

President's Report – March 2025

President Shirley Clark, Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco, Secretary Bill Simons, UUP Founder and Delegate Ed Wesnofske, DEI Officer and Delegate Penina Kamina, along with **Anthony Nichols** and **Ethan Fox**, all members of the Oneonta Chapter of UUP, participated in the highly impactful **Advocacy Day** held in Albany. The delegation representing **SUNY Oneonta** was so large that our team was split, with some members joining forces with representatives from **SUNY Delhi**.

During the event, our meetings with legislators and their staff were both engaging and persuasive. The specific requests for **SUNY funding** were met with a positive reception. Notably, we advocated for direct funding to be allocated in the state budget under the appropriation bill for campuses that are currently facing financial deficits. Additionally, we highlighted the urgent need for increased funding to support **SUNY's hospitals**, particularly **Downstate** and **Upstate**, which are struggling with financial challenges. I appreciate the hard work and enthusiasm that everyone displayed during Advocacy Day, it certainly was instrumental in ensuring that our requests for **SUNY** were as impactful as possible.

On another note, **UUP Oneonta** and **Management** are collaborating to sponsor a pivotal panel discussion on the issue of **Student Classroom Engagement and Attendance**. The session, titled *"Confronting Disengagement and Absence,"* will take place on **Wednesday, April 9, 2025**, from **11:30 AM to 1:00 PM** at **Le Café**, Morris Complex. This discussion will address the growing concerns surrounding student disengagement and absenteeism in classrooms, providing valuable insights and potential solutions. A special thanks goes to **William Simons** for his outstanding efforts in organizing this event.

Under the leadership of **Matthew Unangst**, our **Membership Development Officer**, we are excited to announce the upcoming **Oneonta UUP Visibility Week**, scheduled for **April 28th - May 2nd**. This special week will kick off on **April 28th** with a warm welcome from our Chapter President, followed by an insightful session led by **William Simons**, who will delve into the rich history of the Oneonta Chapter.

Throughout the week, we have an array of engaging and fun activities planned. One highlight will be our participation in the Oneonta Baseball game on **April 29th** at **4:00 PM**, where we'll be serving hamburgers and hotdogs. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to come together and enjoy some community spirit.

While the week's activities are still being finalized, we're eager to involve as many members as possible in the planning and execution. If you're interested in contributing or assisting in any way, please reach out to **Matthew Unangst** as the planning continues.

This is our chance to demonstrate strong solidarity and show our unwavering support for all Oneonta workers. Let's make this week a memorable and impactful one!

Additionally, I would like to update everyone on the status of the **Chapter Bylaws**. The **Bylaws Committee**, comprising **Michael McAvoy**, **Richard Tyler**, and **Shirley Clark**, has conducted a final review of the bylaws on **March 13, 2025**. The next step in the process is to have the **statewide Constitution and Governance Committee** review the bylaws. The bylaws have been sent to statewide on **March 17, 2025** for further evaluation. Once reviewed by the statewide committee, the bylaws will be submitted to the **Oneonta Chapter's Executive Board** for final approval. After securing approval from the Executive Board, the bylaws will be presented to the entire membership for ratification. We are approaching the final stages of this process, and we are excited to introduce **new, clear, and comprehensive bylaws** that outline the duties and responsibilities of each officer and other key positions within the Oneonta Chapter. These updates will ensure greater clarity and organization, ultimately benefiting our chapter and its members.