



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:** April 2, 2008 9:38 a.m.
- PRESENT:** Frank Pocci, President
Bob Potts, Vice President
Thomas T.K. Zung, Secretary
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
- ABSENT:** Thomas P. O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor
- VISITORS:** Art Stone, 7th District VFW/American Legion Post 451.
- PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Pocci 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 minutes of March 19, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Level III Board Appeals meeting of March 19, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung 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: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung to accept cases approved on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of VSC case file #68013 and #70846 that were set aside, picked at random as part of the quality assurance program, to be addressed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept cases denied on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of VSC case file #86739 that was set aside, picked at random as part of the quality assurance program, to be addressed in Executive Session.

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

Agenda Item E1. Commissioners' Reports for the month of March 2008

Bob Potts

- March 12-16, 2008 VVA Chapter 249 occupied a booth at the Sportsman Show. This 10 x 40 booth is donated to us each year by the operators of the Sportsman Show. This year, we decided to provide more of an informational booth and not just a money-making operation. Over the last few years, the Sportsman Show went from a nine-day event to a five-day event as a result of a loss of attendees and participants. In spite of fewer days, we still managed to bring in about \$1900.00 by selling dog tags, tee-shirts, pins and donation boxes.

At my request, our Executive Director sent service officer, Murray Evans, to join our booth for the weekend as part of an outreach effort for the commission. Murray passed out literature and answered questions and managed to receive several leads for claims from veterans who came to the booth. He was quite surprised at the number of Vietnam veterans who were not aware that Type 2 diabetes is a presumptive of Agent Orange. Murray also was a big help with the sale of our merchandise and with the dismantling of our booth. Hopefully, we can make this a yearly outreach event.

- March 18th we had our monthly membership meeting at American Legion Post 211. The turnout was not very good; mostly board members were present. At this meeting, we started preparation for the election of officers and nomination of candidates. A committee was set up to work with Chapter 15 for the End of War Ceremony that will be on Veterans Mall April 30th. We are also sending a committee to work with American Legion Post 385 to make plans for this year's Memorial Day Parade.
- April 25th we are sending chapter members to Westlake High School to talk with their American History classes.

Thomas T.K. Zung

- Representatives from the CCVSC were to speak at an open meeting of Strongsville VFW Post 3345 but it was cancelled due to inclement weather. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 p.m.
- I attended a VFW District 7 Testimonial Dinner for Commander Clayton Uzell and Women's Auxiliary President, Sandra Uzell, at VFW Post 1082 in Northfield, Ohio on Saturday, March 29th. It was a wonderful turnout for a great couple who have worked very hard for veterans' causes. Dessert was complete with the cutting of two cakes, one for each honoree, with the ceremonial saber.

Mel Baher

- March 2nd I attended the American Legion 13th District Spring Conference held at Post 421 at 10:00 a.m. where I serve as District Assistant Judge Advocate.
- March 13th I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. where I serve as 1st Vice Commander. I presented membership and building committee reports.
- March 24th I attended an American Legion 13th District Executive Board meeting at Post 421 at 7:30 p.m.
- March 27th I attended the American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting at 8:00 p.m. I presented an updated membership report stating that the post membership goal for 2008 has been met and also presented the building committee report.
- I attended the OSAVSC District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 41 in Norwalk, Ohio on March 31st at 7:00 p.m.
- I will be attending the American Legion 13th District Council meeting this evening at Post 196 in Brecksville, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.
- This weekend I will be attending the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio along with my fellow commissioners.

Dan Weist

- March 19th I attended a post meeting at VFW #7647.
- I attended the OSAVSC District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 41 in Norwalk, Ohio on March 31st.

Frank Pocci

- March 9th I brought a Vietnam veteran, who sustained multiple injuries while in Vietnam, to be interviewed by our John Murphy in our Service Dept. John filed for a pension improvement for this vet whose injuries have deteriorated over the years.
- March 28th I attended the Italian American War Vets Post 34 General Meeting. One bright spot is that we have five individuals interested in becoming members and enough funds have been raised to provide for the ongoing upkeep of the monument that was dedicated at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio last September.
- March 30th I attended the District Meeting for the Italian American War Vets as one of the officers. There were many topics of discussion but the major discussion points related to: a) The solution to the "Post 33" illegal operation and how the back taxes owed to the state from this "post" may be resolved; b) Ensuring that every post files Form 990N for tax purposes; and c) Retaining membership in the various posts.
- I advised a veteran who was referred to me from Girard, Ohio to get in touch with the VSC in his county for an asbestos claim he tried to file with the VA. He said the VA representative was not at all helpful. I provided him with phone numbers and addresses for the Trumbull County VSC. His exposure to asbestos was while he served on a ship during his Navy tour of duty.

- March 31st I attended the OSAVSC District 2 meeting sponsored by Huron County in Norwalk, Ohio. The education session revolved around issues affecting Title 59, in particular, S.B. 289, which is being fast-tracked. All individuals present at the District meeting agreed that this bill conflicts with Title 59 and is flawed. It was concluded that we should oppose this bill in its present form as it could do more damage than good for the veterans of Ohio.

It was noted that Lorain County will host the next OSAVSC District 2 meeting in October 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

Agenda Item F1. Executive Director – Submitting Personnel Requests

No personnel requests were submitted to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Schloendorn continues to work with Central Services on office space at Wade Park. Bob learned that the new CBOC may be located in an area near Kaiser Hospital on Snow Road and asked the Board if they would consider this as an alternative sight. After some discussion, the issue was tabled to a later date.

The Executive Director will submit a preliminary draft of the 2009 Budget at the May 7th open public meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

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

Art Stone

- Future CCVSC office space at Wade Park Medical Center
- American Legion Membership
- Referrals to CCVSC service officers

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss client cases.

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:55 a.m.)

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

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:18 a.m.)

Two case files, pulled from the Consent Agenda's list of cases approved for further investigation, were reviewed and found in order. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept VSC case file #68013 and #70846.

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

One case file, pulled from the Consent Agenda's list of cases denied for further investigation, was reviewed and found in order. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept VSC case file #86739.

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. 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 11:20 a.m.

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

Frank Pocci
President

Thomas Zung
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 Jeff Sedlak, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2615)

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

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