



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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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: October 5, 2016 9:30 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Bernice Johnson, George Johnson, Meriam Gonzalez, Marc Hester

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci 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:

Bob Potts – VVA

- September 6th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 Board meeting.
- September 6th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting and discussed how and where to get VA ID cards, reviewed benefits available for hospice, and assisted Chapter members on where to get assistance.
- September 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. I also stopped in to see our veterans service officers at the Parma CBOC, but they were either talking with veterans or at meetings.
- September 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- September 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.

- September 26th – While waiting for my appointment at Wade Park, I stopped by and had a great conversation with Service Officer, Iris DeHart.
- September 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- October 4th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- I also talked with a Marine veteran regarding a claim he had filed with the VA. I had referred him to Service Officer, Charlene Jorge to file his claim.
- I talked to another Marine Vietnam veteran regarding all the help he has received from the VA, getting his hospital bed, shoes, eye care and other rehabilitation assistance.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III appeals hearings during the month of September.
- I attended a 9/11 ceremony at the North Olmsted Fire Dept. Approximately 200 people were in attendance.
- I attended the VFW North Olmsted monthly meeting on September 21st and a district audit was passed.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- September 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- September 11th – I took part in the Lyndhurst Home Days parade and drove the CCVSC van. They re-dedicated the Veteran’s Monument in the park and paid tribute to 9/11 victims with special emphasis on the first responders who lost their lives.
- September 14th – I attended the Level III appeals hearings.
- September 19th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting, conducted business and reviewed upcoming events.
- September 20-25th – I was in Columbus and was part of the delegation to welcome VFW Auxiliary National President, Collette Bishop, to Ohio. We visited historic sites and toured the Chillicothe VA Medical Center. We also took part in the Founder’s Day celebration at Greenlawn Cemetery. I attended an award luncheon and recognized three VFW Veterans of the Year and escorted Madame National President to the airport on Sunday morning.
- September 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- September 29th – I visited CCVSC Service Officer, Luis Santiago, at the Parma CBOC while waiting for a doctor’s appointment.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended both open public meetings and both Level III appeal hearings at the CCVSC during the month of September.
- September 30th – I attended the ITAM meeting and invited a representative from the VA to give an update on VA issues.
- October 4th – I attended the AMVETS meeting.
- In September, we held a recognition dinner at the AMVETS for the honor guard who serve every month at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, September 4th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Fall Conference held at American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio. I presented the July 2016 finance report as District Finance Officer. I also presented the 2016-2017 executive committee approved District budget to the council.
- Thursday, September 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- Sunday, September 11th – I was master of ceremonies for the fifteenth annual September 11th Commemoration ceremony held on the Berea Triangle at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 16th – I attended the Post 91 annual POW-MIA remembrance ceremony on the Post pavilion at 7:00 p.m. I participated and provided the sound system equipment as needed.
- Monday, September 26th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting held at the American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the August financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, September 29th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I serve on the board as an elected board member.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, October 5th – the American Legion 13th District council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio.
- Thursday, October 13th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 15th – Post 91 is holding its annual clam bake. Tickets are \$26.00.
- Monday, October 24th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 27th – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The OSAVSC Fall Conference in Dublin, Ohio is scheduled for November 18-20, 2016. A registration payment of \$10 is due by November 11th.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2016-23 providing for the purchase of 5,000 military service branch pins for the clients of the CCVSC during veteran's week in November in recognition for their service, expenses not to exceed \$6,900.00.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2016-24 providing for the upgrade of eVetAssist Veteran's Software program, to add a call management solution for the CCVSC, expenses not to exceed \$4,720.24.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2016-25 providing for the purchase of marketing/advertising for the CCVSC for Year 2017, expenses not to exceed \$250,000.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2016-26 providing payment for veterans' headstone re-setting fees in City of Cleveland Cemeteries, a county-wide program to maintain veterans' graves, expenses not to exceed \$150,000.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Frank Pocci asked for information on the Wags 4 Warriors Program. Executive Director, Jon Reiss, explained that it is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to unite veterans whom upon returning home from war, suffer with PTSD or TBI with an appropriate dog, and to provide all of the training, equipment and support for the dog to become the veteran's service dog at no cost to the veteran.

The VA provides adaptive equipment to handicapped veterans, but an actual VA claim with supporting documentation is required and may take approximately six months to process.

The Executive Director continues to look into multiple options for affordable and quick reaction to CCVSC requests to transport veterans to the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio.

President Baher opened the floor to visitors for comments and/or questions.

Bernice and George Johnson addressed the Board with an on-going weatherization issue with their home. At a previous CCVSC meeting, Mrs. Johnson explained there are toxins in their home due to insulation put in by the City of Cleveland. At that time, Executive Director, Jon Reiss, agreed to contact Martin Flask, Executive Assistant to the Mayor. A call was placed and he was advised by Mr. Flask that the City would contact the homeowners. Mrs. Johnson said they never received a call. The couple agreed to meet with Jon Reiss after the meeting to discuss the matter further.

Meriam Gonzalez, PR Marketing/CHHA, and Marc Hester, Certified Senior Care Manager, from Bliss Healthcare, a community partner who provides Aid & Attendance assistance, attended the meeting to gain information on the benefits and services of the CCVSC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:31 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:37 a.m.

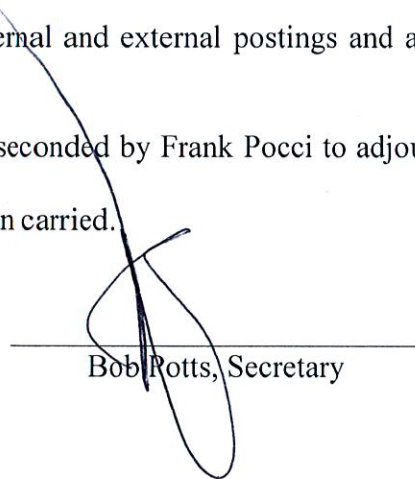
In Executive Session, the Board discussed applicants for the internal and external postings and advised the Executive Director on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:
Filing claims with the Dept. of
Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:
Social Work Dept.:

Executive Director:
Commissioners:

Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)
Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management
(216-698-2379)

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)