



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

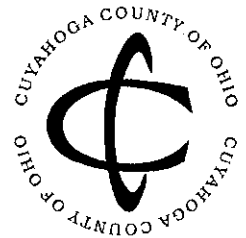


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: (216) 698-2600 • Fax: (216) 698-2650
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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: March 7, 2012 9:30 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Judge Nancy Fuerst
Mick Panek
Mel Davis
Tom Sweeney

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Frank Pocci, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist 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

Clayton E. Uzell – VFW

- February 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 3rd – I attended the VFW District 7 Conference in Independence, Ohio.
- February 4th – 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. the Joint forum was held. Speakers from WAGS 4 Warriors program did a presentation. Veterans suffering from PTSD or TBI are united with a veteran's service dog at no cost to the veteran.
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – School of instruction
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Joint Memorial service
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Past District Commander's Luncheon/Meeting. Discussion took place concerning the future of three-day conferences, cost, etc.

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – General business session chairmen reports were given. District 7 reported safety projects and our Fire & EMT entrants took first in the state.

6:00 p.m. – Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Just Say No to Drugs and Teacher of the Year recipients were honored.

10:00 p.m. – The POW/MIA Salute was held outside the main entrance.

- February 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- February 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 18th – Post 3747 Canton attended District 6 VOD banquet.
- February 19th – I gave a safety report at the District 6 meeting.
- February 20th to 28th – My wife and I left for Honolulu, Hawaii for the Ladies Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference. We attended the awards ceremony for Dept. President, Ruth Fint, who received a medal for reaching over 91% in membership by December 31, 2011.

Bob Potts – VVA

- February 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- I was on vacation from February 2-20, 2012.
- February 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- March 6th – I attended the Chapter 249 Board and Membership meeting. At this meeting, we had a representative from Chapter 15 who was there to discuss the End of the War Ceremony.

Dan Weist – DAV

- February 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- February 15th – I was on vacation in Texas to help my son and daughter-in-law with my new grandson.
- February 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- March 3rd – I attended the District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 68 in Wooster, Ohio at 10:00 a.m.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- February 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I gave a preliminary report as chairman of the District audit committee.
- February 4th – I attended, and was part of, the program honoring the Four Chaplains held at American Legion Post 572. A luncheon was provided by the Auxiliary.
- February 9th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I gave my membership report as 1st Vice Commander.
- February 23rd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I reported Post 91 had attained its membership goal for the 2012 membership drive; in fact, we now also achieved all time high for our 15th consecutive year.
- March 3rd – I attended the OSAVSC 2nd District training class held at the American Legion Post 68 in Wooster at 10:00 a.m. We were updated on the Georgetown and Sandusky nursing homes and their facilities.
- March 3rd – In the evening, I attended the American Legion's 93rd birthday celebration held at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park. The event was hosted by the American Legion 13th District Auxiliary.

- March 4th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Spring Conference at American Legion Post 421. I gave the results of our committee's financial audit for the August 2010 through July 31, 2011 membership year.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director reported that effective March 6, 2012 the responsibility of the Memorial Day Flag program has been transferred to the County Public Works Department. A separate letter announcing the change will be mailed to area posts and chapters.

The Executive Director submitted several resolutions for the Board's review and approval.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2012-07, a resolution providing radio advertising with Clear Channel Radio's AM station not to exceed \$24,380.00.

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 2012-08, a resolution providing television advertising with Time Warner Cable Media not to exceed \$32,852.00.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2012-09, a resolution providing television advertising with VIAMEDIA not to exceed \$23,868.00.

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 2012-10, a resolution providing for the final payment of \$24,821.16 and closure of purchase order 1106641 with Advertising Vehicles who acquired the RTA bus contract in November 2011.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2012-11, a resolution providing for the purchase of 300 Speedway Prepaid Company fuel cards, not to exceed \$15,000.00, for Veterans Service Commission clients who are in need of fuel for their vehicles.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion took place concerning a response to Tom Meyer's February 15, 2012 WKYC televised news report on the CCVSC. At the recommendation of Judge Nancy Fuerst, the Board agreed not to respond to the report and to move forward with good advertising and positive initiatives. The Board will, however, solicit the Plain Dealer's assistance in reaching out to veterans.

On Monday, February 27, 2012 The Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Parma Multi-Specialty Outpatient Clinic opened. An open house will take place on Saturday, March 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. RTA will run a bus line up and down Brook Park Road on a six-month trial basis for ridership. The Gift for Yanks program is looking into funding the installation of an audible crossing signal for blind veterans.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the revision to the Addendum to the Guideline for Restrictive Assistance, Assistance Requested for Child or Children Only, dated March 7, 2012.

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

Board outreach meetings for 2012 have been tentatively set for April 18, 2012 and September 19, 2012. Commissioner Uzell will make the necessary arrangements and provide the details at the next open public meeting.

The Board will review commission vs. county policies and will make a decision at the next meeting on areas once covered under the union contract.

The Executive Director raised the issue of drop in daycare for patrons of the VA medical center or clinic. It appears that this was never an initiative of the Veterans Service Commission.

Medina County VFW Post 5137 is requesting donations to help raise money for the National Wounded Warrior Project. The post will host a 2012 Annual Motorcycle & Vehicle Poker Run & Swap Meet on Saturday, May 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Checks can be made payable to "Medina VFW 5137 Wounded Warrior Project."

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

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

Tom Sweeney

- Offered support and assistance in getting the word out to the membership about CCVSC benefits and services.
- Cleveland Fisher House donations:
 - 1) Can be made at any Key Bank branch
 - 2) Checks made payable to "Greater Cleveland Fisher House" and sent to:
Greater Cleveland Fisher House
21886 Seabury Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44126
 - 3) On-line at: www.greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org

Mel Davis

- WKYC news article on the CCVSC
- CCVSC monthly report – very informative
- Suggested posting testimonials on the CCVSC website
- Veterans Career Fair
- Iraq War Ceremony

Clay Uzell mentioned that at the OSAVSC District 2 meeting on March 3rd, they were given an update on the Sandusky and Georgetown OVH, the training session was on veterans' burials and honors and it was noted that the State has given out \$45 million in bonuses to Afghanistan and Iraq veterans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss the legality of new veterans outreach.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:05 a.m.)

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

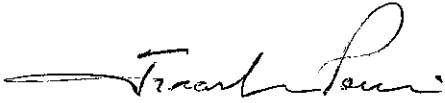
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:57 a.m.)

In Executive Session, discussion took place concerning the purchase of flag cases for veterans and gift cards for veteran clients. No action was taken.

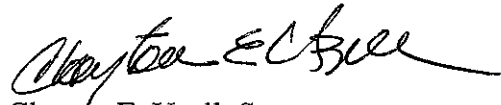
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

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



Frank Pocci, President



Clayton E. Uzell, 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)