

## UUP Oneonta Chapter Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 12 Noon: Le Café Morris

Submitted by Bill Simons, Secretary

### Total Present (32)

Le Café Morris (31): Ron Bishop, Shirley Clark, Rob Compton, Teresa DeSantis, Chloe Diamond-Lenow, JD Dinh, Sarah Dunlap, Todd Evans, Charlene Foley-Deno, Ethan Fox, Alison Fugit, Dawn Hamlin, Grazyna Kamburowska, Penina Kamina, Achim Koeddermann, Denise Leinonen, Michelle Lopez, Mike McAvoy, Mark Middendorf, Laura Munteanu, Janet Nepkie, Anthony Nichols, Roberto Rincon, Bill Simons, Jessie Simpaucio, Zdenek Tronicek, Alayna Vander Veer, Jenteng Wang, Zhu Wang, RP Withington, Sen Zhang, Carlos Zuniga

Virtual: (1) Matt Unangst

### I. President's Welcome and Introductory Remarks: Shirley Clark

- A. To limit emails, the Chapter will reduce messaging.
- B. A new RSVP system for UUP Oneonta meetings and programs will be instituted, and the response to it will be gauged.
- C. Henceforth, *UUP-date!* will have links to articles on the Chapter website.
- D. February 26, 2026, is the tentative date for the next issue of *UUP-date!*
- E. Today's Chapter meeting will feature two power point presentations:
  - (1) Professional Delegate/Communications Committee member Anthony Nichols will discuss the need to fix New York State's Tier 6 retirement program; and
  - (2) Vice President for Professionals/Professional Delegate/Communications Committee Member Jessie Simpaucio will discuss legislative advocacy.

### II. Need to Fix New York State's Tier 6 Retirement Program: Anthony Nichols

- A. Tier 6 is inferior to earlier tiers in terms of benefits in multiple ways, including for those who opt for earlier retirement. NYSUT and UUP are committed to fixing Tier 6.
- B. Women are disproportionately impacted due to family imperatives.
  - (i) Members should not be penalized for taking time to raise a family.
- C. Tier 6 cannot be redressed through contractual negotiations. Fixing Tier 6 requires union advocacy with New York State legislators.
- D. Addressing the needs of members disadvantaged by Tier 6 will make UUP and NYSUT stronger unions. It will also benefit students and SUNY.
- E. Solidarity mobilization necessitates in-person legislative meetings, rallies, letter writing, and petitions.
- F. A robust question-and answer session with discussion supplemented Anthony's presentation.
- G. Anthony provided further information concerning fixing Tier 6 through identification of relevant links:
  - (1) Fix Tier 6:  
<https://fixtier6.org/about>

- (2) NYSUT (All About ERS Tier 6):  
<https://united.nysut.org/issue/september-october-2024/all-about-ers-tier-6/>
- (3) NYSLRS Tier 6 Info:  
<https://www.osc.ny.gov/retirement/members/retirement-benefit-summary-tier-6-ers>
- (4) SUNY Optional Retirement Program:  
<https://www.suny.edu/retirement/orp/>
- (5) ORP tier Comparisons:  
<https://www.tiaa.org/public/tcm/suny/retirement-benefits/plan-151166>

### III. Advocacy Day: Jessie Simpauco

- A. To advocate for reform of Tier 6 and address several other member issues that are not Contractual, State UUP will sponsor Advocacy Day on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Members from all UUP chapters throughout the union are recruited for the Advocacy Day mobilization.
  - (i) In addition to reform of Tier 6, amongst other issues to be addressed are expanding scholarship programs, increasing funding for SUNY hospitals and mental health services, and enlarging the SUNY Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) as well as other resources for the underserved.
- B. Following training for UUP participants, the union advocates will have several scheduled Advocacy Day meetings with specific members of the NYS Assembly and Senate at the New York State Capital and State Office Building in Albany.
- C. It appears that UUP Oneonta has five registrants for Advocacy Day. Training will precede meetings with legislators.
- D. Additional information about Advocacy Day is available in the “Members Only” Section of the State UUP website. For queries, Jessie can be contacted at [jessie.simpauco@pm.me](mailto:jessie.simpauco@pm.me) and will provide additional information post-meeting by list serve.]
- E. Registration for Advocacy Day 2026 is closed, but other advocacy venues will follow.

[**Secretary’s Addendum:** Subsequent to the meeting, Jessie provided the following:

- 1. **All about Tier 6:** Information on the benefits and pension eligibility criteria of the ERS members.
- 2. **SUNY Retirement:** Overview of SUNY retirement program.
- 3. **SUNY Optional Retirement Program:** Information on benefits and options available through TIAA.
- 4. **UUP Legislative Agenda:** Information about UUP legislative priorities and initiatives.]

IV. The Chapter program adjourned at 12:46 PM.