



September 9, 2025

Labor Day September 1, 2025: What Does Democracry Look Like?

*by Bill Simons, Secretary, UUP Oneonta,
with photographs contributed by Virginia Kennedy, Teresa Winchester, and
David Fox*



Rally Leader Virginia Kennedy

Labor Day is sacred to the American worker. At SUNY Oneonta, UUP campaigned long and hard to achieve its proper observance. The holiday highlights the struggles and achievements of those whose labor built and sustain a now embattled American democracy. Without union vigilance, there would be no Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, minimum wage, rule of law,

protection for diversity, accessible education, and robust programs for those in the dawn, twilight, and shadows of life.

On this Labor Day — Monday, September 1, 2025 — UUP joined with allies at a pro-democracy demonstration at Oneonta's Muller Plaza. Cooperstown Oneonta Indivisible, sharing co-sponsorship with other groups committed to the triumph of social justice, provided essential leadership. Connecting links bind Cooperstown Oneonta Indivisible to local and national movements committed to the high ideals that provide our nation's foundations. When Benjamin Franklin emerged from the Constitutional Convention in 1787, a voice demanded to know what type of government the delegates had created. Franklin proclaimed, "A republic, if you can keep it." Let the oligarchs and authoritarians know that we intend on preserving the American republic. The American Dream is for all of us. It is not the exclusive domain of the privileged and positioned.

From the Al Gallodoro Memorial Stage, the charismatic and indefatigable Virginia Kennedy, chief organizer and MC of the landmark Labor Day 2025 event, repeatedly called out, "What does democracy look like?" Each time the crowd of several hundred roared back, "Democracy looks like this!" As a former 16-year UUP Oneonta president, I have participated in many rallies across diverse venues. However, in terms of energy, purpose, and content, Oneonta has arguably never hosted a more important gathering.



This Is What Democracy Looks Like

At this moment, much is at stake. Forced to intimidate, certainly not by their own choice, brave soldiers have been inappropriately deployed to American cities. Dissent on campus and Congress is stifled. Medicine and science perverted. Programs for veterans, special needs, and education threatened. Powerful media and prestige law firms capitulate. Federal workers stripped of union protections. Law abiding immigrants incarcerated. Bullying our own people and those of other nations. Make no mistake: Americans may stumble but ultimately, we don't buckle, and a determination to protect the native decencies animated Muller Plaza and democratic gatherings throughout America on Labor Day.



The People, Yes

Red shirts emblazoned with the UUP logo dotted the Labor Day aggregation. Neither memory nor notes allow for a roll call of UUPers present but a special shoutout to the stalwart Tylers, Chilton Reynolds and his TLTC team, the Hendleys, Miguel Leon, Paul Conway — always up for a just fight, Penina Kamina and Ethan Fox. Indeed, the hero of the day, Virginia Kennedy, wore the UUP colors. A proud UUP member, Virginia is an adjunct in the SUNY Oneonta English Department. She knows of the significant victories UUP has won for adjuncts as well as our unfinished agenda for that invaluable and vulnerable component of our union.

The rally speakers were outstanding. Current UUP Oneonta President Shirley Clark referenced the union's current fight for a strong contract. From the Otsego Refugee Resettlement Coalition, Deb Marcus, passionate and authentic, made clear that in this nation of immigrants the arrest and detainment of newcomers by armed cadres have not spared Otsego County. Additional speakers, including Oneonta Mayor Mark Drenck, the Otsego County Democratic Committee chair, student leaders from the two campuses, and a BOCES graduate, spoke truth to power. Colorful, fearless, and robust hand-held signs demanded attention. And there was music of the people that pierced the soul.





On Labor Day in Muller Plaza, we were all there. Black, White, and Brown. Young and old. Comfortable and scraping by. Neither orientation nor ethnicity mattered. To echo Sandburg, “The People, Yes.” Let Labor Day 2025 mark the beginning of a historic struggle for the soul of the American democracy.



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

For more info and events, visit: uuphost.org/oneonta

THURS, SEPT 25

Labor Relations Specialist Workshop: Problem Solving in the Unionized Workplace: Gripes, Grievances, and Everything In-Between

with NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff

12:00 PM – Morris Hall, Le Cafe

Lunch: Fajita Bar

WED, OCT 7

DEI Seminar: A Restorative Justice Approach to Immigration

12:00 PM – Morris Hall, Le Cafe

Lunch: Taco Bar

THURS, OCT 29

Labor Relations Specialist Workshop: Getting to Tenure

with NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff

9 AM – Morris Hall, Le Cafe

Breakfast: Coffee, Tea, Pastries, Fresh Fruit

The next chapter meetings are on **SEPTEMBER 10** and **OCTOBER 8** in Morris Hall, Le Cafe. Chapter Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Lunch provided.

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UUP Oneonta- President's Report for September, 2025
by Shirley Clark, Chapter President



UUP Oneonta President Shirley Clark

UUP Members Received Contractual Increases and Lump Sum Payments – Let Your Voice Be Heard for the Next Contract!

In accordance with **Section 20.10(c)** of the current collective bargaining agreement between the **State of New York and United University Professions (UUP)**, eligible UUP-represented employees received a **\$800 base pay increase** effective **July 1, 2025**. This contractual gain achieved through the collective strength of our union was reflected in paychecks dated **July 16, 2025**.

Eligibility for this increase is tied to **12 consecutive years of full-time service** and prior eligibility under **Sections 20.10(a) and (b)** of the Agreement. This recognition of long-term service is just one example of how UUP fights to ensure that the dedication and commitment of our members are valued and rewarded.

Lump Sum Payment

Thanks to the current contract (2022-2026), **eligible full-time UUP members** also received a **\$1,500 lump sum payment** in their **July 30, 2025** paychecks. Eligible **part-time members** received a **pro-rated** amount.

If you did not receive the payment but wonder if you should have qualified, contact your UUP chapter today so that we can assist.

This lump sum is more than just a check, it is a tangible result of your union at work, negotiating and securing real economic benefits for members.

3% Across-the-Board (ATB) Salary Increase

UUP has also delivered on the **3% across-the-board salary increase** for 2025:

- **Calendar and College Year employees** received their 3% increase effective **July 3, 2025**, based on their June 30, 2025 salary. This increase was included in the **July 30, 2025** paychecks.
- **Academic Year employees** will see their 3% increase take effect on **September 1, 2025**.

These raises are not gifts from the employer; they are the **direct result of union negotiations** that ensure fair compensation for the hard work and dedication of our members.

Looking Ahead: Your Voice is Critical

As we move into the **2025-2026 Academic Year**, we are preparing for the next round of contract negotiations. Our current contract expires in 2026, and the time to **organize, mobilize, and strategize** is now.

UUP is a member-driven union, and your input is essential to setting our priorities for the upcoming negotiations. **Please take a few minutes to complete the statewide survey** and let us know what matters most to you, whether it's salary, workload, job security, professional development, or something else entirely.



Complete the Contract Priorities Survey Here:

[UUP Oneonta Contract Negotiations Survey](#)

Together, through our union, we win real improvements in our working conditions and compensation. Let's continue to fight for a stronger, fairer future for ourselves, for our colleagues, and for the generations of UUP members to come.

Welcome Back, UUP Members!

As we kick off the 2025-26 Academic Year, your UUP Chapter has a full calendar of events designed to support, inform, and empower our membership. This year, more than ever, we encourage you to get involved, stay connected, and make your voice heard.

Starting in **September**, we will hold **monthly Chapter Meetings** on the **second Wednesday of each month from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**. These gatherings will be held in person, and **lunch will be provided**, because when we come together as union members, we believe in breaking bread and building solidarity.

These meetings are more than just updates, they're opportunities to understand your rights, your contract, and your power as a union member. Whether you're new to UUP or a long-standing member, staying informed is key to protecting what we've collectively bargained for.

Have you ever wondered how to solve a difficult problem in the workplace? What constitutes a **grievance** versus a **gripe** and how your issue may relate to our collective bargaining agreement? Understanding the difference is critical when it comes to enforcing your rights in the workplace. Join us on **Wednesday, September 25**, for a special presentation by our **Labor Relations Specialist, Chris Sielaff**, who will provide a clear and informative breakdown of this important distinction. Don't miss this session, it's essential knowledge for every union member.

In addition, if you have questions, concerns, or simply want to have a conversation about union matters, **Office Hours with the Chapter President** will be available every **second Wednesday of the month in IRC 105 from 2-3pm**. These open hours are your chance to raise issues, offer feedback, or seek guidance in a one-on-one setting.

Your union is only as strong as its members. We encourage you to participate, stay informed, and stand united. Let's make this academic year one of solidarity, strength, and collective progress.

Drescher Award Leave Program- Applications Due by October 1st

by Staff

Submit your Drescher Leave Program award application!

Applications are being accepted for the Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Leave Program, part of the New York State/UUP Joint Labor/Management Committees.

Applications for **Spring 2026** must be submitted by **October 1, 2025**. Applications for **Fall 2026** must be submitted by **March 1, 2026**.

Named for former UUP President Nuala Drescher McGann, the program provides diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity for UUP-represented academics and professions preparing for continuing or permanent appointment.

The Drescher awards offer financial support for a one or two-semester leave for eligible employees; employees must be in full-time positions leading to continuing or permanent appointment.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more about the Drescher Leave Program guidelines and to obtain an application.

Click [HERE](#) for additional information on applying for a Drescher award, expenditure limitations and reimbursement.

Upcoming Statewide Vice President for Academics September Meetings- VPA- Dealing with Academic Freedom, AI, Immigration and Contract Negotiations

by Alissa Karl, Statewide UUP Vice President for Academics

Hello! I've got a handful of items to share as we get ready to start the new academic year.

Upcoming VPA Meetings:

We'll have our first VPA calls of the school year on **Monday, September 15th at 3 PM** and **Tuesday, September 16th at 11 AM**. Zoom links will follow closer to the date. As always, attend the day and time that is most convenient for you—it's not expected that you will attend both- although you are welcome to. I'm also planning a special session for VPAs on talking with members about workload – stay tuned!

Academic Freedom:

Attached to this email is a syllabus statement on Academic Freedom that members might wish to incorporate into their syllabi. It was developed by the AFT subcommittee on Academic Freedom, on which I serve. Please share widely and encourage members to use or modify as they wish.

I've also attached a simple UUP flier on Academic Freedom that you are encouraged to share. We talked a lot about Academic Freedom across the union this past the winter and spring. If members at your chapter are interested in more discussions on the topic, or if folks have questions, I'm eager to facilitate – just be in touch.

Artificial Intelligence- AI:

This Fall semester will see the introduction of ever more AI applications and tools in our workplaces. We're holding “AI Update with UUP” sessions on **Tuesday, September 9th at 4 PM** and **Monday, September 15th at 10 AM**. We'll discuss how these applications could

impact our work and how our rights as UUP members apply to the introduction of AI platforms and programs. We'll also address recently enacted state law and legislative efforts regarding AI, as well as developments in collective bargaining over AI. We'll be getting the word out about these sessions in the coming days, but if you'd like to join us, click on the date you wish to attend above to register.

I'm also attaching UUP's "Statement of Principles on Artificial Intelligence" for your reference and to share with interested members.

Immigration:

UUP members remain concerned about the impacts of immigration enforcement on our campuses and in our workplaces. I'm sharing the [AFT's excellent resource page on immigration](#) (and a number of other topics) for you to use and share.

Contract Negotiations:

As you know, we're preparing for contract negotiations and virtual listening sessions will be happening very soon at the chapters (they've already taken place at the HSCs). Chapter Presidents have links for these sessions. It's also a great time to ask academics to do the negotiations survey if they have not completed it already. Again, CPs will have the chapter-specific links.

Please be in touch if I can be of any assistance as the semester gets underway.

In solidarity,
Alissa

Alissa G. Karl, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academics
United University Professions

UUP Statement of Principles on Artificial Intelligence

by the Statewide UUP Office

"As the union for over 40,000 in-service faculty and professional staff at the State University of New York's 29 state-operated campuses and 3 teaching hospitals, United University Professions represents higher education and health care workers who bring a vast range of specialized expertise to the SUNY system. Our members' effectiveness in their jobs hinges upon their professional expertise in their diverse fields of work and their ability to deploy such expertise in the ways that they determine are most

appropriate.

UUP members also hold varied attitudes toward the advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, that are making their way into our workplaces.

Our members use generative artificial intelligence systems in a range of ways that complement their unique knowledge in their fields. They also often decline to use these systems.

Given the diversity and specialization of the UUP membership, our goal as a union is to retain the most autonomy and discretion for individuals in the UUP bargaining unit to do their jobs as they see fit — with or without artificial intelligence, and with the tools and approaches that they choose. UUP will also fight to retain all the rights to negotiate over terms and conditions of employment that we have established over our 50-year history, as these topics relate to the introduction of AI systems in the workplace.”



Reflecting on the Executive Summary- Artificial Intelligence and Academic Professions issued by AAUP

by Ethan Fox, ITServices Service Desk Associate and UUP Professional Delegate

This July, the [American Association of University Professors](#) (AAUP) released a comprehensive report, "Artificial Intelligence and Academic Freedom," that delves into the implications of what is now commonly described as artificial intelligence (AI) on higher education. In a sea of seemingly ubiquitous talk about AI and how it is poised to reshape the landscape of work, it draws particular attention to concerns being expressed throughout higher education, particularly those of academic freedom, intellectual property, and the absence of data regarding the ultimate educational utility of a technology seeping into our daily lives.

AAUP's report underscores the potential for AI to both enhance and disrupt the traditional functions of teaching, research, and service. While AI tools may offer efficiencies when dealing with administrative tasks and open new avenues for interdisciplinary research, there is also a significant concern that these tools could be used to de-skill or even replace aspects of faculty and professional staff labor. This is a critical point for all union members to consider, as we navigate a future where rapid technological advancements could quickly and fundamentally alter job descriptions and job security. The report emphasizes the need for educational workers to be central to conversations about AI implementation, ensuring that technology serves pedagogical and scholarly goals rather than dictates them.

I encourage everyone to read its recommendations and discuss them with your colleagues and friends: <https://www.aaup.org/reports-publications/aaup-policies-reports/topical-reports/artificial-intelligence-and-academic>

Why UUP?

by Ethan Fox, ITServices Service Desk Associate and UUP Professional Delegate

Goals: In a post-Janus world, *marketing the union to those who may not see the value of unions is more important than ever*. That means putting some effort into spelling out the benefits—both direct and indirect—of UUP membership & paying dues. (Emphasizing tangible benefits like salary negotiation and job security, as well as intangible benefits like community, solidarity, and a voice in the workplace.)

These short reflections and retrospectives offer long-term members and UUP vets with historical union insight the opportunity to outline these benefits, thereby offering those considering joining an informed perspective on the value add(s) from signing up & paying dues, etc. Not to be mercenary, but what is the return on investment? (i.e., “*What does paying dues to this organization do for ME?*”)

They will be hosted on the website in perpetuity, tentatively under the “[Who We Are](#)” section.

They should also be accompanied by one or two reflections from newer Gen X/Millennial/Gen Z/etc. members.

Sample Questions:

Who are you? Introduce yourself in a couple of sentences...

- How long have you been a member of UUP?
- Why did you decide to join UUP?

- What specific concerns or issues motivated you to join? What were you hoping to gain?
- What does being a UUP member mean to you?
 - How has being a member impacted your work life? How has it impacted your personal life?
- What would you say to someone who might be on the fence about joining UUP? (*i.e., What's your pitch to non-members?*)
 - What are the biggest misconceptions you hear about unions? How do you address those?
- What's your favorite UUP memory? What's a UUP "win" you will always remember?
- In your opinion, what is the most important benefit of union membership?
- Can you share a specific instance where UUP support made a difference for you or your colleagues?
- etc.

UUP Stalwart Jo Schaffer: Union Liaison between Oneonta and Cortland

by Bill Simons, Secretary, UUP Oneonta



Jo Schaffer and Bill Simons at Jets practice

UUP recently lost a longtime leader, Dr. Jo Schaffer. For many years, she was a liaison between the Oneonta and Cortland chapters.

Jo was a force of nature — passionate, idealistic, determined, informed, opinionated, fearless, enthusiastic, implacable, and empathetic. And she confronted adversaries who flouted those virtues.

Geographic proximity and shared battle lines bound the Red Dragons of Cortland and Oneonta. During my 16 years a president of UUP Oneonta, I came to truly appreciate how central Jo was to that relationship. She didn't tepidly greet those she cared about: Jo hugged you hard, and, figuratively, never let go.

Jo was a union baby, accompanying parents to union rallies and loudly asserting worker concerns as soon as she had voice — and she never stopped. No history of UUP worth its salt can omit Jo's impact, including transformative stints as Cortland Chapter president, statewide Membership Development Officer, and retiree leader. And she was well known by legislators for her SUNY advocacy. Approaching her 90th years at the 2024 UUP Delegate Assembly, Jo stood for 45 minutes at the speakers' microphone, unwilling to surrender her place.

Amongst her many Cortland community and civic activities, she was a pillar of the Historic District Review Board and the Cortland Arts Council.

A brilliant teacher of art history and curator of visual resources, Jo remained a ubiquitous presence on the SUNY Cortland campus long after her retirement.

Champion of diversity and a bridge between cultures, Jo was a Francophile who relished her frequent Paris sojourns.

A sports enthusiast, Jo broke gender barriers when she coached a local youth hockey team to the league championship. Jo followed the careers of NFL football players represented by her sports agent son Peter. When the New York Jets held pre-season camp in Cortland, Jo invited me to join her and gifted VIP passes provided by Peter. Jo's favorite sports team was the one that broke her heart by deserting her native ground, Brooklyn. Sometime in the mid-1930s, Jo's mother, Rhea Sharefkin, hopped the Flatbush Avenue trolley to Ebbets Field, with infant Jo in a stroller, for Ladies Day. During pre-game batting practice, a line drive screamed into the stands, smashing Rhea's jaw. When she came to, Rhea demanded season tickets.

Jo's Jewish template was familial, identificational, tolerant, and organizational. It deepened her commitment to social justice, not only in America and Israel but universally.

Expense and Reliability Issues with Solar and Wind

Energy Resources and Alternatives

by Dennis Higgins, Retiree Member, UUP Oneonta

(Note: This article was originally published in All Otsego online publication at this link: <https://www.allotsego.com/the-partial-observer-ny-needs-to-take-a-workable-approach/>)



Around noon on a sunny day this past April, much of Spain, Portugal, and even a bit of France went dark, as if someone had switched off the lights. What happened?

Solar and wind generate direct-current (DC) electricity. But electric grids run on alternating current (AC). (EU grid frequency is 50 hertz (Hz) and the US grid frequency is 60 Hz.) Inverters – fancy switches – convert power from DC to AC and attempt to regulate voltage and frequency on the grid. Clearly, variations in solar or wind output can cause voltage dips or spikes which may prompt inverters to disconnect from the grid. Load imbalances, power demand surges, or frequency fluctuations may also cause inverters to disconnect because deviations can cause equipment failure or lead to power outages.

The North American Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued its highest alert to transmission owners, planners, and generator operators, urging an investigation into how deployed inverter-based resources (IBRs) will respond to grid disturbances.

“Since 2016, NERC has analyzed numerous major events totaling more than 15,000 MW of unexpected generation reduction. These major events were not predicted through current planning processes. Furthermore, NERC studies were not able to replicate the system and resource behavior that occurred during the events, indicating systemic deficiencies in industry’s ability to accurately represent the performance of IBRs and study the effects of IBR on the bulk power system (BPS).”

NERC’s alert references almost a decade of inverter performance failures. IBRs should continue to operate through a power line fault or power plant shutdown but current inverter settings instead may trigger a complete shutdown. As solar and wind resources supply a larger share of electricity, improper inverter settings increasingly risk cascading failures. But those settings may be locked behind manufacturer-issued passwords. Many deployed inverters come from

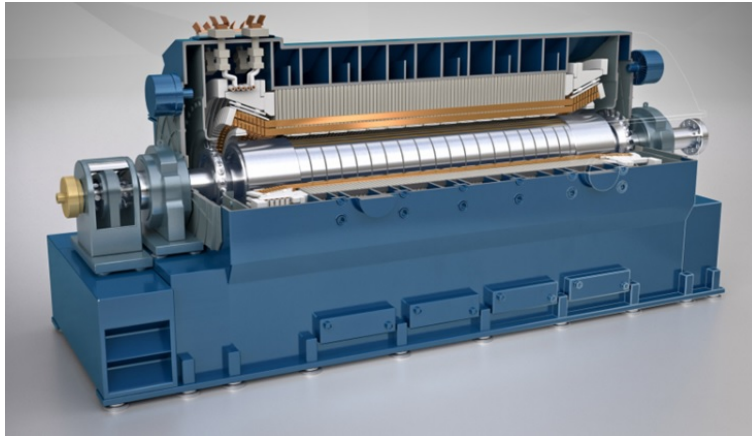
manufacturers no longer in business, posing a further challenge in reconfiguring settings. The result? It may be impossible to predict how IBRs will respond to fluctuations in voltage or frequency.

What happened in Spain was not the first such failure. In Odessa, Texas, in 2021 a combined-cycle power plant went offline, triggering shutdowns of more than 1 GW of solar generation. Inverters were operating with settings from a decade earlier. However, in Texas, 56% of its electricity came from traditional synchronous generation and a major outage was avoided. At the time of Spain's event, the grid was powered over 70% by solar: a chain reaction of disconnects occurred, blacking out the Iberian Peninsula.

Hydro, nuclear, and fossil-fuel power plants have big spinning generators and do not need inverters. A constant speed produces alternating current (AC) at a controlled frequency. Slight modifications in rotating speed enable generators to adjust to voltage or frequency changes. As in the song, "big wheels keep on turning": spinning generators have lots of inertia which enables them to power through load changes.

Solar and wind resources have no inertia. There is a large device called a synchronous condenser. It looks like a rotating generator but instead of producing electricity, it uses energy from the grid to keep spinning. Synchronous condensers add inertia to a grid powered by intermittent resources. Their job in averting grid failure is, in an emergency, to supply voltage for a very brief period. So, if a solution to the fluctuations in voltage or frequency can be determined quickly enough, condensers might help to keep the lights on.

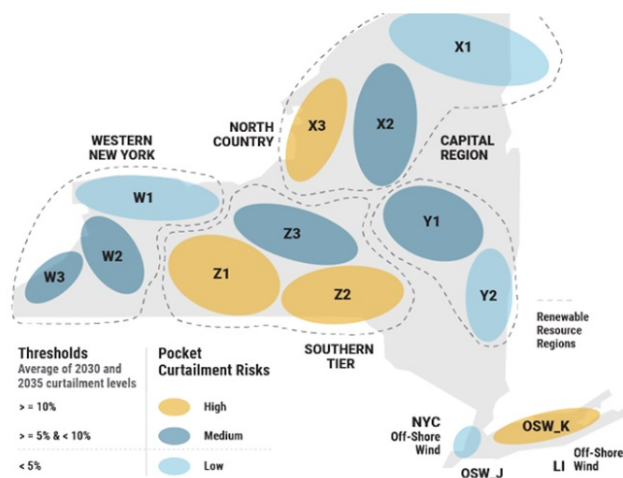
Beyond the panel or turbine price tag, solar and wind need battery backup. Low capacity-factor solar and wind require overbuilding resulting in a bloated grid. Remote resources must have full nameplate transmission to a three-phase line or substation. New state law, RAPID, is intended to get that transmission built by allowing developers to take land by eminent domain to run poles and wire. Solar and wind need a whole new fiscal model: We must pretend that we can sell our overbuilt solar in the summer and import energy the rest of the year. NERC has indicated that designing a grid whose reliability hinges on imported energy is a bad idea. California dumped three terawatt hours of solar last year and still experiences blackouts when expected imports don't arrive. As noted by the independent system operator, the NYISO, statewide transmission constraints could last for years: We may find ourselves dumping energy generated at wind or solar resources in western New York even as the metro region experiences outages. And we might want synchronous condensers, bumping initial costs by 10%. We must also supply condensers with electricity when the grid is up. Electric bills will continue to rise as ratepayers buy overbuilt solar and wind resources, thousands of miles of transmission, synchronous condensers, and pay for electricity to keep condensers spinning.



Synchronous condenser

Last year's Public Service Commission biennial report on the Clean Energy Standard acknowledged that a 70%-renewably-powered grid would require installing solar and wind at many times the current rate. In a letter to the governor, the Business Council slammed the energy plan noting,

“Unrealistic mandates erode public confidence and undermine the state’s ultimate GHG emission reduction goals. It is more important that New York leads by example by taking a workable approach to its energy and emission goals than failing to meet an arbitrary schedule.”



New York Independent System Operator-NYISO- 20-year-outlook on transmission constraints

We may still avoid California's situation; that state is saddled with an expensive grid meant to run on solar and wind but still burning lots of gas, and relying on imports to keep the lights on. We might yet sidestep outages like the one that darkened Spain.

Albany is looking at advanced nuclear. Nuclear generators would require a tiny fraction of the land needed for wind and solar, but would provide thousands of high-paying jobs, and emission-free baseload energy at a 95% capacity factor. An efficient, fiscally sound grid would not rely on intermittent resources and batteries, while full capacity carbon-free baseload backup sat idle. Existing hydro and new nuclear as the backbone of the grid, along with a modest solar and wind component, would economically, reliably, enable us to meet the "100%-carbon-free grid by 2040" state target.

References:

CES Biennial Review-

Case 15-E-0302 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard- Draft Clean Energy Standard Biennial Review- July 1, 2024:

<https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={A0019490-0000-C313-A126-877CFFAA2B0C}>

Business Council letter to Gov. Hochul:

<https://www.bcnys.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/Final%20CLCPA%20%20sign%20on%20letter%20.pdf>

NERC Alert on IBR performance- Essential Actions to Industry Inverter-Based Resource Performance and Modeling Initial Distribution: May 20, 2025:

<https://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/bpsa/Alerts%20DL/Level%203%20Alert%20Essential%20Actions%20IBR%20Performance%20and%20Modeling.pdf>

Executive Board Dinner Meeting- August 27, 2025

Photos from the Executive Board Dinner Meeting





Chapter Events:

Visit our website and view the calendar of events. RSVP to the ones you wish to attend:

<https://uuphost.org/oneonta/events/calendar/>

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This Fall semester will see the introduction of ever more AI applications and tools in our workplaces. UUP Statewide is holding “AI Update with UUP” sessions on **Tuesday, September 9th at 4 PM** and **Monday, September 15th at 10 AM**. They’ll discuss how these applications could impact our work and how our rights as UUP members apply to the introduction of AI platforms and programs. They’ll also address recently enacted state laws and legislative efforts on AI, as well as developments in collective bargaining over AI. -Jessie Simpauco, Vice President for Professionals



**You can RSVP at the links below:****September 9<sup>th</sup> Event:**

[https://aft.zoom.us/join/Na\\_XL-xQvGsVQ8LMbiOIw#/registration](https://aft.zoom.us/join/Na_XL-xQvGsVQ8LMbiOIw#/registration)

**September 15<sup>th</sup> Event:**

<https://aft.zoom.us/join/N5CMM5vFRGWDRZHkb6aemg#/registration>

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**Local Chapter Events:**

**First Chapter Meeting- Weds September 10<sup>th</sup> from 12- 1 PM in Le Café, Morris Complex. The topic is: "Gathering Input from the Oneonta Community for the Upcoming UUP Contract Negotiations." Full Lunch Served. Lunch is pizza, salad, cookies, and drinks.**

**Please Register using this Google Form:**

<https://forms.gle/pAmtxMCahLmGnREm6>

**Join us for a Chris Sielaff LRS Workshop: “Problem Solving in the Unionized Workplace: Gripes, Grievances, and Everything In-Between”- in Le Café, Morris Complex on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 12-1 PM. Full Lunch Served. Lunch is Fajita Bar. Join us! RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/UyjR2Dqxp9fR2ih68>**

**DEI Seminar- Roundtable Discussion- A Restorative Justice Approach to Immigration- Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 PM Le Cafe- Hosted by the UUP Oneonta DEI Committee: Penina Kamina, John Chiang, Erin Francisco, and Ashley Rincon. Full Lunch Served. Lunch will be the Taco Bar. Please join us! Click on the Link Below to RSVP. We look forward to your RSVP for the event!**

<https://forms.gle/riXSqT3SGr9HrVaw7>

Join us for the UUP Oneonta October 8th- Chapter Meeting from 12-1 PM in Le Cafe, Morris Complex. Come out and share lunch with your colleagues and find out what is happening in your local Oneonta UUP Chapter. Lunch is sandwich buffet with a choice of sandwich- choose when you RSVP. Also included is pasta salad, fruit salad, potato chips, cookies and assorted bottles of soda and water. Please RSVP at this link:

<https://forms.gle/8icg2KZJCY1vt9sX9>

Check the Calendar for even more upcoming events later this semester!

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**Announcements:** We welcome your written contributions to our newsletter! What are your areas of concern? What research are you doing? How can we make things better together?

Please send all contributions to Chapter Assistant Teresa DeSantis at our Chapter Email address- [oneonta@uupmail.org](mailto:oneonta@uupmail.org) We appreciate your efforts to contribute to our newsletter.

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### **Disclaimer:**

The UUP Oneonta website and its publications, including The Sentinel and the UUP- Date! may contain views and opinions which are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any other author, agency, employer, organization, or affiliate, including but not limited to the UUP Oneonta Chapter or its officers, United University Professions (UUP) or its statewide or national affiliates.

### **UUP Oneonta Website:**

To go to the UUP Oneonta Chapter website, go to the following link at

<https://uuphost.org/oneonta/>

The UUP Oneonta Chapter website is constantly updating, evolving, and expanding. It contains information about member benefits and many other important topics.

The Statewide UUP website is located at <https://uupinfo.org>

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### **UUP- United University Professions- SUNY Oneonta-Oneonta Chapter- Contact List**

UUP Oneonta Chapter Website: <https://www.oneontauup.org/>

Statewide UUP Website: <https://uupinfo.org>

UUP Benefits: <https://uupinfo.org/benefits/btf.php>

### **UUP Oneonta Chapter- Executive Board Contact List:**

#### **Executive Board Officers:**

Shirley Clark- President [clarksa12@gmail.com](mailto:clarksa12@gmail.com) Campus Ext. 2029

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Vice President for Academics- Vacant

William Simons- Secretary [william.simons@oneonta.edu](mailto:william.simons@oneonta.edu)

Richard Tyler- Treasurer [richard.tyler@oneonta.edu](mailto:richard.tyler@oneonta.edu)

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Health and Safety Officer: Ron Bishop [Ron.Bishop@oneonta.edu](mailto:Ron.Bishop@oneonta.edu) Campus Ext. 3198

Membership Development Officer: Vacant

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**Labor Relations Representative:**

Chris Sielaff- NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Assigned to UUP Oneonta  
[chris.sielaff@nysut.org](mailto:chris.sielaff@nysut.org)

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**UUP Oneonta- 2025-2026 Chapter Office Hours:**

**Chapter Assistant: Teresa DeSantis**

**Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10:45 AM-4:00 PM**

**Note: The office may be closed occasionally. Check the calendar of events.**

**Chapter President Shirley Clark- 2025 Fall Office Hours:**

**Office Hours with the Chapter President during the Fall will be 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 2-3 PM. E-Mail Chapter President Shirley Clark at [clarksa12@gmail.com](mailto:clarksa12@gmail.com) if you need to meet about anything union related.**

**Office: IRC 105**

**Phone: 436-2135**

**Email: [oneonta@uupmail.org](mailto:oneonta@uupmail.org)**