



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

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MINUTES

DATE: March 2, 2011 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Frank Pocci, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Thomas Zung, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

ABSENT: Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Bob Potts – VVA

- I attended a self-run meeting for veterans while vacationing on a cruise ship. The meeting consisted of two veterans from the Canadian Army, one Korean POW, two or three from Iraq and Afghanistan, and three Vietnam veterans. Stories were shared and personal experiences were discussed. It was the nicest event of the entire cruise.

Dan Weist – DVA

- I attended the monthly meeting of North Olmsted VFW Post 7647 on February 16th.
- I have had conversations with Judges Lillian Mays and David Matia this past week concerning a proposal for a veteran's drug court in the Cleveland area. This court would send veteran offenders for rehabilitation in lieu of incarceration. I am waiting to hear from Judge Matia as to a date and time that he is available.

- March 3rd, I joined Mel Baher, Bob Schloendorn, and Tom O'Donnell in a meeting with Dave Merriman, Special Asst. to the County Executive. Mr. Merriman was briefed on our services and budget and given a tour of our facility.

Thomas Zung – VFW

- Euclid VFW Post 1056 held its monthly meeting and it was reported that plans for Memorial Day activities have begun with Euclid City Hall officials.
- I will be attending a Thank You Wartime Veterans breakfast seminar for veterans 65 years and older on Saturday, March 5th at the Hilton Hotel.
- I visited Janet Merrick, Honor Flight Cleveland board secretary, Joe Benedict, and Edna Korb and donated some funds and wine for an auction. Flight plans commence in May from Cleveland Hopkins Airport. WWII veterans have all their expenses paid and the trip is a one-day affair.
- I visited with some VFW Post members who are hospitalized. Flowers and cards are sent from members of our Post.
- Euclid VFW Post 1056 has not yet been notified of the VFW appointment on the CCVSC Board.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS Events

- February 1st – The AMVETS General meeting was held at 7:00 p.m.
- February 8th – The 20th District meeting was held in Perry Township. I was asked to attend along with commissioners from other counties. The commander expects commissions to send representatives to a couple of meetings each year so that they can be up-to-date on veterans service commission activities. Also, this is an opportunity for various commissioners to exchange information and get to know each other.
- March 1st – The AMVETS General meeting was held at the Post at 7:00 p.m. I advised the members of my need to transfer additional funds into our checking account to avoid new monthly fees that would exceed the interest earned for the money transferred.

Other activities:

- On February 1st, I was invited to represent the CCVSC at the meeting of the Catholic War Veterans at St. Monica's Church in Garfield Heights. Approximately 30 people were in attendance. I gave a short presentation about the CCVSC after which I passed out pamphlets and had about a 20-minute question and answer session. As a result, I referred three people to our commission.
- I have confirmed the date of October 6th with the Middleburg Heights Women's Club for a short presentation from Commissioner Baher and myself about the role of the CCVSC and how we assist veterans.
- The Italian American War Veterans meeting for February 25th was cancelled due to the weather and rescheduled for Friday, March 4th.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- February 2nd – The American Legion 13th District Council meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Post 469 was cancelled due to bad weather.
- February 4th – I attended a memorial service at 3:00 p.m. sponsored by American Legion Post 572 honoring the Four Chaplains. This service is held each year on the first Sunday in February.
- February 10th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- February 18th – American Legion Post 91 held a “meet & greet” with students from Baldwin Wallace College who are also veterans. The purpose of the meet and greet was to introduce the veterans to the American Legion, give information of any benefits they may be eligible for from the CCVSC, and give a show of support from the community for their efforts of military service.
- February 24th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 E-board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- February 27th – I attended the 20th year anniversary program held at 3:00 p.m. honoring the Desert Storm/Desert Shield veterans. The program was held at American Legion Post 91. The City of Berea received the organizations first ever award for being the most Patriotic City on the west side of Cleveland. The City of Eastlake received the award for the city on the east side. Names of all service members that were casualties were read by members of their particular branch of service. I had the honor of reading those from the USAF. Also, the Lorain High School ROTC presented colors and did a POW/MIA service honoring the branches of services with the respective caps placed on a special table set for those who could not be with us.

OLD BUSINESS:

After further research and discussion regarding the definition of a household, the Board and Executive Director concurred that the current CCVSC policy would remain as is.

Asst. County Prosecutor Tom O'Donnell is researching the interpretation of the ORC concerning indigent burials and the definition of a veteran. Meanwhile, the Executive Director stated that we will continue using the definition of a veteran as “an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States who served on active duty for reasons other than training.”

Letters have gone out to American Legion #343 in Euclid and #703 in Parma requesting that their Post host a CCVSC open public Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 20, 2011 and September 21, 2011 respectively. This will provide us an opportunity to afford the public and veterans' community a chance to attend a meeting outside the Commission. Commissioner Baher has received verbal confirmations from both Posts.

NEW BUSINESS:

All Commissioners will be attending the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Commission's Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio from April 1-3, 2011. The \$10.00 registration fee is due by March 28th.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Schloendorn reported that Dave Merriman from the County Executive Office met with him, Mel Baher, Dan Weist and Tom O'Donnell on March 1st for an overview of our agency and the CCVSC budget. It was recommended that the Commissioners and Executive Director meet with County Council members prior to our budget time in May for a briefing.

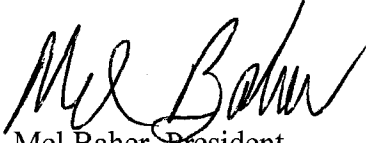
On March 18th, Dina Thomas of the Troop Assistance Program will be here to discuss assistance available to the families of service men and women who have been deployed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


There were no items for Executive Session.

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist, Zung. 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)