

February 10, 07 Delegates Assembly Veterans Committee
Meeting Notes

The following committee members attended this meeting, and their email addresses are noted for future reference:

William Borgstede (ESF) adkbill@esf.edu
Gina Doty (Plattsburgh) dotygl@plattsburgh.edu
Aaron Godfrey (Stony Brook) agodfrey@notes.cc.sunysb.edu
John Hain (New Paltz) slopteach@aol.com
Robert Kasprak (Optometry) telecom18@juno.com
George Mitchell (Albany) gmitchell@uamail.albany.edu
Norman Smellie (Brooklyn HSC) Norman.smellie@downstate.edu
Tom Windt (Canton) windt@canton.edu
Darryl Wood (Binghamton) dwood@uupmail.org

not present:

Tommie Babbs (Buffalo Center) babbs@buffalo.edu
Richard Harding (Buffalo Center) rharding@buffalo.edu

The following are notes taken by Gina Doty. If something is incorrect or missing, let me know so that I can correct the mistake. Action items are in **bold print**.

1. Who is coming back from the war? Most of the conversation was around this topic, brought up by George Mitchell. Here are the highlights:

a. There is a lot of exposure and conversation about the war at delegate assemblies. This committee wants to find out who is coming back from the war to work at their SUNY campus or to attend as a student. This committee feels that people returning may need support and guidance in a variety of ways upon returning, and there should be a support/mentor program for them to use. Right now, we do not know who these people are, nor the scope of this issue at each campus.

b. We need to first find out who these people are, and our hope is to form a network of people to assist them with personal veteran issues, work related concerns, and lastly war veterans that are returning to higher education as a student.

c. One idea to get this “word out” is to put an article in the UUP newsletter, *The Voice*. The idea is to solicit information from the members on this concept of supporting our returning war veterans. Often veterans returning are women, but many do not know this. There was discussion to have our first article in *The Voice* be about someone on our committee. This would be good exposure for this committee and what we are working on. Since the staff for this newsletter work 2 months in advance, we need to keep that in mind. We also want to have an article and photos promoting Veterans Day. This needs to be in the UUP staff’s hands by September.

d. Another idea is to have the UUP President, Bill Scheuerman, tell our committee who the war veterans are on each campus. He may be able to give us lists of names. Another idea is to solicit our idea to the Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents during their meeting, which is in about a month.

e. **Bob Kasprak will speak to Bill Scheuerman first to solicit Legislative member, Bill Larkin, to come and speak at the April 2007 Delegates Assembly about returning veterans and their needs.**

2. Guest Speaker: We also discussed the idea to have a speaker come to this committee's meeting and discuss veteran issues.

3. Parade: Bob Kasprak brought information about the Veterans Day Parade in New York City last year, and also photos of the UUP wreath that is a part of the parade celebration.

4. Veterans Offices: Each campus represented by this committee should find out what their Veterans Affairs office does (if they have one) for the veterans that are employees and students. We are not sure if every campus has this type of office. We might be able to obtain information from this office to start the support/mentor program for returning war veterans (just an idea).

5. Memorials: Some campuses have memorials for veterans. Find out if your campus has one.

6. Uranium bill: Tom Windt spoke to us about a bill in the assembly now to test people for depleted uranium. It is called Assembly Bill 9116 (it could change), and it passed in assembly, but it did not get through the governor's office. We need support from everyone to get this bill passed. **Tom will speak to Glenn McNitt, who is part of the UUP Legislative committee about this bill.**

7. SEFA Campaign: Tom Windt talked about the Fisher House and the scholarship fund for children who lost a parent in the war being included on the SEFA campaign, for these are not listed. A UUP member asked Tom about this matter, and he discussed it with us. Someone mentioned that SEFA had to be contacted to see if they would add these nonprofit agencies.

8. Web Site: One idea mentioned during this meeting is a web site to assist returning veterans be created once we know the volume of returning war vets.

9. U.S. Flag Displayed: The American flag should be posted at every delegate assembly's head table. At this assembly, the flag was present, but placed in the wrong location, and corrected later.

In the nutshell, the discussion time was primarily about this committee's desire to better service our veteran's needs when they return from the war---be it employees or students at all SUNY campuses. We can make a difference if we work together.

Our next DA is April 20-21st at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Please bring closure to these **action items** and also talk around your campus to find out what you can find out concerning returning veterans. As you find out news, share it with everyone above by using the email addresses provided.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

meeting notes written by: Gina Doty