



RESULTS OF MEMBERSHIP SURVEY TO INFLUENCE CHAPTER'S FUTURE PLANS

In February 2010, the chapter conducted a survey of its membership with the assistance of the NYSUT research department. The survey was an initiative of our Local Action Project (LAP). Four hundred union members were asked about their impressions of and involvement in the union.

The respondents were a mix of new and veteran members. Just over one-third have been members less than three years while 31 percent have been in the unit for more than a decade.

- 72 percent work in a position identified as professional
- 68 percent of respondents work at Stony Brook University Medical Center
- 69 percent are familiar with the work and/or activities of the union
- 77 percent say they have a favorable opinion of the union, and
- 82 percent see the union as active throughout the year

Unfortunately, the positive impression does not translate into union involvement. Eight in ten describe their current level of involvement in the local chapter as "not very active" or "no involvement."

Several of the union's current programs are considered either "very good" or "good" activities by the respondents. Among the most popular activities are blood drives, food pantry drives, new member orientation, professional workshops, academic lecture series, chapter meetings and discounted trips to NYC on LIRR. Regarding proposed chapter sponsored social events, at least one-third of the respondents

indicated interest in: social hours at local restaurants, day trips, professional sporting events, community service craft projects, and bowling night.

- 70 percent report the chapter's communication with its membership is either "very good" or "good." Making greater use of electronic communication was one suggestion for improving communication.
- 94 percent report receiving the newsletter, *Bridges*.
- 90 percent of the respondents who read the newsletter rate it as "very useful" or "useful."

Nearly three-quarters of the respondents are aware of the chapter's website, yet very few classify themselves as regular visitors. Among those aware of it, the announcements section is most often mentioned as the most helpful part of the website.

- 69 percent say the chapter is interested in hearing their concerns
- 71 percent say the chapter leadership is approachable
- 64 percent say their needs are always or sometimes addressed

The chapter leadership is thankful to these 400 members who participated in this survey. We will review the results closely including the many suggestions for improving communication with the membership, making improvements to the newsletter and website, offering workshops on additional topics of interest, etc. We will use the data as we plan for future chapter activities and events.

Inside this Issue

President's Message	2
Special Thanks	2
Stony Brook HOME	3
News You Can Use	3
Caught on Camera Photo Gallery	4
Quotable	4
Chapter Contacts	4

Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events

Tuesday April 20, 2010
General membership/
Executive board meeting
Guest: Fred Floss, Statewide
VP for Academics

Thursday May 6, 2010
Pre-retirement workshop
Speaker: Anne Marine

Saturday May 22, 2010
Discounted LIRR trip
Ronkonkoma-Penn Station

**All members are welcome to attend any of these events. For more information or to RSVP for any of the events listed above, please call the chapter office :*

4-1505 or visit the chapter website:

www.uupsbhscsite.org

President's Message



State budget: not on time, still time to be heard

As I write this message, the April 1 budget deadline has come and gone without a NYS budget in place. The legislators have just returned from their spring break and the budget outlook is grim. The Governor's budget proposal called for massive cuts to SUNY and the SUNY hospitals. While the assembly proposal calls for the restoration of some monies that the governor removed, (predominantly for K-12 education with no restorations to SUNY), the senate proposal includes no restorations. Facing a \$9 billion shortfall, clearly the legislature has difficult decisions to make. Lt. Governor Ravitch has suggested a plan that includes borrowing money; the Governor and others have called for public employees to agree to a wage freeze. Although UUP has not been contacted directly by anyone in the Governor's office on this issue, UUP statewide President Phil Smith has this to say:

The unions and various civic groups have given Governor Paterson and the legislature numerous suggestions on how the State could benefit from various cost-saving or revenue-enhancing measures. Until such time as our governmental leaders take steps other than cutting and trying to drain the pockets of public employees, my answer to the Governor's call is simply, No! We bargained fairly for our contract. Givebacks are not the answer! The real answers are responsible savings policies and responsible taxation policies.

The following is a brief list of some of the revenue generating ideas for our legislators to consider in lieu of cuts to essential public services of education and healthcare:

- Closing loopholes that allow large profitable corporations to avoid paying their fair share of taxes
- Reducing the amount of state work that is contracted out to high priced, for-profit consultants who are being overpaid to do work that state workers can do better for less
- Lowering prescription drug prices for state and local governments and New York consumers by using New York's purchasing power to negotiate fair deals with the drug companies
- Using the tax stabilization reserve fund to cover the Governor's anticipated gap in this year's budget rather than rolling it over to 2010-2011. This fund is specifically designed for such end of the year shortfalls.
- Curtailing growing obesity rates in New York children by adding a one cent per ounce tax on sugary beverages.

For additional revenue generating ideas, visit www.abetterchoiceforny.org Until a budget is in place, there is still time to influence the legislators. Urge them to consider these and other ideas to raise revenue and to properly fund the public higher education and healthcare system in New York.

In Solidarity,
Kathy Southerton

SPECIAL THANKS

To all who assisted with the collections and made donations to our food drives: Thank you for your generosity. Since we began our food drive efforts in February 2009, we have collected food items and monetary donations (in excess of \$1,500). The agencies listed below are among those that have benefitted from these donations:

Adventures in Learning (Manhasset)
Greater Sayville Food Pantry
Infant Jesus (Port Jefferson)
Light House Mission (Bellport)
Our Daily Bread (Setauket)
Riverhead Food pantry
St. Francis Cabrini Parish (Coram)
St Vincent De Paul's Society (Greenlawn)
Suffolk County United Veterans (Yaphank)

Stony Brook HOME

Stony Brook Health Outreach and Medical Education (HOME) is a completely free, student-run clinic located on Sunrise Highway in Islip Terrace. The clinic provides primary and preventive care for the uninsured and underserved in Suffolk County. The mission of the clinic is to improve the well-being and health of the local community by increasing access to free, dependable, and comprehensive health services, empowering individuals and families through education and social services, and by training future clinicians in culturally competent and compassionate care.

Within the clinic, students work cooperatively as a healthcare team to assess and develop a treatment plan tailored for each individual patient. "The enthusiasm and positive energy of the students is felt by all involved" stated Dr. Jedan Phillips, SB HOME's medical director.

According to Dr. Phillips, the School of Medicine curriculum committee has approved an elective course for medical students based around the HOME Clinic that is called "Underserved Medicine." "The clinic helps hone and develop real life skills that will make our future doctors movers and shakers in the field of medicine," he added.

As a community oriented primary care clinic, Stony Brook HOME is committed to working with local organizations to better improve patient care, access, and education. Since the clinic's inception, the United University Professions Stony Brook HSC Chapter's partnership with SB HOME has been particularly fruitful, enabling the clinic to obtain key medical supplies, information, funds, and services.

To contact the clinic call 631-235-5281 or email stonybrookhome@gmail.com
Story contributed by Ian Hu



UUP officers (Carol Gizzi and Charles Hines) pictured with SB HOME (Health Outreach and Medical Education) healthcare team members and students (March 2009)



SB HOME students and Carol Gizzi at health fair March 13, 2010 photo (from left to right) Lindsey Giserman, Darlinda Minor, Carol Gizzi (UUP), Mark Silva, Andrea Arata, Tomas Lazo, Diana Martins-Welch and Greg Sheehan

News You Can Use

NYSUT Social Services

This program provides confidential and comprehensive referral and resource information to help members improve the quality of their lives. The professional staff can assist you with a broad range of questions and requests. All you need to do is call. The staff can provide supportive phone consultation and in many cases, make referrals as needed. To learn more about what this program can do for you, visit www.nysut.org or call (800) 342-9810 ext 6206. This is a benefit for all members and their families, in-service and retired.

Thumb Drives

Members who give their personal e-mail addresses to the chapter will receive a 2 GB thumb drive as a thank you. These addresses will enable us to communicate more regularly with our members without the need to utilize the Stony Brook University e-mail system. UUP (chapter and statewide) will not distribute these addresses. The easiest way to share this information with the chapter is to send a message from your personal e-mail address to UUP_HSC@notes.cc.sunysb.edu In the message, please include your name and work location including your zip +4. If you have already given us your personal e-mail address and have not received your thumb drive, please contact us. Only one thumb drive will be issued per member.

Attention Smokers

If you need assistance to quit smoking, in addition to the smoking cessation classes offered by employee health (on varying shifts depending upon demand), help is available from the New York State Smokers' Quit-line by calling: 1-866-NYQUITS(697-8487). Take advantage of this help and make this your year to quit.



UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter
HSC, Level 5- Room 572
Stony Brook, NY 11794-8553

Caught On Camera



Chapter executive board members rally at State Capital in Albany for increased funding February 6, 2010



Top/Bottom: Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. during academic lecture series on February 11, 2010



David Dyssegaard Kallick of the Fiscal Policy Institute speaks at the Wang Center on March 17, 2010

QUOTABLES: Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion.

Edmund Burke 1774

The opinions expressed in Bridges are those of the authors, the editor, or the Stony Brook HSC Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of the United University Professions.

The UUP Newsletter welcomes, for consideration, articles submitted by members of the Stony Brook community. Persons who have material they wish to contribute should email their submissions to stonybrookhsc@uupmail.org for consideration. Submissions are subject to the approval of the newsletter editor and the chapter president. They may also be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter Contacts

President
Vice President (Academics)
Vice President (Professionals)
Secretary
Treasurer
Part Time Concerns Representative
Grievance Chair (Academics)
Grievance Chair (Professionals)
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
Administrative Assistant

Kathy Southerton
Bruce Zitkus
Carol Gizzi
Tina Manning
Charles Hines
Carolyn Kube
Steve Smith
Carol Gizzi
Pamela White
Bruce Kube
Sharon Hines

All chapter contacts can be reached by calling the chapter office at 4-1505

For the latest information be sure to check the UUP/HSC website: <http://www.uupsbhscsite.org/>