



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

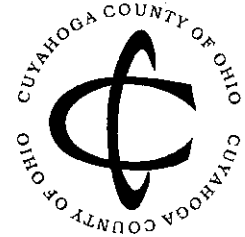


Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**ROBERT SCHLOENDORN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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### MINUTES

DATE: August 1, 2012 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Frank Pocci, President  
Bob Potts, Vice President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Secretary  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

ABSENT: Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner

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. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

*Brian Gutowski, Asst. County Prosecutor, joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.*

### COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – I presented a 5x8 U.S. flag to the Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home to replace their tattered flag in time for July 4<sup>th</sup>. I left CCVSC pamphlets for the veterans.
- July 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- July 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended a meeting at VFW Post 7413 in Warrensville Hts. I was appointed trustee along with two fellow District 7 members. I was asked to attend their meeting and make recommendations on closing the post due to violations of National By-laws.
- July 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW State C of A Conference in Columbus, Ohio.
- July 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended all the business sessions at the conference.
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – I presented the safety program for the New Year. I attended the round-up banquet Saturday night honoring the new State Commander, Chuck Keller.

- July 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended meeting at Post 7536 in Lyndhurst. We went over plans for the upcoming pig roast on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Members attend free of charge and guests will be required to pay \$10.00.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 19<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> – I left for the VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada. I attended the general business sessions and voted as a registered delegate on resolutions. President Obama addressed the joint session on Monday and Mitt Romney addressed the delegates on Tuesday. I returned home the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- July 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Post 91 annual Independence Day festivities.
- July 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Department Convention in Columbus, Ohio. I serve as the chairman of the Credentials Committee. I also presented a draft resolution of the temporary Memorial Day grave markers to the Americanism Committee for their review. Their meeting is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- July 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District council meeting at Post 469. I gave my monthly financial report.
- July 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended Post 91's monthly membership meeting. I gave my first 2013 membership report.
- July 26<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Post 91 executive board meeting and gave an updated membership report.

#### Upcoming events for August 2012

- August 1<sup>st</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Post 196. I will give my financial reports as 13<sup>th</sup> District finance officer.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District annual picnic will be held at the German Club on York Road from noon until 6:00 p.m.
- August 9<sup>th</sup> – Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – I will be leaving for Indianapolis, Indiana for the 94<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the American Legion.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- The AMVETS Post 80 monthly meeting was held on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. I provided the commander with the necessary financial information. The next meeting will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Post 80 did have Honor Guard duty at the Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

#### Other Activities:

- I attended all the CCVSC meetings as well as the appeals meetings during the month of July.
- I referred one veteran to our service officer at the Parma CBOC.
- July 27<sup>th</sup>, I presided over the Italian American War Veteran's open meeting where 36 members attended and we welcomed two new members. Donations were also approved for Mount Alverna and the Casa Italia foundation.
- I met with Mr. Michael Jackson who is running for Common Pleas Judge. I informed him that, although we do not endorse political candidates, it would be interesting to hear what his platform is particularly in regards to veterans, as he himself is a veteran. I invited him to attend one of our open meetings at the CCVSC.

- I tried to explain to a WWII veteran, who we have helped in the past, that he is not entitled to certain types of hearing aids because he is not service connected. He did not seem to understand the reason. I asked our service officer, Larry Amato, to contact him to better explain the situation and to see if there are any other services or benefits he may be entitled to.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There is still no word on the DAV appointment to the CCVSC Board. Commissioner Weist will continue to serve until a decision is made.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A revision to the Performance Evaluation Policy was submitted by the Executive Director for review and approval. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adopt the revised Performance Evaluation Policy dated August 1, 2012 effective immediately.

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

The Executive Director stated that the Board regularly approves tuition reimbursement requests by employees. He did note, however, that per policy, a request for tuition reimbursement that does not apply to the employee's position will not be considered.

Since the opening of the Horseshow Casino in downtown Cleveland, some clients who have applied for financial assistance, claim they have incurred a hardship as a result of gambling. The Board agreed that gambling, as well as drug and alcohol use, will not be considered a hardship and will be viewed as causing one's own hardship. As with drug and alcohol addiction, a consideration will be made if they have entered into a gambler's addiction program at the VA and have banned themselves from the casino.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

The Executive Director stated that it has been past practice of the CCVSC to require reservists who are CCVSC employees to submit a copy of their military orders for paid military leave. He noted that we will now be in compliance with USERRA and County policy and accept orders or proper notification.

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

Mick Panek

- DAV appointment
- Bus passes at the Parma CBOC

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss office procedural issues.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:18 a.m.)

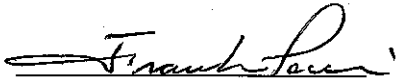
A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:44 a.m.)

Office procedural issues were discussed in Executive Session. The Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. 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)