



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: December 3, 2008 9:33 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Richard Danielson, KWVA Post 69.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of November 19, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Potts, Zung, 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 November 19, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung 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, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. **NAYS:** None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept cases approved on the Consent Agenda for the month of October 2008.

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

The list of cases approved and denied on the Consent Agenda for the month of November 2008 were not available.

Agenda Item E1. Commissioners' Reports

Bob Potts – VVA

- Chapter 249 cancelled the November 4th monthly board meeting due to Election Day and held a combined board and membership meeting on November 18th.
- November 7th, Chapter 249 participated in a Veteran's Day Program at Holly Lane Elementary School in Westlake, Ohio.
- November 21-23, 2008, I attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference along with the other commissioners at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbus, Ohio.
- December 2nd, I attended the monthly board meeting for Chapter 249. We decided to cancel the December membership meeting because of the holidays.

Thomas Zung – VFW

- VFW Post 1056 held their monthly meeting on November 13th. The post voted to donate funds to the artist whose pen and ink drawings of deceased Cuyahoga County veterans are displayed in the CCVSC boardroom.
- November 19th, I attended burial services at Arlington National Cemetery where by brother, Lt. Cmdr. M.K. Zung, USNR retired, was buried with full military honors. I was in awe of the services at Myers Chapel: The full U.S. Navy Band, the Navy Company and Honor Guards were present, and six white horses drew the casket for a mile to the Columbarium, located near the Pentagon. Although it was a poignant occasion, the memorial service will be a memorable experience.
- November 21-23, my fellow commissioners and I, attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio where discussion took place concerning the rules and regulations for removal of a VSC county commissioner, to be set forth by the new director of the Department of Veterans Services.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- November 5th – I attended the American Legion 13th council meeting held at Post 572 at 7:30 p.m.
- November 10th – I attended a Veteran's Day program at Albion Elementary School at 8:00 a.m. where my granddaughter attends school.
- November 11th – I conducted our annual Veteran's Day program at Berea High School in the auditorium at 8:00 a.m.
- I also conducted a Veteran's Day program at Rohem Middle School in Berea on November 11th in the auditorium at 2:00 p.m.
- November 11th – I attended Post 91's Veteran's Day luncheon provided by our Ladies Auxiliary unit. Later that evening, I enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Post 91 hosted by our Sons of the American Legion Squadron.
- November 13th – As post commander, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- November 26th – I conducted the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mel Baher

Upcoming events:

- I will be attending the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference at Post 91 at 10:00 a.m.
- Post 91 membership meeting is December 11, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
- Post 91 executive board meeting (date to be announced) will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Dan Weist – DAV

- November 11th, Veteran's Day, I attended a ceremony outside the North Olmsted City Hall at 1:00 p.m.
- November 11th, I attended a Veteran's Day ceremony in Lakewood, Ohio.
- November 19th, I attended the VFW general meeting.
- November 21-22, I attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference along with the other commissioners at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbus, Ohio.
- November 26th, I attended the VFW Policeman & Firefighter of the Year Award's ceremony at the North Olmsted Community Center.
- December 1st, I was asked by Dr. John Wasylik, President of the OSAVSC, to chair a committee to establish a policy and procedures workup of duties for the executive staff of the OSAVSC.
- December 2nd, I attended a VFW House Committee meeting.

Frank Pocci

- I was contacted by Mike Szabo of the Vet Center who requested certain CCVSC information. Mr. Szabo was sent information including statistics, web sites, and brochures.
- I contacted Madeline Brookshire, Marketing Director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, and offered to send her a box of our brochures for distribution to all 28 branches after noticing they were low on their supply.
- I attended the monthly Italian American Veterans general meeting. The post will hold its next meeting on the same day as the annual Christmas dinner. Business will be discussed prior to the meeting. The ITAM State Commander continues to be in ill health and the fall Dept. of Ohio meeting has not been held as of this writing.
- November 21-22, I attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The conference had some good training sessions and also provided an update as to how the new Dept. of Veterans Services will be structured. Of particular interest, was the Department's procedure for the oversight of the veterans service commissions and their commissioners. Recommendations from the commissioners and the Executive Board will be considered before any guidelines are put into place.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2nd, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General meeting and, as Finance Officer, I reviewed with members the restructuring of post investments and finances. The post commander underwent triple bypass surgery on Dec. 1st and is currently in intensive care. Post 80 provided Honor Guard services for six funerals at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio on Dec. 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Schloendorn presented the Board with a revised "Guideline for Assisting Students" for approval. Following their review of the guideline, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to approve the guideline as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

Bob Schloendorn provided a revised floor plan of the new office space. After some discussion, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to accept the floor plan and to move forward with the acquisition.

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

Frank Pocci's compensation is set for the December 4, 2008 agenda of the Board of County Commissioners.

Agenda Item F2. "Guideline for Definition of an Unexpected Hardship"

No changes were made to the guideline.

NEW BUSINESS:

The union contract between the CCVSC and Teamsters Local Union 436 for the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011 will be signed and presented to the BOCC for approval.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Schloendorn received a proposal from an outside source for the management of our media advertising. It was the agreement of the Board not to accept the proposal as the commission already has contacts in place.

The Board extended heartfelt sympathy to Terry Walker and her family in the passing of her father on Thanksgiving Day.

Frank Pocci opened the floor to visitors for any comments or questions.

Richard Danielson

- Coordination of information between the veterans service commissions and the Department of Veterans Services

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss a prior Level III application for financial assistance.

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

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

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:13 a.m.)

No action was taken by the Board as a result of discussion in Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

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

Frank Pocci
President

Thomas Zung
Secretary

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 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)