**UUP Veterans Affairs Committee DA Meeting Notes**

May 3. 2013 Noon

1. **Article for *The Voice*:** Tom Hogle is working with the author, Andrew Wiest, the author of “The Boys of 67,” this month with a deadline end of May. The author has a paperback coming out and Tom plans to write an article for *The Voice*.
2. Louis Scala likes the idea to have an article in *The Voice* about our donation efforts at the delegate assemblies for Wounded Warrior and how to make future donations.
3. We should be part of the vendor signature sheet since people are coming to us asking where are vendors on the sheet already, and it makes them come to us. Gina will ask about this and also about having a banner for UUP veterans to put behind the table. We plan to be at our table at all DA’s promoting a charity that helps veterans.
4. **Graduate ropes**: Tom Hogle spoke about his campus experience having a specific rope that a person wears with their graduation gown which designates the person as a veteran. a. Tom will send Gina a photo to share with all committee members. He went around their dean to get the rope (red, white and blue). They will have extra ropes to give out to people wanting the ropes to wear because they are vets. Tom will send Gina the information where they purchased the ropes. Having all campuses do this would be wonderful. All campuses need to be aware of it too.
5. Have an article in *The Voice* with a photo of a veteran wearing the ropes and an article about this new trend. Tom will send Gina photos.
6. Need to create a letter for the UUP Executive Board that the UUP President can use to send to all chapter presidents asking for the name of the veterans' department name for all the campuses to get the word out is an idea.
7. Ray Gleason mentioned that this summer there is a retreat for the exec board to talk more in-depth about future events, and he could bring this up. So we need a letter to send to Ray ahead of time and he'll present this for us.
8. At our next DA, Tom will bring regalia rope, so we can show it at our veterans table. Syracuse University already does this.
9. Honorsgraduation.com: cost of ropes: 100, $3 each and price goes down with higher volume and free shipping. Request UUP for $300 to $500 to purchase regalia cords. Ask Eileen Landy on how to request the money. This would be the seed money to start this. Norm Payne spoke in-depth on the details of this.

3. **Miscellaneous Conversation:** How can we in the ORP retirement programs have the ability to buyback our military time for retirement?

a. We discussed if this contract passes, the next contract is in 2yrs "if" this is contractual. We need to do the homework.

b. We should talk to TIAA CREF to see if anyone and the other MetLife, ING, and other ORP programs to see if this buyback is occurring with other unions.

1. **Michael Zweig from SUNY Stonybrook and the chair for UUP Labor & Higher Education Committee**: We invited Mike Zweig to come talk to us about his committee’s work which helps veterans. SUNY and the Governor’s office are trying to destroy UUP. We need to find ways to make things work together and show a solid front so that the governor and chancellor see it. His committee is working to integrate ways to get our union with other larger labor movement and have communication back and forth.

a. War and Peace issues: U.S. Labor against the War, UUP is part of this movement. In 2003 it started in Chicago to mobilize the war against Iraq when things started. For the past 10 years there are over 100 other organizations working together on foreign peace issues.

b. The mission of the organizations is to bring the troops home out of the war overseas and put the money in other social purposes. They work with many different veteran groups. They are not antiveteran; they are working with other veteran groups too. The interest of the veteran is important.

c. In 2009 Mike said he was at a labor meeting in Iraq with veterans of the Iraq war.

d. Some unions don't have veterans committees but we have this committee.

e. Michael spoke about some campuses where veteran students are attending classes there is not a veteran office for the veteran to learn about their benefits. SUNY Stonybrook does not have this office. Michael mentioned that he is willing to work with us on this issue.

f. U. S. Labor against the War: there is a chapter in NYC.

g. SUNY Stonybrook is on the "military friendly campus list".

h. Tommie stated he feels our goals are the same as what Michael just spoke about but knowing where to promote it is a challenge. Another idea is to have someone from each other's committees to come to each other's meetings.

i. Idea from Ed Hanley: Before the fall DA (October 4-5) create a resolution that is combined with the philosophy/initiatives that Michael’s committee is trying to accomplish and what this committee also agrees on and have ONE resolution that addresses both of these committees efforts.

j. Idea: Combine several different committees to work together on getting the labor movement towards Progressive caucus that addresses the question –how do you support our vets?

k. We efforts that John Garvey, the UFT Chair Veterans Committee: 516-2219354, JGarvey0513@gmail.com in Wantagh, NY / There were bumper stickers that Kathy handed out and others may want to contact John to see how to get more.

l. These concerns have budgetary consequences.

m. Another idea came from Clifford: Get some ideas from the campus veteran offices and what issues are students encountering?

m. We also discussed knowing who is the person on each campus who is assisting veteran students and employees? What are the needs? What can we do to make things better?

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

*Meeting notes taken by Gina Doty*

*Edits welcome*