



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

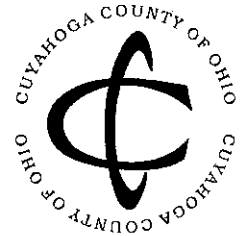


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: June 4, 2014 9:30 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Todd Dzuray, Home Depot representative

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Clay Uzell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts 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:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, May 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District council meeting to be held at American Legion Post 451 in Rocky River. I presented district financial reports as the District Finance Officer and I reminded our members of the upcoming CCVSC outreach meeting to be held May 21st at American Legion Post 91. Also, the Past District Commanders hosted the annual Post Everlasting Service during the meeting.
- Thursday, May 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting. Elections of new Post officers were conducted. I was elected to the executive board and as a post delegate to the state convention.
- Monday, May 19th – I attended the 13th District executive board meeting at Post 451. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented updated financial reports as District Finance Officer.

- Thursday, May 22nd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m., where I serve as an elected board member.
- Monday, May 26th – American Legion Post 91 hosted the annual observance of Memorial Day with services at Adams St. and Woodvale cemeteries, a parade in downtown Berea and a community service immediately following at McKelvey Park. Our guest speaker was Richard DeChant.
- Tuesday, May 27th – I was the guest speaker at the Kiwanis meeting held at St. Paul's Church at 6:15 p.m. The group had invited me to speak about the American Legion and its purpose.
- Sunday, June 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Summer Convention at Post 469 in Cleveland. Election of new officers and delegates to the national convention were held. I presented the May 2014 financial reports as District finance officer.

Upcoming Events:

- Thursday, June 12th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 23rd – 13th District executive board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Post 469.
- Thursday, June 26th – American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting.

Bob Potts – VVA

- May 6th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- May 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting and election of officers.
- May 9th – Chapter 249 Speaker's Bureau went to North Ridgeville High School to talk with the sophomore and junior world history class on the Vietnam Experience.
- May 14th – I attended the CCVSC appeals hearings.
- May 16th – Chapter 249 Speaker's Bureau went to Lakewood High School to talk to the sophomore and junior world history class on the Vietnam Experience.
- May 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public outreach meeting at American Legion Post 91 at 7:00 p.m.
- May 22nd – Chapter 249 Speaker's Bureau went to Strongsville High School to talk to the sophomore and junior world history class on the Vietnam Experience.
- May 26th – Chapter 249 participated in the Bay Village Memorial Day parade and ceremonies.
- June 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

Frank Pucci – AMVETS

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 general meeting on June 3rd. I gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- We have now received a firm offer to purchase the Post.
- New officer's installation took place. I was reinstated as finance officer.
- I advised the membership that I have received a letter from the Ohio Dept. of Taxation advising that they find that our property is, in fact, exempt from taxation under RC 2709.17. A notice will be sent to the county auditor after the 60-day appeal period which ends on June 29th, 2014.
- Our fiscal year concluded on May 31st. I will be sending the required tax report in the coming weeks.

Other Activities:

- During May, I attended two of the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC, one of which was held offsite at American Legion Post 91.
- I attended the monthly meeting of the Italian War Veterans Post 34 on May 30th.
- I participated in the Memorial Day event at Middleburg Heights where I had help in distributing about 60 CCVSC pamphlets and had the opportunity to speak with several veterans. I also spoke with Mayor Starr who is a great veteran's supporter.

- In June, the Italian American War Veterans will hold their yearly convention in Lorain, Ohio.

Dan Weist – DAV

- May 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- May 21st – I was on vacation in San Diego, California.
- May 24th – I decorated veterans' graves at the Coe & Butternut Cemeteries in N. Olmsted.
- May 26th – I attended a flag lowering service at 7:00 a.m. at VFW Post 7647, N. Olmsted.
8:30 a.m. – I attended a flag service at the N. Olmsted City Hall.
9:00 a.m. – I rode the bus with boy scouts and girl scouts to both Coe & Butternut Cemeteries for services.
10:30 a.m. – I attended the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony at N. Olmsted park.
12:00 noon – I attended a luncheon at the VFW Post for veterans.
- May 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- May 4th – I attended the VFW District 7 Convention at Strongsville Post 3345. Elections and installations were held.
- May 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 12th – I installed new officers at Garfield Hts. VFW Post 3445.
- May 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- May 15th – I installed new officers at Chagrin Falls VFW Post 12067.
- May 18th – I attended the District 4 VFW Convention and installation of new officers at Post 3809 Middletown.
- May 19th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting. As Commander, I conducted the meeting and reviewed committee reports.
- May 21st – I attended the CCVSC outreach meeting at American Legion Post 91 in Berea. We had a good attendance.
- May 24-25th – I distributed VFW buddy poppies and CCVSC brochures at the Walmart in Mayfield Hts.
- May 26th – I attended the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery and laid 7 wreaths with VFW Post 7536 members representing veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Marine Barracks Beirut, CCVSC and Ladies Auxiliary 7536.
- May 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.

OLD BUSINESS:

The CCVSC first annual barbeque will take place Friday, June 20th at Edgewater Park. Due to several requests from staff who feel we should first build internal relationships, this year's picnic will not include outside organizations.

Plans will begin for the Veterans Memorial computer lab for clients in the lobby. Computers will be moved in and the addition of memorial pictures and plaques will eventually be added to the resource wall over time.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director presented Board members with an Executive Summary on the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Conference. Breakout sessions included dialog on employment and training resources, expedited VA benefits processing, veteran treatment courts and homeless court programs, rapid results boot camps, and employing veterans with serious barrier to employment.

The Asst. County Prosecutor has been asked to provide the Board with an updated report on CCVSC fraud cases submitted to his office and payments received to date.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The annual flag disposal ceremony will take place at the American Legion Post 91 pavilion on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Todd Dzuray, a representative from The Home Depot, gave a brief explanation of their Celebration of Service program which, in partnership with nonprofits across the country, transforms homes and housing facilities serving veterans and their families. Mr. Dzuray asked the CCVSC to assist them in providing twelve Cuyahoga County veteran homeowners, preferably young, disabled vets with families who may be in need of a wheelchair ramp and/or a home remodel. The veteran must be willing and agree to speak to media about their experience in the military and transition back to civilian life as a veteran. Home Depot will select the veterans for the project which will take place between September 9th & November 11th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel staffing.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:40 a.m.)

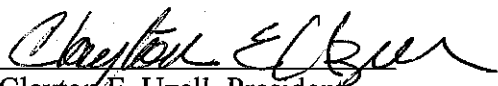
A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.


AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:33 a.m.)

In Executive Session, Jon Reiss advised the Board of his choice of candidates for the new position of Project Coordinator. The Board concurred with his selection and advised him to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

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


Clayton E. Uzell, 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:	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:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)