



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

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



### MINUTES

DATE: February 5, 2014 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Clayton E. Uzell, President  
Mel Baher, Secretary  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Bob Potts, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Daniel T. Weist, Vice President

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Clay Uzell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was delayed one-half hour due to inclement weather.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci 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. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – the 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 304 was cancelled due to the weather.
- Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- January 18-19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus, Ohio.
- Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m., where I serve as an elected board member.
- Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District e-board meeting was cancelled due to weather.

### ***Upcoming Events:***

- February 5<sup>th</sup> – The 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting is scheduled for this evening at 7:30 p.m. to be held at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park.

### **Frank Pocci – AMVETS**

- I attended the AMVETS Post 60 general meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>. I gave my financial report and I also reported on the fact that I did not see a deduction to our checking account in January for our real estate taxes. As such, it is probable that our application to have the taxes vacated has gone through the process. If all goes according to our expectations, we should be receiving a refund for the real estate taxes we paid during 2013.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The insurance premium for the Post building for 2014 has been paid. Upon sale of the Post, we will get back a prorated amount.
- The effort to sell the Post continues, but we do not have a buyer at the present time.

### ***Other Activities:***

- During January, I attended all the scheduled appeals and open public meetings at the CCVSC.
- I continue to meet with veterans and encourage them to get a VA health card and to check into any differences/improvements in their accessibility to the VA health care system under the new VA Affordable Care Act.
- As the State Adjutant for the Italian American War Veterans, I along with five other veterans from our local Post, attended the state department meeting in Lorain, Ohio. Our service officer, Larry Amato, attended the meeting and gave his input to some veterans who had questions regarding VA access.
- I attended the monthly meeting of the Italian War Veterans Post 34 on January 31<sup>st</sup>. I asked our service officer, Larry Amato, to be our guest and he attended and gave insight as to the services provided by the CCVSC and also answered several questions from the veterans in attendance.

### **Clay Uzell – VFW**

- January 8<sup>th</sup> – I was excused from the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- January 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting in Lyndhurst, Ohio.
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- January 23-27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW's State Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus, Ohio. I attended all the meetings and presented awards to the State Police & Firefighter of the Year winners. I donated a basket of sports team memorabilia and wine bottles were auctioned off to raise money for cancer research. I attended the Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet on Saturday evening and the luncheon in the afternoon.
- January 30<sup>th</sup> – As Homecoming Chairman, I attended a meeting with the incoming State Commander at VFW Parma Post 1974 to plan events for Year 2014-2015.
- January 31<sup>st</sup> – I attended the District 7 Past President's dinner in Mentor, Ohio.
- I referred two clients to the CCVSC.

### **Bob Potts – VVA**

- January 7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- January 7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- January 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- February 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion took place concerning the prospect of issuing food cards in lieu of food vouchers. We are currently in the inquiry based phase. The Executive Director will provide continuous updates to the Board before a decision is made and the execution phase is implemented.

The Executive Director met with an RTA representative concerning CCVSC bus advertising. RTA will be looking into a sponsorship program to provide a Veteran's Ride for Free Program.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Jon Reiss presented Commissioners with a new version of the financial assistance packet geared directly towards financial assistance and includes a document of income and expenses that each client will be required to complete and sign prior to submitting an application. The customer satisfaction survey and CCVSC pamphlet was also revamped and approved by the Board.

All Commissioners will be attending the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners training in Columbus, Ohio from April 4-6, 2014.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2014-08 requesting authority for five CCVSC Commissioners to attend various conferences in 2014 sponsored by the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners in Columbus, Ohio, expenses not to exceed \$5,879.85.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2014-09 providing for the purchase of a maintenance agreement for the eVetAssist veteran software program for the CCVSC 2014 fiscal year, expenses not to exceed \$11,100.00.

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

**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 matters of confidentiality and compensation.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. 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.

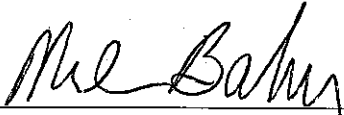
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (12:03 p.m.)

In Executive Session, the Board discussed employee compensation and other confidential information that was provided by the Executive Director concerning staff. The Executive Director was given instructions on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

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

  
Clayton E. Uzell, President

  
Mel Baher, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)  
Filing claims with the Dept. of Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)  
Veterans' Affairs:  
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)