donations are another way to be active legislatively. Donate part of your paycheck to political action, as dues are not allowed to support political advocacy: **<https://uupinfo.org/votecope/>**
- **Link to the Legislative Agenda on Statewide Page:**

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>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jie Zhang

Professor, Department of Education Languages, and Instructional Design

Jie is an active member of our Chapter at Brockport, who serves as a Chapter Delegate, and a member of our Statewide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Recently Jie participated in the MLK Conference.



Report Excerpt from Jie, on the 2026 ALF-CIO MLK Civil and Human Rights Conference.



I was honored to be selected by UUP President Fred Kowal to attend the 2026 ALF-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference, which was held in Baltimore, MD from Jan. 15-18, 2026.

I was humbled to join a record 1,100 participants, making it the largest MLK conference in its history. Guided by the theme of “Honoring our history, fighting for our future”, this annual conference brought together labor leaders, educators, organizers, and community advocates from across the nation to advance civil and human rights and to fight for economic, racial, and social justice.

The program offered a variety of best practices, tools, and knowledge that connected the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with today’s pressing challenges in equity, worker rights, fundamental freedoms, and social justice. It focused on strengthening community-labor partnerships, addressing systemic inequities, and promoting inclusive leadership to ensure that all workers can live lives of dignity and respect through the labor movement.





WORKSHOPS

CHAPTER

★ UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONALS
CHAPTER AT BROCKPORT
BROCKPORT@UUPMAIL.ORG



WORKSHOPS SPRING 2026

Workshops are remote over zoom. The Chapter will send out a reminder with the link to the workshop 12-24 hours before.

SCAN TO REGISTER

MARCH

Performance Programs & Evaluations

Wednesday March 11th
12pm-1:30pm

Professionals & Those that Supervise them- UUP membership not required.

APRIL

Leaves

Wednesday April 15th
12pm-1:30pm

Professionals & Faculty

**Registration:
SAVE THE DATE**

Info & Invitation for registration will be provided by Human Resources at a later date!



Performance Programs & Evaluations | 3/11/26 | Zoom

This workshop is for members who have a UUP professional title or who supervise a UUP professional. Performance programs and evaluations are an important part of employment as a UUP professional. The performance program and evaluations workshop will provide UUP professionals and those who supervise them with important information that every UUP professional and those who supervise them should know. Including but not limited to when they must take place, how they must be done, what they should contain and what they can be used for. If you are a UUP professional title employee or supervise one, this workshop is for you regardless of your professional title and length of employment at Brockport. Collaboration with Human Resources and our NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Jamie Guilian!

Leaves- Demystifying the Acronyms: a Guide to State, Federal and Contractual Leaves | 4/15/26 | Zoom

As you navigate life, personal and family situations arise that you may need to handle. Personal illness? Upcoming surgery? Family illness? Birth, adoption or fostering of a child? This workshop will provide valuable information to UUP members regarding what leaves are available, how each one works, coordinating multiple leaves and other items to be aware of. Our NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist, Jamie Guilian, will be sharing her expertise and insights at this workshop.





WORKSHOPS

STATEWIDE

WORKSHOPS

Monthly

Sign Up | Events Calendar:

uupinfo.org/calendar/



PUBLIC STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

All UUP members qualify for Public Student Loan Forgiveness. Come and learn more about it! This workshop has saved members millions!

RETIREMENT

Considering retirement? Be sure to attend this informative workshop about healthcare benefits and more!



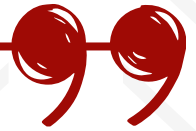
NEW HIRES

New to UUP? Come and Learn about member benefits and more!

LEAVES

UUP offers many different types of leaves of absences! Come hear all about them!

MONTHLY



SOCIALS



UUP and CSEA present...

U² Socials

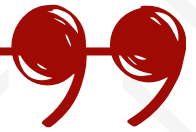
Come Union with your Unions!

Spring 2026



Feb. 4 Tower 12-1:30pm	Mar. 11 Library 12-1:30pm	Apr. 8 Hartwell 12-1:30pm	May 6 Commissary 12-1:30pm
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Come enjoy snacks, coffee & conversation
@brockport_UUP | www.uuphost.org/brockport



VOTE COPE



HIGHER ED
ACTION FUND PAC



What is Vote Cope?

Your statewide affiliate—New York State United Teachers—has a nonpartisan political fundraising arm called **VOTE-COPE** that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public education and pro-labor.

No union dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees.

NYSUT sends rebates to local unions based on a percentage (up to 40 percent) of the contributions VOTE-COPE receives from that local union's members. Those rebates can be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of school budgets.

Last year, your colleagues contributed nearly \$8 million to VOTE-COPE.

DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE?



VOTE
COPE

MORE INFO:

[HTTPS://UUPINFO.ORG/VOTECOPE/](https://uupinfo.org/votecope/)



Contact Information from Statewide & the Chapter at Brockport:



UUP STATEWIDE

- 🌐 UUPINFO.ORG
- 📞 UUP BENEFITS: 800 887 3863
- 🌐 [HTTPS://UUPINFO.ORG/BENEFITS/BTF/](https://uupinfo.org/benefits/btf/)
- 🏠 P.O. BOX 15143 ALBANY, NY 12212-9954

BROCKPORT CHAPTER

- ✉️ BROCKPORT@UUPMAIL.ORG
- 🌐 UUPHOST.ORG/BROCKPORT
- 📷 BROCKPORT_UUP 📘 BROCKPORTUUP
- 📞 585 395 2208
- 🏠 SUNY BROCKPORT, COOPER HALL
SUITE B4C

QUICK FACTS

+UUP STATEWIDE HAS WORKSHOPS REGULARLY

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



+OUR CHAPTER HAS WORKSHOPS MONTHLY

+MEMBERSHIP GIVES ACCESS TO EXTENDED BENEFITS

- DISCOUNTS ON INSURANCE
- TRAVEL INSURANCE
- PET INSURANCE
- [HTTPS://UUPINFO.ORG/BENEFITS/MST/](https://uupinfo.org/benefits/mst/)

+VOTE COPE

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

