



Vets Grapevine



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SSFC Cuts Vets for Vets' Funding

By Courtney Pfad

On Sept. 8, Vets for Vets was denied funding eligibility by the Student Services Finance Committee. The committee determined that Vets for Vets did not adequately meet their strict criteria for funding eligibility.

The SSFC is responsible for doling out the segregated fees that are paid by all students at the beginning of each semester. These fees come together to generate a fund known as the General Student Services Fund and is used to fund services across campus.

The committee established new eligibility criteria this past summer. Therefore, starting this year, they have begun to limit funding to applicants. In order to be eligible, a group's direct service must be the primary focus of the group and aimed at reaching all university students.

The new criteria shrinks the number of groups that fit the description of "money deserving" from the General Student Services Fund. Engineers Without Borders, the Legal Information Center, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council and Collegians for a Constructive Tomorrow were also denied funding this year.

Most SSFC members agreed that Vets for Vets provides two distinct services, counseling to student veterans and outreach to raise awareness of the veterans' experience. There was disagreement, however, between members as to whether their services followed the criteria needed to receive funding.

The motion to grant eligibility failed on a 3-3 tie vote. "It's too bad that student government feels it cannot continue supporting returning veterans, especially right now when the need is the greatest," Vets for Vets benefit specialist Chuck Goranson said. "It is true that veterans make up only a small portion of the student body. Of the 23 campuses in the UW system, Madison has, by far, the lowest percentage of students who are veterans. This decision will probably make that number even lower."

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The New Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Explained

By Gerald Kapinos

Next fall, the highly anticipated "Post 9-11 GI Bill" or Chapter 33, will take effect. So far, details are plagued with much misinformation. To date, this is what we believe, the VA will entail:

- Eligibility criteria is based any service after September 10, 2001.
- Free tuition up to the cost of the most expensive public school in the state, i.e. UW-Madison.
- A monthly allowance based on military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) of an E-5 with dependents at the Zip Code of the veteran's school.
- A "book allowance" up to \$1,000 per year, pro-rated by semester.

See New GI Bill, Page 2

Check out our new website at:



www.uwvetsforvets.org

New GI Bill continued

- Veterans are eligible for Chapter 33 for 15 years after their last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.
- If a veteran is eligible for Chapter 33, and wishes to switch from their current program, they may on August 1, 2009.

NOTE: this is an irrevocable decision, which means veterans cannot switch back to their original program from which they originally enrolled in.

Regular active duty Wisconsin veterans at UW-Madison will receive roughly the same amount of benefit. For instance, during the current 8 ½ month school year (2008-2009), regular active duty Wisconsin veterans receive a total monthly allowance of \$11,228. Under Chapter 33 or the new GI Bill, UW-Madison student veterans will receive free tuition, \$1000 annual book allowance, plus \$10,752 total monthly allowance based on Madison’s BAH rate, assuming a 5% cost of living increase.

Activated reservists or National Guardsmen with total active duty service of less than 36 months, will have a reduced benefit, reference the table to the right. For example a typical National Guard veteran at UW-Madison who served 15 months of total active duty service is annually eligible for \$4312 for tuition, \$600 for books, and approximately \$6736 in total monthly allowances.

Veterans hope the Wisconsin Legislature will modify the WI GI Bill to account for and pay the difference. Veterans may still receive their College Fund and reserve kickers, but veterans will not get the \$150/mo from the “\$600 buy up” program. If you have any questions, please stop by the Vets for Vets office.

| Member serves: | Percentage of Maximun Benefit Payable |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| At least 36 months | 100 |
| At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability | 100 |
| At least 30 months, but less than 36 months | 90 |
| At least 24 months, but less than 30 months | 80 |
| At least 18 months, but less than 24 months | 70 |
| At least 12 months, but less than 18 months | 60 |
| At least 06 months, but less than 12 months | 50 |
| At least 90 days, but less than 06 months | 40 |

Department of Veteran Affairs

Kapinos, Gerald

New Vets for Vets staff member

Name: Gerald Kapinos

Hometown: Sun Prairie, WI

Military experience: A Security Forces Staff Sergeant with 6 years in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Nellis AFB and USAF Academy.

OEF/OIF/HOA-2003
OIF-2006/2007

Education: Earned an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice and currently working towards a B.A. in History.

Hobbies: Married



Gerald Kapinos

FROM THE OFFICE OF
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Dreher, Dan

New Vets for Vets Staff Member

Name: Dan Dreher

Hometown: Chippewa Falls, WI

Military experience: An Aviation Structural Mechanic (Egress) 2nd Class, VFA-195, CAG 5; U.S. Navy.

NAF Atsugi, Japan-5 years
OEF-2001
OIF-2003

Education: Junior studying for a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

Hobbies: Ice Hockey!



Dan Dreher

FROM THE OFFICE OF
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

GI Bill Increases

This year on October 1st, the Federal GI Bill monthly base allowances increased about 4% for Chapter 1606 veterans and Chapter 35 dependents. Chapter 30 regular active duty veterans' and Chapter 1607 activated Guard/Reserve veterans' already increased this year on August 1st.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Chapter 30 for regular active duty veterans* | \$1321.00 |
| Dependants of deceased or fully disabled veterans** | \$915.00 |
| Chapter 1606 for Guard/Reserve** | \$329.00 |
| Chapter 1607 for activated Guard/Reserve | |
| 90 days of active duty* | \$528.40 |
| 1 year of active duty* | \$792.60 |
| 2+ years of active duty* | \$1056.80 |

*Increase effective August 1, 2008
**Increase effective October 1, 2008

Vets Grapevine

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This is the Final Grapevine...

By Gerald Kapinos

After 36 years, the University of Wisconsin-Madison will no longer assist Vets for Vets in distributing the Grapevine to student veterans. As a result, Vets for Vets is catapulting into the 21st century by launching a new website. This new site still contains benefit information that is vital to all student veterans, but it also offers many new features including an events calendar, interactive messaging with other student vets and a chance for you to determine how you would like to receive the Grapevine. Visit www.uwvetsforvets.org to register!

Vets for Vets will continue producing the Grapevine especially since it has a long standing tradition of reporting vital information for student veterans. Registering on this new site allows student veterans the option to receive the Grapevine through the mail or electronically. For those that chose their delivery method to be electronically

they will receive the newsletter much faster. Currently, the Grapevine takes approximately 3 weeks from final copy to mailboxes. The electronic version will be available immediately upon finalization.

Even though the new website and organization seems to be geared for student veterans, anyone is welcome to join, including non-veterans and alumni. Students are encouraged to create a profile and answer a few biographical questions. This will allow Vets for Vets to disseminate information concerning benefits and upcoming events more rapidly. Visit www.uwvetsforvets.org to register!

VfV Funding Cut continued

After receiving the verdict, the members of Vets for Vets decided not to appeal the decision of the committee. The organization determined that it would be more beneficial to seek funding by applying for event, travel and operation grants through the General Student Services Fund for the next fiscal year. Applying for eligibility again in the future isn't completely ruled out as an option, but at least the grants give VfV sufficient time to reanalyze their focus while maintaining their support to student veterans on campus.

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