



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**DANIEL T. WEIST**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**CLAYTON E. UZELL**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**ROBERT SCHLOENDORN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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### MINUTES

**DATE:** January 2, 2013 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Frank Pocci, President  
Bob Potts, Vice President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Secretary  
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Frank Pocci, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- December 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – I played Santa for the VFW church group at Gateway Assisted Living.
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – I, along with Commissioner Baher, attended a Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service representing the Commission at the USS Cod.
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended a fundraiser for the VFW Dept. of Ohio Jr. Vice Cmdr., Bob Poole, held at Post 9520 in Brunswick.
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended a fundraiser for VFW member, Danny Plymesser, at Post 2533 Gilbert O'Neil West 150<sup>th</sup> Street.
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Cuyahoga County Past President's Christmas party at Parma VFW Post 1974. I played Santa and raised money for cancer.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended a VFW funeral service for Past Dept. Cmdr. Gary Gilgenbach at Walker Funeral Home in Toledo and took part in the last tribute.

- December 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC office Christmas party put on by the Commissioners for the office staff at Champps in Lyndhurst.
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended a VFW Post 7536 Christmas party held at the Community Center. The Past District 7 Commander's Association also attended. There were 65 people in attendance.
- December 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public Board meeting and the Level III Appeals hearings that followed.

#### Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both open public meetings of the Board and Level III Appeal hearings for the month of December.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Holiday luncheon at Champps Restaurant in Lyndhurst, Ohio.
- December 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW monthly meeting. The Policeman of the Year award ceremony took place.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council Winter Conference starting at 10:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 91. I presented the District financial reports as District Finance officer.
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – Commissioner Uzell and I attended the Pearl Harbor Ceremony held at the USS Cod.
- December 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I gave the membership report as First Vice Commander.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC staff Christmas party at Champps Restaurant.
- December 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District E-board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> District Christmas party, with our meal, provided and paid for by District Commander Leroy Brinkhoff.
- December 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I gave an updated membership report as First Vice Commander.

#### Upcoming Events for January 2013:

- 1) January 2<sup>nd</sup> – The American 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, Ohio. I will present the District financial reports as District Finance officer.
- 2) January 18-20<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Dept. of Ohio Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio.
- 3) January 24<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I will present an updated membership report.
- 4) January 28<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District E-board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, Ohio. I will present updated District financial reports as District Finance officer.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- I attended both open public meetings of the Board and Level III Appeal hearings for the month of December.

- December 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Holiday luncheon at Champps Restaurant in Lyndhurst, Ohio.
- The second week in December, I attended the VVA Chapter 249 Board meeting and the membership meeting that followed.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- December 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public Board meeting.
- I arranged for an AMVETS Honor Guard when I returned home from Italy.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adopt the revised and final 2013 Budget submission for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission based on tax assessment valuation provided to us on December 18, 2012.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The request from the USO for office space at the CCVSC is still pending and was tabled to the next open public meeting for discussion.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to cap the salary of the Executive Director at the present rate and to provide him with one additional week of vacation effective January 1, 2013.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept the following rotation of Commissioners as officers on the CCVSC Board for 2013:

President	Bob Potts (VVA)
Vice President	Clayton E. Uzell (VFW)
Secretary	Daniel T. Weist (DAV)

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the revised Guideline for Assistance (with Shoes & Clothing, Personal Hygiene & Diapers) dated April 7, 2010. During discussion, it was agreed to table the motion for further information. The motion and second was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the revised Guideline for Restrictive Assistance dated January 2, 2013 as submitted.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The Financial Assistance Application and Appeal Procedure policy was discussed. The Board decided that the First Time Assistance Policy should be incorporated into this policy. The matter was tabled to the next open public meeting for further discussion.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the revised Guideline for the Homeless Veterans' Population dated January 2, 2013 as submitted.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the revised Policy for Payment of Utility Bills dated January 2, 2013 as submitted.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to adopt Resolution 2013-01; a resolution annually adjusting employee mileage and per diem travel reimbursement rates in accordance with standard federal rates for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to conduct the following Board meetings for Year 2013 as follows:

- 1) Open public Board meetings – the first and third Wednesday of each month
- 2) Level III Appeal hearings – the second and fourth Wednesday of each month

Under discussion, it was decided to schedule the Board's outreach meetings during the months of April and October.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

President Pocci opened the floor to visitors for any comments.

Mick Panek

- USO office space at CCVSC
- Walmart as potential CCVSC vendor
- Homeless veterans
- Applicants for the VSO position

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:00 a.m.)

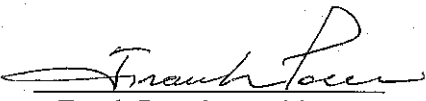
A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.


AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:38 a.m.)

Discussion took place on the 2014 Budget and employee pay scales. The Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

  
Frank Pocci, President

  
Clay Uzell, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)  
Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)  
Memorial Affairs: Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)  
Social Work Dept.: Terry Walker, Manager, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379)  
Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)  
Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)