



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

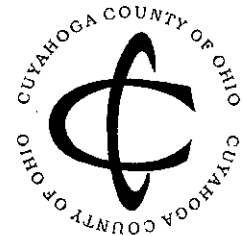


Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**ROBERT E. SCHLOENDORN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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



### MINUTES

**DATE:** March 6, 2013 9:35 a.m.

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

**VISITORS:** Mick Panek

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bob Potts, 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.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### Dan Weist - DAV

- I attended both open public Board meetings and both Level III Appeal hearings in the month of February.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW monthly meeting. The regular order of business was suspended to “meet and greet” members of the Men’s Auxiliary and Ladies Auxiliary.
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended my monthly DAV meeting in Rocky River. Calvin Curry, Chief of Volunteer Services at the Wade Park VA, gave a presentation. The meeting was well-attended.
- I referred a few veterans to the CCVSC for benefits and/or services.

### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended a Four Chaplains Memorial Service held at 2:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Berea.
- Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – The American 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts. I presented the District financial reports as District Finance officer and gave an update on the CCVSC.
- Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion Post 91 membership meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. I presented an updated membership report.
- Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District e-board meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts. I presented updated District financial reports as District Finance officer.
- Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion Post 91 executive Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. I presented an updated membership report as First Vice Commander.
- In February, I also referred two veterans to our service department and one veteran's family to Memorial Affairs.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- February 5<sup>th</sup> – I provided the financial report to the Post at the general meeting.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – I provided the end of February financial report.
- The majority of returning votes are for selling Post 80 in the near future.
- The Ladies Auxiliary held a Valentine's Day dinner on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- February 16<sup>th</sup> was clean-up day at the Post.
- A district meeting will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Post 176 in Richfield.
- The Post will supply its Honor Guard at Rittman National Cemetery on February 19<sup>th</sup> & March 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Other Activities:*

- I attended all the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC during February.
- I attended the general meeting of the Italian American War Veterans. Our Commander has suffered a stroke and heart attack. We will, in all likelihood, need the Sr. Vice to take over as Commander.
- I referred one veteran to our service officer at the Parma CBOC. I have also forwarded information to one of our service officers for a widow of a veteran with low income to see if she might qualify for a widow's pension.
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Italian American War Veteran's Department of Ohio meeting in Lorain, Ohio where I gave my Adjutant report.

### Clay Uzell – VFW

- February 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Ladies Auxiliary National Mid-Winter Conference in Clearwater, Florida with my wife, Sandra, the Jr. Vice President for the Dept. of Ohio.
- February 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> – As Commander of VFW Post 7536, I attended the Post meeting and went over upcoming nominations and elections.
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended a funeral for a Ladies Auxiliary member of Solon Post 1863 at Blessing Funeral Home in Twinsburg, Ohio.
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended a VFW District 7 special meeting which was called to conduct a vote on District business. That afternoon, I attended a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at Parma Post 1974 that raised \$1,000 for the Greater Cleveland Fisher House. I helped bartend at the fundraiser.
- February 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.

- I provided contact information on the Summit and Portage County VSC's to potential clients at the request of the Lyndhurst Community Center Director. I also referred the daughter of a Post member to the CCVSC Executive Director to shadow the Social Work Manager and learn about the work load and Veteran's Court.
- I referred two clients to the CCVSC, one of which worked with the Outreach Specialist and found employment.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- February 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended our monthly membership meeting and Board meeting.
- February 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC monthly open public meeting.
- February 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC first appeals meeting.
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC monthly open public meeting.
- February 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC second appeals meeting for the month.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended a joint meeting with Chapter 15 to make plans for the April 30, 2013 End of the War Ceremony.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – our monthly membership meeting and Board meeting were combined because of the meeting with Chapter 15.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

March 26-29, 2013 marks the first state-wide commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Day in Ohio. Commissioners Baher, Potts and Uzell will attend the events on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to incorporate the April 6, 2006 Addendum to the Guideline for Applying for Assistance and Verification into the current policy dated April 6, 2013. Fraud and sanction issues were also discussed. The motion and second was withdrawn for further discussion.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell approve the revised Guideline for Applying for Assistance and Verification dated April 6, 2013 that contains the addendum and adds a provision that clients found guilty of fraud will now be sanctioned for a period of thirty days to one year. The sanction period will be determined by the Executive Director and, in extreme cases, brought to the Board for further sanction.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

At the discretion of the Prosecutor's Office, the Commission will accept partial payments from clients who have been found guilty of fraud.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2013-06 requesting authority for AMVETS membership dues for Year 2013 for six CCVSC service officers, expenses not to exceed \$180.00.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2013-07 requesting authority for two CCVSC service officers to attend the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers conference from June 2 to June 9, 2013 in Reno, Nevada, expenses not to exceed \$2,915.00.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2013-08 requesting authority for five CCVSC managers to attend the Ultimate Supervisor One-Day Workshop sponsored by CareerTrack on March 19, 2013, expenses not to exceed \$700.00.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2013-09 providing for a twelve-month advertising agreement with Valpak of Cleveland for panel-flyer distributions in quantities of 50,000 flyers per month, expenses not to exceed \$11,760.00.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2013-10 providing for the renewal of RTA bus ads with Advertising Vehicle for twelve months, March 2013 through February 2014, expenses not to exceed \$74,880.00.

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

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

Commissioner Uzell will travel to Virginia on Friday to greet the USS Laboon and his daughter, Mona, on return from deployment in the Middle East. The USS Laboon is returning to Norfolk after a historical deployment with one of the most advanced weapon systems in the Navy.

Commissioner Baher noted for the record that we have received the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County's Code of Regulations and the original Constitution, with is listed as an Addendum. We have also requested the organization's latest financial report and minutes of their last meeting.

The End of the Vietnam War Ceremony will take place on April 30, 2013 at Mall C in downtown Cleveland. Commissioner Potts invited members of the Board to attend.

The Executive Director will be attending the Cleveland Community Resource and Referral Center's grand opening ceremony on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. The center is located at 7000 Euclid Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Cleveland, Ohio and has been developed in collaboration with community services to end and prevent veteran homelessness.

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

#### Mick Panek

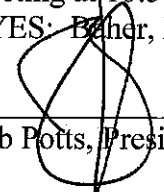
- Restitution for fraud cases
- Fisher House contributions
- Memorial Day flags

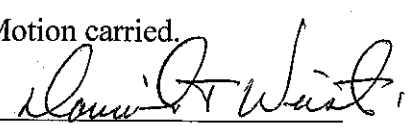
### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

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

  
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Bob Potts, President

  
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Daniel T. Weist, 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)