



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 SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: May 2, 2012 9:31 a.m.

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

ABSENT: Frank Pocci, President

VISITORS: Melvin Davis, Mick Panek, Jim Drnek, Doug Bankston

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Bob Potts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist 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

Clay Uzell – VFW

- April 4th – I attended the CCVSC open meeting and submitted my report.
- April 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.
- April 13 & 14th – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio along with my fellow commissioners.
- April 16th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting. Nominations and the election of officers were held. I was elected Commander for the 10th year.
- April 18th – I attended the CCVSC outreach Board meeting at VFW Post 3445 in Garfield Hts., Ohio. Thirty-five to forty people were in attendance.
- April 21st – I attended the VFW District 7 Testimonial dinner at Post 1974 in Parma. The Commander and President were involved in a skit.

- April 23rd – I attended the Past President's dinner at VFW Post 1974 in Parma. I called bingo for the ladies.
- April 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- April 28th – I met with the VFW Dept. of Ohio Inspector at the Strongsville post and held training for the new post quartermaster.
- April 30th – I attended a memorial service for the daughter of a VFW Post 7536 member at Stowder's Funeral home in Cleveland, Ohio.
- I referred one client to the CCVSC for services.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all CCVSC open public and Level III Appeal meetings for the month including the evening outreach Board meeting at VFW Post 3445 in Garfield Hts. on April 18th.
- I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio April 13 & 14th.
- I attended the monthly VFW North Olmsted meeting and was elected to a trustee position.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, April 4th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at American Legion Post 343. I updated council members on the Commission's role for the upcoming Memorial Day flag program.
- Thursday, April 12th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I gave my membership report as 1st Vice Commander.
- Friday, April 13th to Saturday, April 14th – I, along with fellow commissioners, attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- Wednesday evening, April 18th – I, along with fellow commissioners, attended our first of two annual outreach meetings held at VFW Post 3445 in Garfield Hts., Ohio.
- Thursday, April 26th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m. I updated my Post membership report to the board.
- During April 2012, I referred one veteran to the Service Dept. and two veterans to our Memorial Affairs Department for assistance.

Upcoming Events:

- 1) Wednesday, May 2nd – I will be attending the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at Post 451. The Past District Commanders will be hosting our annual Post Everlasting Service.
- 2) Thursday, May 10th – Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- 3) Thursday, May 24th – Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- 4) Saturday, May 26th – Post 91 members will be decorating graves at Woodvale and Adams Street Cemetery.
- 5) Memorial Day parade and services are being planned for May 28th.

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

- The Post 80 Honor Guard had their monthly funeral honors duty on April 10th.
- I attended the General meeting on April 3rd and gave my financial report. The nominating committee was selected and nomination and elections will be held at the May 1st meeting.
- April 10th – the AMVETS 20th District meeting was held at Post 1971 in Perry, Ohio. I was not able to attend due to another meeting that same evening.
- With the help of Patty Fowler of our Memorial Affairs Dept., I received the discharge papers for a Korean War veteran that I will personally deliver.

Other activities:

- 1) I attended the CCVSC open meeting on April 4th and the appeals meeting on April 11th.
- 2) April 18th – I presided over the CCVSC open meeting which was held offsite at VFW Post 3445 in Garfield Hts. as an outreach meeting. The meeting was well-attended.
- 3) April 13th & 14th – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio. During the meeting, it was stated by Tim Espich that the negative publicity received in the news by the CCVSC is not correct and misrepresentative and that the CCVSC has been doing everything in full compliance with State law.
- 4) April 15th – I attended the Italian American War Veterans Dept. of Ohio meeting at Post 1 in Lorain, Ohio where I gave my adjutant report. The State Convention will be June 3rd.
- 5) I attended the Italian American War Veterans general meeting on April 20th. The post received a letter from C. Ellen Connally explaining how they intend to reuse flags from veterans' graves to give to newly naturalized citizens. The post has replied that they consider this to be inappropriate and insulting to give a used, inexpensive and likely soiled flag, to a new citizen and degrading to the memory of the veteran.
- 6) I took a veteran to the new VA Parma facility to have his records transferred there.
- 7) I introduced another veteran who needs to file a claim to our Service Officer, Randy Stevenson, at the Parma VA facility. While there, I spoke with a mental health service provider and told her about the CCVSC and what services we offer. She was not aware of this and was very appreciative of the information. I gave her some of our brochures.
- 8) I attended the funeral of a WWII Army Air Corps veteran and presented his widow and son with a flag case from the CCVSC. They were overwhelmed by the gesture and were thankful for this beautiful case that will memorialize the veteran.

Bob Potts – VVA

- April 3rd – I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421.
- April 3rd – Following the Board meeting, I attended the monthly Membership meeting that was held.
- April 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- April 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- April 12th – while out at the Wade Park VA Hospital, I stopped by our officers and talked with the VSO.
- April 13th & 14th – I, along with my fellow commissioners, attended the Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public outreach meeting at VFW Post 3445 in Garfield Hts., Ohio.
- April 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- April 30th – I attended the End of the War Ceremony held at Mall A.
- May 1st – I attended the monthly Board meeting for VVA Chapter 249 at American Legion Post 421.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director stated that the draft policy on providing assistance with filing fees for the legal aid assisted veterans is still a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director introduced Jim Drnek, Dean of Students and Vice Provost for Student Affairs at Cleveland State University, for a presentation on the Veteran Student Success Program. Mr. Drnek gave a brief summary of the program's goals and academic, social and financial needs and asked for our cooperation in referring vets to their program.

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Mel Baher to accept CCVSC Resolution 2012-14; a resolution authorizing an advertising agreement with MEDIBAG Pharmacy Promotions for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission with the agreement for 11 locations and for two runs of the ads not to exceed \$13,178.00.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mel Baher shared an email he received about Van T. Barfoot, the 91-year old veteran who defied his homeowners association and refused to take down the flag pole on his property and the flag that flew on it. The article is attached to these minutes.

The Board and Executive Director reviewed a preliminary draft of the 2013 Budget of the CCVSC and minor changes were made. Bob Schloendorn noted that the final budget is due the end of May, but he cannot submit the budget until he receives the tax dollar estimate from the Auditor's Office.

Bob Potts opened the floor to visitors for any comments and/or questions. The following bullet points were topics of discussion:

Mel Davis

- Partnership with the Army Pays Program

Mick Pacek

- Legal Aid Assistance
- CCVSC Outreach Specialist and underemployment issues

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to go into Executive Session to discuss an employee compensation issue.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:03 a.m.)

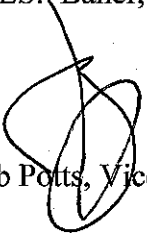
A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:27 a.m.)


An employee compensation matter was discussed in Executive Session and the Executive Director has been instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

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



Bob Potts, Vice 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)