



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

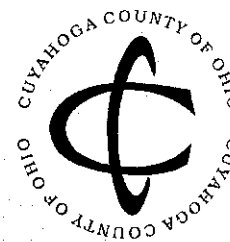


Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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



### MINUTES

DATE: December 4, 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  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: None.

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:**

#### Dan Weist – DAV

- November 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended a Marine Corp ceremony at the Avon Lake American Legion Post 211.
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended veterans' ceremonies at the Bradley/Bay Nursing Home, the Westlake Nursing Home and the Emerald Necklace Nursing Home in North Olmsted.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. I also attended the Police/Fireman of the Year award ceremony at VFW Post 7647 North Olmsted.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference in Dublin, Ohio.

### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District council meeting held at Brecksville Post 196. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's day activities included a luncheon prepared and served by the Ladies Auxiliary. The dinner was prepared and served by The Sons of the American Legion Post (S.A.L.).
- Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – I departed for the OSAVSC Fall Conference in Dublin, Ohio. The training session was on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Completion of this training satisfied the four point requirement needed for commissioners.
- Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting at Brecksville Post 196 at 7:30 p.m. I presented the District financial report as District Finance Officer.
- Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting where I serve as an elected board member.
- Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Winter Conference held at American Legion Post 91. I presented the district financial report as District Finance Officer. I also spoke on the CCVSC and the services it can provide.

### Upcoming Events

- Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – I will be transporting four WWII veterans to the Pearl Harbor Ceremony at the USS Cod and to the luncheon immediately following at the Doubletree Hotel on Lakeside Avenue.
- Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting and Christmas dinner is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at Post 91.
- Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the general meeting at Post 80 on December 3<sup>rd</sup> where I gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The Universe Bulletin had a very nice article about our AMVETS honor guard and how they continue to serve at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery even though the average age of the honor guard is over 80 years.
- The effort to sell the Post continues. A meeting was held with the real estate agent to discuss various possible approaches to selling the property.
- I have received the necessary forms from the tax department so that we can avoid real estate taxes in 2014 and have a refund for taxes paid during 2013.

### Other activities

- During November, I attended all the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I referred two veterans to our service officers.
- On Veteran's Day, I took two veterans to the American Legion Post 91.
- I met with a number of veterans for breakfast where we discussed what is available for veterans and how veterans can apply to the VA for health services and medications.
- I attended the Ohio Veterans Service Commissioners meeting in Columbus, Ohio for the necessary mandated training for VSC commissioners. A number of interesting topics as well as the election of new officers were discussed.

- I attended the executive meeting of the Italian American War Veterans where we reviewed the donations the Post has made and future donations that will be entertained for the next fiscal year. All tax reports for the Post have been submitted and accepted.
- I have contacted some veterans regarding applying for VA health cards due to the VA Affordable Care Act changes. I will be taking some veterans to the Parma clinic so they can have the cards issued.
- I will be referring one veteran to our service department to file for an increase in his service connected disabilities.

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- November 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 9-10<sup>th</sup> – I distributed VFW buddy poppies at the South Euclid Giant Eagle.
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – I paid tribute to all veterans who served by attending a wreath laying ceremony at Veterans Memorial Lyndhurst Park.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> – I received an appointment to be the special Aid-de-Camp to the National Commander for his visit in January to Ohio.
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting where we discussed Post business. Donations were received from the poppy drive, a new member was welcomed and we reviewed the upcoming Christmas party.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the District 7 Military Ball and banquet at Parma VFW Post 1974.
- November 26<sup>th</sup> – I judged the Police/Fire/EMT nominees of the Year for District 7. State winners will be honored at the Ohio Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus.
- November 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

#### Bob Potts - VVA

- November 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and the membership meeting.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – was the Marine Corp. birthday. I made my annual call to my many Marine buddies to wish them a very Happy 238<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference and training in Dublin, Ohio.
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – The December board meeting and membership meeting was cancelled. The VVA Chapter 249 Christmas party was held at VFW Post 6676. We had 54 people at the party which represented 27 Chapter members. After dinner, VFW Post 6676 presented us with a gift of \$1,000. This will be used to support our Chapter outreach.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Director discussed the end of the year budget with the Board. Funds will be transferred from other categories to client services which has \$240,000 available appropriations remaining for 2013.

The employment ad for Network Administrator expires December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Commission has had a poor response with only one call and one email. Other avenues will be explored.

Commissioner Weist noted that the demand for assistance from service officers at the satellite offices is markedly higher than at the downtown location. Several options were discussed including merit awards and the rotation of VSOs. The matter was tabled for further information.

The Commission will be looking into creating our own signage for 2014 to be displayed at posts and chapters.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2013-28 providing for the purchase of 300 food cards from Dave's Supermarket for the clients of Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission who seek financial assistance during the holiday season, expenses not to exceed \$15,000.

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

Resolution 2013-25 requesting that the County Executive set the compensation for the newly appointed or reappointed Veterans Service Commissioner representing the Vietnam Veterans of America was tabled to the next open public meeting.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2013-27 providing for the purchase of a recruitment ad with Northeast Ohio Media Group for the position of Network Administrator, expenses not to exceed \$1,739.60.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Commissioner Uzell was contacted by Best Buy in Mayfield Heights asking for the name of a veteran's family in need to be presented with a donation for the holidays. A family of four was chosen and presented with a generous gift card.

A high profile case was mentioned at the OSAVSC Fall Conference on November 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, where a service-connected disability claim of a terminally ill veteran with lung cancer was processed in one day. The veteran received 100% service connection with back pay.

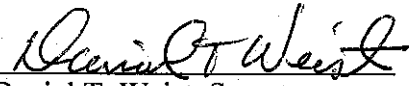
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were not items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, 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)