



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

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: April 4, 2012 9:30 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Mick Panek, Melvin Davis, Art Stone, John Tidyman

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Frank Pocci, 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:

Clay Uzell – VFW

- March 3rd - I attended the OSAVSC District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 68 in Wooster, Ohio. We discussed veterans' burials and honors and watched a video about the OVH in Georgetown, Ohio.
- March 4th – I attended the VFW District 2 meeting at Post 4239 in Sidney, Ohio. I presented the national award for safety projects to Post 9289 Shelby and gave the safety report and statistics for District 2. I spoke with VSC commissioners from District 2 which consists of the following counties: Putnam, Van Wert, Allen, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Auglaize and Shelby.
- March 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting and submitted my report.
- March 10th – I attended the VFW Post 6892 annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.
- March 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.

- March 19th – Post 7536 held nominations for elected positions as post officers. Elections will take place in April.
- March 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- March 30th – I attended my daughter, Mona's, re-enlistment ceremony with her mother and brother at the White House, along with a private tour by Navy personnel stationed there. Mona re-enlisted for five more years. Also, her mother, brother and I received certificates of appreciation for the support shown to Mona and her decision to make the Navy her career.
- I also referred three veteran clients to the CCVSC for benefits and/or services.

Dan Weist – DAV

- March 3rd - I attended the OSAVSC District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 68 in Wooster, Ohio.
- March 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 14th & 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III hearings.
- March 21st – I attended the VFW North Olmsted post meeting. Nominations were held and I was nominated to a trustee position.
- I attended VFW and American Legion Post 211 activities including a Children's Easter Egg Roll.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Saturday morning, March 3rd, I attended the OSAVSC 2nd District training class at American Legion Post 68 in Wooster. We were updated on the Georgetown and Sandusky nursing homes and their facilities.
- Saturday evening, March 3rd, I attended the American Legion's 93rd birthday celebration at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park. The event was hosted by the American Legion 13th District Auxiliary.
- Sunday morning, March 4th, I attended the American Legion 13th District Spring Conference at American Legion 421. I gave the results of our committee's financial audit for the August 2010 through July 31, 2011 membership year.
- Thursday, March 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly membership at 7:00 p.m. I gave my membership report as 1st Vice Commander.
- Thursday, March 22nd, I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m. I reported Post 91 had attained its membership goal for the 2012 membership drive; in fact, we have now also achieved all time high for our 15th consecutive year.
- During March 2012, I referred two veterans to the Service Department and two veterans to our Memorial Affairs Department for assistance.

Bob Potts – VVA

- March 6th – I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421.
- March 6th – Following the Board meeting, the monthly membership meeting was held.
- March 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 10th – I attended the Veteran's Administration Outpatient Clinic open house in Parma. While there, I visited with Randy Stevenson in our new office space located on the second floor. We discussed ways of making people aware of his location.

- March 13th – I attended the Chapter 15 monthly Board meeting to discuss the End of the War Ceremony that will be held on April 30th at 5:00 p.m. at Mall A. It will start with the reading of the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War. Final plans are not completed.
- March 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- March 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 22nd – I went to Veterans Evaluation Services in Valley View for my appointment. While I was there, I talked with Donna regarding a veteran who was in serious need of assistance for PTSD. I gave her information on who to contact at the CCVSC and left another supply of our brochures.
- March 29th – I attended the Cuyahoga County Vietnam Veterans Remembrance that was held in the County boardroom. The same day, President Obama announced that March 29th will be set as the day that the country will remember Vietnam Veterans.
- April 6th – I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421. We finalized the plans for the End of the War Ceremony.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- The Post 80 Honor Guard had their monthly funeral honors duty at Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.
- March 1st, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 general meeting where I gave my financial report for February.
- March 13th – the AMVETS held their district meeting in Richfield where displeasure was voiced over the reuse of the Memorial Day flags from veterans' graves.
- April 4th – I attended the AMVETS general meeting and gave my financial report for the month of March.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- I attended the four Board meetings at the CCVSC during March.
- March 3rd – I, along with other VSC commissioners, attended the district training meeting for commissioners in Wooster, Ohio. Discussion regarding the misrepresentation of VSC responsibilities in Cuyahoga and Summit counties took place after the training.
- March 10th – I participated in the Open House at the new Parma VA clinic where I was able to visit the facility and speak with the Director and Deputy Director. I also visited the office of our VSC service officer deployed there.
- March 12th – I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) executive meeting with other Post 34 officers.
- March 19th – I, along with State Veterans Services Director, Col. Moe, our commission's executive director and others, met with C. Ellen Connally and other county council representatives to review the proceedings of the CCVSC and the misrepresentations that have been broadcast about it. Mr. Moe was very supportive of the CCVSC and basically stated that the broadcasts were not fair. He also warned the county not to interfere with the State while it is reviewing the responsibilities of the county veterans service commissions. He also stated that we are in full compliance with State law in all respects and are basically one of the model counties in how we discharge our responsibilities.
- March 30th – I attended the ITAM general monthly meeting and gave my report as adjutant. I advised the attendees that the next department meeting will be in Lorain, Ohio on April 15th.

OLD BUSINESS:

With a full Board present, the longevity bonus was re-addressed. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts not to establish a longevity bonus as policy. Under discussion, it was noted that the longevity bonus was instituted in the absence of a pay scale to award employees for their work. A comparative study has recently been done and we are in line with other veterans service commissions.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: Pocci. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to adopt the new "Policy on Bereavement Leave" dated April 4, 2012, as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to adopt the new "Lunch and Break Policy" dated April 4, 2012, as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

As a result of the increasing cost of gasoline and food, the Board considered adjusting the food allowance in the current policy. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to make an adjustment to the food allowance. Under discussion, it was consensus of the Board to increase the amounts by 10%. Mel Baher amended his motion to adjust the food allowance in the "Food and Shelter Monthly Allowance Policy" by 10% across the board. Clay Uzell seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director informed the Board that towing procedures are kept in the glove compartment of each CCVSC vehicle should they experience an emergency.

The Board discussed several issues to consider for the CCVSC 2013 Budget including a legal aid clinic for veterans, the purchase of new servers and a COLA increase for employees. The 2013 budget is due the end of May 2012.

As a result, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to eliminate a COLA increase for all employees for 2013.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to freeze and cap the salary of the Executive Director for 2013. Following discussion, the Board agreed that the Executive Director is an "at will" employee and his salary will be reviewed yearly. The motion and second was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to establish the salary of the Executive Director yearly during budget discussion for the ensuing year.

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

The Executive Director is to prepare a draft policy on providing assistance with filing fees for the legal aid assisted veterans.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to accept CCVSC Resolution 2012-12; a resolution authorizing two county veterans service officers to attend the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Conference sponsored by the NACVSO from June 2, 2012 through June 9, 2012 in Atlantic City, N.J., expenses not to exceed \$3,532.47.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Baher welcomed Melvin Davis, Special Assistant to the County Executive, and presented him with a stack of used flags to take back to County Council as an example of the condition of used flags, which are not presentable to be issued to newly naturalized citizens or to children at parades.

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

Mel Davis

- Vietnam Veterans Ceremony - not well attended
- Iraq War Ceremony will take place May 14, 2012 – location not available at this time
- Property evaluation - American Legion Post 703, York Rd.

Mick Panek

- Veterans Job Fair in May 2012
- Veterans Court
- Tom Moe, Director of the Ohio Dept. of Veterans' Services and former POW

Art Stone

- Opposed to the re-use of Memorial Day Flags
- Has not received any information from the Public Works Dept. on the distribution of this year's Memorial Day Flags

The Executive Director presented the Board with a portfolio for employment from an interested applicant. After further discussion, the Board agreed to make this a consideration in the 2013 Budget.

The air quality testing is still a work in progress.

No response to date from Cleveland Public Power on advertising.

The Executive Director submitted his goals and objectives for 2012. They were reviewed and signed by the Board.

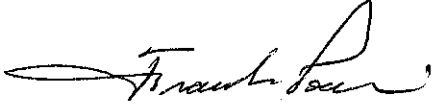
New venues were discussed for future Board outreach meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

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



Frank Pocci, President



Clayton E. Uzell, 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)