



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**CHRISTOPHER GRAU**  
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: September 5, 2018 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President  
Mel Baher, Secretary  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Christopher Grau, Commissioner  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Jon Reiss, Executive Director

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to go out of the regular order of business and into Executive Session for a phone conference with the Executive Director to discuss a personnel issue concerning compensation.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:33 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 9:54 a.m.

In Executive Session, employee compensation was discussed and a memo will be forthcoming.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

### Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all schedule meetings of the CCVSC during the month of August 2018. Following, is a report of my activities outside of the CCVSC for the month of August 2018.
- Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District council meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for June 2018, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting. I presented my updated membership report, as Post 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.
- Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the July 2018 financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting and presented an updated membership report, as Post 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.
- Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – I departed for Minneapolis, MN to attend the American Legion's Centennial National Convention. On Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended the National Security Council meeting, of which I am on as a National appointed standing committee member. Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, I attended the National Rules and Credentials committee meeting as a Department of Ohio appointed delegate. That committee determined a total of 2,245 delegates were registered and in attendance for this convention. A total of 101 delegates represented the State of Ohio. Convention sessions began Tuesday and continued through Thursday with the election of our new National Commander, Brett Reista, of Virginia. I returned home late Thursday evening.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I completed the August financial reports for Post 80 and the FY 2017 detail has been reviewed and approved.
- The honor guard continues to serve funeral honor duties at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- Several AMVETS Post 80 members plan on attending the D-Day reenactment in Conneaut, Ohio.
- The activities committee is planning a trip of military interest during 2018.
- I filed the donation reimbursements for the Memorial Day contribution by Post 80.
- The AMVETS 74<sup>th</sup> convention was held in Orlando, Florida on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- AMVETS National Headquarters, August 27, 2018 – American Veterans (AMVETS) is deeply disappointed in the lack of traditional and appropriate respect in the White House's reaction to the death of U.S. Senator John S. McCain III, the retired Navy Captain and former prisoner of the Vietnam War, who gave 60 years of honorable service to this country.

#### *Other Activities:*

- During August, I attended all of the scheduled CCVSC open public and Level III appeals hearings.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) monthly meeting in August. As finance officer, I also completed our financial report.
- The ITAM Dept. of Ohio's next meeting will be held Sunday, October 7, 2018 in Lorain, Ohio.
- I referred one veteran to the Parma CBOC to file a claim with one of our service officers. Also, still working on getting an I.D. for a veteran whose documents were lost in the St. Louis fire.
- I am working with our Executive Director to get a proclamation from the CCVSC for a WWII veteran who turned 100 in June.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released a new online feature through the My HealthVet portal that allows veterans to access their medical images and

associated study reports online. Called VA Medical Images and Reports, the feature allows veterans with a premium account to view, download, and share copies of their radiology studies, such as x-rays, mammograms, MRIs and CTs, from the VA Electronic Health Record (EHR).

#### Chris Grau – DAV

- August 1<sup>st</sup>, I attended the CCVSC public meeting.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – I visited the Veteran’s Mobile Outreach, sponsored by Rep. Jim Renacci, at the City of Rocky River Memorial Hall.
- August 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC public meeting.
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- NOTE: There are no scheduled DAV or JVC meetings in August.

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- August 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW District C of A Conference held at Parma Post 1974. I passed out information cards on the *Cuyahoga Vets* App and brochures. The budget was discussed along with other programs and the Safety Law Enforcement/Firefighters information was distributed by Safety Chairman Uzell. A new VFW Jr. Vice was elected.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 picnic held at one of our Auxiliary member’s home in Gates Mills, Ohio. There was a good turnout and everyone had a good time.
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting in Lyndhurst, Ohio. We discussed Post business and I welcomed three new transfer members; two Vietnam Veterans and one Gulf War Veteran.
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- August 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended a funeral service for long-time VFW Department of Ohio Historian, Leroy Clendenen, at Cotner Funeral Home in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, outside of Columbus. I took part in the final ritual with Department of Ohio officers.
- August 31<sup>st</sup> – I attended a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Dedication at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. Speakers included U.S. Dept., of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, U.S. Navy Under-Secretary Thomas B. Modley, and CWO4 Hershel “Woodie” Williams, the last Medal of Honor recipient Iwo Jima, WWII and others. The monument is beautiful and it was an emotional ceremony.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- Chapter 249 did not conduct board or membership meetings during the month of August.
- I attended both CCVSC public meetings and both Level III appeal hearings in August.
- I visited CCVSC staff at the Parma CBOC and Wade Park.
- September 4<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 249 could not conduct a meeting due to not having a quorum.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2018-13 requesting that the County Executive set the compensation for the newly appointed or reappointed

Veterans Service Commissioner representing the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), for appointment commencing January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2023, as mandated in ORC Title 5901.02.

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

Discussion on Team Depot was deferred to the next public meeting due to the absence of the Executive Director.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Clay Uzell will be participating in the Lyndhurst Home Days Parade on Sunday, September 9, 2018, at 12:00 p.m., and a flag raising ceremony afterward, commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Clay Uzell and Jon Reiss attended a ceremony dedicating the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at the Cleveland Louis Stokes VA Hospital on August 31, 2018. The monument is part of a campaign by Hershel “Woody” Williams, to have similar markers placed in communities across the country. Hershel Williams is the last surviving Marine awarded a Medal of Honor during WWII.

Frank Pocci attended the annual D-Day event in Conneaut, Ohio on August 17th, and thought that the back pack handouts, containing several VSC county items, were a great marketing idea.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 10:21a.m.

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

  
Bob Potts, President

  
Mel Baher, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requests for Financial Assistance/

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans’ Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Finance Department:

Social Work Dept.:

Executive Director:

Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Mgr. (216-698-2391)

Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Mgmt.) (216-698-2379)

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

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