

Law protects veterans' employment rights

Members of UUP's Veterans Affairs Committee learned how the law protects the employment rights of returning veterans.

Barry Morgan, director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service in Albany, delivered a presentation during the DA on the rules employers must follow under the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

"The law is written with a slant toward the veteran," Morgan said. He said the law protects union leaders from retaliation by their employer if they assist members who are trying to exercise their USERRA rights.

Morgan's appearance followed the approval of a resolution at the Winter 2009 DA that called upon UUP to work with SUNY and NYSUT to ensure that employees leaving and returning from military service are subject to the same rights under USERRA. Delegates had questioned whether campuses uniformly apply the law.

-- Donald Feldstein