**UUP Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting**

Saratoga Springs Delegate Assembly

 April 17, 15 meeting

*Attendance:* Tommie Babbs, William Borgstede\*, Justin Culkowski, Gina Doty\*, Clifford DaVis, Tom Hogle, Mike Knee, Stuart L’Hommedieu, Norman Payne, Dave Scholl, Kathy Southerton, Ray Gleason

*Note: The January 2015 Delegate Assembly in Albany ended a day early due to a snow storm, so this committee could not meet.*

1. Legislative Action/Lobby Day May 19th affecting Veterans: Rob Trimarchi came and talked about Bill A04313A. We discussed this Legislative Bill A04313A that Governor Cuomo vetoed two days before Veterans Day 2014 preventing the three years buy-back of service-- though the Assembly and Senate had passed it. There is a lobby day on May 19th and other dates to follow if anyone wants to talk with legislators about this bill. Call 1-800-342-4206 for more information. If there is enough interest for the date, a bus will be arranged for transportation. Our veterans committee plans to start writing a UUP resolution concerning this vetoed bill so that the bill will also include ORP and not only TRS retirement systems. Tom H. mentioned that in the past this topic was brought up and dropped due to budget crisis when President Phil Smith was in office. If you have questions about this bill, contact Rob.
2. Our “Mission/Charge” as a Committee: We discussed the charge written long ago for this committee which is at the top of our website and we decided on specific changes at this meeting Gina will make the changes from this discussion and send out to all members for further editing. Gina will also ask Eileen Landy about the final change and how to make it official.
3. Discussed Resolutions: Norm P. brought up the problems veteran employees in the U.S. Postal Service are dealing with and the desire to have a resolution from this committee at a future DA showing our support for these veterans from UUP. We also discussed writing a resolution on the bill A04313A to not just cover TRS retirement but ORP also (if you are in TIAA-Cref or equivalent instead of the state system called TRS). The goal is this August these two resolutions will be developed by members in this committee and submitted so we have time to make any revisions.
* There is not a resolution group to assist in writing a resolution, but Ray Gleason suggested we send our resolution to Eileen Landy to review at executive board.
* Reminder: we can have a committee “On line meeting/conference call anytime”.
* Idea: Use Google drive to put our documents as we all work on them together.
1. Other Veteran Organizations: Norm P. spoke about a private website he has found very useful called <http://www.veteranaid.org/>
* In this web link, in the search section type in chapter 31 and you will see benefits for education. Norm is finding more benefits buried that are here.
1. Veterans Regalia Cords: We discussed our requesting another $500 from the UUP statewide executive board to purchase more cords for the May graduation commencements for our veterans UUP members to wear. William will speak to Eileen Landy on how to request this. After this request, chapters wishing to buy these cords can contact Gina for company information in New Jersey.
* Note: This has moved through and approved. The last week of April 100 more cords were ordered by Lynn Alderman, Pres Kowal’s secretary and an email will be sent out to all chapter presidents if they want these cords mailed to their campus. This arrangement is easy and works. Thanks Bill for making this happen!
1. Campus Best Practices for Veterans: Tommie Babbs talked about how a recent workshop on sexual violence/assault was well attended and people want more information. Tom Hogle at the Veteran Friendly campus SUNY Morrisville said they have a lounge/meeting area for veterans to network. Also he said students get parking at a reduced rate.
2. Disabilities, Rights, and Concerns Committee: Gina attended this committee’s January 2015 meeting and found it very helpful and insightful. They solicit our collaborating with them since many veteran UUP members may have disabilities which are not addressed correctly at their campus. This is a future topic to discuss later.
3. Adding a website to our Resources Page: An informational website on Mesothelioma emailed Gina asking if their website could be added to our resources list. We discussed this and approved this action. Mike Knee will add it for us. Thanks Mike for making our website useful!

A motion to end our meeting was made by Stuart and 2nd by William and all approved at 3:00 p.m.

*Note: $115 collected at this DA for Wounded Warrior. Total since 2013 collected is $1143.00*

*Gina Doty took the notes for this meeting*

*Edits welcome*