



# The Union News

October: October 2015 Vol. 47—No. 1

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*The Union News* is a publication of the Plattsburgh Chapter of United University Professions. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Plattsburgh Chapter Executive Board or UUP.

Colleagues,

Your delegates and chapters officers are returning from the fall Delegate Assembly in Buffalo. The meetings and presentations we attended are highlighted in this issue of the Plattsburgh Union News.

Statewide UUP Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Debbie Zinser is pleased to report that the UUP scholarship fund is now available for contribution via the SEFA Campaign. SUNY Plattsburgh has a long history of involvement with the UUP Scholarship: the fund was founded by SUNY Plattsburgh history Professor Eugene Link and a number of SUNY Plattsburgh students have been awarded the UUP Scholarship. Please see Co-Chair Zinser's article and brochure for the SEFA number to contribute.

As a reminder, our current contract ends July 2016. The Negotiations Team made an appeal at the Delegate Assembly for completed Member Suggestion Forms.

<http://uupinfo.org/negotiations/pdf/FillableMemberSuggestionForm915.pdf>

See <http://uupinfo.org/negotiations/> for updates.

Please don't assume that another colleague has already reported on an issue. 1000 members statewide requesting contractual language on an issue such as family leave will make more of an impact than only 50 members requesting this issue.

In conjunction with the negotiations, Membership Development Officer Michelle Toth is running a membership drive. You need to be a union member (i.e. have signed a union card) to vote on the contract. Please see further information from MDO Toth in the newsletter.

UUP President Fred Kowal gave an impassioned speech at the Delegate Assembly about the assault on unions created by the Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association suit which will be heard by the Supreme Court next summer. Please watch his eloquent assessment of the impact of Friedrichs available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/v3hAl2f-N0s>. Please reach out to me or other union officers if you are having contractual issues

Karen Volkman

UUP Chapter President



# Announcements

## **Take Advantage of our Contract Negotiations and Make your Voices Heard Now**

Gina Doty, UUP Professional member

Right now is the time to put your pen on paper or send an email to our UUP Negotiations team on the changes you want to see in our next contract. Our current contract expires July 1, 2016 and many of us know this contract was a very difficult one to negotiate due to the hard line our state governor put on all New York unions. Though there were many other reasons involved, our negotiations team does their very best for our union members; but they need to hear from us. Each of us can find something that needs added or changed in our current contract to improve the outcome for all members. Our contract is written for all professional and academic members to use and we should stay united in ensuring the agreements within the contract ensure a positive working environment for everyone.

The contract is cumulative agreements from over 42 years and currently I plan to send my idea about professional members using compensatory (comp) time. I have spoken to many professionals in the past five years that earn "comp" time due to the nature of their jobs, but find it very difficult to use. Often times, they don't, so they are working for free for the state-- is how I see it. I urge you to write on this topic if it applies to you, because the more people that write about the same concern it will be looked at during this negotiation.

In 1973 our union was formed and for almost 43 years our contract agreements have improved and broadened to include things for all members. Take a look at this glance of our UUP history on this website on how far we have come. <http://uupinfo.org/history/glance.php>.

The Negotiations Committee was on our campus recently and if you did not meet with them, here is the contact information to send your ideas comments. The Chief Negotiator is Philippe Abraham and his email is [pabraham@uupmail.org](mailto:pabraham@uupmail.org). You can also write to: UUP, PO Box 15143 Albany, NY 15143 with your suggestions also.

Being a union member means to look out for one another and make progress together. I urge you to become involved in the negotiations phase of our contract and make your voice heard.

## UUP Scholarship Fund and SEFA

Since the inception of the UUP Scholarship, Plattsburgh has had 15 recipients.

This year Dylan Christopherson, an accounting major was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship.

For more information on the undergraduate and graduate scholarships please go to page 9 or to:

<http://uupinfo.org/scholarships/scholarship.php>.

New this year, you may direct your SEFA donation to the UUP College Scholarship Fund using code #999-02156.

Thank you.

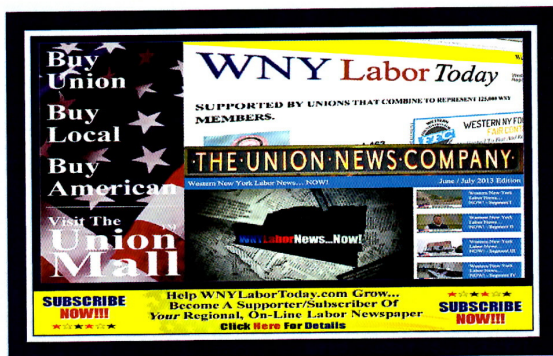
Deborah Zinser

Co-Chair Scholarship Development Committee

Scholarship Selection Committee







## **WNYLaborToday.com** **Your On-Line Labor Newspaper**

United University Professions (UUP)  
Has Been Provided With  
**Special Subscriber Log-In Information** for  
[www.WNYLaborToday.com](http://www.WNYLaborToday.com) –  
Western New York's On-Line Labor Newspaper –  
Which You Can Use **Free of Charge**  
to Take Full Advantage of an Array of Labor News  
Offered by This Western New York-Based Labor News Media Outlet.

When Logging in, Please Note the Following:

**Username:** [uup@uup.org](mailto:uup@uup.org) (lower case)

**Password:** UUP (ALL CAPS)

WNYLaborToday.com Has Registered More Than 32 Million Page Views Since it Launched its On-Line Labor Newspaper Back in April 2008 and Has Published More Than 5,000 Labor News Stories Over that Time – As Many as 20 or More Labor News Stories Per Week.

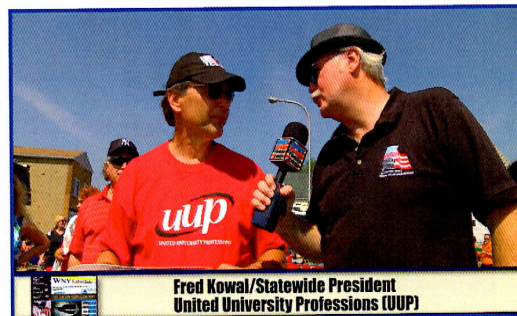
WNYLaborToday.com Has Viewers/Readers From Across Western New York, New York State and the Nation – and Has Upgraded its Local Labor News Coverage to Include a Monthly Labor News TV Program That Airs Off its Front Page. *Western New York Labor News... NOW!* Provides Organized Labor, Unions and Their Members the Opportunity to Get Their Message Out *Unimpeded* and For Great Lengths of Time.

It's Our Hope UUP Representatives Will Take the Time to Visit WNYLaborToday.com.

With the Continued Attacks On Working People and the Labor Movement, and Upcoming Elections This Year – as Well as the Presidential Election in 2016 – the Labor Movement Must Continue to Work to Inform and Educate its Members.

In Solidarity,

Tom Campbell/Editor-Publisher  
WNYLaborToday.com



## Identity theft protection available for NYSUT members



## TRUE IDENTITY PROTECTION™

*NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that its newest endorsed program -- ID Watchdog -- is now available to all NYSUT members & their families looking for protection against the growing threat of identity and credit theft.*

### What Do I Get When I Sign Up for ID Watchdog?

- Credit & Cyber Monitoring
- Monthly Credit Score Tracker
- Credit Reports & Scores
- High Risk Monitoring
- Individual, Individual/Spouse or Family Coverage Available

According to Javelin Strategy & Research, an estimated 13.1 million Americans fall victim to identity theft each year. These individuals are hit with approximately \$7,000 in fraudulent charges per person and spend about 330 hours each trying to recover from the effects of identity theft.

ID Watchdog (founded in 2005 as a theft protection service) uses proprietary monitoring technology that alerts members as soon as new or updated information associated with their identity is detected -- allowing them to catch fraudulent activity immediately.

**To learn more about ID Watchdog, call toll-free 866-513-0823  
or visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org).**



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Sept/Oct. '15



# Bomb Trains

Charley Bowman representing the Renewable Energy Taskforce of the Western New York Peace Center--[RenewableEnergy@WNYPeace.org](mailto:RenewableEnergy@WNYPeace.org)--addressed the Delegate Assembly October 2, 2015 on the risks New York state faces from numerous trains transporting Bakken crude oil from North Dakota for transshipment out of Albany for processing in Philadelphia. Charley is a retired cell biologist at University of Buffalo, was invited to give the talk by the Labor and Higher Education Committee.

While New York can celebrate the fact that public pressure caused Governor Cuomo to ban hydraulic fracturing of petroleum deposits in the state, the environmental risks to New York of fracking in other places haven't come to an end. Trains of a hundred cars or more snake across the state from Canada, coming south through Plattsburgh and east from Buffalo and along the entire Mohawk Valley. They constitute two types of threat, according to Bowman. The highly volatile compounds that Bakken contains are subject to explosion when trains derail or collide and once Bakken is spilled and enters waterways and aquifers, it takes decades and millions of dollars to clear up.

The explosion at Lac Mégontic in Quebec illustrates the risk to life and limb. On the night of July 6, 2013, a 47 car tanker train caught fire. Emergency squads seeking to contain the risk before the cars exploded cut loose the engine where the initial fire was located. Then the car brakes failed. The brakeless train then rolled into a curve in the center of this quaint town and cars tipped from the track next to a crowded restaurant/night club. Forty-seven people died in the resulting conflagration as waves of flame engulfed much of the town, destroying half the structures. The Canadian Pacific Railroad, heir to the liabilities of the now-bankrupt carrier, continues to fight a pending \$338 million criminal penalty and countless more potential civil judgements.

Beyond the forty-seven killed and the extensive property destruction, the Quebec derailment and explosion sent toxic material into the ground. It has taken two years of digging to remove these polluting substances with no assurance that the forty acres of polluted soils have been returned to a clean status. This leads to the second consequence of such "low probability--high consequence" derailments: environmental destruction. In Bowman's view, aquifer pollution, once it happens, is for practical purposes, permanent. In a 1970 spill in LeRoy, New York, just west of Buffalo, 30,000 gallons of trichloroethene entered the ground after a rail accident. This widely-used industrial solvent has known neurological effects on the heart and isn't permitted in drinking water above 5 ppb. After an inadequate remediation effort, about 2,800 acres of Western New York are now polluted from this one spill and ground water there contains 100 ppb; plums continue to spread and are approaching several important drinking water aquifers. Apparently nothing can be done to stop the spread. The western New York route of the Bakken oil trains runs on top of 229 miles of aquifer; the route down from Rouses Point along Lake Champlain to Albany is from much of the route barely a few feet from open water.

In 2013, 11.5 billion gallons of Bakken crude were shipped by rail and 1.15 million gallons spilled. Derailments on our neglected railbeds and rail bridges are not unheard of, the most recent occurring October 5, 2015, when an Amtrak passenger train went off the tracks in Northfield, Vermont, overturning cars and injuring riders. This could have been on the New York side; it could have been a Bakken oil train.

Charley Bowman reminds UUPers that they can call Governor Cuomo at 212 681-4580 and the New York Public Service Commission at 518 474-6530 to express their concerns about what amounts to an accident waiting to happen.

Respectfully,  
Charles Simpson

# **All About Membership!**

## **Q. How can I find out if I am a member or not?**

A. Contact our chapter membership officer, Michelle Toth (x5225 or tothmm@plattsburgh.edu) and she can let you know.

## **Q. Why is it important that I be an official member?**

A. All state employees are represented by a bargaining unit, in our case it is UUP. To participate in the contract discussions and then to vote on the contract you must be a member. Our current contract is up this summer!

## **Q. Does being a member cost more?**

A. No. There is no change to your paycheck amounts or deductions.

## **Q. Why would I want voting rights for the contract?**

A. If you care about any/all of the following you should want your voice/vote to matter on:

- Healthcare coverage and cost
- Compensation (raises, DSI)
- Professional development funding (PDIAP, Dresher)
- Leave time (vacation, sick, family)
- Benefit Trust Fund (vision, dental and scholarship funding)
- Academic freedom and Tenure
- On-call/Re-call positions and compensation

NOTE: Changing positions, the end of term/temp appointments and getting re-hired may automatically remove you from membership.

## **THE MEMBERSHIP FORM**

<http://uupinfo.org/membership/forms/memberapp.pdf>

Print it and then fill out the form.

Send it via campus mail to **Michelle Toth, Feinberg Library** and she will mail it in for you (so you can save yourself the cost of a stamp).

See form on next page.

UUP Membership Application (It Doesn't Cost More to Join)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date / / E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SUNY Department \_\_\_\_\_ SUNY Title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Campus \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership dues in United University Professions are 1 percent of employee's basic annual salary for employees at or above the minimum salary negotiated for the bargaining unit; nine-tenths of 1 percent of employee's annual salary for employees earning less than the minimum salary negotiated for the bargaining unit.

Payroll Deduction Authority for UUP Membership

TO THE COMPTROLLER OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: I am a member of or apply herewith for membership in United University Professions and I hereby authorize you to deduct from my salary and to pay over to United University Professions on a biweekly basis the above-stated dues in said organization. Such authorization is made in accordance with the provisions of Section 6a of the Finance Law. You are further authorized to make any adjustments in said deduction as may be certified to you from time to time by UUP. I hereby authorize United University Professions to act as my exclusive representative for the purpose of collective bargaining and in the administration of grievances. I understand this order may be revoked at any time by written notice to you to discontinue deductions for membership dues.

BE SURE YOU HAVE SIGNED THIS CARD and mail to UUP, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143  
Dues paid to United University Professions may qualify as business expenses and may be deductible in limited circumstances subject to various restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code.

PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

You are not a member of the union until the UUP Administrative Office receives your signed membership application. All Professional Services Negotiating Unit members pay an agency fee equal to union dues, even if they do not join the union.

Signing this card will not change the union deduction from your paycheck, but it entitles you to:

- vote on the collective bargaining agreement;
- attend union meetings;
- hold union office;
- elect union leaders on your campus and choose your representatives at the state and national levels;
- upon separation of service, obtain Associate Membership with NYSUT and be eligible for benefit programs; and
- maintain membership after retirement and be eligible for benefit programs.

Date Signed and Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

UUP, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143  
(800) 342-4206

BACK TO UUP HOME PAGE



# Are You a Member?

Thomas P. DiNapoli New York State Comptroller				JOHN DOE		Total Gross		Fed Taxable Gross	
						Current YTD	3456.78 45,678.90	1234.56 34,567.89	
Advice # Advice Date		123456789 09/10/2015		Pay Start Date Pay End Date		09/10/2015 09/24/2015		Net Pay 1,234.56	
Department ID 1234								Pay Rate 56,789.10	
EARNINGS									
CurrentYTD									
Hrs./Days		Earnings		Hrs./Days		Earnings		TAX DATA	
Regular Pay Salary Employee		3456.78				45,678.90		Marital Status	
Location Pay		56.78				678.90		Allowances	
								Add. Amt.	
								Federal	
								State	
								NYC	
								Yonkers	
TAXES									
								Current	
								YTD	
								Fed Withholding	
								Medicare	
								Social Security	
								NY Withholding	
BEFORE TAX DEDUCTIONS									
								Current	
								YTD	
								AFTER TAX DEDUCTIONS	
								Current	
								YTD	
Regular Before Tax Health		456.78		1,234.56					
Supplemental Ret. Annually Prog.		678.90		5,678.90					
TIAA Retirement Before Tax		56.78		1,234.56					
UUP Member 26P								34.56 456.78	

## CHECK PAY STUB TO MAKE SURE

In order to be a member of the union, your paycheck **must** say "UUP Member." If it says "UUP Agency Fee," then you are included in the Professional Services Negotiating Unit, but are *not* a member of the union.

## UUP Membership Entitles You To:

- Vote on collective bargaining agreement
- Hold union office
- Attend union meetings
- Elect union leaders on your campus and choose your representatives at the state and national levels
- Maintain UUP membership after retirement and be eligible for benefit programs
- Upon separation of service, obtain Associate Membership with NYSUT and be eligible for benefit programs

**Please contact your chapter officers for a membership application.**





# GIVE TO

## the UUP College Scholarship Fund through the State Employees Federated Appeal!

It's easy to do. When you receive the SEFA Pledge and Payroll Deduction Authorization form in your paycheck, simply enter **Charity #999-02156**.

Your donation will help SUNY undergraduate and post baccalaureate students fulfill their dreams of a college education. UUP College Scholarships are one-time awards of \$3,000.



For more information,  
go to <http://www.sefanys.org>

# Recipes

## Zucchini Pineapple and Cranberry bread

### Ingredients

3 eggs  
2 c shredded zucchini  
1 c vegetable oil (i like to use 1/2 coconut oil, melted, 1/2 veg. oil)  
1-(8 oz) can(s) crushed pineapple, drained  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
3 c flour  
1 3/4 c sugar  
2 tsp baking soda  
1 1/2 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
1 c chopped nuts (i like to use macadamia or pecan)  
1/2 c dried cranberries  
1/2 c coconut (opt)



### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine eggs, zucchini, oil, pineapple and the vanilla extract.
2. In a separate bowl combine the dry ingredients. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients in a large bowl. Fold in nuts, cranberries and coconut if desired.
3. Pour into 2 greased 8"x4" loaf pans or 3 smaller loaf pans. Bake larger pans for approx. 50-55 minutes and smaller pans for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown and inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Cool for 10 minutes before removing bread from pans onto wire racks.

### Angel Biscuits

Recipe from Gina Doty

*Note: Texture is like a yeast roll and biscuit. I make these often for holiday meals*

2 packages active dry yeast (yes 2 pkg)  
3-4 TB lukewarm water  
2 cups buttermilk  
5 cups self rising flour (do not substitute)  
1/4 cup granulated white sugar  
1 cup solid shortening (Crisco)  
1/2 cup melted butter (use before you bake rolls)

\*\*\*Mix yeast and water and let set for 3-5 minutes or until it starts to bubble. Add yeast mixture to buttermilk. In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, and sugar. Cut with a pastry blender or two butter knives in shortening until mixture resembles coarse meal.

Add buttermilk mixture and mix well with a spatula. Dough may be refrigerated in a plastic ziploc bag and used as needed and will keep for up to 2 weeks (it will get more sour). Knead dough 2 to 3 minutes on a floured surface. Add flour as needed to make a smoother consistency. Roll out dough to 1/2 inch thickness and cut into 2 inch rounds (or roll into balls).

Brush with melted butter on the tops and fold over (if you rolled out). Let rise 1 hour covered with a tea towel. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 min OR until brown.

These are very easy to make.

