



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

JOHN C. MURPHY
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

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 3, 2010 9:39 a.m.

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

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bob Potts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist 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.) One item, Dept. of Veterans Services 2010 Training Guidance dated 1/19/10, was pulled from the Consent Agenda to be discussed under New Business.
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Thomas Zung – VFW

- Euclid VFW Post 1056 was pleased and honored to salute with a special celebration to one of their members from WWII, a female former post officer who had her 90th birthday! I personally sent her a letter congratulating her for her service to our country and our post and extended best wishes on this occasion. The Post Commander reported that the District 7 meeting is to be held this Saturday at the Hilton in Beachwood, Ohio.
- Post 1056 will be requesting an appointment with the Auditor's Office to have the building's taxes lowered as the evaluation and taxes are way out of line with the real value. Some of the other posts are also concerned with the property taxes; the value is drastically not aligned.
- Freedom Flights will be resuming their free flights for WWII vets. They are now advertising in Geauga County. They continue to need volunteers and donations. Due to the economy, they are seeking financial help. Please help if you can.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- January 1st, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General Meeting in Maple Hts., Ohio.
- January 11th, Post 80 hosted bingo at the Brecksville VA Medical Center. We continue to look for other volunteers to help with hosting bingo.
- January 12th, I, and the Quartermaster for the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34, assembled and reviewed all financial information and submitted the appropriate tax reports for the post. The post's fiscal year ended on August 31, 2009 and the tax reports were due on January 15, 2010.
- January 14th, I attended the American Legion Post 90 General Meeting at the post in Berea. Various candidates for district officer and the district commander were present at this meeting.
- During the month of January, I visited the Middleburg Hts. City Center where I spoke with the reception staff explaining the activities of the CCVSC. I left brochures to include with their brochure stands.
- January 19th, I had the opportunity to speak to 56 members of the North Italian Club of Cleveland and briefly reviewed with them what the CCVSC can do for veterans. The information was well received and I answered basic questions and gave referrals to individuals, either for themselves or someone they may know, to our financial assistance and service departments.
- January 25th, I met with a lady who is involved with veterans and does volunteer work. She had written to me and wanted to meet to review how she could be of further assistance to our vets. I gave her some input about career possibilities where her skills as a teacher could be used.
- January 29th, I attended the ITAM Post 34 General Meeting. As Adjutant, I reviewed the agenda/minutes. I also informed the post members that there would be a department meeting in Youngstown, Ohio on February 28th at Post #3. At this meeting, we also honored the founding Commander, Jerome Cangelosi, and presented him with a plaque commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of ITAM Post 34.
- February 2nd, I attended the AMVETS General Meeting at Post 80 in Maple Hts. where I gave my financial report for the post. We also celebrated the 90th birthday of two members, one being our Commander, Elmer Balach.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended my VFW General Meeting on January 20th.
- January 29th, I attended the retirement luncheon for CCVSC Service Officer, Jim Stolz.
- I continue to be active with the American Legion and VFW in registering veterans into the VA system and with referrals to CCVSC.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- The 13th District meeting at Post 610 at 7:00 p.m. was cancelled.
- I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting January 14th at 7:00 p.m. as Post Commander.
- I attended the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter Conference in Columbus on January 17th at 10:00 a.m.
- I attended an interview on January 20th with the appointing judges for the appointment selection process concerning the position of Commissioner representing the American Legion for term 2010-2014.

- I attended the American Legion 13th District E-Board meeting January 25th held at American Legion Post 610.
- I attended the 13th District annual picnic planning committee meeting held at American Legion Post 703 on January 26th at 6:30 p.m.
- I conducted the American Legion Post 91 E-Board meeting January 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Bob Potts – VVA

- January 5th, I attended my monthly board meeting at American Legion Post 421.
- January 19th, I attended Chapter 249's membership meeting. The guest speaker for the night was Bob Schloendorn, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission who spoke about financial assistance and veterans services.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Dept. of Veterans Services Training Guidance for 2010 was discussed in length. Of concern was Page 5, Paragraph (a.) which states, "To earn a training credit, District presidents must provide timely notification of the date, and a timely request for approval of the proposed training agenda to the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Joint Training Committee. We would like to have sixty days advance notification of District meeting training agendas. Our policy is that, without prior approval, no training credit will be granted." All commissioners are planning to attend the District 2 meeting at the Medina County VSC on March 27th, but instructed the Executive Secretary to confirm the agenda's approval to insure that they would receive one training credit for attending.

The Board and Executive Director received an invitation to attend a retirement dinner for William Montague, Cleveland VA Medical Center Director, at Catered Elegance in Bedford Hts., Ohio on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Weist, Potts, and Executive Director Bob Schloendorn will be attending.

The Financial Assistance Application and Appeal Procedure will be revised giving the Appeals Officer the authority to extend temporary assistance from six months to nine months if a client is seeking additional assistance and all the facts of the claim remain consistent. The Executive Director will present the rough draft at the next open public meeting.

The Board has decided to review two cases and two withdrawals, picked at random as part of the quality assurance process, the 2nd and 4th meeting of each month, and one or two policies/guidelines for possible revisions at the 1st and 3rd meeting.

Jim McCafferty, County Administrator, and Jay Ross, Director of Central Services, have been invited to attend our Board's next open public meeting and take a tour of our new office space.

Bob Schloendorn has applied to participate in two workgroups of the Cuyahoga County Transition Advisory Group (TAG) representing the CCVSC. This group is responsible for "developing recommendations for the orderly and efficient transition" from a county commissioner to an elected county executive and county council form of government which becomes effective January 2011. The Board encouraged Dan Weist to apply as well given his tenure with the commission.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Mel Baher to nominate Thomas Zung for President of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for Year 2010. There was no second. Commissioner Zung declined the nomination stating that he requires more time to better understand the appeals process. Commissioner Baher stated that the Level III Appeals is an essential part of the process and that the President needs to be someone with strength and knowledge of CCVSC practices, will conduct meetings in a professional and intellectual manner, and able to attend all meetings.

As a result, a motion was made by Thomas Zung and seconded by Frank Pocci to follow the guideline for the election of officers on the CCVSC Board established in January 2007, and to accept the following Commissioners as officers for Year 2010:

President	Dan Weist, DAV
Vice President	Mel Baher, American Legion
Secretary	Frank Pocci, AMVETS

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

Assistant County Prosecutor Tom O'Donnell left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by and seconded by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to go into Executive Session to discuss two staff promotions.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:06 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:40 a.m.)

In Executive Session, the Board reviewed employment applications and received the Executive Director's recommendations for two positions open within the commission.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung to accept the recommendations of the Executive Director to promote Melinda Haliburton to Asst. Manager in the Service Dept., and Iris DeHart, to Service Officer-In Training, effective the next pay period.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjust the salary levels for these two positions as indicated on the job posting.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

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

Bob Potts, President

Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: John Murphy, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2637)

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)