



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

JAMES L. STOLZ
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Room 200 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: April 1, 2009 10:10 a.m.

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

ABSENT: Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director

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 Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda as published. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

Commissioners' Reports

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- March 4th, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General meeting.
- March 12th, I attended the American Legion Post 91 General meeting. The post continues to make various charitable contributions to a variety of causes.
- March 25th, I attended the Ohio Department of Veterans Services training in Columbus, Ohio.
- March 27th, I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34 General meeting. We are expecting to sign up two new members; one in April and one in May. Our lone female member is trying to invite other women and form a Ladies Auxiliary. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our recently deceased past Commander and State Commander, Charles (Chuck) Faroni.
- March 28th, I attended the 2nd District meeting in Elyria, Ohio. Discussion took place concerning service officer responsibilities and outreach efforts that have been successful in

their respective counties. The leadership was passed to Medina County and they will advise the other 2nd district counties as to who the officers will be in the near future.

- I will be attending the AMVETS Post 80 General meeting on April 7th.
- During the month of April, the ITAM Post 34 officers will meet to review the consolidation of post documents and accounts so that we may have an accurate representation of all post activities, membership, funds and documents.

Thomas Zung – VFW

- VFW Post 1056 will conduct their monthly meeting on April 9th to elect the new post officers for 2009. New tenant arrangements to economize on expenses during this cash crisis will be discussed.
- The Honor Flight Program is contacting WWII veterans and their families for their April visit to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Donations, guardians, and volunteers are being sought. Plans for trips once a month from April to October pay honor to the memorial site; vets do need to apply (440-639-9368).
- March 25th, I attended a DVS training conference in Columbus at the Veterans Memorial Hall. One topic of discussion was the handling of media when veterans are the target of a story. Attendees received a draft copy of the “Benefits Resource Guide”.
- Saturday, March 28th, I attended the District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 12 in Elyria, Ohio. The Lorain County VSC led a training session on procedures, claims, case development, educational process and burial. Next District 2 meeting will be held in Medina County.
- I will be attending the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Columbus, Ohio from April 3-5, 2009.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- March 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Spring Conference at Post 421 at 10:00 a.m.
- March 12th – I conducted the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. as Post Commander.
- March 25th – I attended the OSAVSC meeting in Columbus, Ohio with our Executive Director and fellow Commissioners.
- March 28th – I attended the District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 12 in Elyria, Ohio at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

- April 1st – I will be attending the American Legion 13th Council meeting at Euclid Post 343 at 7:30 p.m.
- I will be attending the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio, April 3 & 4.
- The American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for April 9th at 8:00 p.m.
- The American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting is scheduled for April 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended the VFW Monthly meeting on March 18th.
- March 19th, I attended a GOVA Advisory Committee meeting in Columbus, Ohio. I continue to chair a committee for the OSAVSC to establish guidelines and gather information on duties and responsibilities of various positions.

Bob Potts – VVA

- March 3rd – I attended the Chapter Board meeting. At that time, we decided after 17 years not to participate at the Sportsman Show.
- The March 17th meeting was cancelled because of St. Patrick's Day.
- March 25th – I attended a meeting with fellow CCVSC commissioners and Executive Director at the Franklin County Veterans Memorial, Auditorium, 300 W. Broad St., Columbus, for a presentation on marketing, customer service, and how to deal with the media. Good ideas were exchanged.
- March 28th – I attended the District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 12 in Elyria, Ohio.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion took place again regarding the VVA appointment on the CCVSC Board. Another reminder was sent to the appointing judge.

Commissioner Dan Weist was briefed in great detail regarding items discussed at the DVS meeting in Columbus on March 25th and at the District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 12 in Elyria on March 28th. Commissioner Weist could not attend either meeting due to a prior scheduled vacation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon his return from vacation, the Executive Director will be instructed to research the following items for possible discussion at the April 15th meeting:

- 1) Signage for the front of our building:
- 2) Advertisement on side of building facing E. 18th St.
- 3) Federal grant under the Transportation Dept. to secure a van for mobile outreach to nursing homes.

The Board instructed the Executive Secretary to purchase 100 four-slotted brochure carousals and 5,000 CCVSC brochures for advertising purposes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

As a result of the discussion about the DVS marketing meeting in Columbus, Ohio on March 25th, the Board agreed to send a letter to DVS director, Bill Hartnett, outlining positive points to consider that may assist the smaller counties that are experiencing difficulties. The DVS distributed a rough draft Benefits Guide and asked that commissioners review the material and submit any suggestions no later than May 1st. Bob Potts requested that the guide also be shared with the Executive Director and managers of the financial assistance dept., memorial affairs dept., and the service office dept. for their input as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No items were submitted.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.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)

Mobile Meals Program Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2379)

Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)

Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)