



President's Corner

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

On behalf of the UUP chapter officers, I would like to extend a hearty welcome and best wishes to all in the new year.

The past year was dominated by our fight to rescind non-renewals and retrenchments, and to keep SUNY Downstate open, public and fully operational.

This year is already proving to be even more challenging. The Jan. 13 article below provides a report on the SUNY Board of Trustees' consideration to close University Hospital of Brooklyn.

I'd like to remind you that this is an election year and the Governor and the state Legislature are all up for re-election. It's important that we intensify our lobbying efforts to ensure that closure doesn't take place in 2014 or 2015.

Please join UUP and the SUNY Downstate Coalition of Faith, Labor & Community Leaders in all of our advocacy efforts:

- We are urging members and their families to call this toll-free number—1-877-255-9417—and tell Gov. Andrew Cuomo to keep SUNY Downstate open, public and working for Brooklyn. UUP has created a new TV ad, airing now, that urges viewers to call and tell Gov. Cuomo to keep Downstate operating as a full-service public hospital.
- Consider joining us in Albany to lobby legislators on behalf of Downstate. Our next lobby day is Tuesday, Feb. 4, immediately following the 2014 Winter Delegate Assembly in Albany. Please call the chapter office at 718-270-1519 for further information.
- You may also visit your legislator at their district office. Talking points to help you explain UUP's position regarding Downstate may be obtained at the chapter office.
- UUP is also meeting with members of the SUNY Board of Trustees, the governor's office, and legislators to ensure that SUNY Downstate remains open and public.
- UUP is preparing to file litigation in opposition to closure.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those of you who arrived early to join us on the bus to Albany and lobbied Jan. 14 on behalf of Downstate colleagues to keep SUNY Downstate open and public.

CLASS ACTION GRIEVANCES

Under Article 7 of the new contract, UUP can file a class action grievance at Step 1 when there is more than one grievant at a single campus.

UUP recently filed three Class Action Grievances on behalf of members at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

The first Class Action grievance involved the extraction of Deficit Reduction Days from members who came off the payroll and were not allowed to make up the days. This issue was resolved soon after and all members affected were made whole.

The second Class Action Grievance filed involved a violation of Article 35-Retrenchment on behalf of all members who received Retrenchment notices. UUP will advocate and ensure that all Bumping and Floating

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SUNY: Downstate may have to close

By [Dan Goldberg](#) Jan. 13, 2014 [follow this reporter](#)

SUNY's board of trustees may be forced in the next two months to consider closing Downstate Medical Center, given the financial picture at Long Island College Hospital, a SUNY official said Monday.

The hospital continues to cost the state about \$13 million per month and SUNY has been borrowing cash from Downstate Medical Center to pay the bills. That money isn't expected to last beyond March, said Bob Haelen, SUNY's interim Chief Financial Officer at a meeting of the trustees.

Lora Lefebvre, SUNY's associate vice chancellor for health affairs, said, "The numbers are so large that closing a campus will have to be discussed. That is going to be a difficult discussion."

Selling the hospital won't solve all of SUNY's problem. If the property were bought for its appraised value, SUNY would still take a \$300 million loss.

"I'm really troubled by this report," said SUNY trustee Eunice Lewin.

SUNY has been trying to rid itself of the cash-strapped Cobble Hill hospital for more than a year, but the plans has been stymied in court by labor unions, community advocates and Mayor Bill de Blasio, who argue the loss of LICH will have devastating effects on the community's access to quality health care.

Lefebvre said SUNY is still looking at proposals, including one from Fortis Property Group, which envisions turning part of the campus into luxury condominiums.

The Fortis plan was scheduled by SUNY for a vote last month, but the motion was pulled at the last minute by chairman Carl McCall when it became evident he did not have a consensus.

The Fortis proposal has been updated, trustees were told on Monday.

NYU Langone Medical Center has agreed to provide a free-standing emergency department as well as an urgent care center. The hope is that this will be enough to satisfy those who have rallied to save LICH and keep it as a full-service hospital.

De Blasio objected to the original Fortis proposal but his office did not respond to a request for comment when asked about the latest details.

rights were considered where applicable.

The third Class Action Grievance filed involved a violation of Article 38-Parking, where approximately 325 parking spaces regularly utilized by UUP members were lost. That caused a diminishment in parking without a plan for an alternative work site for employees.

The second and third grievances are pending.

Additionally, UUP was successful in stopping several attempts to change the terms and conditions of employment for several members.

Members are encouraged to contact the Union office if attempts are made to change their terms and conditions of employment.

JOINT LABOR MANAGEMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE

Retraining Fellowship Program

The Joint Labor Management Employment Committee offers a Retraining Fellowship Program. This program assists employees who are retrenched, have been notified of retrenchment, are perceived to be at high risk of retrenchment, or whose retraining would accommodate shifting program needs.

Information and the application for this program can be accessed on UUP's website (uupinfo.org). Click on "JLM Grant Programs" at the bottom of the page, and then click on "Employment Committee".

Professional Development Awards Program

Funding for the Professional Development Awards Program is provided under the 2011-2016 Agreement between UUP and the State. Decisions on granting the awards will be made by the campus Professional Development Committee, comprised of four members appointed by UUP and four members appointed by Management.

Applications for this period must be submitted by Jan. 31, 2014 to be considered.

Application forms and guidelines are available for the NYS/UUP Professional Development Awards Program. All academics, professionals and librarians in the UUP bargaining unit are eligible to apply for a maximum of \$1,000 to help support such activities as:

- **Basic, applied or historical research projects**
- **Attendance at conferences or workshops**
- **Tuition for academic or professional coursework**
- **Participation in internships**
- **Preparation of material for publication**
- **Participation in other activities that will help them in their professional development.**

The current round of awards covers activities taking place between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

The deadline for the submission of applications is Jan. 31, 2014. This deadline for submission is firm and not negotiable.

Guidelines and application forms may be obtained online at the UUP chapter's website, at the chapter office, or on the first floor of the Medical Library in the Education Building (HSEB).

UUP'S SOLUTION TO THE SUNY DOWNSTATE CRISIS

UUP has been dedicated to fighting for jobs and health care services at Downstate for more than two years. The union's latest initiative is a plan to deliver health care throughout Brooklyn.

The UUP-backed Brooklyn Hospitals Safety Net Plan protects the hospital and its medical school—and will provide a new model in comprehensive ambulatory care in Brooklyn over a three-year transition period.

The proposal, which can be viewed online at <http://www.brooklynhospitalplan.org>, has the support of the American Federation of Teachers, NYSUT, CSEA, and PEF.

UUP President Fred Kowal, who has made the Downstate crisis one of his top concerns since taking office June 1, introduced the plan to Brooklyn state legislators Nov. 19.

CHAPTER MEETING NOTICE

ALL UUP MEMBERS ARE INVITED.

DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2014

TIME: Noon – 1 p.m.

**PLACE: Basic Science Building
Lecture Hall 6**

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER THE MEETING

AGENDA

- Update on DMC Struggle
- Action Plan: Continuing efforts

UUP Chapter at Downstate

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