**UUP Veterans Affairs Committee Notes at DA October 4, 2013**

*Attendance:*

Gina Doty Ray Gleason Cliff DaVis

David Scholl Mike Knee Kathy Sotherton

Tom Hogle Richard Kelder (guest) Bob Kasprak

Roosevelt Wardlaw Stuart L’Hommedieu Niza Cardona

Ed Hines

*\*\*I misplaced my attendance sheet, sorry*

1. Regalia Cords worn for veterans graduating, red/white/blue costs $1.35 each (Tom Hogle): Morrisville Community College uses these cords to recognize students that are veterans and also employees working graduation who are veterans. Tom showed us photo with the cords worn during graduation. Also Syracuse and Cayuga campuses do this at their graduations. We would like to start this trend.

--Idea: use one of the photos that Tom gave me to use in our article.

2. Task Force for Hostile Workplace Committee: This topic was not on our agenda so there was no prior knowledge for discussion. Richard Kelder from the Hostile Workplace Committee came and spoke to our committee about a veteran experiencing depression and PTSD and the negative outcome occurred for all those involved including suicide of the veteran. Richard wanted our committee to be aware of this story and see if we could work somehow with the Hostile Workplace committee. Is there something we as a committee can do? We need to discuss at a later time. Gina is curious to find out what does our campus and others already have for campus policies on violence. How do other campuses handle issues of this magnitude and does SUNY System Administration have any guidance on this?

\*\*Gina spoke with Eileen Landy on the phone on 10/10/13 about the information we received Richard Kelder. She did not hear the full story and did not fill in any information Gina was missing.

3. Veterans Day parade November 2013 Wreath cost $209.95: A motion to approve this expense was made by David Scholl and 2nd Cliff DaVis and all approved. Bob Kasprak will get this wreath purchase set-up. Thanks Bob for doing this for the committee every year and attending the parade and bringing us great photos of the parade.

4. Where can vets and families get information on the Health Care Law? Go to [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll) calling 1877-222--8387 or visit local VA health care facility.

--www.nasffa.com web page after Oct 1 there is no Tuition Assistance for veterans due to the federal budget was not passed.

 --- [www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\_book](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book)

5. Vet Committee members asked questions: UUP Members who Deploy on Military Duty –what to know before leaving and returning:

a. The member could call UUP benefits directly to ensure that things are being handled right.

b. Have written procedures to follow when you are being deployed and coming back. We should look into having a series of lists in our “The Voice” newsletter. Gina will contact Niza Cardona at SUNY New Paltz cardonan@newpaltz.edu about a list of things to create a newsletter article.

6. Mike Zweig came to our meeting again to expand on information on helping our veterans: Mike attended our May 2013 meeting to talk about positive initiatives to help military members. He is active on the US Labor Against the War committee and this committee is doing many things to help veterans.

a. Izzy Rodriguez at SUNY Stonybrook is very involved with veteran employees and student vets too. There are campus offices for vets to help them know their benefits for both students and employees.

b. Ideas to get the word out: Try to get collaboration between UUP and these offices to identify who are the vets that are employees. Every 2 weeks have an announcement with useful information. This is what Mike’s campus does to help vets know certain things to help them.

c. Izzy is trying to get student vets and UUP member vets to connect in a mentoring process so they don't feel so lost on a college campus. He is also working to get a lounge for the student veterans at his campus to have a place to meet and network.

d. Another way to find out who the students that are veterans are is start with Admissions, is there a way to find out who is the vet?

e. Another idea is to put out an article out in “The Voice” asking for vets to contact a specific person if they have an issue that relates to their work as a vet. What should be in an announcement or what should be something that vets would like to read about within their own campus newsletter? Ray Gleason brought up the idea to create a boiler plate of information that campus chapters web pages want to have for information. Ray also suggested that we give him a few lines of what we’d like the UUP Executive Board to know about what we are accomplishing and what we need from them to obtain our goals. At this time Ray is on the board and is our liaison.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. was made by Cliff D. and 2nd by Kathleen S. all approved.

*Meeting notes taken by Gina Doty*

*Edits Welcome*