



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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MINUTES

DATE: November 2, 2011 9:32 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clayton Uzell, Commissioner
Daniel I. Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Tom O'Donnell, Asst. Prosecuting Attorney
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

ABSENT: Frank Pocci, Vice President

VISITORS: Mick Panek, Sara DeCaro

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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Bob Potts – VVA

- October 4th, I attended the monthly Chapter Board meeting and the monthly Membership meeting that followed.
- October 5th, I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 6th, Commissioners Baher, Pocci, and I were invited to attend the Middleburg Hts. Women's Club meeting. At 7:00 p.m., Commissioner Pocci opened the presentation by thanking the 56 members for inviting us to their meeting. He introduced Commissioner Baher and me and then presented a power-point that described the benefits and services of the CCVSC. A question and answer period followed. I recommended that anyone wishing to file a claim should contact the CCVSC.
- October 12th, I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- October 13th, I attended Regional training in Ravenna, Ohio.

- October 19th, I attended the second open public meeting of the CCVSC.
- October 26th, I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting and a Special meeting of the Board held afterward.
- November 1st, I attended the monthly Membership meeting for VVA Chapter 249. We had the privilege to have Lee Olive, Ohio National Guard, speak to the members regarding his experience in Iraq.

Dan Weist – DAV

- October 6th, I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 12th, I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- October 19th, I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 20th, I attended my VFW monthly meeting.
- October 26th, I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting and a Special meeting of the Board afterwards.
- October 30th, I attended funeral services for a WWII veteran at Grace Church in Middleburg Hts. A banquet followed the well-attended services.
- October 31st, the VFW conducted a contest for the Patriot Pen Program where the grade school children were asked to write a patriotic essay. An award ceremony took place at St. Brennan's Church for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The same contest will be conducted at St. Richard's Church on November 4th.
- November 3rd, I will be in attendance at the North Olmsted Middle School where the art director will conduct a patriotic arts contest at 9:30 a.m.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- October 1st, I attended the VFW Founder's Day Celebration in Columbus at Greenlawn Cemetery and a luncheon at Post 9473 in Reynoldsburg.
- October 6th, I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 8th, I attended the VFW District 7 POW/MIA conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Independence, Ohio.
8:30 a.m. registration – I placed CCVSC pamphlets in the display stand at the registration table.
9:00 a.m. – I attended school of instruction for post insurance and gaming
11:00 a.m. – Commanders/Sr. Vice/Jr. Vice and Quartermaster school
12:00 p.m. – Past District 7 Commanders lunch and meeting
1:30 p.m. – General business meeting – I gave a report on safety projects and asked posts to send clients to CCVSC. I spoke with the Post Commander who wants to donate cemetery plots to the CCVSC.
7:00 p.m. – POW/MIA Banquet
9:30 p.m. – POW/MIA salute – Strongsville Honor Guard outside entrance
- Wauseon, Ohio – I attended a Blue Star/Gold Star Mother's tribute.
VFW Post 7424 – My wife, Sandra, VFW Auxiliary Dept. Ohio Chaplain, said the opening prayers and closing remarks. It was a very moving and emotional program.
- October 12th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- October 13th – I attended the funeral for the Post 7536 Chaplain who passed away. We had a WWII Veteran VFW service conducted by District 7 Chaplain, Norm Manninen, and Post 7536 members & ladies auxiliary.
- October 19th – I attended the CCVSC Board meeting.

- October 24th – I attended the Parma Post 1974 Past President's meeting/dinner. I called bingo for the ladies.
- October 26th – I attended the CCVSC Level III hearings.
- October 31st – I attended the funeral of the Past District 7 Auxiliary President at Mallachak Funeral Home, 5660 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- October 6th – Commissioners Pocci, Potts, and I attended the Middleburgh Hts. Women's Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. to inform the group about the services provided by the CCVSC. It was a well-attended meeting.
- October 8th – American Legion Post 91 held its annual clam bake from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- October 13th – American Legion Post 91 held its monthly membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I serve as 1st Vice Commander in charge of membership.
- October 27th – American Legion Post 91 held its monthly executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m. I gave an updated membership report.

Upcoming Events for November 2011

- November 2nd – American Legion 13th District council meeting is scheduled for this evening at Post 403 in Garfield Hts at 7:30 p.m.
- November 10th – American Legion Post 91 monthly membership is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- November 23rd – American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The CCVSC will be open for business on Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11, 2011 and the following Monday to better serve the veteran's community.

Tom O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor, joined the meeting at 9.50 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commissioners received an invitation to attend the Unveiling of Congressman Louis Stokes' Portrait at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center, 10701 East Blvd, Cleveland, Ohio on Friday, November 11, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

A discussion took place concerning the method of calculating fraud on applications for financial assistance. It was decided that the restitution amount will now be calculated based on assistance granted on the fraudulent applications only. Assistance granted on subsequent applications that are accurate will no longer be included in the total indebtedness.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Giant Eagle no longer accepts CCVSC vouchers. The Executive Director placed a call to the store's credit and accounts receivable departments to no avail. Clients still have an opportunity to purchase their food items at Super Kmart, Dave's, Heinen's and Marcs.

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

- Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. - This organization provides lodging for veteran patients and their families receiving critical medical treatment at the Wright Patterson Medical Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:25 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (12:00 p.m.)

A legal personnel issue was discussed with the Asst. County Prosecutor in Executive Session. No action was taken.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

AYES: Baher, 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)