

UUP Veterans Committee Spring DA Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2007

The following members attended, and * annotates member could not attend.

Tommie Babbs *	William Borgstede
Gina Doty	Aaron Godfrey
John Hain *	Richard Harding
Robert Kasprak	George Mitchell
Norman Smellie	Thomas Windt
Darryl Wood	David Scholl
Chuck Spector	

1. Assembly Bill 9116 passed so that all Persian Gulf returnees can be tested for exposure to depleted uranium. This is great news.
2. Robert Kasprak will be contacting Senator Leibell's office about having him attending the Fall DA to discuss veteran issues. He will also check to see if the Dept. of Veteran Affairs can be present at our committee meeting for the Fall 2007 DA in Buffalo. We would invite all UUP veterans to come to this informative meeting.
3. Tom Windt brought up the discussion on the number of veterans returning back to school or work at SUNY campuses and the hardships they may be encountering and need for support in the SUNY school to assist. At SUNY Canton, there are 85 veterans enrolled at the university. The Registrar department has a table with contact information available.

---We need to design a questionnaire designed to give to UUP chapter Vice Presidents and Presidents to find out who has returned back, and who is the contact person on campus assisting these people. We are interested in both students and employees of the campus that are veterans.

Sample question ideas are:

- *Are there programs available on campus to assist vets?
- *Is there a veteran's office on campus that assists veterans?
- *What training should our campus employees/professors require when veterans have problems? Problems could be: child care, housing, transition problems into the job or classroom environment.

4. Tom also discussed with the group another organization called Angel Trax is reaching out for comprehensive medical help for veterans.

5. We want an article to be in the UUP newsletter Focus before the September DA meeting to include the Dept of Veterans Affairs will be present at our meeting and we want to invite all UUP veterans to come to the meeting.

--Ask for a UUP staff writer for help. Speak to Karen Mattison for help.

6. We want photos of our committee members when they were in the military to put onto the UUP webpage so that our "face" as a vet is shown to other UUP members, and also show that our committee exists.

7. We discussed ideas for future stories to develop for The Voice and the UUP web page, which was developed by Robert Kasprak 2 years ago.

8. A motion was passed and a resolution written by Tom Windt with everyone's help to have the National Anthem played or sung at the opening of every delegate's assembly. This resolution will be presented at this DA and voted on then. We are a part of NYSUT and National Federation of Teachers, and we all feel that it is right to have this song a part of our opening ceremony. The American flag is finally displayed correctly on the stage, and this is a recent accomplishment for change.

**We discussed the idea of having the ROTC at the Fall DA display the colors. No decision made on it at this meeting.

**We discussed inviting a UUP member or a SUNY student that sings very well to sing the anthem at the DA and pay them for doing this. One idea was \$100 payment.

9. Are there policies on campus for giving preference to hiring a veteran? We discussed this, but the past survey conducted brought this topic up. Maybe it is better to have this discussed at Labor Management on each campus.

10. A suggestion to invite the Fort Drum RSO to our meeting was given by Richard Harding. Having this speaker will enlighten the committee on what problems the military troops are encountering upon returning back from the war. Knowing what this speaker sees could assist our efforts to assisting our

own veteran employees and students on our campuses. Nothing definitive decided at this meeting.

11. This committee wants heightened awareness on Veterans issues in higher education.

12. Tom brought up the idea to solicit money from the Solidarity committee for the Fischer House. Everyone on the committee agreed this was a good idea and the chairman will find a member of Solidarity to request this money.

(Note: The Fischer House is somewhat like a Ronald McDonald house for wounded/injured veteran's families to stay at while supporting their loved one. There are located very close to military hospitals in the U.S.).

13. In the future, we should request money for our budget on events we are already spending it on (the chair will ask the UUP treasurer on this). We need to come up with a budget beforehand. Here are costs we know of:

Wreath for Veterans Day parade in NY City: \$250.00

Singing of National Anthem : \$100.00

Donation to Fischer House: \$250.00

Minutes taken and written by: Gina Doty

Please let me know if there are errors.