

PUUP General Membership Meeting

Oct. 18, 2017

Noon

Alumni Conference Room, Angell College Center

Attendance: Gerianne Wright, Kim Hartshorn, Cathy Eldridge, Rob Keever, Richard Aberle, Harvey Schantz, Michelle Toth, Wendy Gordon, William Peters, Susan Millett, Robin Goret, Jill Folsom, Deb Brunner, Ray Guydosh, Allan Ozyesil, Deborah Zinser, David Curry, Greg Withrow, Barb Leonard, Pat Farrell, Sally Urban, Luke Myers, Andrew Krug, Joshua Beatty, Shawna Mefferd Kelty, Susan Mody, Ed Smith, Carol Bleaux, Kyla Relaford, Amy Dadniels, Cassie Christman, Levi Martinez, Chris Jackson, Cheryl Datkun, Catherine Kaleita, Faith Leach, Denise Sypek, Mila Su, several others who signed but whose writing is illegible.

Introductions: Kim Hartshorn introduced PUUP officers and Tom Hoey, statewide membership development officer contract negotiations, Janus/fee payers, Peter Kim, NYSUT higher education political coordinator, NYSUT/UUP advocacy for higher education, and Denise Sypek, Vote Cope.

Treasurer's Report: Main account checking: \$14,859.32; savings: \$9.22. Good and Welfare: checking: \$2,454.04; savings: \$5.02. **(Secretary note: I do not have the vote to accept this report in my notes. I do not recall there being a roll call to accept)**

Richard Abeler reminded people to sign up for the Dependent Care Account, mentioning that the state will not credit until a contract is ratified, but members should still sign up even if the amount is for \$1. The funds will be retroactive once the contract is ratified.

Tom Hoey reported that the union is making good progress on contract negotiations, saying it looks like raises will be 2 percent across the board for five years, which is what PEF and CSEA received. However, UUP does not have steps, and there is a wide range of employees whose concerns are varied and wide-ranging such as hospital workers, librarians, professionals and academics.

On the Janus decision, he said the union must come up with a good contract that includes getting back tuition aid for SUNY schools; also fighting for family leave and DSA, which will revert to DSI this time. They are also looking to get adjuncts \$5,000 a course and a guarantee of two courses so they can get medical insurance. Will look for volunteers who can picket if need be to show solidarity.

He discussed a banner contest that should include a photo of the chapter, reminding people that UUP is people, not buildings.

He discussed Janus/fee payers, saying dues is what keeps the union movement alive. He said the SCOTUS will hear in early spring and make a decision. Said there will be an effort during the winter and spring to educate for people to sign union cards. Need volunteers to knock on doors, make phone calls, to explain to fee payers what it means to them if they have not signed cards.

Michelle Toth said many have received emails from her. Department area reps programs are behind held to reach out to individuals. She mentioned the uup.info online sight for folks to sign up.

Peter Kim discussed the Constitutional Convention on the ballot Nov. 7, stressing the importance of voting no because a “yes” vote could jeopardize many of the fundamental rights New Yorkers have enjoyed for many years. The point to make to voters is that it doesn’t take an expensive, unnecessary convention to make changes to the constitution as evidenced by casino gambling and the sale of tracts of land within the Adirondack Park. He suggested going to uupinfo.org or NoNewYorkConvention.org.

Denise Sypek reported how Vote Cope works hard to elect pro-education, pro-union people on both sides of the legislative aisles. She said they look at and for things that affect unions such as public pensions, social security issues and other items under attack. She said they support candidates who support unions. In addition, Vote Cope supports events such as:

- Women’s March
- March for Science
- Lobby Days
- Campaigns

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.