



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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Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: January 2, 2019 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Clay Uzell, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
Christopher Grau, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Commissioner

VISITORS: None

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau 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, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of December 2018. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of December 2018.
- Sunday, December 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference held at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for October 2018, as District Finance officer. A meal was provided by Post 91 to all those in attendance.

- Thursday, December 13th – I attended a Staff Holiday luncheon provided by the Commissioners and the Executive Director.
- Thursday, December 13th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. and I presented the current membership report, as Post 1st Vice Commander.
- Tuesday, December 18th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting and holiday party held at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m., and after a few reports, a very fine meal was enjoyed by all in attendance.
- Thursday, December 27th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting and presented an updated membership report, as Post 1st Vice Commander. After closing of the meeting, a dinner was provided by the Post Commander to the Executive board members, and their spouses.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS (in abstentia)

- I attended all scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I attended the AMVETS meeting.
- I attended the Italian American War Vets meeting.
- I attended the Catholic War Vets meeting.
- I attended a retirement dinner for Lorri Slivka, our Executive Secretary.
- I attended the CCVSC Holiday luncheon.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- December 5th – I attended the CCVSC public meeting.
- December 12th - I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- December 13th – I attended the CCVSC Holiday luncheon.
- December 19th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- December 26th – No scheduled CCVSC Appeals meeting.

NOTE: There are no scheduled JVC meetings until January 2019.

There is no scheduled DAV Chapter 108 meeting in December 2018.

Clayton Uzell – VFW

- December 5th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting – two guests came to say good luck to Lorri Slivka on her retirement.
- December 7th – I observed Pearl Harbor Day with a moment of silence.
- December 9th – I attended the VFW District 7 Past Commander Christmas luncheon at the Fuji Buffet in Parma.
- December 12th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting including Executive Session.
- December 12th – At 7:00 p.m. I attended a dinner party for our retiring Executive Secretary, Lorri Slivka, which was held at Kosar’s Steakhouse.
- December 13th – I attended the CCVSC employee holiday party put on by the Commissioners and Executive Director and held at PJ McIntires in West Park.
- December 16th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Christmas party held at Lyndhurst Community Center. The party was very well attended and a good time was had by all.
- December 17th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting, discussed regular business and went over Christmas party costs. The Charter was draped in memory of Post Quarter Master Joe Calio – WWII veteran.
- December 19th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- I referred two veterans to Parma CBOC.

Bob Potts – VVA

- December 5th – I attended VVA Chapter 249 Board Meeting and Membership Meeting.
- December 6th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. Attending the meeting was former VFW Commissioner, Thomas Zung who stopped by to make a presentation to Lorri Slivka who was attending her last meeting as the Commissioner Executive Secretary.
- December 7th – After my appointment at Parma I stopped by to talk with Charlene. She was busy with a veteran so I stuck my head in to say hello.
- December 12th – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- December 12th – the Commissioners took Lorri and John Slivka out for dinner for her years of service with the CCVSC and her retirement.
- December 13th – I attended the CCVSC holiday luncheon.
- December 19th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 26th – There was no CCVSC appeals meeting because it was the day after Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The holiday schedule for 2019 will remain as approved at the last board meeting. Discussion regarding the 2020 holiday schedule and personal days was deferred to a meeting in June.

Open public meetings of the Board for the Year 2019 will continue to be conducted on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, and Level III appeal hearings will be held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 9:30 a.m. in the boardroom, located at 1849 Prospect Ave., Suite 150, Cleveland, Ohio.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2019-03 providing for marketing and advertising for fiscal year 2019 from various vendors, expenses will not exceed \$250,000.

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

A motion was made by Chris Grau and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2019-04 annually adjusting CCVSC employee mileage and per diem travel reimbursement rates in accordance with standard federal rates for Year 2019.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2019-05 requesting authority for five CCVSC commissioners and Executive Director to attend various conferences and training to maintain accreditation with the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners (OSAVSC) in 2019, expenses not to exceed \$8,184.00.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue; matter to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:16 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:09 a.m. In Executive Session a personnel issue was discussed and the Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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


Clay Uzell, President


Chris Grau, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance/
Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Finance Dept.:

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)

Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)