



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

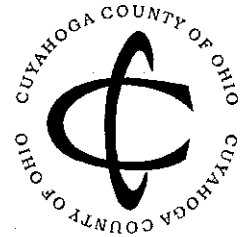


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: December 7, 2011 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Frank Pocchi, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clayton Uzell, Commissioner
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

VISITORS: Mick Panek, Dale Miller, Tom Sweeney

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Bob Potts – VVA

- November 1st – I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421.
- November 1st – I attended the monthly Membership meeting that followed the monthly Board meeting.
- November 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public Board meeting.
- November 10th – The Chapter Honor Guard participated in the Veteran's Day Program at Holly Lane Elementary School.
- November 16th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals meeting.
- November 23rd – I attended the CCVSC open public Board meeting.
- December 6th – I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421. Topics discussed included the finalizing of the Christmas party, Patriot Games, and the JVSC meeting.

Dan Weist – Disabled American Veterans

- November 10th – The North Olmsted VFW honored veterans at the Emerald Village Senior Living Community center on Lorain Road.
- November 11th – I participated in a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Renaissance Senior Community center in Olmsted Township at 9:15 a.m.
- November 11th – I attended a Veteran's Day ceremony at VFW Post 7647 at 11:00 a.m.
- November 11th – I participated in a Veteran's Day ceremony at North Olmsted Park at 1:00 p.m.
- November 11th – I attended a Veteran's Day ceremony at Mills Road Manor Care in North Olmsted at 2:15 p.m.
- November 18-19th – I attended the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners Fall Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- November 2nd & 16th – I attended CCVSC open public Board meetings.
- November 9th & 23rd – I attended CCVSC Level III Appeal meetings.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- November 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 4-5th – I attended the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Dept. of Ohio President's Homecoming held at the Historic Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, Ohio.
- November 7th – I conducted a VFW funeral service for a member of Post 7536 who passed away. He was a resident of the Sandusky Veterans Home. Services were held at the Schulte Mahon Murphy Funeral Home in Lyndhurst, Ohio.
- November 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- November 11th – My wife and I assisted in the planning and participated in a Veteran's Day ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery. It was a first time event.
- November 12th – Distributed VFW Buddy Poppies at the South Euclid Giant Eagle at 10:00 a.m.
- November 12th – Attended the Military Ball at District 8 at VFW Post 3332 in Newton Falls, Ohio at 5:30 p.m.
- November 13th – Distributed VFW Buddy Poppies at the South Euclid Giant Eagle. At 10:00 a.m.
- November 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 18th – I conducted judging for District 7 and the Dept. of Ohio for the Law Enforcement Firefighter/EMT of the Year. District 7 had nine entries submitted to be judged. Winners are to be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus in January 2012.
- November 19th – I attended the Military Ball for District 7 held at St. Clarence Church on Lorain Rd. in North Olmsted.
- November 23rd – I attended a funeral for the daughter of Donna Russo, VFW Ladies Auxiliary Past Dept. of Ohio President. The Funeral service was held at the Higgins Funeral Home on Mahoning Ave., Youngstown.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- November 1st – AMVETS General meeting
- November 8th – AMVETS 20th District meeting at Post 1971 in Perry, Ohio
- November 15th – Post 80 Honor Guard served at the funerals at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.
- December 6th – AMVETS General meeting

Other AMVETS Activities:

- November 18th – I spent time at the CCVSC to be brought up to date on activities I missed while on vacation.
- November 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- I visited the new VA outpatient clinic in Parma, Ohio. It is going to be a beautiful facility and it looks as though it will be completed on time.
- I replenished the CCVSC brochures at Victoria's Restaurant at Parmatown and at the Middleburg Hts. library as they were all out.
- December 5th – I attended the Italian American War Veteran's Holiday dinner where over 60 people attended. ITAM Post 34 had nine new members join during 2011. ITAM Department of Ohio meetings will take place in February and April.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- November 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District council meeting at Post 403 in Garfield Hts. at 7:30 p.m.
- November 10th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I gave my membership status report as 1st Vice Commander.
- November 11th – I attended the American Legion Post Veteran's Day celebration.
- November 18th & 19th – I attended the OSAVSC meeting in Dublin, Ohio for training and updated information on the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- November 23rd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- December 7th – fellow commissioners and I will attend the service for Pearl Harbor Day to be held at the USS Cod moored at the E. 9th Street pier.
- December 8th – American Legion Post 91 monthly membership is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I serve as 1st Vice Commander in charge of membership.
- December 22nd – American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

On behalf of the County Council, Council member Dale Miller addressed the Board with continued concerns over the use of American flags provided for Memorial Day services. As a result, Mr. Miller presented the Board with proposed language for a resolution that reads, "Any request for funding from any organization for American flags for Memorial Day observances or other observances shall be conditioned on a stipulation that the requested flags be returned back to the County for secondary use or that the organization verifies that the flags have been properly disposed." Commissioners took the opportunity to individually express their position that they do not support any secondary usage of the Memorial Day flags and we have neither the staff nor the facilities to store or dispose of retrieved flags. Mr. Miller said that he will relay the Board's position to the County Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Sweeney, Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House, addressed the Board by asking for our involvement and support of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House which is expected to break ground in 2013. Mr. Sweeney gave a short presentation and distributed literature. Briefly, each Fisher House provides a "home away from home" for the families of veterans recovering from their wounds at the major military and VA medical centers here and abroad. The Greater

Cleveland Fisher House is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible. Contributions can be made at any Key Bank branch. Checks can be made payable to the Greater Cleveland Fisher House and sent to 21886 Seabury Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44126. Contributions can also be made online at: www.greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Executive Director received information from John Falkenstein, III, Adjutant of American Legion Post 451, concerning the Operation CPA Program. From January through April, certified public accountants throughout Ohio will volunteer to prepare 2011 tax returns free of charge for military personnel who are permanent residents of Ohio and currently deployed outside of the state. Operation CPA makes tax time less stressful for Ohio military families. Information concerning the program is attached to these minutes.

The CCVSC was open for business on Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11, 2011 and the following Monday to better serve the veteran's community. Bob Schloendorn reported that splitting the staff and working both days proved to be unsuccessful and suggested that we reconsider the matter next year.

Bob Schloendorn will be on vacation December 20th through December 31st. As a result, the December 21st open public meeting will be cancelled and the public notified.

The Board continued discussion on proposed advertising bids for TV, radio, and cable. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept a recommendation from the Executive Director to advertise with WMJI Majic 105.7 for FM radio.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept a recommendation from the Executive Director to advertise with Channels 19 & 43 for network television.

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

President Baher opened the floor to visitors for any comments.

Mick Panek, American Legion Post 91, advised the Board that he shared information concerning the secondary usage of the Memorial Day flags with his post and members were in agreement that it would be disrespectful to the deceased veterans, their service, and their memory.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss an ongoing personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:47 a.m.)

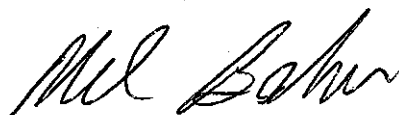
A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:34 a.m.)

A personnel issue was discussed extensively in Executive Session. The Board decided to seek further council and information before making a decision.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Poggi, 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)

Operation CPA makes tax time less stressful for Ohio military families

Operation CPA makes tax time less stressful for Ohio military families

Aug 22, 2011

The Ohio Society of CPAs recognizes the sacrifice being made by Ohio Reserve, Guard and active members of the military, which is why we have partnered with the Ohio National Guard to offer Operation CPA, a volunteer based program that matches CPAs with local military families to provide complimentary tax preparation assistance.

Since 2005, Operation CPA has helped hundreds of military families prepare and file their state and federal tax returns at no cost.

How it works

From January through April, certified public accountants throughout Ohio volunteer to prepare 2011 tax returns free of charge for military personnel who are permanent residents of Ohio and currently deployed outside of the state.

To qualify

You must be an Ohio resident

You must currently be deployed outside of Ohio

"The Ohio Society of CPAs and its members want to support the men and women sacrificing time away from families to serve our country," Clarke Price, OSCPA president and CEO.

"Deployed service members have many challenges to deal with professionally and personally and Operation CPA provides some relief during a stressful time."

To request assistance

Call 888.959.1212

Email CPAanswers@ohio-cpa.com

Military personnel, as well as parents and spouses of deployed service members may call The Ohio Society of CPAs to be matched with a CPA volunteer in or near your community.

Society members interested in serving as an Operation CPA volunteer can sign up at the [volunteer marketplace](#), or contact OSCPA's member service center at 888.959.1212.