



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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### MINUTES

**DATE:** May 4, 2011 9:31 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Mel Baher, President  
Frank Pocci, Vice President  
Clayton Uzell, Commissioner  
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

**ABSENT:** Bob Potts, Secretary

**VISITORS:** Essie Nash

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mel Baher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Dan Weist 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, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### Dan Weist – DAV

- April 1-3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the Spring Conference of the OSAVSC in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the monthly meeting of VFW Post 7647 and was elected Quartermaster for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, I will be participating in a Mother's Day Breakfast for approximately 300 people at American Legion Post 451.
- VFW Post 7647 is in the process of coordinating their upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- April 1-2, I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 6<sup>th</sup>, I was in attendance at the CCVSC Board meeting at the Commission.

- April 9<sup>th</sup>, I attended the VFW Testimonial Dinner for the 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander Charine Zsaludko and Auxiliary President Mary Lynn Church at Valley City VFW Post 5563. I presented the gift and made a short presentation.
- April 11<sup>th</sup>, I was appointed by the National VFW to serve on the General Resolutions Committee at the August National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. All expenses will be paid by National.
- April 18<sup>th</sup>, I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting. Elections were held and I was re-elected Commander.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, I attended a CCVSC outreach meeting at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid.
- April 26<sup>th</sup>, I attended a special meeting with State Director, Tom Moe. The two-hour visit consisted of an exchange of ideas and a tour of our facility.
- April 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended funeral services at DiCicco Funeral Home for a Ladies Auxiliary post member who passed away.
- April 29<sup>th</sup>, I met with the District 7 Quartermaster and other trustees at VFW Post 2850 to discuss the District 7 audit.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>, I attended a memorial service for a VFW Post 7536 post member at St. Williams in Euclid.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- April 5<sup>th</sup> – AMVETS General meeting was held at Post 80.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – “We Care Day” was held at the Brecksville VA Hospital. This was an afternoon of fun and enjoyment for our veterans (bingo, prizes and light lunch).
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – The District meeting was held at Post 109 in Mentor on the Lake.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – Clean up day was held at the Post.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Post 80 Honor Guard had duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – AMVETS General meeting was held at Post 80. The nomination of officers was held. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the AMVETS 20<sup>th</sup> District meeting will take place at Post 80 and officers will be installed at that time.
- I advised the Post regarding the necessary documentation for reimbursement of qualifying Memorial Day expenses.
- The Memorial Day observance at the Post will be on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Post 80 will be participating in the Maple Hts. Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Having no response from the three AMVETS state officers I had written to regarding setting up a training room in our offices, I contacted Michelle Visintine who is the membership director for the AMVETS in Columbus. She referred me to Len Harper who is in charge of the state AMVETS career center. I have now written to him regarding this issue and I am awaiting a reply.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, I, along with my fellow Commissioners, participated in the Board’s open public meeting held at Euclid American Legion Post 343.
- Italian American War Veterans Post 34 held its meeting on April 29th. We reviewed the procedures for reporting volunteer hours so that we can get credit for them. Several veterans do volunteer work and fail to report it.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- April 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio along with my fellow commissioners.



- April 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting that convened at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 91.
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting that convened at 7:00 p.m.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 E-board meeting that convened at 7:00 p.m.

*UPCOMING EVENTS:*

- May 4<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. to be held at Rocky River American Legion Post 451. The Past District Commanders will conduct our annual Post Everlasting service.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Election of Post Officers will be conducted at this time.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – A special dedication ceremony is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at the Wade Park VA Medical facility.
- May 26<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 E-board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- May 28<sup>th</sup> – Members of Post 91 will decorate graves at the Woodvale Cemetery along with numerous other small cemeteries that we are responsible for decorating each year.
- May 30<sup>th</sup> – Post 91 annual Memorial Day services are currently in the planning stages.

Bob Potts – VVA

- April 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the monthly Chapter Board meeting. We discussed moving the Membership meeting to the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and the Board meeting to 6:45 p.m. We are hoping this will increase attendance at the meetings.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the monthly Membership meeting for the Chapter. This was election night for officers and board members. I was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for another year. We also had a guest speaker who talked about PTSD.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – Commissioners Baher, Uzell, and I met with ODVS Director, Thomas Moe, Asst. Director, Jason Dominguez, Tim Espich and Jim Forster, during their visit to CCVSC.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – VVA Chapter 249 spoke on the “Vietnam Experience” to the sophomore and junior class of Strongsville High School. We also had the pleasure of having Marine Corps Recruiter, Sergeant Matthew Thoroughman, listen in on our discussion. He had two Strongsville graduates with him who just finished boot camp at Parris Island.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Bob Schloendorn was contacted by Joe Aquilina, head of Social Services at the VA, concerning a law clinic for veterans at the CCVSC. Two law students from Case Western Reserve University would be available to handle such issues as tenant-landlord disputes, restoring driver’s licenses, etc., and would work under the supervision of a licensed attorney. No claims against the government will be filed. Bob informed the Board that space is available and recommended that we provide this service on a trial basis.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to support a veteran's law clinic at the CCVSC and for the Executive Director to coordinate with the VA and CWRU to have two law students available twice a week to provide legal assistance to veterans. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The Board is in the process of reviewing employee policies and guidelines. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve the revised "News Media Policy" dated May 4, 2011 as submitted by the Executive Director. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to rescind the "CCVSC Veterans Service Committee Policy" dated October 1, 2003. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to approve the revised "Policy on Affirmative Action" dated May 4, 2011 as submitted by the Executive Director. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Bob Schloendorn noted that Iris DeHart and Randy Stevenson passed their ODVS test on April 14, 2011. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to adjust the pay of Iris DeHart and Randy Stevenson, to be consistent with past practice, effective April 18, 2011. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Membership dues for the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners are due by June 30, 2011 for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

*Commissioner Potts joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.*

Bob Schloendorn distributed a copy of the CCVSC 2012 Tax Budget to Commissioners for their review. After a lengthy discussion, Bob asked the Board to consider all issues and prepare to vote on the Budget at the next open public meeting. When approved, the Budget will be hand-carried to the County Executive and County Council for approval.

Bob Schloendorn met with Sarah DeCaro of the Prosecutor's Office on May 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss a CCVSC legal issue.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Bob met with a representative from Valpak to discuss advertising in their coupon mailer. The CCVSC advertisement will appear in the Parma and S. Euclid mailer during the month of May, and in the Warrensville Hts., Richmond Hts., Lyndhurst S. Euclid, Berea, and Lakewood mailer in June.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Essie Nash, wife of marine veterans, Leondas Nash, Jr., addressed the Board concerning the denial of her husband's financial assistance application. Commissioner Baher reminded Mrs. Nash that the details of the case were being discussed in an open public meeting and recommended that Mr. Nash raise any issues he may have by utilizing the appeal process.



**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss the salary of the Executive Director.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:06 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:29 a.m.)

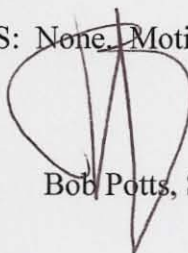
The Executive Director has been asked to do a salary survey by county and submit it to the Board at the next open public meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, 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)