



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

JOHN C. MURPHY
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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MINUTES

DATE: November 4, 2009 9:40 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Thomas Zung, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

ABSENT: Frank Pocci, Commissioner

VISITORS: Art Stone, VFW 7647/American Legion #451

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bob Potts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda as published. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Thomas Zung – VFW

- Euclid VFW Post 1056 held their monthly meeting and the Post Commander reported the results from the post audit from the District Auditor. Post 1056 met the audit requirements.
- I represented the CCVSC as the VFW member at the wake of a service member having served in the Korean War. I presented the family with a 50-year Korean War Memorial pin, acknowledging the deceased veteran for his service to our country. The family was appreciative of the gesture.
- October 10th, I spoke at the Bratenahl Community Center and at Building One, urging voters to vote for Issue One; proposed constitutional amendment authorizing payment to veterans of Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Wars.

- October 17th, I spoke about Issue One at the Jewish Center in Beachwood, outlining the need to help veterans during these tough economic times. I told the audience that I personally know some veterans who are having a hard time seeking employment. These vets deserve our support. The issue is a bond issue authorization.
- I met with a county commissioner about speaking out for Issue One and relayed how the CCVSC is aiding veterans who are seeking educational funds while attending school. Problem is the slow response from the VA in reimbursing the vet. Senator Sherrod Brown, who is on the Veterans Committee, and Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, are aware of the problem and are trying to help.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- October 7th, I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at Euclid Post 343 at 8:00 p.m., where I serve as the 13th District Judge Advocate.
- October 8th, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting at 8:00 p.m., where I serve as the Post Commander.
- October 22nd, I attended the American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- October 26th, I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Euclid Post 343.

Upcoming Events for November 2009:

- a) November 4th, I will be attending the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at American Legion Post 703 at 8:00 p.m.
- b) November 11th, I will be hosting Veteran's Day programs at Berea High School at 9:00 a.m., Roehm Middle School at 1:00 p.m., and the Southern Hills Nursing Home at 2:30 p.m. Post 91 will be serving a luncheon from noon to 2:00 p.m. and a dinner from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- c) November 12th, the American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting is scheduled for 8:00 p.m.
- d) November 23rd, I will be attending the American Legion 13th District Executive Board meeting to be held at American Legion Post 703 at 7:30 p.m.

Bob Potts – VVA

- October 6th, I attended the monthly Chapter Board meeting but we did not have enough officers in attendance to have a quorum, therefore, the meeting was cancelled. Those present talked about joining with other chapters in the county so we can continue having events and to get the State Vietnam Veterans of America Convention to Cleveland in 2010.
- October 17th, another chapter member and I presented the colors at Westlake High School for the meeting of the Teachers Union.
- October 19th, because the Groundbreaking Ceremony at the Wade Park VA Medical Center was cancelled, I attended a joint meeting at Congresswoman Marcia Fudge's office to discuss ways of getting help to veterans and explained benefits that are available. She is interested in finding a way to have a central information center for veterans to contact.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was noted for the record, that Asst. County Prosecutor, Tom O'Donnell has contacted the County Prosecutor's Office to discuss a strategy for the current VVA appointment and upcoming American Legion appointment.

Discussion continued regarding the purchase of burial flag cases to be given to families, who have not received flags in the past, as part of our outreach program. It was decided that we would acquire approximately 48 boxes for the Memorial Affairs Department to issue as they see fit.

The Executive Director was instructed to look into purchasing veterans service organization flags for the commissioner's office.

Bob Schloendorn gave an office construction update. Work should be completed in approximately one month. An open house will be held and an invitation will be extended to veterans' organizations, county officials, and the public.

NEW BUSINESS:

Financial assistance applications will not be taken for those individuals with non-veteran status. Per the ORC, "a veteran means a former member of the armed forces of the United States who served on active duty military duty and received an honorable discharge or honorable separation, a member of the armed forces of the United States who died on active military duty, or a member of the armed forces of the United States missing in action more than ninety days."

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

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

Art Stone

- Issue 1 inquiries
- CCVSC appointments on the Board
- Issue 3 passed. Tic-tac-toe machines at veterans' posts will now have to go through the gambling commission.
- East Cleveland is to start a new VFW post.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel vacancy and two client issues.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:33 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:10 a.m.)

In Executive Session, the Executive Director informed the Board of a personnel vacancy due to retirement. Two client cases were discussed and referred to their prospective department.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

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

Bob Potts, President

Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: John Murphy, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2637)

Memorial Affairs: Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)

Mobile Meals Program: Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2379)

Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)

Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)