



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
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/TIME: July 3, 2019 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: None

VISITORS: Robert Schloendorn

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 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.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Christopher Grau – DAV

- June 5th – I attended the CCVSC Public Meeting.
- June 12th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- June 12th – I attended the JVC after action meeting with the Mayor of Rocky River to discuss the Memorial Day Ceremony.
- June 19th – I attended the CCVSC Public Meeting.
- June 26th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- June 27-29th – I attended the DAV State of Ohio Convention. I was on the VAVS Committee.

Note: There was no DAV Chapter 108 meeting in June and we are recessed until September 19th.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- During May I attended all of the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I attended the AMVETS meeting where plans for the D-Day re-enactment were discussed. I gave the June Financial Report.
- I attended the American War Veterans monthly meeting and the Ohio meeting. I am the state Adjutant.
- I attended the monthly Catholic War Veterans meeting.
- I referred three veterans to the VSC.

Bob Potts – VVA

- June 5th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public Meeting.
- June 6th – The chapter meeting was cancelled until September.
- June 12th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- June 19th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public Meeting.
- June 26th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- July 4th – VVA Chapter 249 marched in Lakewood's 4th of July parade.

Note: I helped a WWII Vet enroll in the VA. I talked with a Vietnam Vet with questions on his disability claim and where to find information on filing a claim for his daughter.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of June 2019. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of June 2019.
- Sunday, June 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council Summer Convention held at American Legion Post 610, in Brook Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. I presented executive board approved financial reports for April 2019, as District Finance Officer. Also, the 13th District election of officers for the ensuing membership year were held. I was re-elected as District Finance Officer and as a delegate to the National Convention to be held in Indianapolis, IN, in August of this year.
- Thursday, June 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.
- Monday, June 24th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive Board meeting, held at American Legion Post 610, in Brook Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the May 2019 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, June 27 at 9:00 a.m., I departed for Toledo, Ohio to attend the American Legion Department of Ohio 101st annual convention. On Thursday we set-up the registration area and prepared all the paperwork required to register delegates attending the convention. On Friday registration was open from 10:00 a.m. 'til 5:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m. we closed registration for the day and proceeded to count delegates registered on Friday. On Saturday, registration was open from 8:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. At 1:00 p.m. we proceeded to count the total registered delegates for the final report (count was 337 delegates) to be given on Sunday morning, prior to election of new officers. A roll call vote was conducted by the Department Adjutant, and was observed by myself, as chief teller. I returned home Sunday afternoon.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- June 5th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- June 8th – I attended a dinner and dedication of remodeled VFW Post 2133. We enjoyed a great meal and a good time.
- June 12th – I traveled to Texas for the state convention.

- June 19th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 25th – I held a memorial service for my brother Cliff, a member of VFW Post 7536, and conducted the VFW ritual. Thanks to all who sent cards and attended the service.
- June 29th – I attended the VFW state C of A in Columbus. We discussed programs for the new year.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director will provide the Board with a draft of the new FA Handbook to review at the next meeting. A potential new process will be presented along with the handbook.

Two position descriptions were reviewed by the Board. Changes to the Operations Specialist position description include the removal of time and attendance. This will now be the responsibility of management. Also, new hires will be brought on board with the Executive Secretary and County Administration. The position description for Office Support Specialist remains the same except for the addition of voucher distribution. The description now includes being directed by the Executive Secretary and/or the Executive Director.

The option of an automated kiosk for client check-in was discussed. Changes may include Clients being checked out with the Office Support Specialist. More research will be collected for discussion at a future meeting.

The Executive Director met with the County Director of Regional Collaboration to discuss Commissioner’s pay. The County will not consider a raise at this time, but will revisit the request at the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2019-09 providing for the purchase of one (1) mobile office with side doors, lift gate, and office work station for the CCVSC. The vehicle will be purchased under state contract from Farber Specialty Vehicles and the purchase agreement will not exceed \$200,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chirs Grau to approve Resolution 2019-10 providing for the purchase of marketing/advertising for CCVSC for years 2019-2020. The agreement is with the Cleveland Monsters and will not exceed \$15,000.

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

The Cleveland Monsters gave the VSC promotional items. These items will be used as prizes for digital marketing promotions.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2019-11 providing for the purchase of marketing/advertising for CCVSC for years 2019. The agreement is with the Advance Ohio and will not exceed \$13,000.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Chris Grau reported that, at the DAV Convention, it was announced that the DAV will no longer use mobile service vans due to lack of turnout at events and the condition of the vehicles.

The Ohio Veterans Home will be hosting a Christmas/bingo party on December 1st and is in need of volunteers.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a dog tag machine. Several outreach events were mentioned where dog tags were available for veterans and was very popular. The Director will research options.

Brian Gutkoski mentioned that the power point presentation the he participated in is available to anyone who would like to see it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, 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:

Charlene Amos, Service Officer Mgr. (216-698-3831)

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

Larry Amato, Financial 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)