



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650
Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: March 4, 2015 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Daniel T. Weist, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Secretary; Brian Gutkoski

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Weist 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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, February 4th – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting was held at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the District financial report for December 2014 as District Finance Officer.
- Tuesday, February 10th – I attended the interview process for the American Legion seat on the CCVSC board. There were three interviews with Greg Popovich, Court Administrator, serving as the spokesman. The interview went well, and I was advised a decision would be made by the judge's panel by Wednesday, February 18, 2015.
- Thursday, February 12th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting was held at 7:00 p.m.

- Saturday, February 14th – Executive Director Jon Reiss and I attended the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County 90th Anniversary Installation and Awards luncheon at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio. The ceremony honored Father Joseph H. Piskura and all the United States Military Chaplains, past and current.
- Monday, February 23rd – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, Ohio. I presented the January 2015 financial report for approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, February 26th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting at 7:00 p.m., where I serve as an elected board member.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, March 1st – the American Legion 13th District Council Spring Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at Brook Park Post 610. I will be presenting the executive board approved financial report for January 2015, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, March 12th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17th – American Legion Post 91 will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, serving corned beef sandwiches and dinners from noon until 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 23rd – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park, Ohio. I will be presenting February 2015 financial reports, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, March 26th – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Bob Potts – VVA

- February 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- February 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 15th – I attended the VVA Chapter Tet dinner at the Moosehead Hoof & Ladder in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. It was a great success according to all that attended.
- February 18th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- February 24th – I attended the VVA Chapter 15 membership meeting to continue to work on the preparation for the End of the Vietnam War Commemoration on April 30, 2015.
- February 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- March 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS (written report was submitted prior to the meeting)

- I gave my financial report for the end of February to our Adjutant as I would not be able to attend due to my being out of town.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- I have completed the reinvestment of the Post funds and we are now getting a better interest rate on a short term CD.

Other Activities:

- During January, I attended all of the open and appeals meetings at the CCVSC.
- I referred two veterans to our service department.
- I had worked with Melinda Halliburton to obtain A&A for the widow of a veteran who can no longer take care of herself and her affairs. The filing was approved in a little over a two-month period and she is now receiving the additional compensation.
- I attended the meeting of the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34 on February 27th where I gave the monthly report.

- An ITAM executive meeting took place on February 13th where donations and Post activities were reviewed and all membership cards and reports were completed.
- An ITAM leadership department meeting took place in Youngstown where we were able to nominate officers for Post number 2 which has accepted members from the closed Post number 3 and should now have enough membership to operate.

VA news for February 2015:

1. VA announces \$300 million in grants to community partners working to end veteran homelessness.
Building on President Obama's commitment to end veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs is announcing the availability of \$300 million in grants to non-profit organizations and other groups that serve veterans through VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The SSVF program assists very low-income veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The \$300 million grants are available to current grantees seeking renewals. (2/13/15)
2. Online prescription tracker gives veterans 24/7 online access to status.
Veterans can now track the status of most of their prescriptions online, thanks to an innovative idea by a Department of Veterans Affairs employee. The new 24/7 service allows online tracking for most prescriptions mailed from the VA mail order pharmacy. (2/4/15)
3. Care and benefits for veterans strengthened by \$169 billion VA budget.
The President has proposed a \$168.8 billion budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in fiscal year 2016. The proposed budget will support VA goals to expand access to timely, high quality health care and benefits, continue the transformation of VA into a veteran-centric department and end homelessness among veterans.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- February 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 8th – I attended the VFW District 7 Conference at the Seven Hills Community Center. I took part in the memorial service and then attended the business session. I also gave the safety report to members.
- February 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- February 16th – I attended the VFW Post meeting. The nomination of Post officers will take place at next month's meeting.
- February 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 21st – I attended the VFW Post 3283 Huber Hts. testimonial dinner for the District 3 commander and president.
- February 25th – I attended the Level III Appeal hearings.
- February 28th – I attended the District 7 Awards Banquet at Solon Post 1876 honoring the police/fire/teacher of the year and Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen winners.
- I referred two clients to the CCVSC for benefits and/or services.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all CCVSC meetings during the month of February.
- February 19th – I attended the VFW Post #7647 North Olmsted joint meeting with the ladies and men's auxiliary.
- I transported three veterans to their appointments at the Wade Park VA.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brian Gutkoski joined the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Jon Reiss is working with Rite Aid to establish a private/public partnership for bus advertising. Jon will submit a proposal to the Board when details become available.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss employment.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:00 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:17 a.m.)

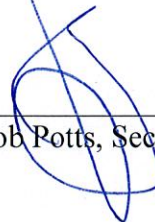
A personnel matter was discussed in Executive Session and the Executive Director was advised on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

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



Daniel T. Weist, President



Bob Potts, Secretary Pro tem

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)
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:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)