

Minutes

The UUP Veterans Committee

Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY

April 12, 2024

Members in attendance: Justin Culkowski and Brittany Profit-Rheinwald, Co-Chairs of the Committee; Bill Borgstede, Stu L'Hommedieu, Mike Knee, Michael Canders, Kevin Moriarty, Chuck Spector, Michael Littman, Patrick Doyle, William Giangara (Canders and Giangara are currently "guests" but wish to join the Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 5:13 p.m. by J. Culkowski.

The minutes from the October meeting were missing but Stu L. indicated he had taken some notes so he will research his papers and see if he has minutes. If so, he will forward to Mike Knee and/or J. Culkowski.

Lisa Marie Anselmi was not present due to a conflict so no Executive Committee Liaison report was presented.

Members introduced themselves and shared why they are on the committee. Reasons varied but support of veterans was generally a key reason for participation on the committee.

A budget report indicated a yearly budget of \$5,500 with expenses for DA travel of \$1603.67; the NY City Veterans Day wreath of \$200; Veteran Committee shirts: \$967.22; and lanyards: \$465.00 for a balance of \$2,264.11. A brief discussion followed about meetings with an informal proposal to hold a virtual meeting before the fall DA to get some members who cannot attend involved.

Brittany and Justin reported no veteran employee issues per UUP President, Fred Kowal. Justin reminded everyone that our number one priority is protecting our veteran employees in terms of their rights as veterans and, if called to active duty, the guarantee of their jobs upon returning.

Bill Borgstede reported a very good fund raising raffle of \$217.00 for Fisher House. Also he noted there were eight gifts handed out to the winners of the raffle. Thanks to all who helped sell tickets and who brought gifts to raffle.

Mike Knee has begun to update the website with minutes of past meetings, and updated wording of our mission as a committee. This work will continue and perhaps we can get veterans to submit photos of themselves when they were in uniform. J Culkowski will see about this via UUP public relations.

The loss of Dr. Tom Hogle has left a void in our committee in many ways. Tom was in charge of the distribution of honor cords used at Commencement activities so Jeri O'Bryan Losee has volunteered to do this as she indicated she had started this project at Morrisville many years ago. K. Moriarty indicated

a willingness to help but Jeri's position with UUP headquarters puts her in a perfect position to take on this task. Thanks to Jeri.

The Veterans Day wreath project was accomplished this past November and even though no one from UUP could attend, K. Moriarty shared his past experiences with the NY City parade and ceremony where our wreath is on display. Well worth the effort to honor veterans and to share the UUP name.

Dr. J. Thomas Hogle passed away. Justin shared Tom's obituary and praised Tom for his military service, extraordinary life, and service to UUP. The question arose as to how to honor him. The UUP scholarship program has a "buy a brick" program where an inscription is made on wooden bricks that are mounted on a wall at UUP headquarters for a minimum donation of \$100. Committee members donated \$130 which will be forwarded to the Scholarship Committee. The inscription will be "In honor of Dr. J. Thomas Hogle; U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran.

Brittany gave a report about the Committee Chairs meeting on Thursday night that she and Bill B. had attended. The key take-away is that committees may be organized together if their missions overlap. She also had the lanyards available for the committee which she had designed and had produced for us and other UUP veterans.

J. Culkowski was approached by a mesothelioma law firm asking if they could be listed on our website. After discussion, Stu L. summed it up by saying that if we list this law firm, we are implying a recommendation by UUP and we cannot do that. Therefore, J. Culkowski will notify the firm we are not able to list them.

In items from the membership: several members indicated how their campus celebrates veterans. Items included a 5K race, priority registration rights for veterans, and even special parking privileges as well as veteran lounges.

William Giangara shared that in New York State, if your driver's license has "Veteran" on it, admission to all State Parks is free seven days a week! This will be a new item listed on the website.

It was a very upbeat meeting and ended at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Culkowski

Co-Chair, UUP Veterans Committee