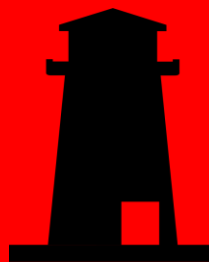


BEACON



May 2019
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Contents

President's Message	1
President Elect Message	2
Do You Like Us?	3
Runoff Election	4
R.E.O.C	4
IDA	5

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Commencement
May 17-18
- ◆ Employee
Appreciation Day
May 22nd
- ◆ Memorial Day
May 27th—Office
Closed

President's Message

Joe Torre, President
Brockport Chapter UUP

New Day, Old Way, Again...

Well, here we are ... four years later: sixteen Beacon articles; more than thirty executive committee meetings; four Holiday Dinners (my favorite!), four end-of-year dinners; ten, maybe eleven, weekend Delegate Assemblies; two elections; hundreds of phone calls and conference calls; dozens of office meetings; lots of workshops; contract discussions, and thousands and thousands of emails later. I tried hard to work hard for you and I hope that in some measure I succeeded though I am more than likely to remember where I failed. And I hope that in some ways we are better for it as a union; otherwise, I have truly suffered some terrible buffet halls (Buffalo Convention Center) for naught. For my part, regardless of my broader success or failure, this has been one of the greatest educational experiences of my life. Four years ago almost to the day, I set out on a quixotic journey and, to quote the great Anglo-American poet and sometime banker, T. S. Eliot:

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

T. S. Eliot, LITTLE GIDDING (No. 4 of 'Four Quartets') [1942/43].

To arrive at where I started and know the place for the first time is my rich reward. But what does that mean? As I noted at our final dinner, a historian's work is joyous solitude. To work in the archives all day, deliberately seeking out quiet spaces, away from others, is the *summa cum laude* of our careers. Office hours left alone to the delirium of our modern email *etherium*, is like mana from heaven. One can thus spend a lifetime in a place in solitude and not know it at all; and so I thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and for the joy of discovery that opportunity has brought to me. For in serving you, I discovered the place I had been for some time, for the very first time, again.

More specifically, two big lessons seem to have dominated my UUP education. The first speaks to the humanity at the center of union work. Not infrequently over the last four years, real consequences and career and possibly life-devastating mistakes or accidents have reached into my domain. Gravity intensifies when someone's well-being and or professional career are on the line; less important problems slow down, fall away and diminish to quantum quarks. And, perhaps not surprisingly, though it did surprise me, empathy balms and fills. It has been immensely satisfying trying to help people work through various significant problems as the union

safeguarded process and equity - an immense privilege. More to the point, in trying to help you I think I learned something about me. Confessions on self-knowledge are not big in my world, but there it is ... and I am grateful for it.

Second, in your service I discovered again for the first time what an awesome resource SUNY and UUP are; and that, as I noted in my first brief address, we are the greatest brain trust in the state of New York and perhaps even the nation. We are more than 40,000 dedicated education professionals working in a comprehensive post-secondary education system with roots in the 18th century and a vision for the 21st. SUNY is one of the greatest engines of economic equality and personal empowerment ever imagined in the history of a nation dedicated in theory if not practice to those two ideals. And we, SUNY professionals and UUP members, share a higher purpose and *possess* a powerful institution to affect these goals. Whatever happens in these desperate times when madness cripples reason, we shall not forget these goals; and we shall continue to strive, and in our shared purpose we shall come to know again for the first time why we chose higher education and why we have dedicated our lives to this highest of professions.

Central to this purpose and this work is United University Professions. Please participate in *our* union; serve, lead. This is *our* college, *our* university system, *our* union; we built this place and every day we work hard to make it work; it is a great privilege and a great responsibility. Embrace it and it will enrich all of us.

Thanks. It has been great fun. I am done but not gone; please know that I will be working closely over the next year with incoming President Alissa Karl to ensure continuity and to act as institutional memory, and I will remain an active member of the executive committee of the UUP representing the History Department.

Special thanks once again to Brittany Profit-Rheinwald who for four years has known my calendar and managed my working life and the UUP better than I did. Brittany is the hardest working unionist the UUP never had - for now. Thanks also to the officers and executive committee members who work hard for our union. Thanks as well to the NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Pat Domaratz for his patience and wisdom. And MANY, MANY thanks to our incoming President Alissa Karl, whose decision to lead and serve our union is my most significant legacy.



On Expecting More

Alissa Karl, Brockport Chapter President Elect

First things first: hats off and a hearty Thank You to Joe Torre for all that he has done for our Union over the past four years. Joe has made strides toward a more participatory and democratic Union, and my top priority when I take over from Joe on June 1 is to sustain and build upon all that he has done. I'm honored, and looking forward, to having the chance to do this.



Alissa Karl, Brockport Chapter President Elect

In anticipation of taking office, I've been reflecting on the foundations of my commitment to the labor movement and why I am convinced that having a strong Union is crucial far beyond our own workplace. I have mentioned here before that I was raised in a public employee union household. I am a first-generation college student and was raised by a single mom who worked for the State of California until she retired a couple of years ago. Money was very tight when I was growing up and we lived paycheck-to-paycheck. Yet despite our modest circumstances, we had the stability that came from my mother's job. We knew exactly how much was coming in each month and were secure in the knowledge that my mom's job likely weren't going anywhere. As all of us who have lived with little know, scarcity is compounded by uncertainty; my mom's steady job and reliable benefits spared us much of the latter.

As I got into high school, our finances improved somewhat as my mother secured promotions and raises in State service. In addition to this slow upward creep, my mom's stable union job laid the conditions for much of what I have been able to do. We could maintain the mortgage on our house, and I stayed in the same strong public school district from

K to 12. The reliability of our income made it feasible for my mother to take out parent loans to help me pay for college; along with my own scholarships and student loans, I become the first in my family to earn a college degree (and I just paid off my own loans recently—stay tuned for our UUP Student Debt Clinic coming in September!). My mother's retirement with a steady pension and health benefits means that I can focus many of my own resources on my child's education and future.

I credit the stability of my mother's work, and the Union that helped ensure that, with the social mobility that I have been able to experience. Indeed, in our most recent Labor Reading Group book, *The One Percent Solution*, Gordon Lafer makes the compelling case that concerted corporate attacks on public and private sector unions over the past decade have been designed to press workers into basic survival mode (in which they do not have the time to advocate or organize) and to diminish their expectations about what they should receive from their own labor and from government. Quite simply, the circumstances of my upbringing, modest though they were, allowed us to *expect more* than bare survival, and to have adequate security to pursue it.

I know, however, that the increasing precariousness of the labor market (created in large part through the anti-worker and anti-union campaigns that Lafer details) means that many of our students at Brockport may not experience such upward mobility. The response to this circumstance is not to fall into nostalgia for a "better" time in the past (and really, were the 80's all that great?). It is, instead, to commit ourselves to strengthening the institutions that we do have—like our Union—that have the structural capacity to counteract the campaign to get workers and citizens to expect and accept less. Rather, we must always demand more for our own and our students' futures.

PLEASE VOTE!

As those of you who have received the UUP ballots have surely noticed, this will be my last Please do not forget to vote in the Vice President for Professionals runoff election. To refresh, the candidates are Duncan Chase and Gary Owens. Duncan is a professional in the Art Department and a long-time building coordinator. Gary is the Director of the College at Brockport EOP and previous President of the UUP. Duncan stepped forward from the Executive Committee of the UUP to stand as candidate but failed to bring his candidacy to the attention of the UUP in time to be placed on the ballot. In the last election both Gary and Duncan received write-in votes and tied for the VP of Professionals position. Please feel free to reach out to them with questions or see the previous Beacon. Deadline for the count is 5/29 at the UUP in Latham. Counting starts 5/30.



Preparing for Retirement?

Are you near retirement? Not sure what to do next? Have you been looking for a workshop that would answer all your questions?

UUP Brockport chapter can bring in the UUP Central officer on retirement to speak about preparation for retirement, if there is enough interest by its members.

The pre-retirement presentation covers everything from

- Healthcare: how to qualify as a retiree, cost, sick leave credits, dual annuitant
- Medicare: when to sign up, how the cost is reimbursed from NYS
- Working after retirement: possible tax penalties depending on age
- UUP Info: retiree membership, dental and vision benefits

Please contact the Brittany, bprofitr@brockport.edu if you would attend such a program.



R.E.O.C. Rediscovered

Millie Sefranek, R.E.O.C

The Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (R.E.O.C.) recently celebrated 50 years of academic and vocational support to the Rochester community. When Arthur O. Eve first established both the Educational Opportunity Programs and the Educational Opportunity Centers, I don't know that he could have envisioned that R.E.O.C alone would empower over 2,000 individuals each year to enter the SUNY pipeline of academic success. The Faculty and Staff of the R.E.O.C. are proud to be a 60 member strong segment of the UUP SUNY Brockport Chapter. We are at the front-lines in battling issues related to the under-educated, the underemployed, and those with both diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities. We provide high-quality services to a student body that is often overlooked and, even worse, dismissed, because they have taken an alternative route to the traditional student. I am here to say that our students are able to do more in their lives with far less than most people can even imagine and that they have often overcome tremendous obstacles to begin their educational journey to a better life. And just like our students, the faculty and staff of R.E.O.C. have often been asked to do more, with less. Although we are all members of the College at Brockport's community and members of the UUP, we are sometimes overlooked when it comes to employment opportunities, funding, and other types of community engagement. I hope that with our new tenants, the Downtown Campus, that we will begin to see renewed synergy between the faculty and staff of the College and the faculty and staff of the R.E.O.C. I envision greater UUP involvement in our campus and a strengthening of some of our common union issues. Please feel free to visit our campus and to reach out to see what R.E.O.C. can do for you!

UUP IDA Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients who received the Individual Development Award for 2018-2019:

Amanda Auriemma \$1,000
 Gail Barido-Meier \$1,000
 Michelle Breitung \$780
 Alexia Buono \$620
 Tammy Carrasco \$945
 Michael Chrislock \$490
 Katherine Clark-Walter \$1,000
 Lee Cohen \$1,000
 Darrell Deas \$1,000
 Stephen Fellner \$1,000
 Andie Graham \$983
 Jennifer Haytock \$200
 Afeez Hazzan \$1,000

Kristin Heffernan \$500
 Tim Henry \$1,000
 Vaiva Kalesnikaite \$1,000
 Jennifer Kegler \$554
 Anne Macpherson \$405
 Mariah Maloney \$1,000
 Courtney McDaniel \$1,000
 Sanford Miller \$1,000
 Takashi Nishiyama \$1,000
 Shihyun Noh \$995
 Milo Obourn \$1,000
 James Onley \$700
 Mary Jo Orzech \$1,000
 Krystal Perlman \$1,000
 Jacques Rinchard \$490
 Elizabeth Russell \$1,000
 Robert Schneider \$1,000

Karen Schuhle-Williams \$1,000
 Rachel Schultz \$1,000
 Erin Sharwell \$1,000
 Rebecca Smith \$1,000
 Susan Wielgosz \$963
 Phil Young \$1,000
 Jie Zhang \$1,000
 Ruhan Zhao \$684

Retro 2017-2018 recipients:

Mariah Maloney \$1,000
 Mary Jo Orzech \$882
 Robert Schneider \$1,000

UUP Brockport 2019-2021 Election Results

President & Delegate: Alissa Karl
Vice President for Academics & Delegate: Susan Orr
Vice President for Professionals & Delegate: Run-off election
Treasurer: Danny Too
Officer for Contingents: Paul Schreiner
Officer for Retirees: Betsy Balzano

Academic & Professional Delegates to be announced later.

For full election results please visit:

<http://uupinfo.org/elections/results/chapter/Brockport/19/Results.pdf>



Did you know that as a UUP member you get a discount on a BJ's Membership?

Current promotions:

\$25 for any NEW membership for 12 months (2 membership cards)

Or

\$43.20 for any membership renewal for 13 months (2 membership cards)

Email Brittany (bprofitr@brockport.edu) for the membership application—please indicate which application you need.

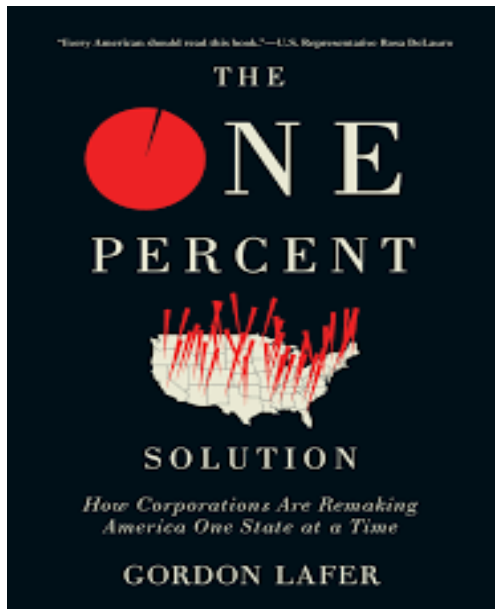


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Did you miss this year's Labor Reading Group discussions? Check our Facebook and Twitter pages for updates on the book selection and dates for fall.



We're on the Web!
<http://www.uuphast.org/brockport/>

**BROCKPORT CHAPTER OFFICERS
2017-2019**

- President.....Joe Torre
- VP Academics.....Susan Orr
- VP Professionals.....Sharon Belle-Render
- VP Membership.....Sara DiDonato
- VP Retiree Concerns.....Herb Fink
- VP Part-time Concerns.....Paul Schreiner
- VP Publishing.....Brittany Profit-Rheinwald
- VP REOC (Academics).....Diana Wong
- VP REOC (Professionals).....Lisa Gerst
- Treasurer.....Danny Too

UUP Labor Relations Specialist
Patrick Domaratz, NYSUT
30 North Union Street, Suite 302
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 454-5550



No matter how you look at it ...

There's a \$65 million gap between what NY state pays—and what qualifying SUNY students get—in tuition assistance.

**Go to FundTAP.org/now
and send a message to Albany:
FULLY fund the Tuition Assistance Program now.**



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