



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

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: June 7, 2017 9:30 a.m.

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

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 Mel Baher 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, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, May 3rd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 451 in Rocky River, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive approved financial reports for February 2017, as District Finance Officer. Also, the Past District Commanders hosted the annual Post Everlasting ceremonies, remembering all of our departed comrades from the past year.
- Thursday, May 11th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I was nominated and elected to the First Vice Commander's position.
- Monday, May 22nd – I missed the 13th District executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 451 in Rocky River, Ohio.
- Thursday, May 25th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m. where, as First Vice, I serve as the membership chairman. I gave an updated Department

membership report as of May 24, 2017. Post 91 is Quota, along with All Time High now for 20 consecutive years.

- Monday, May 29th – I attended Memorial Day services at Adams Street and Woodvale cemeteries. Following the parade, I was master of ceremonies for the American Legion/City of Berea Memorial Day program presented at Coe Lake.
- Wednesday, May 31st – I attended a meeting in Columbus, Ohio with the new Americanism chairperson for the Department of Ohio. We went over credentials committee requirements for the upcoming Department convention, to be held in Dayton, Ohio on July 7 through July 9, 2017. I also visited the convention site in Dayton that day.

Bill Caine – DAV

- Spent a day at Columbus DAV Headquarters working with incoming leadership on personnel vacancies. Reviewed the actual spending levels from the year to date.
- Met with a hospitalized DAV member at the Cleveland VAH.
- Attended a memorial and a funeral for a past Chapter 116 Commander in Brook Park, Ohio.
- Participated in the public meeting of the CCVSC in Berea, Ohio.
- Attended the meeting of DAV Chapter 108 in Rocky River, Ohio. Spoke to the membership and gave the Oaths of Office to their newly elected officers. Presented Service Awards to Department DSOs present at the meeting.
- Attended a wake of a World War II Army Air Corps pilot in Parma, Ohio.
- Attended Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by DAV Chapter 116. Spoke with the mayor regarding service positions at the Parma CBOC.
- Visited both the DAV state service officer and the CCVSC officers assigned to do outreach claims work at the Parma CBOC. Paid a courtesy call on the CBOC director.
- Met with a survivor of a DAV member and discussed the availability of DIC support and the means to obtain it.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- On vacation – no report for May 2017

Bob Potts – VVA

- May 2nd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting and board meeting.
- May 3rd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- May 11th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting.
- May 17th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting and an outreach meeting at American Legion Post 91.
- May 18th – VVA Chapter 249 Speaker Bureau went to Normandy High School to talk with the junior English and Social Studies students regarding Tim O'Brien's book, "The Things They Carried."
- May 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- May 25th – VVA Chapter 249 Speaker Bureau went to Westlake High School to talk with the sophomore Social Studies students about "The Vietnam Experience."
- May 26th – VVA Chapter 249 Speaker Bureau went to Rocky River High School to talk with the sophomore Social Studies students about "The Vietnam Experience."
- May 29th – VVA Chapter 249 marched in the Bay Village Memorial Day Parade.
- I had a meeting with a client who came in the office very stressed because of the financial situation he was in. I referred him to the CCVSC and he was very appreciative of the assistance he received from the Commission.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- May 3rd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. That evening, I attended the District 7 VFW Auxiliary Past President’s dinner held in Mentor at the Mentor Family Restaurant.
- May 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- May 15th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting and installed newly elected officers for the 2017-2018 year.
- May 17th – I attended the CCVSC outreach meeting held at American Legion Post 91 in Berea.
- May 21st – The VFW District 7 Convention was held at Brunswick Post 9520. I did not attend due to surgery, but I did submit the year-end report on safety projects, to be read in my absence.
- May 24th – I did not attend the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings due to surgery, but received updates from the Executive Secretary.
- May 27th & 28th – I distributed VFW buddy poppies at Dave’s Supermarket in Richmond Hts. and distributed CCVSC material.
- May 29th – I took part in the Memorial Day Program and Lakeview Cemetery and laid 7 wreaths from our VFW Post 7536 honoring WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Beirut Marine Barracks Bombing, Gulf Wars, VFW Auxiliary and CCVSC and all who served and sacrificed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Members of several posts have approached Mel Baher and asked about the procedure of distribution of Memorial Day flags and voiced concerns as to why they didn’t receive the affidavit for the reimbursement of Memorial Day Expenses. Jon Reiss agreed to look into the matter and will report back to the Board at the next open public meeting. He will also ensure that the Memorial Day Affidavit form will be available on the CCVSC website at: www.CuyahogaVets.org.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board will begin reviewing employee policies and guidelines the first meeting in July 2017, making revisions if necessary.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Jon Reiss invited Board members to this evening’s prescreening of Ken Byrne’s “The Vietnam War” at the CSU Student Center at 7:30 p.m. With such late notice, all commissioners’ were unavailable. The invitation was also extended to staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss employment.


AYES: Baher, Caine, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:50 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:30 a.m.

In Executive Session, the hiring of part time employees and a policy regarding such was discussed and the Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bill Caine to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

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


Frank Pocci, President


Clayton Uzell, Secretary