



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/TIME: August 7, 2019 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mel Baher, Vice President
Christopher Grau, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED:

Clay Uzell, President
Frank Pocci, Commissioner

VISITORS:

None.

PURPOSE:

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mel Baher 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. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Christopher Grau – DAV

- July 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Public Meeting.
- July 10th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- July 17th – I attended the CCVSC Public Meeting.
- July 24th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- June 26-27th – I attended the OHDVS Summer Conference. I submitted a request to volunteer for the organization’s Technology Committee.

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

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- No report submitted.

Bob Potts – VVA

- July 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public Meeting.
- July 4th – The chapter meeting was cancelled until September.
- July 10th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- July 17th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public Meeting.
- July 24th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- July 29th – After a doctor's appointment I stopped by and visited with staff.
- August 1st – The chapter meeting was cancelled until September.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of July 2019. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of July 2019.
- Wednesday, July 3rd – The American Legion 13th District Council, to be held at American Legion Post 304, in Garfield Hts., Ohio, was cancelled by the District Commander.
- Thursday, July 4th – I volunteered with the July 4th festivities held at American Legion Post 91 for the annual City of Berea fireworks display.
- Thursday, July 11th – 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, July 22nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive Board meeting, held at American Legion Post 469, in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the June 2019 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, July 25th – I attended American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I presented the 2020 membership report as First Vice Commander.
- Monday, July 29th – August 2nd – my wife and I volunteered in Post 91 kitchen while our cook was on vacation. I ran the register while my wife prepared meals, and I am happy to report no one reported for sick call.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- July 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- July 10th – I attended the CCVSC Appeals Meeting.
- July 15th – I attended VFW Post 7563 meeting to discuss picnic plans for August. I draped charter in remembrance of post member and Brother who passed.
- July 17th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 19th – I attended the VFW National Convention in Orlando, Florida while serving on the Veterans Service Committee. I attended all mandatory meetings of the Veterans Service Resolutions Committee and attended all general business sessions.
- July 24th – I was excused from the CCVSC meeting due to Florida National Convention.
- July 30th – I attended Past District 7 Presidents dinner at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Orange Village.

OLD BUSINESS:

Two position descriptions were reviewed by the Board. Changes to the Executive Director position description include changes in verbiage, agency titles, and union types. There were no changes made to the Eligibility Specialist position description.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to approve the updated position descriptions for Executive Director and Eligibility Specialist as written.

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

The Executive Director researched purchasing grave markers for deceased veterans. The Commission has decided not to move forward with the purchase of grave markers at this time.

The Executive Director presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between HandsOn Northeast Ohio (HandsOn) and the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission (CCVSC) to collaborate on the operations of the Homeless Stand-down.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between HandsOn Northeast Ohio and the Veterans Service Commission as written.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director discussed the plan to have all clients pick up their vouchers at the financial workshops. All clients will be referred to the financial workshops where they will receive their vouchers upon completion. Clients that no call/no show for a workshop will be sanctioned for 90 days and unable to re-apply until they have attended the workshop.

The Board discussed the new Policy for Purchase Manual presented by the Executive Director. The manual is designed to create consistency in the ordering processes.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to accept the Policy for Purchase Manual as written.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2019-12 providing for purchase of marketing and advertising from The IX Center for 2019. Expenses will not exceed \$10,000.00 per year.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2019-13 providing for the purchase agreement between the Veterans Service Commission and FeedbackNow for the purpose of having a customer feedback system available to the clients of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2019-14 providing for the purchase agreement between the Veterans Service Commission and Aldi's Supermarket for the purpose of issuing food cards, in lieu of vouchers, to clients as financial assistance.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2019-15 providing for the purchase agreement between the Veterans Service Commission and Iron Mountain Inc for the purpose of having document destruction of personal identity information and the secure storage of agency records as required by the Ohio Revised Code.

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

Resolution 2019-16, for the purchase of a call management system, was discussed. Once a vendor has been identified the resolution will be presented.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Potts reported that, at the National Convention for the VVA, members discussed opening membership to veterans From Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

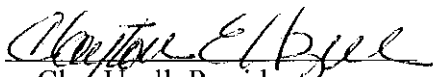
Mel Baher reported that the American Legion presented a resolution to Congress and the President and it has been signed. The Legion Act states that any veteran who served from December 7, 1941 to present, is eligible to join the American Legion.

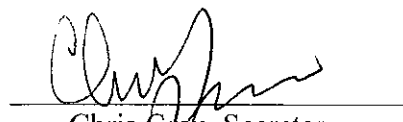
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts. 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:

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)

Finance Dept.:
Social Work Dept.:
Executive Director:
Commissioners: