



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

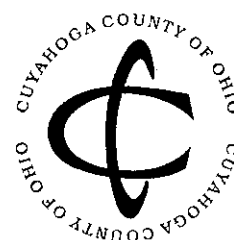


Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**ROBERT SCHLOENDORN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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### MINUTES

**DATE:** June 6, 2012 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Frank Pocci, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Secretary  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner  
Sara DeCaro, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

**ABSENT:** Bob Potts, Vice President

**VISITORS:** Melvin Davis, Mick Panek

**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 Clay Uzell to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. Discussion on a Level III Appeal case will be discussed under Old Business. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting and submitted my report.
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting and addressed the budget.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting where they installed the newly elected post officers to their positions.
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- May 26<sup>th</sup> – I distributed VFW buddy poppies at the South Euclid Giant Eagle.
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – In the morning, I was aboard the USS COD for a VFW Memorial service that was held on deck.

- May 28<sup>th</sup> – I participated in a Memorial Day service at Lakeview Cemetery. I assisted in laying wreaths from VFW Post 7536 honoring WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Beirut Marine Barracks bombing and one honoring all veterans from the CCVSC.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> – I attended funeral services for past VFW State Commander and former CCVSC Commissioner Ed Marzek at Vondrazka Funeral Home in Independence.
- I referred one client to the CCVSC.

#### Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both open public Board meetings and Level III Appeal hearings during the month of May.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended the monthly VFW meeting.
- Memorial Day – I attended a sunrise service at VFW Post 7647, North Olmsted; a ceremony at COE Cemetery in North Olmsted; a ceremony at Butternut Cemetery in North Olmsted; and a parade on Lorain Road followed by a ceremony at North Olmsted Park.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting at Post 451. The Past District Commanders hosted the annual Post Everlasting Service.
- Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I was re-elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and as a delegate to the state convention.
- Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Post 91 members decorated over 1200 graves at Woodvale Cemetery, Adams St. Cemetery, St. Paul's Cemetery and St. Adalbert Cemetery.
- The Memorial Day parade and services were held at McKelvey Park on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker was Marine gunnery sergeant, Dan Priestley, a severely injured Iraq War veteran. Our 21-gun salute was provided by the local Civil War re-enactors.

#### *Upcoming Events:*

- June 10<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Summer Convention will be held at 10:00 a.m. at Post 91.
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – annual Flag Day ceremonies will be held at Post 91 at 7:00 p.m. Immediately following will be the post membership meeting.
- June 28<sup>th</sup> – Post 91 e-board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

#### *Events:*

- The Post 80 nominations and election of officers was held on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I continue to serve as the finance officer for the post.
- The AMVETS 20<sup>th</sup> district meeting was held on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the post.
- The post Memorial Day ceremony was held on May 20<sup>th</sup> where all members who left us in the last year were saluted and the role of those gone before was read.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> at the post's general meeting, I gave my financial report. This is the last report for the fiscal year and after the financials are reviewed, I will submit the tax reports.

#### *Other Activities:*

- I attended the CCVSC open public meetings as well as the appeals meetings in the month of May.
- Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, I participated in the WKYC telethon for veterans to call in for questions regarding the filing of VA claims and other services rendered by the CCVSC.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, I attended the VVA Chapter 249 general meeting.

- May 26<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Middleburg Heights Memorial ceremony that was well attended which gave me the opportunity to pass out about 200 CCVSC pamphlets.
- Also on May 26<sup>th</sup>, I moderated the monthly open meeting of the Italian American War Veterans Post 34. The ITAM organization donated \$500.00 to Holy Name High School in memory of our Past State Commander, Chuck Faroni, who designed the high school.
- May 28<sup>th</sup>, I participated in the Parma Heights Memorial Day parade where I represented the CCVSC and the AMVETS.
- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, I also visited American Legion Post 91 in Berea where I joined other veterans after the Memorial Day parade was concluded.
- May 29<sup>th</sup>, I attended the VVA open meeting where nominations were concluded and elections made for officers. Bob Potts was elected Commander of Chapter 249.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the ITAM Convention in Lorain, Ohio and was reappointed as State Adjutant.
- June 6<sup>th</sup>, I will be presiding at the CCVSC open public meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion took place concerning a Level III Appeal case where it was learned, after the appeal was approved, that the client submitted a BUC determination showing he lived in Lorain County. Further investigation revealed that he received financial assistance from several veterans service commissions simultaneously and had 102 addresses in the last 10 years. The CCVSC managed to cancel the vouchers before they were redeemed and the case was submitted for fraud.

The Executive Director submitted a revision to the Guideline for Term of Financial Assistance for the Board's review. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adopt the revised Guideline for Term of Financial Assistance dated June 6, 2012 as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioners and the Executive Director will be attending a budget hearing with County Council to discuss CCVSC's approved 2013 Budget on June 18, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. A request for specific areas of concern has been submitted but we have not received a response to date.

The CCVSC van will be used by Commissioner Pocci on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to attend the Middleburg Hts. Summer in the City parade and by Commissioner Baher on July 4<sup>th</sup> to attend a parade in Berea, Ohio.

Commissioner Dan Weist will be attending the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners Summer Convention in Dublin, Ohio from July 27-29, 2012.

Performance evaluations for 2011 are due by July 31, 2012.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept CCVSC Resolution 2012-18; a resolution requesting authority for eight Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Officers to attend the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officer (OSACVSO) summer quarterly meeting and training conference sponsored by the OSACVSO from July 26-27, 2012 in Dublin, Ohio, expenses not to exceed \$1,936.00.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Cleveland's Marine week is scheduled for June 11-17, 2012. The CCVSC will be present at many of the events throughout the week providing information concerning our services and benefits.

Bob Schloendorn will be appearing on the Bill Wills Show June 14, 2012 to speak about the Hiring our Heroes Veteran Job Expo on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Wolstein Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Cleveland Partnership and MAGNET, the CCVSC, ODJFS, the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services and others.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to go into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation.

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

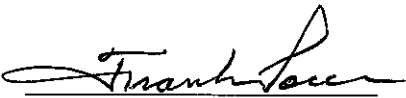
A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:48 a.m.)

An employee compensation matter was discussed in Executive Session and the Executive Director has been instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, 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)