

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MAY 7, 2013

1. **Call to order:** Chair Bernard A. Corona called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Bernard A. Corona, Kirk Allison, May Anne Roczynski,  
J. Roger Pelletier, Guest Gregory K. Sims Jr.

Absent: Timothy Siggia, David Whalen

Excused Paul Barry, Vincent Parys

- 2: **Approval of minutes:** March & April not taken - Quorum not present
3. **Old Business:** Bernie Corona informed those present that flags will place on Veterans Graves on Saturday May 18, 2013. Volunteers should arrive Hillside Cemetery at 8 A.M. Also mentioned that the Memorial Day Parade in East Hartford is May 27, 2013.
4. **New Business:** Bernie Corona mentioned that if an emergency or sickness prevents a member from attending a meeting to please call him prior to the meeting.

Bernie also passed out information in writing on the following subjects military or veterans related.

**Define a Veteran:** This is a subject that the House Veterans Affairs Commission will try and pass symbolic legislation allowing retired National Guard and reserve personnel who never served on active duty to be official called "Veterans". The Pros and Cons were listed in the handout.

**Don't Ask, Don't Tel:** A policy against homosexuals dishonorably under the previous policy is under consideration to allow them eligibility for Connecticut benefits, including local property tax breaks, however, their federal benefits would have to be reinstated in order to become eligible for state and local benefits.

**VA Non Service-Related Care:** The Department of Veterans Affairs wants to change the way it calculates how much veterans are able to pay for extended care. They plan to use a different calculation method to determine whether veterans are able to cover their co-payments. This could require an increase in co-pay if and when approved.

**VA Claims Backlog:** Senior executives from the Veterans Benefits Administration will not receive and performance bonus awards for fiscal 2012 because of lingering problems with the veterans claims backlog. The short and long of it - about time.

Adjournment - 7:30 - next meeting June 3, 2013

Respectfully submitted  
Bernard A Corona Chairman