



# SENTINEL

ONEONTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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## Make Time For UUP

## I.D. Cards

This issue of The Sentinel was done hurriedly, frantically and with an unbelievably limited staff. This is not an apology. The pressures and demands on union officers and appointees have increased geometrically in recent years. More and more people have become involved--but not enough.

Increases in benefits result in the need for people to understand and explain the benefits. Opportunities to resolve problems through labor/management committees require people to take part in labor / management

discussions.

Improvements in resources at, and information available from, UUP Central means someone must seek and transmit the information.

Too often the response to requests for help is that "a person would have to be crazy to take on all that work." But this year we have been able to convince a few people that more people equals less work. A little assistance from a lot of people would make the job easier for all. Try to find a little time for UUP next year. We all benefit.

The Public Employees Benefit Fund will mail new Prescription Drug ID cards in mid-June to all eligible employees who have completed and filed an Enrollment Card with the Fund. The new ID cards will expire January 31, 1988. This new ID card will be valid for seven (7) months for employees who retain their eligibility during this period. This seven-month card will enable us to avoid the holiday season mail rush for the next mailing of the Prescription Drug ID cards.

If you do not receive your new ID card(s), notify the Fund office by writing or calling:

UUP/Public Employees Benefit Fund  
PO Box 911  
Madison Square Station  
New York, NY 10159  
Toll-free  
1-800-522-7002 or  
(212) 420-1309

Be sure to include your full name, Social Security Number, address, and business phone.

## Leadership Changes

The constitution of UUP dictates that no state-wide officer may serve more than three consecutive two-year terms. This past year represented the sixth year in office for UUP's president, Nuala McGann Drescher. At the Spring Delegate Assembly, John "Tim" Reilly, recently head of UUP's Negotiations Team, was elected president, the office to become effective June 1. Tim is a member of the English Department at SUNY Albany and has served the union in a variety of capacities both at the chapter and state-wide level. He was chosen by almost a 2 to 1 margin by the over 200 delegates in attendance. Watch for The Voice for a more comprehensive election report.

## Spring Delegate Assembly

Oneonta's full complement of professional and academic delegates attended the Spring Delegate Assembly held in Albany at the Desmond Americana, May 1-2. Delegates not only participated in the all-important election procedure, but also acted on the 1987-88 budget, participated in debates on several other agenda items and attended a variety of committee meetings.

UUP  
Spring  
Social  
8:30 PM  
Wed. May 13  
AUTUMN CAFE

## Membership Up

In spite of some difficulty in launching the type of concerted membership drive we have accomplished in recent years, chapter membership continues to rise, with 82.3% of the agency enrolled. Oneonta's membership is the highest of SUNY four-year schools and the ninth highest of all units. State-wide membership stands at better than 75%.

## State Legislators on Campus

In March State Senator James Seward visited SUCO as a guest of the local UUP chapter. Senator Seward toured the campus, visited with President Craven, lunched with officers of UUP and other state bargaining agencies and ended the day at the reception pictured, held in his honor, at Morris Hall.



This month, on May 7, Assemblyman Jack McCann visited the campus as the guest of UUP.

### Claims Deadline Extended

Normally, if you use a non-participating provider for major medical claims in any given year, such claims must be submitted within 90 days of the subsequent year. Because of the recent changeover in health insurance plans from GHI/Statewide to the Empire Plan, a one-time extension has been declared and such claims for the 1986 year may be submitted until June 30, 1987.

### Professional Concerns

The State-wide Joint Labor/Management Committee dealing with Reclassification and Promotion for Professional Employees continues to work toward a comprehensive policy to address the wide range of problems created by SUNY'S restrictive and outmoded Professional promotion procedure. Dennis Selzner, local Professional Vice President is heartened that progress is being made but feels it would be premature to predict specific improvements which might be realized.

### Legislative Relief

Once again the State Legislature, in eleventh-hour fashion, has restored some of the needed funding to SUNY, not provided in the Governor's Budget. While a "no layoff" promise was made by the legislature, those closest to the budget proceedings say that continued erosion, through the reduction of services, by leaving positions unfilled and through other manipulations, will continue to weaken SUNY programs.

Of even greater concern is the feeling on the part of our legislative contacts that we must change our tactics and find a way to increase the impact of our message of need, perhaps by reaching the Governor himself. The leadership feels that the goals of access and quality, not simply holding the line, must remain UUP's main concern. They also know that the commitment necessary to achieve such goals requires the help of all members.

### The Computer Did It

The new chapter election procedure has proceeded remarkably well, with only one small glitch. The letter indicating the return date for ballots was supposed to have included a cut-off date of April 29. Somewhere along the way that date became May 29. Local chapter officers assume office as of June 1 and state-wide Elections and Credentials Chair, David Kreh of Cortland, promises that ballots will be counted and results forwarded to local chapters by the end of May. Locally, those results will be published as soon as received.

Gritting his teeth, Mr. Kreh, an active reserve Air Force Officer, often referred to as "The Colonel," who normally runs an extremely efficient and disciplined committee, apologized for the delay and suggested he really did not want to find out the name of the person responsible.

The SENTINEL is the official publication of the Oneonta State Chapter of United University Professions

United University Professions is Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO) and is affiliated with New York State United Teachers. The Oneonta Chapter of UUP is a member of the Tri-County Labor Council.