



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCI**  
COMMISSIONER



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



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



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650  
Email: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



### MINUTES

DATE: January 21, 2015 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Daniel T. Weist, President  
Mel Baher, Vice President  
Frank Pocci, Secretary  
Bob Potts, Commissioner  
Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Reno Orandini, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Weist followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell 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.

#### **STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2015-06 providing for the purchase of a maintenance agreement for the eVetAssist veteran software program for the 2015 fiscal year, expenses not to exceed \$6,200.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-07 providing for a twelve-month advertising agreement with Valpak for the Year 2015 for panel-flyer distributions in the quantities of 50,000 flyers per month, expenses not to exceed \$11,760.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-08 providing for the purchase of an advertising agreement with ideastream for the screening of "Last Days in Vietnam" to air in April 2015 on WVIZ/PBS, expenses not to exceed \$2,750.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-09 providing for the purchase of radio and online advertising with iHeartMedia, expenses not to exceed \$70,900.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-10 providing for the renewal of RTA bus ads with Advertising Vehicle for twelve months, March 2015 through February 2016, expenses not to exceed \$80,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-11 providing for the purchase of television commercials and online advertising with Time Warner Cable Media, expenses not to exceed \$45,000.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2015-12 providing for the purchase of television commercials on WOW Cable television through December 31, 2015 with Viamedia, expenses not to exceed \$25,000.

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

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve a revision to the Policy on Administration Procedure of Three (3) Personal Days, dated January 31, 2015.

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

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Mel Baher asked the Executive Director to have the outreach calendar available on the CCVSC website and to contact the county for the number of hits the site receives per month.

Clay Uzell will be attending the VFW Mid-winter State Conference in Independence, Ohio from January 22-25, 2015.

Mel Baher attended the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus, Ohio from January 16-18, 2015.

A ceremony marking the end of the Vietnam War will be held at the Veterans Memorial Plaza on Mall A in downtown Cleveland on April 30, 2015.

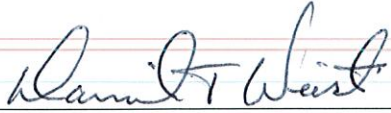


**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

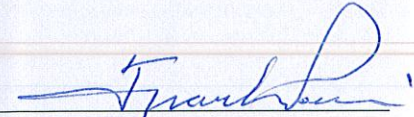
There were no items for Executive Session.

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

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



Daniel T. Weist, President



Frank Pocci, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)
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:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)

# **CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

## **Progress Report on the State of the Commission**

**December, 2014**

Issued by:

### **The CCVSC Commissioners**

**Clayton E. Uzell - President, VFW**

**Daniel Weist – Vice President, DAV**

**Mel Baher – Secretary, American Legion**

**Frank Pocci – AMVETS**

**Bob Potts – VVA**

**January 21, 2015**

**Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director**

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of December 31, 2014:

**Executive:**

The Executive Director

- Met with Moné from ODJFS
- Spoke at the Berea Rotary Club meeting
- Conducted interviews for new hires
- Attended meeting on legal assistance for low income veterans at the CRRC
- Met with Lori Acosta from Cuyahoga County Human Resources
- Met with Terry Stone from Lorain County VSC
- Attended an outreach leaders meeting at NEOCH
- Attended the County Council meeting
- Attended the Veterans Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting
- Met with Guy James from Home Depot
- Attended a promotion ceremony at the Wadsworth VFW

**Customer Satisfaction Surveys**

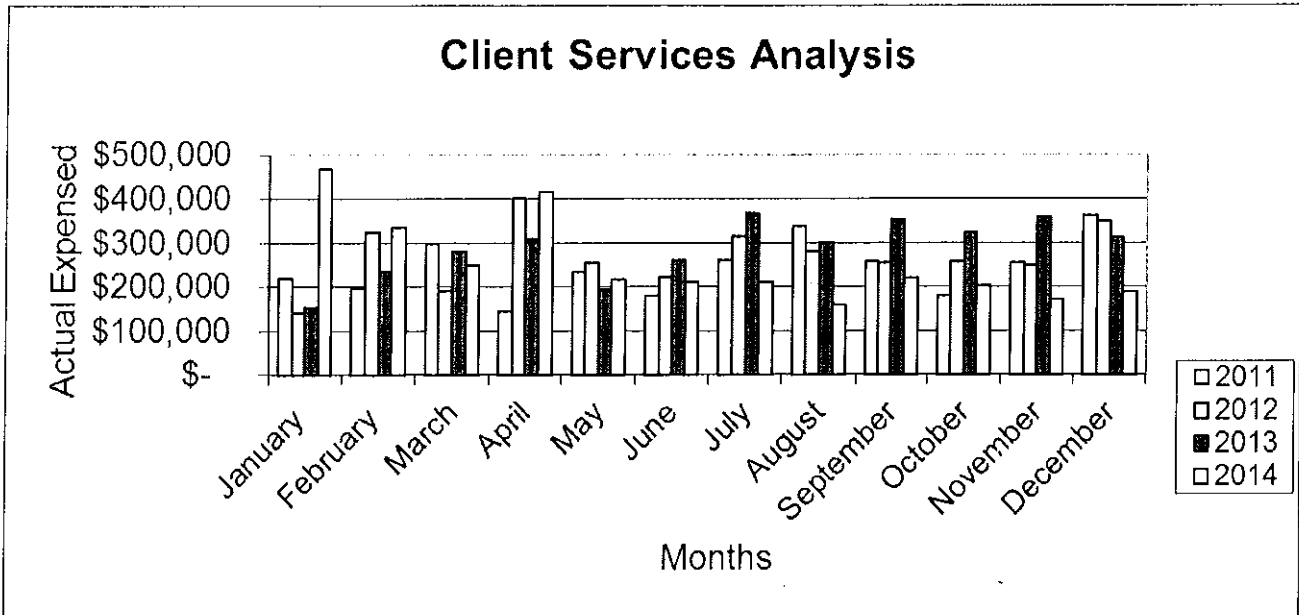
- Submitted: 2
- Positive: 1
- Negative: 1 – no contact information submitted so no contact was made.

## Finance Department

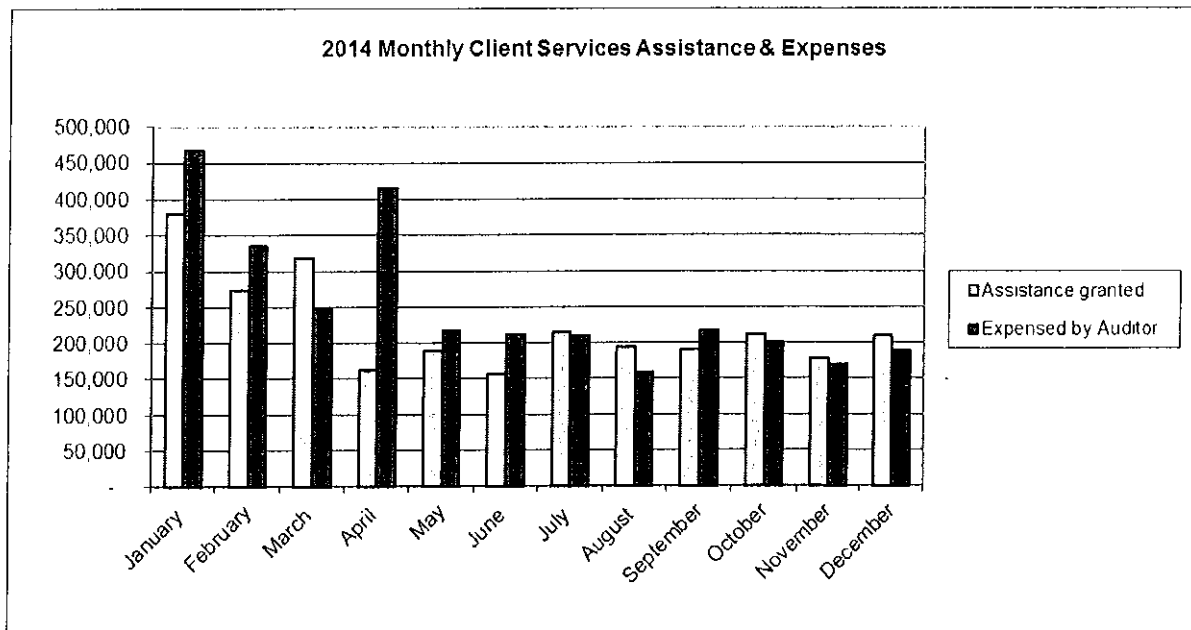
Below are selected December reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

**Client services include: Financial Assistance for Medical, Food, Mortgage, Rent, Utilities, Infant Layette, Personal Hygiene, Shoes & Clothing**

### Comparative Chart Analysis



### Actual 2014 Expenses



## Total 2014 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2014	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
<b>Salaries</b>	1,796,984	1,769,948	-	-	1,769,948	27,036
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	665,394	657,828	-	-	657,828	7,566
<b>Commodities</b>	33,000	25,487	-	-	25,487	7,513
<b>Contract Services</b>	557,446	341,491	204,606	204,606	546,097	11,349
<b>Controlled Expenditures</b>	225,081	225,081	-	-	225,081	-
<b>Client Services</b>	3,301,069	3,042,155	256,300	256,300	3,298,455	2,614
<b>Other Expenditures</b>	286,971	263,685	23,284	23,284	286,969	2
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	121,000	29,518	91,467	91,467	120,985	15
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	6,986,945	6,355,193	575,657	575,657	6,930,850	56,095

**Assistance Department:**

- December 2014: \$188,572 (Down from \$310,813 in 2013)
- YTD 2014: \$3,042,157 (Down from \$3,437,426 in 2013)

The December Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Dec. 2014</b>	<b>Dec. 2013</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Clients seeking assistance	868	910	-4.6%
Applications taken	688	754	-8.8%
Applications withdrawn	(6)	(18)	-66.7%
Applications denied	(48)	(47)	2.1%
Applications approved	634	689	-8.0%
Transportation only approvals	(463)	(424)	9.2%
F/A applications approved	171	265	-35.5%

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>YTD 2014</b>	<b>YTD 2013</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Clients seeking assistance	9889	9785	1.1%
Applications taken	8501	9022	-5.8%
Applications withdrawn	(194)	(319)	-39.2%
Applications denied	(641)	(608)	5.4%
Applications approved	7666	8095	-5.3%
Transportation only approvals	(5563)	(5444)	2.2%
F/A applications approved	2103	2651	-20.7%

- First Time Assistance
  - December 2014: 33 (Down from 54 in 2013)
    - 29 approved, 0 at Level III, 1 partial, 2 denied, 1 withdrawn
  - YTD 2014: 420 (Down from 554 in 2013)



**Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of December, 2014.**

Appeal Officer workdays	18
Cases on hand at beginning of month	8
Cases received	42
Cases worked	<u>47</u>
Cases on hand at end of month	3

	<b>December</b>	
<b><u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Cases Approved	34	360
Cases Denied	15	173
Cases Denied/withdrawn, no show	0	10
Cases Withdrawn	<u>2</u>	<u>24</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>567</b>

	<b>December</b>	
<b><u>Board Appeals</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Cases Approved	0	70
Cases Denied	4	54
Cases Withdrawn	0	1
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	10
Client is Eligible (Review DD-214)	0	0
Fraud Not Verified	0	1
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>138</b>

**Medical and Other Transportation:**

- December 2014: \$13,242.50 (YTD: \$143,763.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$13,172.50 (YTD: \$140,278.50)
- Other: \$70 (YTD: \$3,485)

**Medical and Dental Programs:**

- December 2014: \$5,984 (YTD: \$73,091)
  - Dental: \$0 (YTD: \$30,441)
  - Vision: \$305 (YTD: \$7,790)
  - Hearing Aid: \$5,679 (YTD: \$34,010)

**Memorial Affairs Department:**

- December 2014: \$5,495.00 (Down \$10,239.16 from December 2013)
- YTD 2014: \$128,640.72
- 6 Indigent burials
  - Air Force: 1
  - Marine: 1
  - Navy: 1
  - Army: 3

**Following are the 2014 Year to Date statistics for Memorial Affairs:**

	<b>December</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>2013 YTD</b>
DD-214 Search	100	1,223	96	1,298
Benefits Counseling	717	9,456	745	10,291
Undelivered-Incorrect	10	148	10	169
Headstone/Research				
Presidential Memorial Certificates	38	857	55	1,060
National Cemetery Referrals	49	641	53	744
Blue Star Service Banners	0	0	0	20
Indigent Burials	6	135	17	122

**Veterans Service Officers:**

<b>Parma</b>	<b><u>Dec.</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Compensation Claims	8	256
----- Follow Up	12	773
DIC Claims	1	9
----- Follow Up	3	38
Pension Claims	2	42
-----Follow Up	2	105
Medical	0	5
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	10	184
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	118	1489
All Other	<u>26</u>	<u>592</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>3493</b>

Interviews:
• 1,189 (YTD: 19,835)
FA Referrals:
• 31 (YTD: 494)
Total:
• 1,220 (YTD: 20,329)
Phone Calls:
• 2,690 (YTD: 37,528)

<b>Wade Park</b>	<b><u>Dec.</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Compensation Claims	34	284
----- Follow Up	177	1415
DIC Claims	1	11
----- Follow Up	4	32
Pension Claims	18	126
-----Follow Up	31	520
Medical	1	39
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	38	338
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	284	3743
All Other	<u>97</u>	<u>1205</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>7713</b>

<b>Main Office</b>	<b><u>Dec.</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Compensation Claims	72	938
----- Follow Up	315	4073
DIC Claims	2	48
----- Follow Up	11	167
Pension Claims	39	389
-----Follow Up	131	1676
Medical	3	80
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	67	1017
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	737	10077
All Other	<u>251</u>	<u>3901</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1628</b>	<b>22,366</b>

## **Social Work**

### **Social Work**

- December Total Signed In: 136 (YTD: 1,879)
  - Seen: 119 (YTD: 1,645)
  - Not Seen: 10 (YTD: 81)
  - Offline: 7 (YTD: 161)
  - New Veterans: 19 (YTD: 276)
  
- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 85 (YTD: 1,178)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 34 (YTD: 472)

### **Referrals**

- Internal Referrals
  - FA: 57
  - VSO: 31
  
- Outside Agencies
  - VA Medical: 19
  - Employment
    - EC/ODJFS: 19
    - CEOGC: 0
    - Towards Employment (N4S): 3

### **Ohio Veterans Home Network:**

In December, no veterans were taken to the OVH for tour and admission evaluation.

Numbers for the OVH nursing home and domiciliary are not available.

### **Network Changes**

We need all old Wi-Fi equipment returned.

Next phase of network changes will include virtualization of eVet server.

We need to re-configure scanners to match new computers and network changes.

**Submitted by:**

**Jon Reiss  
Executive Director**