



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL I. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER

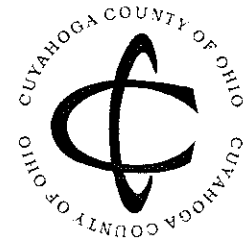


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: September 7, 2011 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Frank Pocchi, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clayton Uzell, Commissioner
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

VISITORS: Art Stone, American Legion Post 451

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mel Baher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts 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, Pocchi, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Bob Potts – VVA

- August 2nd, I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421.
- August 2nd, I attended the monthly Membership meeting which was held after the Board meeting.
- August 3rd, I attended Ethics training at the CCVSC along with my fellow commissioners.
- August 3rd, I attended an open public Board meeting at CCVSC.
- August 10 & 24th, I attended CCVSC Level III Appeals meetings.
- August 26th, I attended the Summit County Veterans Service Commission Annual Golf outing with Dan Weist and Bob Schloendorn.

Dan Weist – DAV

- August 3rd, I attended Ethics training at the CCVSC.

- August 5th, I attended a meeting at the CCVSC with representatives of the VA, CEOCG and the Carpenter's Union concerning the Helmets to Hard Hats Program.
- August 17th, I attended my VFW monthly meeting.
- August 26th, I attended the Summit County VSC annual golf outing in Mogador, Ohio.
- On September 11th, I will be attending the North Olmsted Fire Station Commemoration Ceremony of 9/11.
- September 13th, I will be attending the ODVS Regional training in Mansfield, Ohio.
- September 17th, I will be doing an outreach at the USO of Northeast Ohio.

Clayton Uzell – VFW

- August 3rd - I attended Ethics training at the CCVSC at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Board's open public meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- August 7th - I attended a District 7 staff meeting at Post 387 Edgewater, W. 140th. I reported on the Safety Program for the District and State, spoke about CCVSC services and passed out pamphlets.
- August 10th - I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- August 14th - I assisted with the VFW Post 7536 pig roast. CCVSC literature was placed on the check-in table for those interested.
- August 17th - I attended the CCVSC Board meeting.
- August 21st - I attended a funeral for a VFW Auxiliary member.
- August 22nd - I attended Parma Post 1974 Past President's meeting/dinner and called bingo.
- August 24th - I attended CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- August 27th - I departed for the VFW National Convention in San Antonio, Texas where I serve on the National General Resolutions Committee.
- August 28th - I attended the General Resolutions Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m. and reviewed proposed resolutions.
- August 29th - the Joint opening session was at 8:00 a.m. District 7 Ohio night at Lone Star Steakhouse was at 6:00 p.m.
- August 30th - The business session began at 8:00 a.m. At 6:00 p.m. all states attended the VFW Patriotic rally.
- August 31st - The All American Commander's Breakfast was held at 6:30 a.m. followed by the VFW Health Fair at 10:00 a.m.
- September 1st - The VFW General Business session began at 8:00 a.m. Elections were held and the conference concluded.

Frank Pocci – AMVEIS

- August 2nd - I attended the AMVEIS Post 80 General meeting.
- August 16th - Our AMVEIS post had Honor Guard duty at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.
- September 6th - I attended the AMVEIS Post 80 general meeting.

Other activities:

- I referred one Vietnam veteran to our Service Department to file for a service connected claim.
- I attended two funerals; one for a WWII veteran and one for a Korean War veteran where I presented flag cases to family members.

- I attended the executive meeting of the Italian American War Veterans to discuss donations and elections of officers; a donation for \$200 will be made to purchase phone cards for servicemen in Afghanistan.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans Post 34 general meeting on August 26th. Officers were elected. All officers retained their positions except for the Junior Vice Commander which is now vacant. I continued to be the Adjutant for the Post.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- August 11th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I serve as 1st Vice Commander in charge of membership.
- August 21st – I attended the American Legion Post 91 annual family picnic from noon – 6:00 p.m. I assisted with kitchen duties and keeping the food supply replenished.
- August 24th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 e-board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- August 25th through September 1st – I attended the American Legion convention in Minneapolis, MN as a delegate from Ohio representing American Legion Post 91.

Upcoming Events.

- Thursday, September 8th – American Legion Post 91 monthly membership is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 11th – American Legion Post 91 will host the 10th anniversary commemoration service to be held at McKelvey Park at 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 16th – American Legion Post 91 will host its annual POW/MIA service at 7:00 p.m. at the Post home on the pavilion. Names of Ohioans still listed as POW/MIA will be read as part of the service.
- Thursday, September 22nd – the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Commission will soon be getting new network printers/scanners. Lake Business Products will be instructed to destroy the hard drives of the machines being removed

Following a thorough review of information provided by Laurene Rutkowski, Memorial Affairs Manager, the Board has decided that the current indigent burial amount of \$4,925.00 provides a respectable burial and will remain the same.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Weist will be attending ODVS Regional training in Mansfield, Ohio on September 13th and Commissioners Pocci, Potts, and Uzell will be attending the October 13th session in Ravenna, Ohio.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Schloendorn is scheduled to meet with Joseph Gauntner, Deputy Chief of Staff, Health and Human Services, on September 13th to discuss the CCVSC 2012 & 2013 budgets. Bob mentioned that with the County's plan for a two-year budget it must be noted that the ORC requires a yearly budget for the veterans service commissions. Bob also plans to focus on the amount of money this commission brings back into the Cuyahoga County.

The Executive Director mentioned that the good work of Randy Stevenson, Veterans Service Officer, succeeded in obtaining a 60% service connected claim for hearing loss, retroactive to June 2011, for a veteran whose primary reason for the visit was to order his military medals.

Bob Schloendorn is tentatively scheduled to speak about CCVSC benefits and services at an Ameriprise Financial seminar at the 100th Bomber's Squadron and asked for the Board's input. After further discussion, the Commissioners felt that this was a lead-generated seminar and recommended cancelling the speaking engagement.

Bob Schloendorn provided the Commissioners with handouts that the Portage County Veterans Service Commission issues with information about the services they provide. Bob advised the Board that he will meet with managers to verify the information and then order copies to be printed on card stock and made available in the lobby.

The Executive Director was present at the Louis Stokes Brecksville VA Medical Center's Decommissioning Ceremony on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The ceremony celebrated 50 years of service to veterans and was well attended.

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

Art Stone


- Possible closing of McCafferty VA outpatient clinic
- American Legion 13th District conference is scheduled for 9/11/11
- 13th District will not be publishing a roster due to non-sufficient funds

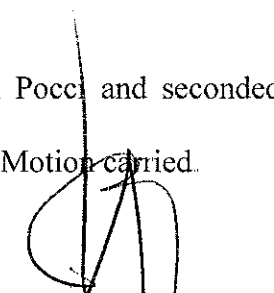
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

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


Mel Baher, President


Bob Potts, 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)