



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: March 5, 2014 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Mick Panek

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Clay Uzell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, February 5th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial report for January 2014. I also spoke with a veteran wanting a flag case for a deceased veterans' family. I made arrangements with Memorial Affairs to secure the flag case and I delivered it to the family.
- Thursday, February 13th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 24th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the

updated financial reports and also reported that the charitable contribution checks were made out and mailed to the Salvation Army (\$500.00), Fisher House Construction Fund (\$500.00), and the Wade Park VA Taxi Fund (\$500.00).

- Thursday, February 27th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m., where I serve as an elected board member.
- Saturday, March 1st – My wife and I attended the American Legion's 95th birthday celebration at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park. The event was presented by the American Legion Auxiliary and included a fine meal and entertainment by Tim Lahey, District 1st Vice Commander, and a presentation by "Soldier's of the Past."
- Sunday, March 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Spring Conference at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and I presented the February financial reports. The guest speaker was Jeff Kaufman, Department Commander. I spoke on the CCVSC and passed out the new Dept. of Veterans Affairs poster.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, March 8th – I will be attending the OSAVSC District 2 meeting at VFW Post 8586 in Perrysville, Ohio at 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, March 9th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting
- Monday, March 17th – St. Patrick's Day celebration – Post 91 all day
- Monday, March 24th – 13th District executive board meeting – Post 610
- Thursday, March 27th – American Legion Post 91 – executive board meeting

Bob Potts – VVA

- February 4th – I attended the Chapter 249 Board meeting and membership meeting.
- February 4th – I met with Chapter 15 to start planning for the "End of the Vietnam War Memorial" which will take place on April 30th at Mall A.
- February 5th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 12th – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- February 19th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 22nd – I received a call from a classmate and veteran who wanted some advice and information with his disability claim and C&P exam. My wife, Joan, also discussed options to the wife of a veteran who was having financial problems.
- February 25th – I attended the VVA Chapter 15 monthly membership meeting and updated the officers on the End of the Vietnam War.
- March 4th – I attended the Chapter 249 Board meeting and membership meeting.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the AMVETS Post 60 general meeting on March 4th. I gave my financial report and also reported 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. After further review, I was advised that our application will be sent in to the state shortly, but that it takes 1-2 years for approval. We can choose to have our tax deductions stopped, but if it does not get approved, we will owe all back payments plus interest. If we allow the deductions and we are approved, they will refund all.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The effort to sell the Post continues, but we do not have a buyer at the present time.

Other Activities:

- During February, I attended all the scheduled appeals and open meetings at the CCVSC.
- I took two veterans to the Parma CBOC on two separate occasions to give them a tour of the facility and to show them where they could get information. I also introduced one vet to our Service Officer, Randy Stevenson.

- I attended the monthly meeting of the Italian War Veterans Post 34 on February 28th. We had a representative from the COD explain what they are doing to get young people involved and educated about veterans and our past.
- In March, ITAM Post 34 officers are planning on having an executive meeting to discuss charitable contributions that will be made during 2014.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all the scheduled open public meetings and appeal meetings during February.
- I attended my monthly VFW meeting at Post 7647.

Clayton Uzell – VFW

- February 5th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 9th – I attended the VFW District 7 Conference at Seven Hills Community City Hall put on by Post 7609. I gave the Safety Police & Firefighter of the year report. I passed out the Veterans Resource pamphlet put out by State Treasurer Josh Mandel's office. I spoke about the CCVSC and passed out our pamphlet as well.
- February 12th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- February 15th – I attended the Aaron Tippin concert in Columbus, Ohio which was sponsored by the VA Ambulatory Care Center and various veterans' organizations. It was a free Valentines for veterans concert.
- February 17th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting. We discussed post business and honored Korean War Vets by presenting them with a book put out by the Republic of Korea to honor those who served and sacrificed on their behalf.
- February 19th – I attended the second CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 23rd – I attended a fundraiser for incoming District 7 Auxiliary President Tracy Fife held at Parma Post 1974.
- February 26th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearing.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to approve the revised Calling Off Policy dated March 5, 2014, effective immediately.

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

The Executive Director discussed budget numbers with the Board, specifically areas of spending where we need to keep on budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2014-13 requesting authority for four service officers to attend the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Conference from June 8-14, 2014 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, expenses not to exceed \$8,228.00. Under discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the CCVSC van be utilized and those opting to use their personal vehicles will not be reimbursed mileage.

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

The Board is in the process of scheduling this year's two open meetings outside the Commission to afford the public and veterans' community an opportunity to attend a meeting at another time and location. A letter will be sent to Commander Tony Mazzeo at American Legion Post 91 requesting permission to conduct a meeting at their post on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The second meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 15th, at 7:00 p.m., location to be determined.

To provide a complete service to veterans, Jon Reiss suggested that an eligibility specialist be stationed at the Community Resource Referral Center (CRRC) one day a week and that we station a case manager from Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) at our downtown office for internal referrals. Jon will report back to the Board when further information is available.

Client survey results will now be included in the Executive Director's monthly State of the Commission and Finance report. Jon Reiss reported that during the month of February, 187 out of 190 surveys were positive. Two of the three dissatisfied customers were found to be handled appropriately, left contact numbers and were contacted. The third survey was anonymous.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Potts mentioned an interesting program on the lost film of Dak To that was featured on the National Geographic channel this past week. It detailed gripping personal stories told through photographs and film of military engagements in Vietnam taken by combat cameramen.

President Uzell opened the floor to visitors for any comments. The following bullet points were topics of discussion.

Mick Panek

- CCVSC client surveys
- Outreach meetings
- Compensation for CCVSC Commissioners

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to go into Executive Session to discuss compensation and matters required to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:40 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (12:13 p.m.)

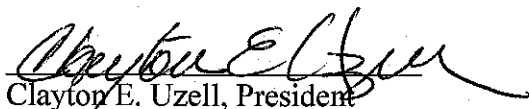
In Executive Session, the Board discussed a fraud case issue. The Executive Director was instructed to create a letter of apology to the individual, reverse the finding of fraud and reinstate benefits.


Vacation compensation for the Executive Director was also discussed. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to adjust the annual accrual of vacation for the Executive Director to reflect four weeks, retroactive to the hire date of October 28, 2013, to be taken at his discretion and subject to proper notification to the administrative assistant, executive secretary and the CCVSC Board. For the record, it was noted that the Executive Director was hired and works at the discretion of the Board.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. 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 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)