



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**DANIEL T. WEIST**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**CLAYTON E. UZELL**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT E. SCHLOENDORN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



### MINUTES

**DATE:** April 3, 2013 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob Potts, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President  
Daniel T. Weist, Secretary  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Mary Kitko, Administrative Assistant

**EXCUSED:** Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

**VISITORS:** Marilyn Jacobcik – Regional Liaison, Ohio Secretary of State’s Office  
Brian Albrecht – Plain Dealer

**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 Clay Uzell 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, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

#### Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both open public Board meetings and both Level III Appeal hearings in the month of March.
- I attended the monthly VFW meeting. Nominations were held.
- I planned to attend my DAV meeting, but due to a family emergency, I could not attend.
- I had a conversation with a woman who is involved in training service/comfort dogs for veterans - Wags for Warriors. She asked for a name of a contact person at the VA who handles PTSD cases because they have six dogs that will soon be fully trained and they would like to pair them up with

veterans. I suggested that she contact Dr. Padine Rodriguez and mentioned that there are funds available to train the dogs.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – The American 13<sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference was held at 10:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park. I presented the District financial report as District Finance officer and gave an update on the CCVSC.
- Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the required training session for the OSAVSC Second District held in Perrysville at 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion Post 91 membership meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. I presented an updated membership report.
- Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District E-board meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park. I presented updated District financial reports as District Finance officer.
- Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – The American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. I presented an updated membership report as First Vice Commander.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – I, along with Commissioners Potts and Uzell, attended the Ohio Vietnam Veterans Commemoration in Columbus. We spoke with VFW State Commander Keller, who is also a Veterans Services Commissioner, along with several other veterans while viewing the Vietnam Memorial Wall replica.
- I referred two veterans to our service department during the month of March.
- Tonight I will be attending the 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting at Post 343 in Euclid beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- April 5-6<sup>th</sup> – I will be attending the Spring Conference of the OSAVSC in Columbus.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – is our CCVSC outreach meeting at VFW Post 6676 in Berea.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the general meeting at Post 80 on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – the AMVETS 20<sup>th</sup> District meeting took place at Post 178 in Richfield, Ohio.
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – it was Post clean-up day.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – I gave my financial report at Post 80.
- The Post will be put up for sale in the near future.

#### *Other Activities:*

- I attended all the scheduled open and appeals meetings at the CCVSC during the month of March. I recommended two veterans which resulted from a luncheon meeting I attended with a group of veterans.
- I attended the Commissioners' training session in Perrysville, Ohio.
- I will be attending the Commissioners' meeting and training in Columbus on April 5-7<sup>th</sup>.
- I attended the general meeting of the Italian American War Veterans on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- A couple of county libraries I visited seem to be out of the CCVSC flyers so it may be time to send out another package of them for distribution.

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended a funeral for a VFW member's mother in Painesville.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 10-12<sup>th</sup> – I flew to Norfolk, VA to greet my daughter Mona's return from deployment to the MED aboard USS Laboon DDG 58 guided missile destroyer. Mona is a 2<sup>nd</sup> class Gunners Mate.
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.

- March 18<sup>th</sup> – I attended the post meeting at VFW 7536 and was nominated for Commander for the new year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Other officers were nominated as well.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended funeral services for a VFW member in Ashtabula.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Ohio Vietnam Veterans Commemoration held in Columbus. I visited the “Wall That Heals” along with Commissioners Potts and Baher.
- I spoke with Cmdr. Brian McGinty and arranged to have our April 17<sup>th</sup> outreach meeting at VFW Post 6676 Brookpark-Berea located at 590 N. Rocky River Dr., in Berea at 7:00 p.m. I also posted the notice in the VFW District 7 newsletter.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the Chapter’s monthly Board meeting.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended our monthly membership meeting. We received a presentation on the End of the War program from Jim Quisenberry who is stepping down.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC monthly open public meeting.
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – I, along with other Commissioners, attended the District 2 training meeting in Perrysville, Ohio.
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC first appeals meeting.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – I attended a planning meeting for the End of the War program with Chapter 15.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC second monthly open public meeting.
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended a second joint meeting with Chapter 15 to make plans for the April 30, 2013 End of the War Ceremony.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the second appeals meeting for the month.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – I, along with Commissioners Baher and Uzell, attended the Ohio Vietnam Veterans Commemoration in Columbus, Ohio.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the Chapter 249 Board meeting and membership meeting which is the election of officers. I was appointed President of Chapter 249.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The purchase of veterans’ organization plaques for the Commissioners’ office is still a work in progress. The Executive Director presented the Board with a few examples of what was available, but noted that it was difficult to find similar plaques for all five organizations. Commissioner Baher asked that they be indoor plaques.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A catalog and print out of new CCVSC jackets for the Commissioners were passed around. Following some discussion, the Board agreed to have the Finance Manager continue to research prices and obtain samples for them to see before making a decision.

The opinion from Attorney General Mike DeWine was discussed and the Board concurred that food stamps will not be counted as income for assistance purposes. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve the revised Food and Shelter Monthly Allowance Guideline dated April 3, 2013, effective immediately.

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

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Marilyn Jacobcik, Regional Liaison from the Ohio Secretary of State’s Office, gave a presentation on the function of their office and provided handouts detailing services to veterans.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss the 2014 Budget and a personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:30 a.m.)

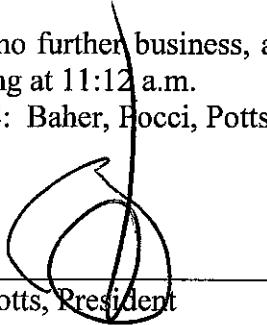
A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:10 a.m.)

The 2014 Budget that is due the end of May 2013 and a personnel issue was discussed in Executive Session. The Executive Director was given instructions on how to proceed with the personnel issue.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

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



Bob Potts, Resident



Daniel T. Weist, 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)