



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

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: February 1, 2012 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Frank Pocci, President
Bob Potts, Vice President
Clayton E. Uzell, Secretary
Daniel T Weist, Commissioner
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

VISITORS: Mick Panek

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Frank Pocci, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Clay Uzell – VFW

- January 4th – I attended the CCVSC public meeting. The election of officers was held.
- January 7th – I attended a surprise party for a North Olmsted Post 7647 Ladies Auxiliary member.
- January 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- January 17th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting and went over plans for the Department and District conferences.
- January 18th – I attended the CCVSC public meeting. After the meeting, I spoke with Bryan McGown, Veterans Employer Outreach Specialist, about a recently discharged Marine that I referred to him for job hunting.
- January 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- I attended the mid-winter conference in Columbus:
8:00 a.m. – Council of Administration

9:00 a.m. – Business session was held (chairman reports, safety report and project stats, winners for State Police/Fire/EMT, meet with VFW Commissioners.) Discussion took place on the latest legislation. Doc Wasylik spoke on county veterans service commissions and suggested that the VFW refer veterans to them.

3:00 p.m. – Charities School of Instruction

7:00 p.m. – Ladies Auxiliary Cancer Auction

- 9:00 a.m. – Joint session with the Ladies Auxiliary Awards Program. Presented Police/Fire/EMT awards along with the National Sr. Vice Commander, John Hamilton.

12:00 p.m. – Voice of Democracy Luncheon with student winners by invitation only.

2:00 p.m. – Voice of Democracy Speech presentation of all 12 Districts.

7:00 p.m. – Voice of Democracy Dinner - winners were announced. There were 12 finalists, one from each district. 1st place – District 1, \$8,000.00 will advance to National for \$30,000.00 scholarship in Washington, D.C.; 2nd place – District 7, \$5,000.00; 3rd place – District 5, \$4,000.00, followed by one \$3,000.00, one \$2,500.00, and seven \$2,000.00 winners. The essay theme was “Is There Pride in Serving in our Military?”

- January 29th – Convention ends.

Dan Weist – DAV

- January 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- January 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 18th – I attended the VFW monthly meeting.
- January 25th – I met with Judge Fuerst and Judge McMonagle to review the operation of the CCVSC and to discuss the DAV seat on the Commission Board.
- January 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- January 12th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I gave my membership status report as 1st Vice Commander.
- January 21st & 22nd – I attended the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The Sunday meeting began at 10:00 a.m. We welcomed National Commander, Fang Wong, who spoke of his travels, his numerous meetings with our troops, and his testimony before Congress. Also, I accepted awards presented by the Department on behalf of Post 91 for first place in individual Post newsletter publication and circulation and second place for individual Post overall website competition.
- January 24th – I was invited and attended the Berea Spirit of Community Banquet held to honor and recognize those who volunteer their time to improve the quality of life in our city. The banquet was held St. Mary’s Father Garrity Center and was well attended.
- January 26th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events for February 2012

- February 1st – The American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for today at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. I will be giving a report as chairman of the District audit committee.
- February 9th – American Legion Post 91 monthly membership is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I serve as 1st Vice Commander in charge of membership.

- ◻ February 23rd – American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Bob Potts – VVA

- January 3rd – I attended the Chapter's monthly Board meeting.
- January 3rd – I attended our monthly membership meeting.
- January 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 11th – I attended the CCVSC first Level III Appeals meeting of the month.
- January 18th – I attended the CCVSC monthly open public meeting.
- January 24th – I attended the VVA Chapter 15 monthly membership meeting.
- January 25th – I attended the CCVSC second Level III Appeals meeting of the month.
- January 30th – I received a call from a veteran who needed counseling on how to apply for financial assistance and a claim for PTSD.

Frank Pocci - AMVETS

- January 3rd – The Post 80 Honor Guard had funeral honors duty at Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.
- January 3rd – I attended the Post 80 general meeting and gave my financial report as the finance officer and as service officer I reported on the new VA site in Parma and their scheduled opening date. We also discussed membership and our still sound but declining Post funds and expenses.
- January 25th – I attended a veteran's town hall sponsored by Elizabeth Thames, Deputy State Director for Senator Sherrod Brown. Jennifer Mazzeo advised veterans on financial assistance following the meeting. I suggested to Ms. Thames that they include on their website (www.brown.senate.gov) a link to the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services which, in turn, would enable them to link veterans to Ohio county veterans service commissions. She was very receptive to the idea. Another website that is available for veterans is www.loc.gov/vets. This event was held at AMVETS Post 176 in Richfield, Ohio and moderated by Bryan McGown.

Other Activities:

- ◻ I was in attendance for the two open public meetings and the two appeals meetings held at the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission.
- ◻ I reviewed a letter by County Council President, C. Ellen Connally, regarding several issues she is not satisfied with relative to the CCVSC. The issues she raised had been previously answered in sessions with County Council and the CCVSC is active completely within the ORC and Title 59.01. Ms. Connally's points were not correct or representative of what the CCVSC does and how it discharges its responsibilities. The statistics she quoted were also incorrect.
- ◻ I, along with the other commissioners and the CCVSC Executive Director, met with Judge Nancy Fuerst, Judge McMonagle, and their assistant, Mr. Popovich, on January 25th to review the operation of the CCVSC and answered questions they had regarding our operation to their satisfaction.
- ◻ January 27th, I attended the Italian American War Veterans general meeting where we voted and approved charitable donations and discussed participation in the Dept. of Ohio meeting in Lorain, Ohio February 12th.
- ◻ During the month of January, the CCVSC mailed a new supply of brochures to the Cuyahoga County Public library for distribution to all its branches.

- I referred two veterans to the CCVSC for claims filing and I helped three veterans in obtaining lost military documents with the assistance of our Memorial Affairs Department.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director continues to gather information on obtaining liability insurance for Board members and will submit his findings when available.

The Policy on the Schedule of Record Retention and Destruction dated August 16, 2006 has been reviewed by the Board and will remain the same. An updated copy will be presented to the Board for signature at the next public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A minor change will be made to the Policy on the Payment of Utility Bills dated June 2, 2010 and will be submitted to the Board for approval at the next open public meeting.

Resolution 2012-03, a resolution requesting authority for five Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commissioners to attend various conferences sponsored by the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners in Ohio on various dates for expenses in the total not to exceed \$5,879.85, was reviewed by the Board.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2012-03 with a minor revision.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

President Pocci opened the floor to visitors for any comments. The following bullet points were topics of discussion.

Mick Panek

- CCVSC bus-wrap advertising
- Archiving CCVSC personnel files
- Plain Dealer article on veterans training programs, scholarships and jobs in county government
- Cleveland Fisher House

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and the CCVSC for the provision and use of information of all individuals who have indicated military status to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and who reside in Cuyahoga County. The data will be used for direct mail advertising and provided to us on a semi-annual basis.

The Executive Director provided Larry Bender, County Director of Development, with CCVSC information for Mr. FitzGerald's State of the County's Address today.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:35 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. (11:03 a.m.)

The Board discussed the job posting for Veterans Outreach Specialist.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to accept the Executive Director's recommendation to hire Bryan McGown as the part-time Veteran and Employer Outreach Specialist, a part-time position, 32 hours per week, at a rate of \$19.73/hr., effective immediately.

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

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

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



Frank Pocci, President



Clayton E. Uzell, 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)