Newsletter of the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions January 1994 Issue #1

## VOTE/COPE '94: THE ROAD AHEAD

Lenore Rosen, Statewide VOTE/COPE Coordinator

UUP is one of the strongest and most effective advocates for public higher education in New York State. That is due in large measure to the efforts of members and elected UUP officials throughout the state who provide the grass-roots foundation of the successful legislative/political action program. VOTE/COPE is another important ingredient of our political success. Voluntary contributions to this non-partisan, political action organization enable UUP to become an active, vocal participant in the legislative process.

## **VOTE/COPE WORKS**

In recent years, the voluntary VOTE/COPE contributions made by UUP members have been used to fund lobbying efforts in Albany, to assist candidates who support our issues and to maintain many other legislative activities.

Through its VOTE/COPE supported legislative program, UUP has won important battles that have improved the State University. The most recent victories have included:

- \* Elimination of the proposal to shift the funding (about \$22 million) of the Long Island Veterans Home from SUNY to the State Department of Health. This victory preserved the educational mission of the Stony Brook Health Sciences Center.
  - \* Creation of UUP-proposed University

Development Fund, charged with devising an innovative approach to financing SUNY's mission.

- \* Defeat of the differential tuition plan that would create a two-tier university system.
- \* Maintenance of the Tuition Assistance Program (once targeted for deep cuts) - at last year's levels.

## MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

Threats to public higher education are resurfacing. While we have survived the worst of the erosion in state support for SUNY, a fight still looms over funding to move the University forward.

Health-care reform will be a major issue in New York and throughout the nation and UUP intends to be an active participant in the reform process. To be effective, the union must have elected officials who understand and support affordable, high-quality medical care for all Americans.

There is more work to be done and it is vital that UUP members contribute to VOTE/COPE and the activities it supports. To support UUP's legislative effort, make check payable to VOTE/COPE and send them to:

VOTE/COPE P. O. BOX 5190 ALBANY, NEW YORK 12205-9972

## NO MORE POLITICS AS USUAL

Janet Steins, Chapter Legislative Chair
It will no longer be "politics as usual" for
UUP, which has embarked on a new legislative
action plan greatly expanding past activities
which were concentrated in Albany.

Key people in this effort are the district legislative representatives who resides in every

assembly, senate and congressional district. Legislators have been advised of UUP's legislative program by the district legislative representatives, UUP members living in those districts, who will make regular visits on elected officials. District legislative representatives will also keep UUP informed of campus issues and needs which deserve the broader attention our central office can give them.

Our chapter's district legislative representatives are:

Assembly District 1 (Acampora) - Michael Zweig Senate District 1 (LaValle) - Judy and Norman Berhannan

SD 2 (Lack) - Judith Wishnia

AD 3 (Trunzo) - Carlos Vidal

AD 3 (Bianchi) - Maureen Brower

AD 4 (Englebright) - Janet Steins, Bill Godfrey

SD 4 (Johnson) - Ed Forman

AD 5 (Harenberg) - Kathleen Southerton

AD 6 (Hertz) - Arthur Wiegert

AD 7 (Barraga) - Irene Grasso

AD 10 (Conte) - Ora Bouey

For legislators whose primary district legislative representative is from another UUP chapter, these Stony Brook members have so far been appointed to serve as secondary representatives:

Congressional District 1 (Hochbrueckner) -Howell Archard Congressional District 5 (Ackerman) - Albert Hirschman SD 11 (Padavan) - Albert Hirschman

District legislative representatives have already attended a briefing on how to hold an effective district lobbying meeting and on UUP's 1994 legislative program. Highlights of this program are the restoration of funds to SUNY's budget and hospital flexibility legislation, this will allow SUNY's hospitals to form alliances enabling them to compete (now prohibited by state law) without losing sight of its uniqueness as an educational institution.

These programs and others are being paid for primarily with VOTE/COPE funds donated by UUP members and returned to us by NYSUT. Please consider contributing to VOTE/COPE today.

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