



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**WILLIAM R. CAINE**  
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

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650  
Email: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

### MINUTES

DATE: April 5, 2017 9:30 a.m.

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

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 Clay Uzell 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, Caine, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- March 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. I also attended funeral services for long-time Auxiliary member, Doris Dray.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – I conducted a memorial service for a Post member held at the Bohemian National Hall on Broadway in Cleveland. I presented a flag with a case to the widow.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Level III appeals hearings.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the District 7 awards banquet honoring our Law/Fire/EMT winners as well as the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners.
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting and conducted regular business. We held nominations for Post officers and swore in new member, James Campana, U.S. Air Force Veteran, Iraq service.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

- March 30<sup>th</sup> – I went to the Parma CBOC and paid a visit to Bill Vissi and Charlene Jorge who were both busy serving clients.
- March 31<sup>st</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio. Col. Tom Moe spoke on the National Veterans Memorial and Museum being built in Columbus. Steve Ewing, ODVS, gave a legislative update. Director Tansell spoke and took questions on changes ODVS is trying to push through. We listened to the suicide awareness/prevention panel and went over on-line training and Title 59 with Shonna Kerrell of ODVS.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference held at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. I presented the executive approved financial reports for January 2017, as District Finance officer.
- Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m., where I serve as an elected board member.
- Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park, Ohio. I presented the February 2017 financial reports for approval by the District Executive board.
- Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – I departed for Dublin, Ohio to attend Commissioners’ training. While in route to Dublin, I stopped at the Ohio American Legion headquarters for a meeting with the Department Adjutant regarding the upcoming Department Convention to be held in July in Dayton, Ohio.

#### Bill Caine – DAV

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Following my participation in the four day DAV Mid-Winter Conference held in Washington, D.C., I drafted three news articles for the DAV State newsletter summarizing seminars, service projects and items of general membership interest.
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – I interviewed potential Department heads for Ohio DAV and a potential employee in the claims service area.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – On behalf of the CCVSC, I drove to Westerville, Ohio to attend a day of New Commissioner legal and procedural training conducted by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – I worked with DAV Chapter 116 Executive Committee on their annual budget and completed a grant proposal for the chapter.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – I drafted up personal research on a veteran housing proposal for the CCVSC for possible inclusion into the upcoming budget.
- March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> – I drove to Dublin, Ohio on behalf of CCVSC to attend the Spring Conference as mandated by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> – Attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – Attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended all scheduled board meetings during the month of March.
- I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- I attended the AMVETS meeting and gave my financial report and service officer report.

- Our AMVETS Post had honor guard duty at the Western Reserve Cemetery in March.
- I attended the Italian American War Veteran's meeting and gave my adjutant report.
- I prepared and mailed the paperwork for the Dept. of Ohio meeting of the Italian American War veterans.
- I referred one individual to our service officer at the Parma CBOC.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board has had an opportunity to review the draft budget. Recommended changes were made and the final budget will be on the April 19, 2017 agenda for final approval.

Commissioner Caine presented a proposal on the Veteran Homebuyer Assistance/Pilot Program for possible inclusion into the upcoming budget. It was the consensus of the Board to present this idea to the Land Bank for consideration. Work in progress.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Historically, the CCVSC does not pay second mortgages and home equity loans. Lately, unique cases have been presented for consideration. Following some discussion, it was decided that a supplement will be added to the FA handbook that will consider these issues at Level II, as long as it is the primary loan.

Jon Reiss informed the Board that the County Commissioners Association (CCAO) is supporting initiatives to review the law and operation of Veterans Service Commissions. Jon advised the Board that he has been in contact with Jon Warmeling, Executive Director of Lake Country VSC, and learned that this has been a part of the CCAO's legislative agenda for multiple years and that our associations are appropriately addressing them.

Requests for payment of water utility bills that are in the name of the landlord and not the client, will only be considered if a lease is provided that states such. If approved, the rent voucher will include the utility payment.

The Executive Director advised the Board that Senate Bill 199 bans employer policies that prohibit persons with a valid concealed handgun license (CHL) from keeping a firearm or ammunition in their personal vehicles on their employers' premises provided: (1) the CHL holder stays inside the vehicle with the firearm/ammunition or if he/she leaves the vehicle, the firearm/ammunition remains locked inside the trunk, glove box or other enclosed compartment or container within or on the vehicle; and (2) the vehicle is in a location where it is otherwise permitted to be. The Bill became effective March 21, 2017 and applies to public and private employees, business entities and property owners.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

A ceremony marking the end of the Vietnam War will be held on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Plaza on Mall A. The ceremony will include a remembrance with a reading of the names of the veterans from Cuyahoga County who were killed in Vietnam.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss employee discipline.

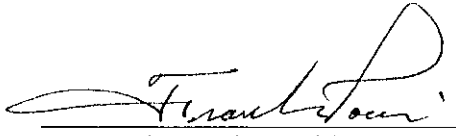
AYES: Baher, Caine, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:49 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:45 a.m.

In Executive Session, an employee discipline issue was discussed and the Executive Director was advised on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

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

  
Frank Pocci, President

  
Clayton Uzell, Secretary