



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
THOMAS T. K. ZUNG
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JAMES L. STOLZ
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Room 200 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: February 4, 2009 10:05 a.m.

PRESENT: Thomas Zung, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director

ABSENT: Bob Potts, President
Tom O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Thomas Zung, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 21, 2009 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Zung, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Level III Board Appeals meeting of January 21, 2009 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Zung, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the correspondence since we have a Consent Agenda, with the exception of those items set aside, to be addressed during the regular order of business, and with any corrections and/or additions. (No items were set aside.)

AYES: Baher, Zung, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The Consent Agenda for cases approved and denied since the last meeting were not available.

Agenda Item E1. Commissioners Reports

Thomas Zung – VFW

- VFW Post 1056 held their monthly meeting and the post sadly announced the passing of a loyal and active member/officer of the Women's Auxiliary, the wife of VFW member and past post commander Toby. VFW Post 1056 honored her many activities at the Zele Funeral Home with flowers and prayers. A special ceremony was dedicated and held in her honor at the funeral home. We will mourn her loss.
- At the January 21st CCVSC meeting, we honored two veterans' families by presenting them with a portrait of their deceased son, who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country. Their portraits are displayed on our "Wall of Honor" in the CCVSC boardroom.
- On January 23rd, I sadly flew to San Francisco, California, to say good-bye to my brother-in-law, who served in the Navy during WWII. He served aboard a U.S. Navy cruiser in the South Pacific during the war surviving several campaigns. He passed away peacefully three days later on January 26th. I will miss him.
- The VFW District Conference will be held February 6-8, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Westlake. All Northeast District #7 VFW members are welcome to attend the dinner and activities for the VFW & Women's Auxiliary Conference.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- January 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at Post 469 at 8:00 p.m.
- January 15th – I conducted the American legion Post 91 Membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. as post commander.
- January 20-24th – I was a "guest" of the VA Medical facility at Wade Park.

Upcoming Events for February 2009:

- February 4th – I will be attending the American Legion 13th Council meeting at Post 196 at 8:00 p.m.
- Post 91 Membership meeting is February 12th at 8:00 p.m.
- Post 91 Executive Board meeting is February 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Frank Pocci – Amvets

- Friday, January 23rd, I met with some of the Amvets Post 80 officers to review bills to be paid and dues deposits to be made as well as payments to the Dept. of Ohio for the membership dues.
- Friday, January 30th, I attended the Italian American War Veterans monthly meeting. The discussion revolved around the fact that membership renewals are slow in coming in and that it appears the membership will fall below 40 members. We also discussed the upcoming Dept. of Ohio meeting on February 14th in Lorain, Ohio.
- Tuesday, February 3rd, I was at Wade Park and spoke with our former employee, Jeff Sedlak, who will be getting involved in a new program for ex-POWs at the VA. Jeff is doing well and sends his best to all at the CCVSC.
- Tuesday, February 3rd, I attended the monthly Amvets Post 80 General meeting where I have a report on the end of January financials. The post continues to provide the Honor Guard on a monthly basis for the funerals at the Rittman National Cemetery. They also continue their support for our vets by hosting bingo at Brecksville.

Dan Weist – DAV

- January 21st, I attended the VFW meeting in North Olmsted.

Dan Weist – DAV, cont.

- I attended the VFW Mid-Winter Conference January 22 & 23rd.
- January 23rd, I attended a charity bingo seminar.
- February 3rd, I attended a House Committee meeting at the VFW North Olmsted post.

OLD BUSINESS:

Agenda Item F1. First Time Assistance Policy

A revision was made to the first time aid policy. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to approve the revised “Guideline for Assisting First Time Clients with Financial Assistance” effective immediately. A minor change was made under exceptions to the policy regarding the 180-day rule when a client is terminated from employment.

AYES: Baher, Zung, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The CCVSC has learned that a funeral home has been billing clients different funeral expenses than the ones they are submitting to the CCVSC. Asst. County Prosecutor, Tom O’Donnell, has referred the matter to the County Sheriff’s Dept. to make a determination whether there has been a misuse of government funds.

The conversion of eVetAssist took place on Monday. The Executive Director met with owner, Jim Cieply, President of Enterprise Resource Partners, to discuss the possibility of sharing the program with other counties throughout the State of Ohio.

The Executive Director prepared a rough draft letter to Governor Strickland in response to a letter from the Cuyahoga County Commissioners Association regarding “possible inclusion in the budget that will improve the management of county government and will save money.” The letter will be revised and signed by all board members at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Agenda Item G1. Potential Medical Policy

Terry Walker, Social Work Manager, submitted a recommendation for a potential medical policy for the Board to consider. After some discussion, it was decided not to adopt the policy at the present time, but expressed thanks and appreciation to Ms. Walker for her input.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss changes in the Service Department.

AYES: Baher, Zung, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:10 a.m.)

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Zung, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:40 a.m.)

No action was taken as a result of discussion in Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Zung, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Thomas Zung
Vice President

Mel Baher
Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: Jim Stolz, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2639)

Memorial Affairs Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)

Mobile Meals Program Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2379)

Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)

Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)