



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 E. SCHLOENDORN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650  
Email: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



### MINUTES

**DATE:** November 6, 2013 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob Potts, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President  
Daniel T. Weist, Secretary  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

**VISITORS:** Mick Panek, Art Stone, Rich Lasky

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by 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 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, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

##### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the general meeting at Post 80 on November 5<sup>th</sup> where I gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The effort to sell the Post continues.

##### *Other activities:*

- During October, I missed two of the open public meetings as I was out of the country.
- I referred one veteran to Randy at the Parma facility for a possible service connected condition. I also am getting information from another WWII veteran whose records may not be available except from the national records center.

- I spoke to a very thankful veteran at the American Legion in Berea who we able to connect 100% due to prostate cancer for exposure to Agent Orange. He is undergoing treatments and it looks as if he may be cleared of the cancer. He will know in the next few months.
- I attended the general meeting of the Italian American War Veterans on November 1<sup>st</sup> where the membership voted on and approved charitable contributions for the phone cards for our troops and for the Wounded Warriors. We also received thank you letters for the contributions the post made for the Providence House and Mount Alverna.

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting where we interviewed the final three candidates for Executive Director in Executive Session. We also reviewed laws affecting the workplace.
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended Regional training from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at VFW Post 1055, 6000 New Milford Rd. in Ravenna, Ohio.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW District 7 Conference at 9:00 a.m. at VFW Post 387 on West 140<sup>th</sup> St. We had a joint forum and general business session. I gave a report on the safety program and handed out CCVSC pamphlets. I mentioned that the Gulf War and Iraq bonuses are coming to an end.
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Lake/Geauga County Council dinner at Mentor-on-the-Lake.
- October 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC outreach public meeting at American Legion Post 196 in Brecksville, Ohio.
- October 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended a meeting at VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst where I conducted the meeting as Commander. We discussed the upcoming poppy distribution for Veteran’s Day weekend at Giant Eagle, South Euclid.
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- October 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended a veteran’s funeral in Cuyahoga Falls.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District council meeting held at Euclid Post 343. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer. I also updated the council members on the VSC choice for the new executive director.
- Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC budget hearing held in County Council chambers, along with fellow commissioners and the executive directors. I also attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting held at Euclid Post 343 at 7:30 p.m. I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting where I serve as an elected board member.
- During the month of October, I referred three veterans to the VSC for assistance with financial aid, service officer assistance and memorial affairs for a flag case and Presidential Certificate of Appreciation.

#### *Upcoming Events:*

- Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting is scheduled for Brecksville Post 196 at 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran’s Day activities will include a luncheon and dinner served at American Legion Post 91.

- Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – I will be departing for the OSAVSC Fall Conference in Dublin, Ohio. The training session will be on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Completion of this training will satisfy the four point requirement needed for commissioners.
- Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting is scheduled at Brecksville American Legion Post 196 at 7:30 p.m.

#### Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended one of the open public board meetings and both Level III Appeal hearings during the month of October.
- I missed my DAV and VFW meeting because I was out of town, but managed to audit the VFW financial records.
- I referred six veterans to the VSC.
- I am working with Mike Moses and Curt McPherson on the OSAVSC Constitution and By Laws and a proposal will be presented to the members.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- October 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended my VVA board meeting and membership meeting.
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- October 16<sup>th</sup> – I did not attend the CCVSC outreach board meeting because I was out of town.
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- October 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended a meet and greet with the newly appointed Executive Director, Jon Reiss. I also attended our budget meeting with County Council along with Bob Schloendorn and Jon Reiss.
- November 12<sup>th</sup> – The Chapter meeting and board meeting moved from the first Tuesday to November 12<sup>th</sup> because of Election Day.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion continued on a revision to the Tardiness Policy. It was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting for a proposal from Executive Director Jon Reiss.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A revision to the Financial Assistance Application and Appeal Procedure dated January 16, 2013 was discussed and postponed to the next open public meeting for a recommendation from the Executive Director.

Executive Director, Jon Reiss, submitted his 2014 Executive Agenda to the Board for approval. The proposal, which outlines his goals for the upcoming year, was unanimously approved by the Board.

A *Press Release* naming Jon Reiss as the new CCVSC Executive Director was read in its entirety and will be released to the public.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Mel Baher mentioned that the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day event will take place at the U.S.S. Cod on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 a.m. followed by a luncheon at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, E. 12<sup>th</sup> &

Lakeside Ave. WWII members of American Legion Post 91 will be transported to the ceremony and luncheon.

Clay Uzell noted that the CCVSC was recognized for the great assistance we provide to our veterans during ODVS Regional training in Ravenna on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Rich Lansky

- Free advertising in the Parma Observer and Lakewood Observer
- Veterans Community Art Center - art therapy program for veterans (photography, painting & sculpturing)

Mick Panek

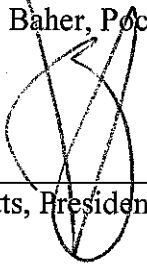
- Bi-partisan bill re: veteran's unemployment
- Social media advertising

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

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



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Bob Potts, President



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Daniel T. Weist, 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:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)