

Veterans Committee Report 2021

June 2021

1. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, UUP did not have in-person Delegate Assemblies this past year so our committee did not meet. The concept of a virtual meeting was considered but not acted upon, in part, because a survey of committee members did not identify any pressing issues worthy of a meeting.
2. Our main charge is to protect the rights of UUP members who are veterans. As was done in years past, a request was made to Chapter Presidents and Labor Relations Specialists to indicate if there were any issues affecting veterans. Good news: no issues were indicated.
3. The NY City Veterans Parade in November was cancelled, so the UUP Veterans Committee did not order a UUP wreath for the ceremony preceding the parade. Another victim of COVID.
4. Honor Cords were once again offered to UUP veterans participating in commencement activities. Due to COVID, ceremonies were muted on many campuses, but the cords were offered via President Kowal to Chapter presidents. I also sent a brief article to the "Voice" concerning the honor cords and I believe this was printed in "UUP Connect" the online communication. Dr. Tom Hogle of SUNY Morrisville handled the distribution of the honor cords.
5. Similarly, I informed Karen Mattison and Mike Lisi of the "Voice" about an employee at Environmental Science and Forestry, Lizette Rivera, who is a veteran and who is in charge of a new veteran effort on that campus. I nominated Lizette to join our committee this coming academic year. The "Voice" staff indicated to me that they will work on an article about her and her work. Again, it is my understanding this was written and published in the online communication, but I did not see it personally.
6. There was no fundraising this year for Fisher House as there was not an in-person DA where we raise the funds. More than one committee member told me they were anxious to meet again at the DA October 15-16, in Rochester where we will, indeed, raise charitable funds.
7. Thanks are extended to the staff at UUP for their support of our efforts. Special thanks to Jeri O'Bryan-Losee, Fred Kowal, and Lynn Alderman. We look forward to a more normal schedule this coming academic year.

Justin Culkowski, Co-chair, UUP Veterans Committee