



UUP Makes History: The May 3rd Education Rally

UUP made history on May 3, 2003, participating in one of the largest rallies ever held in the New York State capital. Nearly 40,000 stalwarts gathered for the Public Education Rally at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. UUP joined with NYSUT, NEA, CSEA, and other great unions, as well as student and community supporters, to ask for budget restorations on behalf of public education. Our chapter sent a large bus to the gathering, swelling the crowd of enthusiastic advocates. Thanks to all of those who gave of their time and energy to deliver a powerful message on behalf of public education. Special appreciation is due bus captain Loraine Tyler, president Norm Payne, vice president Bill Simons, secretary Peg Carney, and SUCO undergrad Stephanie Gross for their logistical contributions to this memorable day. Pictures will be available in the e-mail version of *The Sentinel*, to be sent out later in the week.

Excellent Turnout for Presentation by President Alan Donovan

President Alan Donovan was UUP's guest for the April 22, 2003, *Food for Thought*. Forty-three people attended our monthly luncheon meeting. Dr. Donovan and union members shared in a candid exchange about the budget crisis and its possible impact on SUCO. Noting that union membership, collective bargaining, and lobbying are protected by law, Dr. Donovan distributed a written statement supporting UUP's participation in the May 3 Public Education Rally in Albany. His text reads, in part: "I am here to endorse your right to appropriate advocacy. I encourage you to participate and assure you that such efforts will aid in making your point of view known and considered in this most difficult budget year. At the very least, your efforts are guaranteed by the tradition of free speech which we honor on this campus and throughout higher education. At best, with your help, we can all hope SUNY's core budget stays the same."

Gail Maloy, Director of Member Benefits, to Address Oneonta Chapter at End-Of-Year Party

Our end of the year party, to be held on May 7, 2003, at Iannelli's, will feature a presentation by Gail Maloy, statewide Director of Member Benefits and Services. Gail, a SUCO graduate, will explain the consequences of the change in dental insurance carriers from Delta Dental to Cigna (see article, below). Among the topics on the agenda are strategies for enrolling more dentists as participating providers.

Besides Gail's presentation, the end of the year party will feature fine food and drink, great conversation, and union solidarity. The gala event, including Gail Maloy's presentation, was organized by Loraine Tyler. Our thanks to Loraine.

UUP Unveils New Dental Plan

(from the UUP e-connection)

UUP has a new dental carrier. Effective June 1, the Benefit Trust Fund will be changing dental carriers from Delta Dental to CIGNA. The change will take effect on June 1. With CIGNA, UUPers will get a choice between the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) and the Dental HMO (DHMO). Eligible members are automatically enrolled in the PPO plan. Those who choose to switch to a DHMO plan must contact CIGNA to make the change. The PPO plan is like the current Delta plan. It pays a percentage of the network allowance (80 percent, 60 percent or 50 percent depending on the type of service).

Meanwhile, through the DHMO, many services are paid in full and there is no annual maximum. The DHMO plan, like a medical HMO, requires members to coordinate all dental care through a primary care dentist. But unlike a medical HMO, members can switch from the PPO to the DHMO or back again, each month. Also, with the DHMO, everyone in the family can choose his or her own primary care dentist. In the next week or so, members will be receiving an enrollment packet from CIGNA. It includes two participating provider booklets. The thick booklet - with nearly 7,000 participating providers - is for the PPO. The thinner booklet - with close to 2,000 dentists and more than 500 dental offices - is for the DHMO. You can also