



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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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: March 3, 2010 9:35 a.m.

PRESENT: Daniel T. Weist, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Thomas Zung, Commissioner
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Bernice & George Johnson

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dan Weist, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Thomas Zung 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

Thomas Zung – VFW

- I attended February's monthly meeting at Euclid VFW Post 1056. Discussion took place on lowering the tax burden for the post and preparing for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission's spring open public meeting at the post on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. A reminder letter will be sent to VFW Post 1056 on the date and time.
- I attended funeral services for Rita Ciofani-Kercher, Managing Director of the VOA who was fatally attacked by a veteran resident. The funeral home was packed with visitors honoring her. Although she was a licensed attorney, she elected to help the needy, especially veterans.
- Freedom Flight volunteers are using Post 1056 as a gathering place to resume their free flights for WWII vets and are now advertising in Geauga County. Volunteers and donations are still needed.
- I attended the District #7 Spring Conference at the Hilton Hotel in Beachwood. The theme was the Voice of America winners. The first prize went to a student from the Buckeye school district and the second place winner was a student from the Brunswick school

system. I had the good luck to be placed at the same table as the superintendent and assistant superintendent from Brunswick. Students, parents, and teachers shared a very proud evening.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- March 2nd, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General Meeting where I gave my financial report for the month of February.
- AMVETS Post 80 sponsored bingo at the Brecksville Medical Center on February 8th.
- February 11th, AMVETS Post 80 held a Valentine's Day luncheon with the auxiliary, post members, spouses and guests.
- AMVETS Post 80 held Honor Guard duties at the Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio on February 16th.
- During the month of February, the past senior vice commander of the Italian American Veterans (ITAM) Post 34, passed away. I, along with several other members from Post 34 and members from ITAM Post 1 in Lorain, provided funeral honors during the visitation at the funeral home.
- February 26th, ITAM Post 34 held its General Meeting where there was a moment of silence and a prayer was said for the departed Sr. Vice Commander. The major topic of discussion, other than the normal schedule, was the preparation for the ITAM Dept. of Ohio State meeting on February 28th.
- The evening of February 27th, it was decided to cancel the ITAM Dept. of Ohio meeting scheduled for the following day due to the weather. The meeting has been tentatively rescheduled to April 25th.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended a retirement dinner for William Montague, Cleveland VA Medical Center Director, at Catered Elegance in Bedford Hts., Ohio on Saturday, February 20th.
- I attended the membership meeting at N. Olmsted VFW Post 7647 where ideas and improvements were exchanged with the Ladies Auxiliary and the membership.
- Due to past monetary problems at VFW Post 7647, I requested a State Audit of the books on March 4th. As past commander and trustee, I will meet with a representative from the Attorney General's office to review the books.

OLD BUSINESS:

We have received twelve memorial flag cases that will be given at the request of the veteran's family. A plate at the back of the box will indicate that the flag box was presented by the CCVSC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Changes to the current Food and Shelter Monthly Allowance Guideline dated January 7, 2009 were discussed. The Board compared our rates with federal guidelines and noted that we exceed their amounts. A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to retain our current standard monthly allowance for food for one person and to adopt federal guideline amounts for two or more persons.

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

The motion was amended by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to adjust the rent and mortgage amounts accordingly. After further discussion, Frank Pocci retracted the amended motion.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Thomas Zung to increase rent amounts as follows: 1 person (\$625.00), 2 people (\$725.00), 3 people (\$850.00), 4 people (\$1,125.00), 5 people (\$1,200.00), 6 people (\$1,375.00) and 7 or more people (\$1,550.00). And, to pay the primary mortgage as needed, not to exceed \$2,000.00 without the Executive Director's approval.

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

The motion was amended by Frank Pocci and seconded by Thomas Zung that rent amounts exceeding \$1,500.00/month must be approved by the Executive Director.

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

The Board reviewed draft revisions to the May 2, 2007 House Call Policy. A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the Executive Director's recommended changes to the policy.

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

All five Commissioners and the Executive Director are scheduled to attend the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Columbus, Ohio, April 9-11, 2010. Room reservations have been made and registration fees were submitted.

The Harvest for Hunger Campaign began February 23, 2010. Our Board of Commissioners routinely seeks donations from their own posts and chapters and will be reaching out to other veterans' organizations to support the campaign as well. Contributions would be most appreciated and will help the Commission in assisting the community. Checks should be made payable to "Harvest for Hunger" and sent to Mary Kitko, Administrative Secretary, 1849 Prospect, Suite 150, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

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

Deborah Jackson

- CCVSC dental assistance

George Jackson

- Burial benefits and Form DD-214

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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

Daniel T. Weist, President

Frank Pocci, 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)