

UPI Local Candidates

Position: UPI Local President

Candidate Name: John Miller

Together, we defeated Governor Rauner, stood up to Betsy DeVoss, led the way to safe and healthy workplaces, protected our members with the right to work remotely, walked picket lines, grew our union through organizing, lobbied for more state funding for our students and institutions, defended our contracts through grievances, and we are still not done. I have been honored to serve as Local President for the past two terms and with your support, I would continue to work with you toward stronger contracts, fairer compensation, equal protections, more inclusive hiring practices, safe and healthy workplaces, ending bullying, protecting our retirement and more. The work of a union is not the work of one but the work of all of us, united, as we ensure respect and fairness for all. I am humbled to be nominated again as Local President and will be grateful for your continued support.

Position: UPI Local Recording Secretary

Candidate Name: Elizabeth Villarreal

My interest in running for recording secretary stems from the fact that I want to continue working for the rights of all union faculty and staff across our campuses. I am an advisor, at NEIU, in Proyecto Pa'Lante that serves predominantly first-generation college students. As myself an Academic Support Professional on the Local Executive Board, I bring the perspective of non-faculty UPI members throughout the state to our leadership body. While much has been done to support all members of the union, there is still more work to be done. I want to continue to serve as Recording Secretary of UPI 4100 to continue moving the union forward.

Position: UPI Local Secretary Treasurer

Candidate Name: Jonathan Blitz

As a retired EIU Chemistry Professor I had a learning curve to overcome when first starting as our organization's treasurer three years ago. I have enjoyed the learning, the work, and the people. I wish to continue. It was a challenge starting just after the Janus decision was announced. This decision resulted in an immediate decrease in our monthly revenues by 25%. In spite of this we've done well. We have increased our defense fund and reserves 10-fold and 5-fold, respectively. We're currently on sound financial footing. This was not the case three years ago.

We were able to do this by reducing certain expenses, and by changing the method by which we calculate payments to our affiliate organizations thereby eliminating the possibility of overpayment. Finally we created a new corporation that accepts tax free donations to support students and families that the various campuses can utilize.

Position: UPI Local Vice President

Candidate Name: Steve Frankel

I have served the Union as Vice President for two terms during which there have been unexpected challenges. First there was the Rauner. Then Janus and the potential to gut our membership. Next, the appointment of DeVoss and her attacks on public education. Finally, the ongoing global pandemic. As a

Union, we have responded to each by coming together to work for our common good and have seen the value and strength of a united Local. Building the united strength of the local is how we can be ready for whatever comes next.

As Vice President, I have served on negotiation teams at NEIU and GSU, helped with the unionization drive at NIU, door-to-door canvassed across the UPI, become the UPI's IT person, and other, widely varied activities. If re-elected, I would like to re-focus on one of my initial goals – working with the chapters to build membership power.
