**UUP Veterans Affairs Committee May 2, 2014**

**10:30 am**

Attending: Bill Borgstede, Gina Doty, Justin Culkowski, Ray Gleason, Tom Hogle, Mike Knee, Norman Payne, David Scholl, John Oldfield, Bob Kasprak, Kathy Sotherden, Rob Trimarchi

1. Lobby day: Rob Trimarchi came to speak on a variety of topics that involve veterans. There is a bill in the legislature introduced by Senator Larkin to create members of ERS and TRS pension fund to the buyback service in times peace, not just conflict. 20% are in this fund. Working on the TIAA CREF and slowly chipping away at it.

Want to add 3 yrs of service credit. The union PEF is working on this also.

1. May 20 is the Veteran's lobby day in the morning in Albany for senate bill 4714A and Assembly bill 6947A. If you are interested in attending let Rob know. If you need to stay the night, let him know that ahead of time.
2. If you want to visit your local legislators, Rob will give you the talking points as will be used on lobby day. Make sure you use the bill # when you speak to them.
3. Make sure you support the school budget with your vote that same day too.
4. Another idea is to send a letter to the legislators using the talking points you were given.

2. Wounded Warriors Lacrosse team: SUNY Morrisville team used our UUP $100 donation to promote a player at this game and around $5000 was raised at this event for Wounded Warrior. Tom has a photo forthcoming. Tom thanked the UUP Executive Board and the Chapter Presidents/Vice Presidents who were receptive to Tom's presentation on this event.

3. Important change with Donated Money: Starting spring 2014 and from now on, the Wounded Warrior donation monies at the UUP delegate assemblies collected will go to the state UUP office while at the DA so they can mail it to Wounded Warriors. Two committee members should count the total amount so that Gina and/or Bill has the amount number for their records before the money is given to Tina George in the UUP office at the hotel or her applicable colleague. This change is for audit reasons. In the past a committee member was mailing a personal check for the total collected. Note: We need to obtain a receipt booklet from Tina George for people who donate who would like a receipt for this nonprofit donation.

4. Veterans Awareness at our Campuses Discussed: Justin C brought up Veterans Awareness on our campuses in November due to Veterans Day. He wanted to know what other campuses do. We discussed the idea of having a clothing pin or something for the week of Veterans Day for people to wear. If your campus does choose to do something like this, make sure others know it is sponsored by your UUP if that is applicable.

5. Resolutions in the works with Mike Zweig: Find out what his current resolution is and see if we would want to piggy back on it. We need to talk to him beforehand.

a. One idea Norm Payne brought up is a resolution to get more money to care for the medical care of vets returning. Our returning veterans need adequate healthcare that is for physical and/or psychological challenges. Gina will get in touch with Mike on his resolution and see if we could combine to include it to say that women and men have served for our country and where is the federal government monies to support airman, soldiers, and brothers in war.

6. Recent News: We discussed the recent news about the director of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Arizona is in the hot seat due to the recent media news that there were veterans who died that were on a wait list for a doctor’s appointment. About 130 people were very ill and were on a secret list and could not get an appointment.

The meeting adjourned around Noon.