



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

Downstate Wins Battle to Save Jobs, Services

We won the latest round in our fight to save jobs and services at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

In June, state legislators said no to a restructuring plan for SUNY Downstate that would have cut thousands of jobs and gutted health care services - resulting in a major victory for UUP, the SUNY Downstate Coalition of Faith, Labor and Community Leaders, and community members who rely on the hospital for health care.

In their June 20 legislative session, lawmakers chose not to support the formation of a proposed corporation that would co-operate SUNY Downstate. The corporation would have been used to create an integrated network of Brooklyn area hospitals that would share personnel and health care services - allowing SUNY to drastically reduce staff and services at Downstate and the University Hospital of Brooklyn.

The corporation was a major component of SUNY's so-called "sustainability plan" for Downstate, backed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The corporation needed legislative approval before it could be formed.

"Thanks to the hard work of the SUNY Downstate Coalition of Faith, Labor and Community Leaders, our allies at NYSUT, AFT and our sister unions, the draconian proposal for SUNY Downstate was not approved by the Legislature," said UUP President Fred Kowal.

Once formed, the corporation could have co-operated and privatized SUNY Downstate - which could have led to for-profit operation of the medical center. The legislation would have also made permanent the ability for hospitals to contract out for up to 20 percent of clinical services.

Keep Pushing

While this victory is sweet, we must be vigilant and continue to call on our elected officials to do all they can to save union jobs and vital

health care services at Downstate and University Hospital. Make no mistake: our fight is not over.

We need you to keep up the pressure. We need you to tell your elected state officials to save SUNY Downstate!

Tell them to support the alternative restructuring plan for Downstate drafted by UUP, NYSUT, CSEA and PEF. You can do that by signing and sending an electronic fax to legislators, which is available on the UUP website at

<http://uupinfo.org/legislation/advocate.php>.

President's Corner (cont'd)

Negotiations Update

Labor-Management Meeting

According to the agreement between UUP and the State of New York, Article 8.4 allows us to meet with the campus president and senior level staff to discuss issues that are important to the UUP bargaining unit membership. The last meeting with management took place on **March 22, 2013**, when we raised issues that were important to the membership. We will apprise you of the meeting at the next scheduled membership meeting.

UUP CHAPTER MEETING

AGENDA

Highlights from 2011-16 Agreement between UUP and the State of New York including the new actuarial tables used to calculate the monthly credit toward the cost of retiree health insurance from UUP members' unused sick leave applied to persons retiring on or after September 1, 2013.

Guest Speakers/Presenters

Fred Kowal, UUP Statewide President
Jamie Dangler, Chief Negotiator
Doreen Bango, Benefits Administrator

ALL UUP MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS WILL BE PREPARED TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION AND PROVISIONS IN THE NEW CONTRACT.

DATE: Wednesday, July 24, 2013

TIME: 12- 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

Lunch will be provided.

UUP Chapter at Downstate

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Officers

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