

# SUNY ORANGE VETERANS CLUB



Volume 2/ Issue 1

## MISSION

We are a club on campus that has a unique niche. We are a club founded by veterans who want to create awareness to all on campus, to include other veterans (all generations), current military, and anyone who supports our military past, present, and future.

The club and SUNY Orange are working together to enhance the school's "Military Friendly" status for its non-traditional student body population.

## HELLO EVERYONE!!

Hello all! This semester has had quite the wintery start, but I hope everyone is settled into their classes nicely. Since the end of Fall Semester, SUNY Orange and the Veterans Club have been diligently working together to get several things working for you. This Spring Semester looks to be an exciting one! We have an Orange County community event, "Stand Up for Veterans," happening 2 May 2015; a Veteran Resource Center & Lounge is ready and open; and a VA Liaison to be located on campus weekly for appointments. Read through the newsletter to get an update on the new happenings around your school.

## What's in the works for our veterans on campus?

SUNY Orange has implemented a Veterans Task Force which includes three college faculty and four student veterans to come up with ideas on how the college can benefit our non-traditional student body, and then figure out how to get those ideas implemented. Gerianne Brusati, Assoc. VP for Enrollment Management; Mary Roth, Coordinator of Alumni Relations; Russell Hammond, Associate VP for Resource Development; and Suzanne Baumann, Assistant Director of Academic Advising, have worked together with members of the Veterans Club to have a Veterans Resource Center and Lounge put on campus, as well as getting resources from the Veterans Affairs (VA) to be on campus on a regular schedule.

## SPRING SEMESTER HAPPENINGS

Some of the upcoming events to look forward to are:

**Veterans Club hosting a Pizza Party** – Tuesday, 17 March, from 1100 – 1200 in the fireside lounge on the first floor of the Shepard Student Center building (by the old Bursar Office). Bring a friend, military or not, and see what the club is all about in person.

**"Stand Up" Event** – 2 May 2015 from 1000 – 1800. The college will be hosting an event to include resources and activities centered for veterans and families of the community.





Rib Rally at Texas Roadhouse, Middletown, NY

## Contact Us

### **SUNY Orange Veterans Club**

veteransclub.sunyorange@gmail.com

Shane Laden – President

Lawrence Freedom – Vice President

Wendy Cavanaugh – Treasurer

Lawrence Freedom – Secretary

(upcoming events continued)

**Veterans Resource Center & Lounge** – It's here!! Located in the downstairs of the Shepard Student Center building, off of the dining area of the cafeteria.

**VA Representative** – from 0900-1530. First 3 Wednesdays of the month on Middletown campus, last Wednesday of the month on Newburgh campus. In the Wellness Center of each campus, to host tele-communications resource for veteran's VA appointments.

**Veterans Club Meetings** – all semester long. Meets every Tuesday from 1100-1200 in the library, room 130.

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*"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave"*

*– Patrick Henry*

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### **'STAND UP FOR VETERANS' EVENT**

Come 2 May 2015, from 1000 to 1800, SUNY Orange Middletown Campus will be hosting a community event to benefit our veterans. There will be a plethora of resources, speakers, activities, food, and entertainment available. It's going to be a day for veterans, current military, and dependents to spend the day together surrounded by resources to aid in transitioning, medical

concerns, career seeking, and many other challenges that a veteran might be facing these days. Some of the events for that day are going to include a mobile VA clinic to address minor issues such as physicals, eye exams, and dental screenings; speakers from the local government and State Representatives; a hiring fair, bringing in employers from all over our area; free gear and much, much more. More information will be sent out as the date draws near, but clear your schedule that day so you won't miss out.

### **VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER & LOUNGE**

We have been given a room to use as a central hub for veterans to be able to come together and have as a space to find information, other veterans to talk to if needed, and a quiet place to do some homework or studying. It's still in the process of being stocked up completely, but we have a couch, coffee machine, desk, and veterans are bringing in books and such to stock the room for other veterans. It is located in the downstairs of the Shepard Student Center building, just off of the cafeteria dining area. It has signs posted on the doors, so feel free to stop by and meet other veterans or just escape the hustle and bustle of college campus life.

### **IN THE WORKS....**

We have a few more exciting things that are still in the works for us all.

The VA Representative will be working in the Wellness Center once a week. The purpose is so we can avoid the mostly long haul to Castle Point VA for some basic appointments. Once we have a definite schedule we can let you all know. It's going to be an amazing resource to have at our fingertips, but, we need to all use it. Supply meets demand.

(In the works continued)

There are ideas being tested in small groups to adjust the admissions process for veterans to make it easier and less stressful. We almost all have had questions about one aspect of admissions or another, so the school is working on solutions to our concerns. Please keep an eye on your student emails to see updated information on the new processes to be implemented.

## APPLYING FOR GRADUATION

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

If you are applying for graduation, there are a few things you should know. As a veteran, you can receive a stole to wear while you walk at graduation FOR FREE. You just need to put on your application for graduation that you will be attending the commencement ceremony, then contact the Student Activities, 845-341-4015, by 10 April to reserve a stole. After that, you will be fitted with a stole that will state your status as a veteran, and the branch of military you served at graduation rehearsal. If you have any questions on how to complete this process, or would like more information on the stoles, you can email the club at: [veteransclub\\_sunyorange@gmail.com](mailto:veteransclub_sunyorange@gmail.com), or contact Steve Harpst, Director of Student Services, at 845-341-4230 or [steve.harpst@sunyorange.edu](mailto:steve.harpst@sunyorange.edu).



## VA LIAISON TO BE ON CAMPUS WEEKLY

The VA Liaison will be working in the Wellness Center once a week. The purpose is so we can avoid the long haul to Castle Point VA for some basic appointments. The schedule as it stands now is: first three Wednesdays of the month on the Middletown campus, and the last Wednesday of the month on the Newburgh campus; both campuses from 0900-1530 on their days. It's going to be an amazing resource to have at our fingertips, but, we need to all use it. **Supply meets demand.**

## VETS4VETS

This is the peer to peer mentoring program that the college has had, but is in the process of revamping it and making it more accessible. You do not need to be a new student to SUNY Orange to apply to be a part of the program. Its purpose is to get a veteran who wishes to be a mentor paired up with a veteran who would like a mentor. These mentors are there to answer questions about the college, college life, college campus; scheduling; common veteran benefit questions; be available if another veteran just would like someone to talk to about engaging in a college atmosphere; or just as a safety net to have a name and contact information for a fellow veteran in times of need. We all know that it's usually another veteran or military member who will be able to understand whatever it is we are going through, so sign up today so you can connect with another veteran on campus who feels the same way.

Connect with another SUNY Orange Veteran using this link:

<http://sunyorange.edu/machform/view.php?id=109435>

## FOR VETS, BY VETS....

We are a work in progress, both the club and the college. But with everyone lending a hand, an idea, or just a presence, we can take this college to the level we all hope it to be, and create a satisfying experience for all us “non-traditional” students.

### **Q: How can you help us?**

A: The first thing to do is to communicate with us. We need your ideas and inputs so we can get a wide range of issues that all of our student population is facing here on campus. Secondly, if at all possible, come to our meetings so you can see your ideas in action. We meet every Tuesday from 1100-1200, first floor of the Library, in Room 130. If you're a night student, please give us your contact information so we can get the meeting briefs to you, so you can stay informed.

### **Q: How do you contact us?**

A: Easy, you can email us at: [veteransclub.sunyorange@gmail.com](mailto:veteransclub.sunyorange@gmail.com) or come to a meeting and introduce yourself.

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