



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

2 Empire State Plaza
17th Floor
Albany, New York 12223-1551

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Eric J. Hesse
Director

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 6, 2014

PARTICIPANTS:

Eric Hesse
Joel Evans
Jordanna Mallach
Mary Quay
Curt Williamson
Leroy Archible
Ned Foote
Bartley Costello
Thomas Hoare
Bryan Mackey
Michelle Lindsay

Director Hesse opened the VAC meeting thanking everyone for their participation. He then opened the meeting for discussion and suggestions.

Director's questions:

Would it be worthwhile for the Commission to meet more often?

What issues should go forward?

Questions on what the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs is doing?

Ned Foote stated he has been a Commission member for over two years and he has not seen anything accomplished. Ned stated he has no idea what the Commission is suppose to do and he is not willing to serve on this Commission if there are not responsibilities to the Commission.

Director Hesse said no one has ever asked about this Commission nor what the Commission is doing.

He asked the members the following:
Should we maintain the Commission?
Start all over with new Commission members?
How should the Commission move forward?

The Director stated he wants ideas to move the Commission forward, goals and objectives. ***He also stated that he will provide the members of where he thinks this Commission should go.***

Members of the Commission asked what has the Commission done for homelessness? One-Stop Shop was mentioned which is the Governor's concept where there is no wrong door.

With so many Veterans organizations and Veterans services it becomes harder to find the appropriate one either public or private.

It was noted there is a "211" number that can direct Veterans. This is connected with the United Way organization. This information is an example of how the Commission can assist with sharing of information to be distributed. ***Costello will forward a "fact sheet" to each member.***

Communication is lacking. Director Hesse stated that this is a two way street.

Leroy Archible mentioned women Veterans and their issues and the home loan guarantee. Director said that we are all Veterans, but some issues are just women related.

Thomas Hoare said he has not heard from the Commission since Acting Director Bill Kraus left.

Overall the Director said he will obtain the purpose of the Commission release that information to the members along with goals and objectives of the Commission. He will also reach out to the Governor's Appointments Office so that the vacancies on the Commission can be filled.

Director closed the meeting with again thanking the members for their participation and input.

Meeting adjourned 1:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Mary Quay