



BRIDGES

The Newsletter of the Stony Brook Health Sciences Chapter of United University Professions

JANUARY 2009

Make Your Vote Count Chapter Elections Coming Soon

Now that the national election has come and gone, it is time to start thinking about our local chapter elections. Every two years elections are held to select the officers and delegates who will represent the chapter at the local level and in Albany at the delegate assembly. In this year's local election, the chapter offices that will be on the ballot are the president, the vice presidents (academic and professional), secretary, treasurer and part-time concerns representative. The duties of these officers are spelled out in the chapter bylaws. Individuals elected to fill these positions will preside for a two year term beginning June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2011. During this voting process, academic and professional delegates will also be chosen to represent the chapter at the delegate assembly, which is held 3 times per year (fall, winter and spring).

Only eligible members may vote in these elections. Agency fee payers may take this opportunity to sign up as members at no additional cost. You can determine your status by checking your pay stub. It will state "UUP Member" in the payroll deductions after tax deductions

box if you are a member. If your paystub doesn't indicate membership and you think it should, please call the UUP office at 4-1505.

In early January, a call for nominations form was mailed to the membership. The form is to be used by the membership to indicate the person(s) they wish to nominate for each elected office. If they choose, members can nominate themselves, self nominations are acceptable and in fact quite common. In addition to the chapter nomination forms, additional documents were sent to nominate representatives to the AFT and NYSUT conventions. Explicit instructions were included in the mailing. It is imperative that these instructions are followed and that the nomination forms are returned to Albany by February 4, 2009. Nominations will not be accepted after that date.

On February, 13, 2009 a list of all of the nominated officers and delegates will be mailed to the chapter president. This list will be published in a *Bridges* newsletter special election edition. The election issue will include candidate statements

and all of the election procedures that must be followed. UUP, an affiliate of AFT (American Federation of Teachers), is required to comply with the requirements of the Landrum-Griffin Act when conducting its elections.

Potential candidates for officer positions can begin preparing their statements. Each statement written in a style and format chosen by the candidate, has to be submitted electronically and must be received by February 13, 2009. Statements cannot exceed 300 words. If a statement exceeds the 300 word limit, only the first 300 words will be published. Candidates are responsible for editing their own statements. All information will be published as received without additional editing by the *Bridges* editorial team.

On March 12, 2009 ballots will be mailed out to all eligible members. The ballot will consist of a listing of all of the declared candidates. The ballot will also provide the membership an opportunity to write in candidates that did not receive a previous nomination. However, there is a stipulation that

requires that a write in candidate must agree to serve if they win an election in order for the election to be valid. Completed ballots must be received at the UUP office by April 15, 2009 in order to be counted. Make sure your vote counts by completing and returning your ballot to the UUP office prior to the deadline. Only the actual date that the ballot is received is recorded, ballots that are post-marked by April 15, but not received by the UUP office by that date will not be counted. Ballots will be tallied from April 15—18, 2009. Results will be available upon completion of the counts.

Elections are important and necessary to keep our chapter running at its best. Every member has a stake in the outcome and a responsibility to have their voice heard. Everyone is encouraged to run or at the very least vote. Let's see 100% voter participation.

This article was contributed by Bruce Kube, chapter membership development committee chair and member of the state-wide elections & credentials committee

UPCOMING UUP EVENTS



January

January 16 Long Island Legislative reception
January 30-31 Delegate Assembly

February

February Food Drive
February 4 Closing date for nominations for chapter elections
February 9 & 10 Chapter meetings with Phil Smith

February 13 Individual Development Award
Grant application deadline
February 24 Legislative luncheon- Albany

March

March 14 UUP East/West Chapter's Dinner Dance @
The Meadow Club, Port Jefferson Station 7-11pm

Please call 4-1505 for additional information or to RSVP

President's Message



This union would be nothing without you.

In the past year this chapter has been visited by several of our statewide and affiliate leaders. Most recently **Fred Floss, Vice President for Academics**, met with some of our academic members to discuss their individual concerns and also gave the inaugural lecture in our academic lecture series on the topic of faculty workload. **Phil Smith, UUP President**, visited us on several occasions – he even gave blood during our blood drive. Phil will be returning in early February to speak at our chapter meetings. **Ed Quinn, Membership Development Officer**, participated in several chapter activities including our advocacy events. **John Marino, Vice President for Professionals**, attended a meeting of our chapter professional concerns committee. **Irene Landy, Secretary**, represented Phil at our recent advocacy training session. **Rowena Blackman Stroud, Treasurer**, participated in a statewide conference call of all chapter treasurers to review new auditing standards and to address questions submitted by treasurers. For the first time ever our chapter was visited by the **President of NYSUT**. **Dick Iannuzzi**, toured our facility, spoke to some of our members, visited a classroom and spoke to our chapter executive board.

These visits and contacts reinforce their interest in hearing from our membership and their concern and support of our issues. There is, of course, much more to this union than the work of our elected leaders. They alone could not have achieved our past accomplishments. While we benefit greatly from their leadership, it is the activism and participation of our chapter members that also makes this union great. A union is as strong as its membership. This union would be nothing without **you**. In these difficult times, we need the continued support and participation of our 3500+ chapter members, our 30,000+ statewide UUP members and our 600,000+ NYSUT members more than ever. It is in your best interest, the interest of our facilities and of SUNY for you to support VOTE/COPE; to participate in our chapter committee work; to participate in our activities- whether they be social, political or community service oriented; to serve as department representatives, delegates and officers; to ask questions and stay informed on elements of our collective bargaining agreement; and to be vigilant regarding implementation of our collective bargaining agreement rights and responsibilities.

In the weeks and months ahead we will rely upon your activism as we fight for necessary state funding for SUNY. I know we can count on your support and participation in this process. Please continue to visit the web site www.uupinfo.org for updates on the state budget situation and calls for action.

Yours in Solidarity,

Kathy Southerton
President, UUP SB/HSC Chapter



Photo credit: Don Feldstein,
UUP Media Relations Specialist

Dick Iannuzzi, NYSUT President, meets with chapter executive board

News you can use

Important Vacation Day Reminder for Eligible Employees

As per article 23 of our 2007-2011 collective bargaining agreement, on January 2 one vacation day shall be added to the accrual balance of all full-time employees eligible to accrue vacation leave. If applicable- make note of this in your own accrual records.

Important deadline for Individual Development Awards Applications

Applications for the next round of awards for activities between July 2, 2008-July 1, 2009 are still available in the UUP office. This program is intended to assist eligible employees to develop their full professional potential and to prepare for advancement. Funding may be provided to enhance teaching, research capabilities, professional knowledge and skills. The deadline for turning in these applications is **February 13, 2009**.

February Food Drive

Our chapter recently convened an ad hoc committee to work on a food drive as a community service project. Collection sites will be available in various locations during the month of February. Please refer to our chapter website, e-mails, and flyers for details. Your donations will be much appreciated.

Balancing Work/Family Commitments

The text below is from a letter dated November 6, 2008 from Raymond Haines, Jr. -Vice Chancellor and chief financial officer at SUNY- to Directors of Human Resources:

During the course of negotiations for the 2007-2011 Agreement, UUP raised concerns involving family leave and the balance between the demands of work and family responsibilities. Such issues impact employees throughout their entire career cycle and may differ widely from employee to employee. Issues range from child-rearing, child care to spousal care or elder care issues. Employees are often confronted with the need to balance the many, sometimes, competing priorities of their employment and personal lives.

While maintaining SUNY's level of excellence and competitiveness in higher education, we should also be aware of the need to find balance between personal/family life and the professional life. A culture of supporting employees in a manner consistent with their employment obligations when the responsibilities of family life are particularly demanding may help employees balance their work/life commitments. In that regard, and as fulfillment of a commitment made at the negotiations table, this letter serves the purpose of encouraging campuses to recognize the importance to employees of a flexible approach to accommodating family care needs.

UUP Offers Scholarships for SUNY Undergraduate Students

These \$2,000 scholarships which UUP began in 1988, are awarded annually to SUNY undergraduates who demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence, social justice issues and labor ideals. If you are aware of students who may qualify, please encourage them to apply. The application deadline is March 2, 2009. A complete list of eligibility requirements and applications are available in the chapter office or from the UUP web site at www.uupinfo.org

AFT Funds Available for UUP Members and Their Dependents to Help Pay for Education.

The AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program was created to foster the education of members and their dependents. This program offers 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to graduating high school senior students who are dependents of AFT members and one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members (NOTE: All UUPers are AFT members) to assist with their continuing education. To apply for a scholarship or grant, visit the UUP web site www.uupinfo.org and click on the scholarships tab. Completed applications *must* be postmarked by March 31, 2009, for consideration.



UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter
 HSC, Level 5– Room 572
 Stony Brook, NY 11794-8553

UUP COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT



Health & Safety Committee

The Health & Safety committee is one of the newest committees at the UUP Stony Brook/HSC Chapter. It has been established to identify and discuss matters of workplace health and safety, consider corrective actions and make recommendations to the chapter President regarding those issues. The committee presently consists of 11 members: **Karen Allard** (School of Nursing), **Nancy Balkan** (School of Nursing), **Mike Bonvento** (Diagnostic Radiology), **Eric Kahn** (Environmental Health & Safety), **Carolyn Kube** (HLA lab), **Grace Propper** (Continuous Quality Improvement), **Albert Rielly** (Employee Health/Preventive Medicine), **Steve Smith** (Respiratory Care Program), **Kathy Southerton** (UUP), **Kathy Terwilliger** (Environmental Health & Safety), and **Ben Williams** (Radiation Oncology).

Stemming from their first meeting held in April 2008, one of the initial undertakings of the committee is to devise a health and safety survey to be administered to the chapter membership via the chapter website. The survey is nearly completed and there are plans to post it on the chapter website within the next few months. The survey results will help the committee to focus attention on issues of concern as identified by the membership. Please visit the site to look for details about the survey.

The Health and Safety Committee is seeking new committee members who are interested in working on issues to make ours as healthy and safe a workplace for all as possible. This committee meets periodically usually once per month at lunchtime. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact the chapter office at 444-1505.

Election Timeline:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| January 5, 2009 | Call For Nominations Forms Are Mailed to Members |
| February 4, 2009 | Deadline For Nomination Forms to Be Returned to Albany |
| February 13, 2009 | List of Nominations for offices and delegates to be mailed to Chapter President |
| February 13, 2009 | Deadline for electronic submission of candidate statements |
| March 12, 2009 | Voting ballots to be mailed to UUP members |
| April 15, 2009 | Deadline to return ballots to UUP office in Albany |
| April 15—18, 2009 | Ballots to be counted, results will be available at the completion of the count |
| June 1, 2009 | Elected individuals begin serving a two year term. |

**Look for 2008
 Discretionary
 Salary Increase
 Information on
 our chapter's
 website.**

The opinions expressed in *Bridges* are those of the authors, the editor, or the Stony Brook HSC Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of the United University Professions.

Bridges welcomes, for consideration, articles submitted by members of the Stony Brook community. Persons who have material they wish to contribute should email their submissions to Stonybrookhsc@uupmail.org for consideration. Submissions are subject to the approval of the newsletter editor and the chapter president. They may be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter Contacts

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| President | Kathy Southerton | 444-1505 |
| Vice President (Academics) | Carlos Vidal | 444-3153 |
| Vice President (Professionals) | Carol Gizzi | 444-1505 |
| Secretary | Tina Manning | 444-1505 |
| Treasurer | Edward Hines | 444-1505 |
| Part Time Concerns Representative | Carolyn Kube | 444-1505 |
| Grievance Chair (Academics) | Steve Smith | 444-1505 |
| Grievance Chair (Professionals) | Carol Gizzi | 444-1505 |
| Newsletter Editor | Pamela White | 444-1505 |
| Professional Evaluation Review | Ellen Clark | 444-1505 |
| Professional Promotion Review | Bruce Kube | 444-1505 |
| Professional Concerns Comm. | Donald Pisani | 444-1505 |
| Administrative Assistant | Sharon Hines | 444-1505 |
| Webmaster | Bruce Kube | 444-1505 |

For the latest information be sure to check the UUP/HSC website: <http://www.uupsbhscsite.org/>