



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
THOMAS T. K. ZUNG
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: February 2, 2011 9:33 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Frank Pocci, Vice President
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Thomas Zung, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

ABSENT: Bob Potts, Secretary

VISITORS: None.

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 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, Pocci, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Dan Weist – DAV

- January 19th, I attended my VFW monthly meeting. A significant amount of business was addressed.
- I intended to attend the ODVS Advisory Committee meeting on January 20th in Columbus, Ohio, but decided not to travel due to the inclement weather.

Thomas Zung – VFW

- Euclid VFW Post 1056 held its monthly meeting and reported holiday activities with the Euclid City Hall officials.
- I met with Congresswoman Marcia Fudge to discuss veterans' affairs. I also attended the Inauguration Ceremony for the new Cuyahoga County Executive, Edward FitzGerald, on January 9, 2011 at the old Courthouse. Mayor Frank Jackson, Congresswoman Fudge, the

Honorable Louis Stokes, and the new County Council President, Judge Ellen Connally, were present. As the VFW representative on the CCVSC Board, I tried to inform those present that the CCVSC is an autonomous agency, governed by State laws.

- I visited the new University Circle domiciliary housing units for veterans that are connected to the new addition of the Louis Stokes Medical Center. The whole complex is very impressive.
- Euclid VFW Post 1056 reported that they have not received any word from the Court of Common Pleas concerning the VFW seat on the CCVSC Board.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- January 16th, I attended an Executive meeting of the Italian American War Veterans at Post #1 in Lorain, Ohio to review the charges against a member of Youngstown Post #3 for several infringements of various by-laws. The party was found guilty, his membership was removed, and he was denied any form of participation in ITAM post activities.
- ITAM Post #34 held its monthly meeting on January 28th. Motions were made and passed on charitable contributions for 2011. The Post also approved a motion to participate in the Cuyahoga County Joint Veterans Commission.
- I have been asked by the Cuyahoga County Catholic War Veterans to represent the CCVSC at their meeting in February.
- I stopped by the new CBOC that is being built in Parma and it seems to be coming along very well. The basic structure is up and it is wrapped in plastic to allow work during the winter months. It would appear that it will be completed on schedule. The Wade Park Hospital is also really changing the area landscape as the new buildings are up and construction is moving right along. This will be quite a complex once finished.
- I referred two veterans to our Service Dept. for possible claims. One for a reduction in the VA pension that the vet could not understand, and the other for an Agent Orange claim where the veteran has cancer, had organs removed and has various other problems.

AMVETS Events:

- January 4th – AMVETS General meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- January 15th – Post clean-up day
- January 18th – Board of Trustees and Executive meeting followed by the General meeting at 7:30 p.m. I gave the end of the year financial report for Post #80.
- I have been invited, and will attend, the AMVETS District 20 meeting on February 8th, where I have been asked to represent the CCVSC.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- January 5th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Post 738 in Fairview Park.
- January 13th – I attended American Legion Post 91 monthly membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- January 16th – I attended the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter conference in Columbus, Ohio at 10:00 a.m.
- January 19th – I attended a meeting with instructors from Baldwin Wallace College in reference to having a “meet & greet” with students from the college who are also veterans. We plan to have them attend a Friday night fish fry on February 18, 2011 to introduce them to the American Legion and to explain benefits that may be available to them through the CCVSC.

- January 27th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events for February 2011

- February 2nd – The American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and is to be held at Post 469.
- February 10th – The American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- February 18th – American Legion Post 91 is planning a “meet & greet” with students from Baldwin Wallace College who are also veterans. The purpose of the meet and greet is to introduce the veterans to the American Legion and the many benefits they may be eligible for from the CCVSC.
- February 24th – American Legion Post 91 E-board meeting is scheduled to be held at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cuyahoga County Executive, Ed FitzGerald, sent a memo dated January 25, 2011 to all county employees concerning self reporting requirements in regards to partisan politics. Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to adopt a policy of the Commission to follow County policy guidelines in regards to partisan politics. It was noted that CCVSC employees, with the exception of the Executive Director, are in the classified service and are subject to ORC 124.57.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A discussion took place concerning federal and state guidelines for household composition. CCVSC policy currently considers the veteran, spouse, and dependent children of the veteran, including adopted children or children in the legal custody of the veteran, as members of a household. It does not include anyone else living in the home. State law does not define household. Asst. County Prosecutor Tom O'Donnell will research ORC 5901 and will report back to the Board at the next open public meeting.

The Commission has received the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services training guidance for 2011. The New Veterans Service Commissioner training course will continue to be offered at both the Spring and Fall Conferences. It was noted that “reappointed” Veterans Service Commissioners will now be required to attend this training during their reappointment year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss Board interaction with staff members.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:28 a.m.)

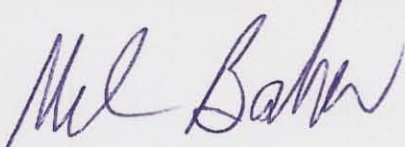
A motion was made by Thomas Zung and seconded by Frank Pocci to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:43 a.m.)

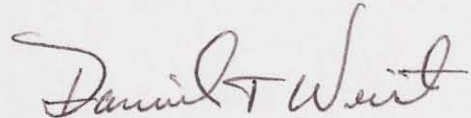
Discussion took place in Executive Session concerning the proper chain of command in addressing staff.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried.



Mel Baher, President



Dan Weist, Secretary Pro Tem

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)