



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
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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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: January 6, 2016 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Daniel T. Weist, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, December 6th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference at Post 91 in Berea, Ohio. The conference began at 10:00 a.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for October 2015, as the District Finance Officer. A luncheon was served upstairs in the hall at the conclusion of the meeting.
- Thursday, December 10th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 16th – I attended a 13th District Christmas party held at American Legion Post 91.
- Wednesday, December 23rd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m. I serve on the board as an elected board member.
- During the month of December, I assisted several veterans and their families with obtaining copies of their DD214 for funeral and veteran status verification.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, January 6th – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio. I will be presenting the financial report for November 2015, as District Finance Officer.
- Tuesday, January 12th – the American Legion 13th District Pool Tournament committee will be holding its second planning meeting for our District tournament to be held from March 19-20, 2016. The meeting is scheduled for the Fox & Hound Pool Hall in Parma at 7:00 p.m. I serve on the committee as a tournament volunteer.
- Thursday, January 14th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 15th – I will be departing for Columbus, Ohio to attend the American Legion Department of Ohio, Mid-Winter Conference at the Crown Plaza Hotel.
- Monday, January 25th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio. I will be presenting the December financial report to the board for approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, January 28th – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I serve on the board as an elected board member.

Bob Potts – VVA

- December 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- December 9th – I attended the Chapter 249 Christmas dinner courtesy of VFW Post 6676.
- December 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 17th – I visited North Royalton High School to talk with the 9th & 11th graders about the “Vietnam Experience.”
- December 18th – I attended the CCVSC holiday luncheon at the Horseshoe Casino buffet.
- December 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- January 5th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting and board meeting.

Clay Uzell – VFW

No report – excused.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I was unable to attend the January 2016 AMVETS meeting, but I did give an abbreviated financial report to the adjutant so that he could present it to the attendees.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery during December.

Other Activities:

- During December, I attended all of the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I attended the holiday luncheon given by the CCVSC Commissioners and Director for all the employees.
- I attended the Christmas dinner and meeting of the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34 on December 13th. Sixty-one people were in attendance.
- I, with the help of our staff, was able to provide a Korean War Veteran with a copy of his lost discharge papers.
- I referred one vet to our service department.
- I gave our staff information on resetting a headstone for a veteran and am in the process of getting information for another veteran for a headstone.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all of the CCVSC board meetings during the month of December 2015.
- I attended December's VFW meeting in N. Olmsted which was an abbreviated meeting. Business was suspended to have a Xmas party for veterans in attendance.
- December 21st & 31st the Post provided a free buffet for members to celebrate the holidays.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to continue the current monthly schedule for Board meetings for Year 2016. Open public Board meetings will be 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., and Level III Appeal hearings will be the 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Target dates for the Board's outreach meetings will be announced at a later date.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to elect the following officers on the CCVSC Board for Year 2016, using the guideline established in January 2007. There were no other nominations.

President Mel Baher (American Legion)

Vice President Frank Pocci (AMVETS)

Secretary Bob Potts (VVA)

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

Discussion on furniture requests was tabled to the January 20, 2016 public meeting in order to obtain further information.

Asst. County Prosecutor Brian Gutkoski joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

The current residency policy was discussed and will remain the same. The Board, however, authorized the Executive Director to grant one month of assistance to those cases with extenuating circumstances, followed by a referral to the Board.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2016-03 providing for the purchase of a maintenance agreement for the eVetAssist veteran software program for the 2016 fiscal year, expenses not to exceed \$6,200.00.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2016-04 providing for the renewal of RTA bus ads with Advertising Vehicles for twelve months, March 2016 through February 2017, expenses not to exceed \$72,000.00.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2016-05 providing for the purchase of television commercials and online advertising on Time Warner/Cox/AT&T Cable television with Time Warner Cable Media, expenses not to exceed \$34,000.00.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2016-06 providing for the purchase of television commercials on WOW Cable television with Viamedia through December 31, 2016, expenses not to exceed \$20,000.00.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2016-07 providing for the purchase of radio and online advertising with iHearmedia for Year 2016, expenses not to exceed \$60,000.00.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2016-08 providing for a twelve month advertising agreement for 2016 for panel-flyer distributions with Valpak, expenses not to exceed \$11,760.00.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mel Baher had a recent discussion with District 4 Councilmember, Chuck Germana, concerning an ongoing request to have the compensation set for CCVSC Commissioners. Mr. Germana asked that pertinent information be sent to him with assurance that he would look into the matter.

The VVA will have a booth at the IX Center to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War Commemoration from March 18-20, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

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


Daniel T. Weist, President


Frank Pocci, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)
Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs:	Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)
Memorial Affairs:	Laurene Rutkowski (216-698-2655)
Social Work Dept.:	Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379)
Executive Director:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)