

## UUP Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

By Bill Simons, Chapter Secretary

The Tuesday, February 14, 2023, UUP Oneonta Chapter Meeting was held in Le Café, Morris. The proceedings started at 12 Noon and adjourned at 1:05 PM. Attendance, both in-person and virtual, was strong, representing a cross section of the union membership. Pizza grounded the in-person lunch.

Chapter President Rob Compton called the meeting to order, welcomed participants, and thanked the active membership for their commitment to UUP solidarity. Rob discussed new College computer protocols, Individual Development Award (IDA) deadlines, the Chapter election timetable, and upcoming UUP events.

Vice President for Academics Mark Ferrara reported Management has delayed convening of the Compensation Task Force. Despite the importance of the issue, the Compensation initiative is languishing.

Secretary Bill Simons noted that there are a backlog of Labor-Management, Executive Board, and Chapter Meeting notes that need publication in *The Sentinel*. This is essential to keep members informed, facilitate interaction with Management, document our activities to future UUPers, and keep the Oneonta profile strong within the State union.

Treasurer Rich Tyler stated that the Chapter Finance Committee has met to review the 2023-2024 UUP Oneonta proposed budget. The proposed budget will be considered and voted upon, sequentially, by the Executive Board and then by the Chapter Membership. This process will be completed in March.

Ed Wesnofske, UUP Oneonta representative to the State UUP Task Force on Direct Election of State UUP Officers, noted that this process began with advocacy by the Oneonta chapter. Ed

discussed the first meeting of the Task Force in January and the scheduling TBA of its February session. This is an key issue, and it is important that the Task Force regards their deliberations as a priority.

Special Events Director Loraine Tyler announced: (1) the traditional end of spring semester meeting/party will be held on Sunday, May 21, 12 Noon, at the O at 112, Otego; and (2) the spring Retiree Meeting/Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 25, 12 Noon, at the O at 112, Otego.

Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff discussed the relevance of the Tuesday, February 21, 12 Noon, Le Café, Morris, workshop on *Off Duty, But Not Off the Hook*.

An animated open discussion ensued. The Chapter leadership was strongly urged to schedule, with dispatch, a forum on AI (Artificial Intelligence). There is a need to renew ties, once close, with local state legislators as well as with our new Congressman from the 19<sup>th</sup> District. Adjuncts are disrespected, exemplified by displacing adjuncts with fulltime faculty, an issue that UUP is currently seeking to redress. There is need for another workshop on the adjunct promotion procedure. Some adjuncts fear retaliation by their employer if they come to UUP for help.

Several participants commented on the vitality of the open discussion and advocate making it a staple of future Chapter meetings. Open forums provide for exchange of information and perspectives from all segments of the UUP community.