



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: October 1, 2008 9:33 a.m.

PRESENT: Frank Pocci, President  
Bob Potts, Vice President  
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Tom O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

ABSENT: Thomas T.K. Zung, Secretary

VISITORS: Art Stone, VFW 7<sup>th</sup> District/American Legion Post 451; Tom Nevans, VFW Post 3345; Marge Noah; Ted Noah Sr.; Sgt. Vance Noah and son, Christopher; Ted Noah Jr.; Paul Phillips, KBPD; Mary McCoig, KBPD; Senator Sherrod Brown and staff members Charles Scotch and Laura Pechaitis; and media.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Pocci followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President deferred to the Good of the Order for a presentation of the Purple Heart Award to Sgt. Vance Noah for injuries he received during his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sgt. Noah enlisted in May 2003 and was honorably discharged in 2007. Initially, he was told he would not be eligible for the Purple Heart Award. Senator Brown's office intervened and assisted Sgt. Noah in securing the award. Senator Brown and CCVSC Commissioner Dan Weist co-presented the award.

*The Board recessed at 9:45 a.m. for pictures and a brief social with the Noah family. The media took an opportunity to ask Senator Brown questions concerning the current financial bailout crisis.*

*The Board reconvened at 10:05 a.m.*

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 17, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Level III Board Appeals meeting of September 17, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts 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, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The Consent Agenda approved and denied cases are still a work in progress.

#### REPORTS:

#### **Agenda Item E1. Commissioners' Reports**

##### Bob Potts – VVA

- September 2nd, I attended our Chapter Board Meeting at which time we discussed advertising in the local newspaper to recruit new members. We also discussed final arrangements for POW/MIA day and handing out poppies at three Wal-Mart stores.
- September 16<sup>th</sup>, I attended the monthly membership meeting.
- Post members were handing out poppies at the Avon and Elyria Wal-Mart stores on September 19<sup>th</sup> and at the North Olmsted Wal-Mart store on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

##### Mel Baher – American Legion

- September 7<sup>th</sup>, I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference at Post 610 at 10:00 a.m.
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, I conducted a Patriot Day Commemoration Service on the Berea Triangle at 9:00 a.m.
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting as post Commander at 8:00 p.m.
- September 25<sup>th</sup>, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Executive Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

##### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2008:

- October 1<sup>st</sup> - American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District meeting at Post 343 at 7:30 p.m.
- October 9<sup>th</sup> - Post 91 Membership meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Post 91 Executive Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

##### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the celebration of Patriot Day in Berea, Ohio on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a very moving ceremony sponsored by American Legion Post 91. Commissioner Mel Baher, Commander of Post 91, was the Master of Ceremonies.
- Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Italian American War Veteran's general meeting. Discussion revolved around the national conference held here in Cleveland and the need to recruit younger members. We also sponsored a clambake on the same day for approximately 25 veterans.
- I am making arrangements to participate in the Columbus Day Parade. I plan on decorating my car with the magnetic commission logos and will be distributing information about the CCVSC at the event.

- I will be attending the AMVETS general meeting at the Maple Hts. post next week. AMVETS Post 80 held bingo night at Brecksville and provided honor guard at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio during the month of September.

#### Dan Weist - DAV

- September 17<sup>th</sup>, I attended a meeting at the North Olmsted VFW.
- The USO Golf Outing was held September 19<sup>th</sup>. It was very well attended with approximately 344 people. A patriotic ceremony was held in honor of POW/MIA month. All branches of the service were represented.
- September 29<sup>th</sup>, I attended a meeting at American Legion Post 211 to discuss ideas on how the community can honor the remains of Capt. Medders, a Lorain/Avon Lake resident, which are expected to arrive on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The post decided to purchase cemetery flags and distribute them to the residents and school children that will line the streets during the funeral procession.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Schloendorn reported that the RFP pre-bid meeting with contractors went very well. The expected target date to vacate our office is August 1, 2009.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on Veterans' Appreciation Week, November 10-14, 2008, was deferred to the next meeting.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Schloendorn introduced newly hired employees. Geniece Garner and David Plagman are Eligibility Specialists and Charlene Jorge and Larry Amato are Veterans Service Officers-In Training.

Discussion on a pay adjustment for an employee was deferred to Executive Session.

Bob Schloendorn noted that he is a member of a committee at the Crile Archive Museum at Tri-C's Western Campus that is gathering ideas on how to preserve the archives.

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

#### Art Stone

- Update of post activities

#### Tom Nevans

- Update of post activities
- Patriot's Pen – essay for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss an employee pay adjustment.

AYES: Potts, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:21 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: Potts, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:50 a.m.)

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to approve a salary increase for Mary Kitko by moving her to Range 6, Step 7, effective next pay period.

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

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

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

Frank Pocci  
President

Bob Potts  
Secretary Pro Tem

**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)