



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: May 6, 2009 9:35 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Thomas Zung, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Tom O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director

VISITORS: Richard Danielson, Korean War Veterans of America Post 69
Art Stone, 7th District VFW/American Legion Post 451

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 Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda as published. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

Commissioners' Reports:

Thomas Zung – VFW

- VFW Post 1056 re-elected Ed Morrow as Commander.
- The WWII Honor Flight program started up again on April 15th. The program continues to look for donations and volunteers to accompany the veterans.
- On April 25th, the University School in Wooster, along with 14 other schools, held a special lacrosse event which netted \$42,000 for the Fisher House.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended the North Olmsted VFW meeting on April 15th.
- The North Olmsted VFW will be the major sponsor in providing a stone in the veteran's section of North Olmsted Park, right in front of the flag pole. I met with the mayor and Tim

Milano, of Milano Monuments, to choose an appropriate stone. The stone is slated to be placed in time for a dedication ceremony on Memorial Day.

- Saturday, May 2nd, I attended a very poignant ceremony at the Vietnam Moving Wall at the Elyria Post VFW. I had a chance to visit the Wall and speak to people from my post. It was a very moving experience for me personally.
- VFW Post 7647 will be electing a new commander in two weeks. Art Stone, another individual, and I are planning on running.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- April 3rd & 4th, I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Columbus, Ohio. CCVSC Service Office Manager, John Murphy, did a presentation regarding the responsibilities of a service officer. Tim Espich from the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Affairs was in attendance. A vote was held on the removal process for a veterans service commissioner after two corrections were added. It was decided, by unanimous vote, to have our State Association write to Governor Strickland rejecting the proposal by county commissioners to possibly take over the budgets of the various veterans service commissions. Individual commissions were also encouraged to write.
- April 7th, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General Meeting. It was decided to donate \$200.00 to the Memorial Day Association to help defray expenses. A discussion was also held on where we will hold this year's Commander's Ball. Two places will be looked into. The post held "We Care Day" for the veterans at Brecksville Hospital and will be at the hospital again on April 13th to sponsor bingo games. On April 26th, the post will have a Super Sunday breakfast from 9-11:30 a.m. All are welcome. The cost is \$5.00 per adult. In April, the post will have its Honor Guard provide services at the Western Reserve National Cemetery.
- On April 8th, I visited the Employment Connection Training Center in Parma, Ohio. I introduced myself and advised those in attendance of the services and benefits of the veterans service commission. I left brochures for interested veterans who go through the training center.
- April 9th, I met with the executive committee for the Italian American War Veterans and discussed methods of increasing membership, holding an annual ceremony at the National Cemetery in Rittman, and the upcoming State Convention to be sponsored by our post. We also reviewed the status of all post accounts and the paperwork that has been generated thus far regarding post and state activities.
- April 14th, I met with the Italian American War Veteran's quartermaster and we set up the April meeting for Post 34 to be held on April 24th. We developed all the necessary information and minutes for the May 3rd State meeting in Youngstown and the June 28th State Convention in Cleveland. All mailing and related information will be sent out by April 17th.
- May 3rd, I attended the Dept. of Ohio State meeting in Youngstown where we finalized the State Convention to be held in Cleveland on June 14th and discussed the disposition of

records and proper notifications to various agencies due to the dissolution of Warren Post 29.

- May 5th, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General Meeting. The post continues to sponsor bingo at the Brecksville VA Hospital and serve as honor guard at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio on a monthly basis. They had funeral honors for eight funerals during the month of April. Post 80 also had funeral honors for Army Spec. Brad Davis of Garfield Hts. Even though the post was not contacted until Thursday afternoon, sixteen honor guard members were present the following day. The post is also preparing for Memorial Day activities in Maple Hts. that they will contribute to, and participate in. The post had the nominations for new officers at this meeting and the officers will be installed at the June general meeting.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- April 1st, I attended the American Legion 13th District meeting at Euclid Post 343 at 7:00 p.m.
- April 3rd & 4th, I attended the Veterans Service Commissioners Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio along with my fellow commissioners.
- April 9th, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 8:00 p.m. as Post Commander.
- April 23rd, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. at Post Commander.
- April 27th, I attended the American Legion District Executive Board meeting at American Legion Post 343 at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events for May 2009:

- Tonight, I will be attending the American Legion 13th Council meeting to be held at Rocky River Post 451 at 7:30 p.m.
- I will be attending the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio, April 3rd & 4th.
- American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting is April 9th at 8:00 p.m.
- American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting is April 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Bob Potts – Vietnam Veterans of American

- April 21st, I attended the Membership meeting of our chapter. At that meeting, the new officers were elected for this year. I was re-elected 1st Vice President, running unopposed.
- May 5th, I attended the Board meeting for our chapter. At that meeting, we got an update for the Memorial Day Parade. This year, one of our members is running an ad inviting veterans to march with Chapter 249. This Thursday, we will go to Wade Park VA Hospital to distribute ditty bags to the patients.

OLD BUSINESS:

The eVetAssist Software License Agreement between Enterprise Resource Partners and the CCVSC will be signed by the end of this month.

The purchase of a new boardroom table is being considered for the new office space. Kenny Redd, Outreach Specialist, is still out ill. A video card from the staff was sent to his home.

The American Legion started an initiative to find out how many cremains at funeral homes are those of a veteran. A letter has been prepared to send to area funeral directors. Commissioner Mel Baher's post will provide volunteers to visit area funeral homes, show a video outlining the initiative, identify remains, and give the veterans a dignified burial.

NEW BUSINESS:

The CCVSC 2010 Tax Budget is due by the end of May 2009.

Harry Johns, Service Dept. Administrative Clerk, will be retiring effective June 26, 2009.

A letter from Carol Holden, Huron County Veterans Service Commission, asking for donations for a Fisher House at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, has been distributed with our minutes to all veterans' organizations on our mailing list.

Board members reviewed a rough draft revision of the Medical Policy that was submitted by the Executive Director for consideration. After some discussion, it was decided that the policy needed more latitude, especially now with a poor economy.

Following a \$2.5M renovation, and without a long-term contract, the Lorain CBOC needs to find a new location because the owner of the building is selling.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

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

Art Stone

- Celebration of May Day
- Cod Ceremony, May 24th at 10:00 a.m.
- VFW 7th District Conference, May 12-14, 2009 in Westlake, Ohio
- Medical coverage for veterans

Richard Danielson

- CCVSC outreach at VA hospitals, posts, and chapters
- Veterans returning from active duty

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to go into Executive Session to discuss the social worker position, Harry John's retirement, and the VVA appointment on the CCVSC Board.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:30 a.m.)

A motion was made by Thomas Zung and seconded by Frank Pocci to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business. (10:53 a.m.)

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to hire David Hatcher for the social worker position effective May 26, 2009, pending the outcome of his drug test.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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

Bob Potts, 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: John Murphy, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2637)

Memorial Affairs: Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)

Mobile Meals Program: Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2379)

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

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