Minutes

The UUP Veterans Committee

May 5, 2017

Members in attendance: William Borgstede and Justin Culkowski: Co-Chairs of the Committee, Ray Gleason-Liaison to the UUP Executive Committee, Tom Hogle, Michael Knee, Edward Hines, David Scholl, and Yvette Gedeon-UUP staff.

The meeting was called to order at the Desmond Hotel in Albany at 11:07 a.m. by Co-Chair J. Culkowski. The minutes of the January Meeting were reviewed and W. Borgstede moved for their approval, seconded by M. Knee. They were accepted as written and are available on the website: http://uuphost.org/vets/

 Old Business:

a. It appears that trying to get an ORP retirement benefit like the one for ERS will be very difficult. There is no news on this topic.

b. The current membership list was distributed and some potential new members noted.

c. The "Charge" to the Committee was read and reviewed. Co-Chairs Culkowski and Borgstede indicated UUP President Kowal's admonition to "not simply meet and talk among ourselves, but to carry out the ambitious goal of getting agency fee payers to join UUP and to get members energized about UUP." They noted Kowal's view that the new Supreme Court members could make it difficult for public unions, to say the least.

d. J. Culkowski shared copies of the Veterans Committee article that appeared in the "Voice."

e. J. Culkowski indicated that besides the article in the "Voice", he had sent messages to John Marino and Fred Kowal, asking LRS and Chapter Presidents, respectively, to send him any issues currently faced by veterans needing addressing by UUP. He indicated he had not received any responses from these groups.

f. It was noted our fundraising to date was over $1,000 for Fisher House and Disabled American Veterans.

New Business:

a. Staffing was needed at the Veterans Table to raise funds for D.A.V. Ed Hines and David Scholl each brought a bottle of wine to enhance our raffle offerings. J. Culkowski brought some chocolates and the Benefit Trust Fund had donated two baskets with a bottle of wine in each to raffle off from the Veterans Committee. (Due to the small turnout of members of the Veterans Committee and the timing of the meeting, one and one half hour of "table time" was missed which would hurt the fundraising efforts.)

b. Benefits for veterans was discussed and D. Scholl noted that Lowes Home Improvement stores was changing its method for giving veterans a discount. The new process can be found on the Lowes website. Mike Knee had put some benefits noted on the website and all agreed that simply asking businesses if there are any discounts was worth trying.

c. How to activate members etc. was discussed. Ray Gleason noted there may be $3,000 available in the UUP budget for the Committee. This would be the first budget as the Committee gained "standing" status. Ray expounded about how any projects should reflect back on UUP and serve as positive publicity for the Committee and UUP. Brainstorming followed with the following ideas generated:

1. D. Scholl and W. Borgstede will contact the Syracuse D.A.V. where the funds are going from this DA and see if a publicity photo can be taken and then put into a local paper and/or the "Voice" .

2. Y. Gedeon thought some campuses might establish veterans lounges for students and staff alike.

3. Hats/shirts could be sent to UUP veterans and worn on a specific day of the month. D. Scholl indicated at Upstate Medical, Fridays veterans are urged to wear red. T. Hogle liked the idea of UUP Veteran hats

4. Chapter Presidents could find out who the veterans are on campus so that some recognition by UUP Veterans Committee could be accomplished.

More ideas are to be generated when the budget figure is confirmed and process for awarding funds is ascertained..

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Culkowski, Co-Chair