



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: (216) 698-2600 • Fax: (216) 698-2650
Email: vsc_mail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: January 4, 2012 9:35 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Frank Pocchi, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

VISITORS: David Lambert, Brian Gutkoski, Sara DeCaro

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mel Baher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts 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, Pocchi, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Bob Potts – VVA

- December 6th - I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421. Following the Board meeting, I attended the monthly Membership meeting.
- December 7th - I attended CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 7th - Along with the other Commissioners, I attended the Pearl Harbor Day wreath laying ceremony at the World War II Submarine, the USS Cod.
- December 10th - I attended VVA Chapter 249's Christmas Party.
- December 14th - I attended CCVSC Level III Appeals Meeting.
- December 14th - I attended the Eastside Vet Center Christmas Party. I spoke with the Director and offered to send a CCVSC veterans service officer and eligibility specialist to their office. She will be contacting Bob Schloendorn.
- December 16th - the CCVSC celebrated the holiday season at Pacers on E 260th and Euclid. A fun time was had by all.
- December 28th - I attended CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Dan Weist – Disabled American Veterans

- December 7th – I attended the CCVSC Board meeting and a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Cod afterward.
- December 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.
- December 17th – I attended a Christmas party for approximately 150 children at American Legion Post 211.
- December 21st – I was in attendance at the VFW membership meeting.
- December 28th – I attended the Board's Level III Appeal meeting.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- December 4th – I attended the District 1 Post 2984 Northwood (Toledo area) meeting and Pearl Harbor Tribute. I gave safety statistics to the District Commander.
- December 5th – I attended the Cuyahoga County Past Presidents Christmas party at Post 1974 Parma. I played Santa and all donations received from a picture with Santa were given to the cancer fund.
- December 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting and the Pearl Harbor wreath laying ceremony at the Cod afterward.
- December 11th – I attended Post 7536 and District 7's Past Commander's Christmas party.
- December 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearing.
- December 15th – The VFW District 7 Chaplain arranged a party and the Gateway Assisted Living facility in Euclid, Ohio. I played Santa for the church group and left our brochures with the Activities Director.
- December 16th – I attended the CCVSC holiday luncheon hosted by the Commissioners and Executive Director at Pacer's Restaurant in Euclid, Ohio.
- December 26th – I attended funeral services at Humenik Funeral Home in Brookpark for a VFW Ladies Auxiliary member.
- December 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- December 3rd – A Christmas party was held at Post 80 for members and auxiliary.
- December 6th – I attended the AMVETS General meeting.
- December 20th – the Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting was held.
- January 3rd – The Honor Guard served the funeral honors at Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.
- January 3rd – I gave my December financial report to the membership at Post 80.

Other activities:

- December 7th – Following the CCVSC open public meeting, I, along with the other Commissioners, participated in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at the USS Cod.
- December 7th – I delivered a flag display case to the daughter of a WWII veteran whose funeral I attended earlier in the month.
- December 9th – Italian American War Veterans Post 34 held its meeting/Christmas party which was well attended by 36 members. Another 28 guests also attended.
- December 13th – I attended the Italian American War Veterans Post 34 executive meeting where it was decided that the post would sponsor the Department of Ohio meeting to be held at Post #1 in Lorain, Ohio on February 12th.
- December 14th – I was present for the appeals meeting at the CCVSC.
- December 28th – I was present the appeals meeting at the CCVSC.

- January 3rd – I visited VFW Post 3345 to replenish their supply of VSC brochures.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Thursday, December 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I gave my membership status report as 1st Vice Commander. Also, a presentation about Fisher House plans to build a home here in Cleveland was made by Mick Panek (he attends the CCVSC meetings) and a donation of \$500.00 was approved for this cause.
- Sunday, December 11th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference at Post 703 in Parma at 10:00 a.m. I repeated the presentation concerning the Fisher House plans to build a home in Cleveland and I asked the council to consider donating \$500.00 from its annual charitable donations to this cause.
- Thursday, December 22nd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming events for January 2012:

- January 12th – American Legion Post 91 monthly membership is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I serve as 1st Vice Commander in charge of membership.
- January 26th – American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER (Attached)

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The election of officers for the Year 2012 was held. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to continue with the existing policy on the rotation of officers for the Board of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission and nominate Frank Pocci, President, Bob Potts, Vice President, and Clay Uzell, Secretary. Commissioners Pocci, Potts and Uzell accepted the positions.

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

Discussion took place concerning changes to the existing Food and Shelter Monthly Allowance Guideline concerning renting to a relative. The Board agreed to keep the guideline as is and they will continue to address individual cases at Level III Appeals.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2012-01; Mileage and Per Diem Travel Reimbursement for Year 2012.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Schloendorn received a notice from the Cuyahoga County Inspector General's Office stating that they received an anonymous telephone complaint on or about November 7, 2011 regarding alleged fraud, waste, abuse, misfeasance, malfeasance and/or nonfeasance at the CCVSC. The

letter continued to state that due to jurisdictional limitations, their office will not conduct an investigation into these allegations and referred the matter to him. After a thorough investigation, Bob Schloendorn determined that there was no merit to the allegation.

Bryan McGown, AMVETS Outreach Specialist, introduced himself and gave a brief summary of his responsibilities and accomplishments since arriving at the CCVSC. The Board welcomed Bryan to the commission and wished him continued success in assisting our veterans with employment issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal and personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:18 a.m.)

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:04 a.m.)

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:05 a.m.)

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (12:27 p.m.)

In Executive Session, the Board gave instructions to legal counsel on how to proceed with the pending litigation.

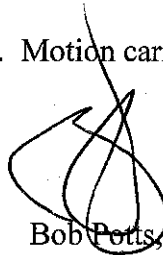
In the previous Executive Session, the Board discussed a legal and personnel issue and upon receipt of information from legal counsel, the Board will take appropriate action.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)
Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)
Memorial Affairs: Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)
Social Work Dept.: Terry Walker, Manager, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379)
Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)
Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)

CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Progress Report on the State of the Commission

November, 2011

Issued by:

The CCVSC Commissioners

Mel Baher –President, American Legion

Frank Pocci – Vice President, AMVETS

Bob Potts – Secretary, VVA

Daniel Weist –DAV

Clayton E. Uzell – VFW

December 21, 2011

Submitted By: Robert E. Schloendorn – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of November 30, 2011:

Executive:

The Executive Director

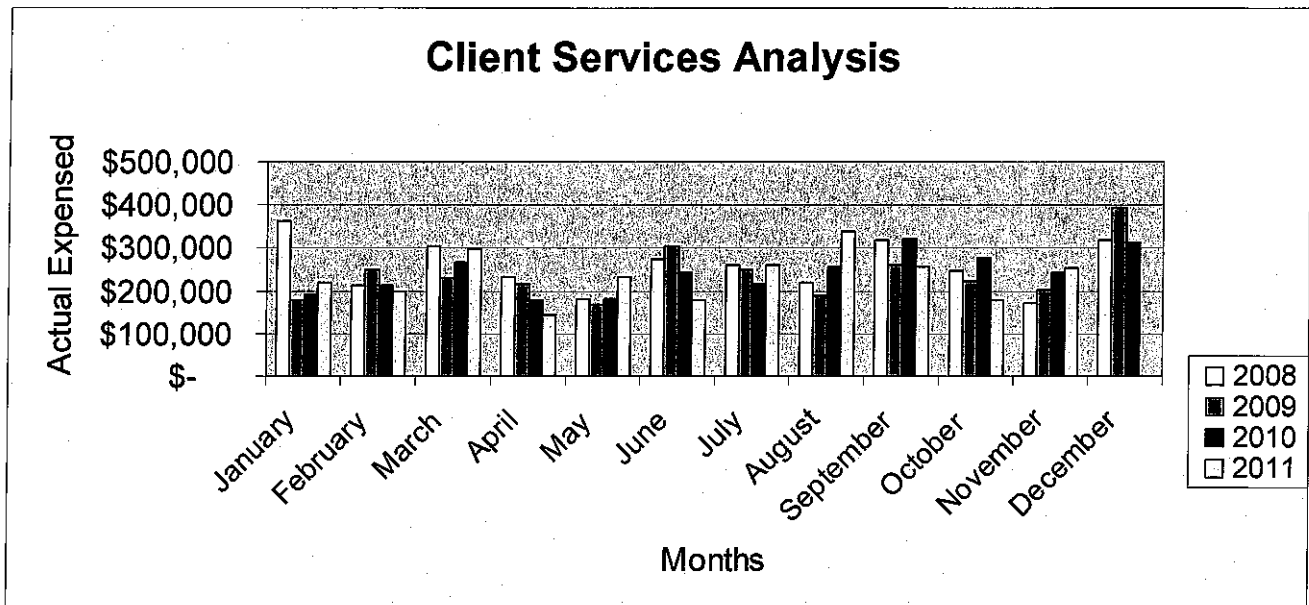
- Attended Veteran’s Day presentation by C. Ellen Connelly.
- Met with Neel from WTAM.
- Welcomed Bryan McGown from AMVETS.
- Met with Sara DeCaro.
- Met with Tom Sweeney from Fisher House,

Finance Department

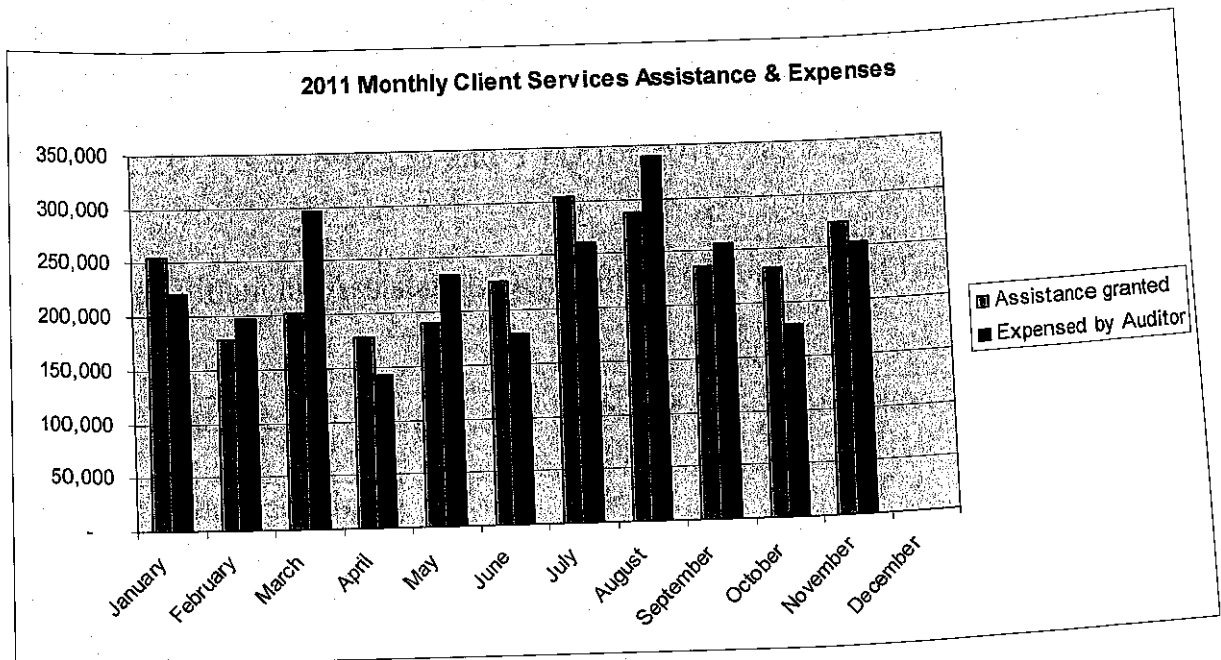
Below are selected November reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

Client services include: Financial Assistance for Medical, Food, Mortgage, Rent, Utilities, Infant Layette, Personal Hygiene, Shoes & Clothing

Comparative Chart Analysis



Actual 2011 Expenses



Total 2011 Expense Analysis

	Total Budget	YTD Expenditure	YTD Encumbr	Remaining Expenditures	2011 Projection	Budget Variance
Salaries	1,766,047	1,556,695	-	152,699	1,709,394	56,653
Fringe Benefits	618,116	536,941	-	61,347	598,288	19,828
Commodities	25,556	20,169	-	2,091	22,260	3,296
Contract Services	573,114	426,363	121,687	106,137	532,500	40,614
Controlled Expenditures	301,320	251,776	-	49,544	301,320	-
Client Services	3,693,517	2,559,354	-	320,000	2,879,354	814,163
Other Expenditures	399,783	183,226	41,224	51,373	234,599	165,184
Capital Outlay	18,788	6,160	128	128	6,288	12,500
Total Expenditures	7,396,241	5,540,684	163,039	743,319	6,284,003	1,112,238

Medical and Other Transportation:

November assistance expensed for transportation totaled \$10,207.50 for the month, \$9,987.50 for medical bus tickets and \$220 for other transportation. Year to date transportation totaled \$109,318. Year to date medical transportation totaled \$105,303 and needs based transportation totaled \$4,015.

Medical and Dental Programs:

Medical payments for November amounted to \$2,662 with \$2,092 expensed for Dental and \$570 for Vision. Year to date medical expenses totaled \$49,139. Dental payments year to date are \$35,696 and Vision year to date payments are \$7,820.

\$0 Hearing Aid payments were expensed in November. Year to date Hearing Aid payments totaled \$5,623.

Memorial Affairs Department:

\$5,944.41 was expensed during November, 2011 for indigent veteran funeral expenses, down \$7,239.69 from November, 2010. During November, 7 indigent burials were approved. The burials were for 1 Air Force, 0 Marines, 0 Navy and 6 Army veterans.

Following are the 2011 Year to Date statistics for Memorial Affairs:

	Nov.	2011 YTD	Nov.	2010 YTD
DD-214 Search	117	1146	104	1072
Benefits Counseling	727	9847	793	9797
Undelivered-Incorrect Headstone/Research	6	125	13	175
Presidential Memorial Certificates	107	1231	101	1253
National Cemetery Referrals	72	689	47	854
Blue Star Service Banners	0	32	0	15
Indigent Burials	7	117	14	118

November performance indicators report for the VSO division indicates the following activities were accomplished:

November
2011

	VETERAN				DEPENDENT			
	Nov. 2010	YTD '10	Nov. 2011	YTD '11	Nov. 2010	YTD '10	Nov. 2011	YTD '11
Compensation/DIC Claims	46	855	91	765	2	75	4	58
Follow-up Pending Claims	114	1,185	234	2,353	11	83	11	202
Pension Claims	28	285	31	273	12	204	13	159
Follow-up Pending Claims	65	602	107	918	57	325	64	617
Medical	18	468	39	318	10	61	4	37
Notice of Disagreements	2	82	2	26	0	0	0	8
Appeals & Waivers	10	177	23	130	0	9	4	16
Eligibility Verification Reports	2	121	1	101	0	20	2	64
Change of Address	5	5	2	58	3	3	0	11
Education Assistance	15	139	11	183	0	25	2	25
Cert. Eligibility - Home Loan	0	31	12	52	0	1	0	5
Insurance Discharges, Request for copy	2	10	3	16	0	3	0	0
Headstone/Marker Application	88	1260	109	1071	3	22	2	61
Referrals to Other Agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P of A Service Organization	33	268	83	805	6	15	4	71
Misc. Application/Corresp.	77	860	119	879	12	113	16	180
Ohio Veterans Home	522	3890	791	8362	92	534	104	1242
Burial Benefits	1	41	3	49	3	36	3	29
High School Diploma Applications	0	12	0	15				
Discharge Upgrades	10	92	10	58				
10-10 EZ Forms	6	12	10	158				
TOTAL	1044	10395	1681	16590	211	1534	234	2794

% Chg. YTD
52.6% **62.5%**

TOTAL (Vet + Dep)

Interviews: Service Dept. Clients	1150	10423	1535	15495	93	1416	0	0
Fin. Asst. Referrals	0	94	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office YTD	1150	10517	1535	15495	93	1416	0*	0
Phone Calls	2435	26391	2474	21889				

	'10	YTD '10	'11	YTD '11
	1243	11839	1535	13960
	0	94	0	0
	1243	11933	1535	13960

*eVetAssist not separating dependents. Working to correct.

Information Systems:

KnowledgeTree

Testing has consistently identified the slow speed of uploading and downloading documents as a problem. Two other pieces of PC-related software also still need to be demonstrated by KnowledgeTree Technical Support staff.

Networking

Further work is needed to determine the hardware and software required to support Microsoft networking in place of the current Novell software.

County Printer Project

New Toshiba printer/copier/scanners were installed. Programming to permit easy scanning of documents was also completed. Our experience so far has been positive.

Ohio Veterans Home Network:

In November, two veterans were transported to the Sandusky home for tours and admission evaluations.

The waiting list for the Ohio Veterans Home includes 18 veterans waiting for nursing home standard care, 8 veterans for nursing home special care, 0 veterans for the domiciliary and 14 for the domiciliary plus.

Submitted by:

Robert E. Schloendorn
Executive Director