



Binghamton PEF Division 399
OTDA – DDD

Glendale Technology Park–Bldg 16 · Endicott, NY 13761-9009
Leader – Kathy D’Arminio 607-741-4170
Assistant Leader – Richard Fletcher 607-741-4663
Fax: 866-625-5484

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President Roger Benson
Public Employees Federation
1168-70 Troy Schenectady Road
PO Box 12414
Albany, New York 12212-2414

Dear President Benson:

Since becoming the chair of the region 5 veterans committee I have been attempting to identify issues that are important to the veteran of this region and PEF. I have been contacted by a number of the regions veterans who feel disenfranchised by there union.

PEF has passed a convention resolution opposing the current war. But PEF has passed no resolutions specifically supporting our member who are citizen soldiers. Our veterans feel forgotten by there union.

I propose that PEF identify its veterans who are deployed. Please see my suggestions below:

- Create a network of support for the deployed member and there family. This should include mailing PEF information and a letter of support from the statewide veterans chair and president of PEF to the deployed member and family.
- Providing the member and family with contact numbers for PEF representatives. Have the member’s council leader, executive board member, regional coordinator, labor representative and veterans chair call the deployed members family monthly.
- Have regional coordinator and regional veterans chair develop a support plan for the member and family. This could include care packages, assisting family with member’s employment issues, pay health etc, and assist in establishing contact with other organizations.

As a union we need to show leadership and fairness and represent all of our members.

Sincerely,

Richard Fletcher
Richard Fletcher
Region 5 Veterans Chair

cc Vice President Ken Brynien
Vice President Joe Fox
David Krobe – Veterans Chair
Mary Twitchell – Region 5 Chair