



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



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



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**THOMAS T. K. ZUNG**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**ROBERT SCHLOENDORN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**JAMES L. STOLZ**  
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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### MINUTES

DATE: July 1, 2009 9:35 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President  
Thomas Zung, Vice President  
Mel Baher, Secretary  
Daniel Weist, Commissioner  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Richard Danielson, Korean War Veterans of America Post 69  
Art Stone, American Legion Post 451/VFW Post 7647

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 Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda as published. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

#### **Commissioners' Reports**

##### Thomas Zung – VFW

- VFW Euclid Post 1056 held their monthly meeting and installed new officers for 2009-2010. Ed Morrow was re-elected as Post Commander. The post also received a commendation from the City of Euclid for the Memorial Day activities.
- Commander Art Stone presided over the VFW 7<sup>th</sup> District conference held June 12-14, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Westlake. The main topic of discussion was the "Athlete of the Year Award" and the award for the "Outstanding Police, Fire, and EMS Person of the Year". Ohio VFW State Commander Dick Uzl, Jr., gave the audience a state address and he thanked the group for attending and participating in all the VFW activities. The VFW 7<sup>th</sup> District and Ladies Auxiliary also presented awards to students. The conference was well attended.

- I spent a good portion of a day taking lessons on my laptop computer at CCVSC to learn how to better navigate the new eVetAssist program during our Commission meetings. Lorri Slivka, Jennifer Mazzeo, and Roger Erickson were most helpful in walking me through the necessary steps. Hopefully, this will speed up my participation in our Level III Appeal meetings.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General meeting. The post continues to serve as Honor Guard at the Rittman Ohio National Cemetery and to host bingo for the veterans at the Brecksville facility. With the end of May business, the fiscal year was concluded. As Finance Officer, I plan to have all financial documentation ready for audit at the beginning of the July meeting. Subsequent to the audit, I will file the necessary tax paperwork. We also discussed the need to submit detailed expense information for Memorial Day expenses to the CCVSC so that the post may be reimbursed.
- June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Italian American War Veterans held the Dept. of Ohio Convention at the Cabin Restaurant on Lakeshore Blvd. At the meeting, officers were elected and installed. The new Dept. of Ohio Commander is John Beene from Post #3 in Youngstown, Ohio. I was re-appointed as Adjutant for the state.
- June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, I took a trip to Washington, D.C. with my wife. We visited many historical sites while there, but were very moved by watching the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- I attended the Post #34 Italian American Veteran's General meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was attended by 26 members. At our next meeting in July, we will be nominating and installing officers for the upcoming year.
- I was referred to a veteran who is in need of health insurance. Due to the fact that he is service-connected, I advised his wife (he was unavailable when I called him) that he might be eligible for full VA care depending on his percentage of connection. If necessary, I will be referring him to our service department for help.

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- June 7<sup>th</sup>, I attended American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Summer Convention at Post 703. New District officers were elected.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – I conducted American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. as Post Commander.
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – I conducted American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. as Post Commander.
- June 26-28<sup>th</sup>, I attended the American Legion Dept. of Ohio Convention in Dayton, Ohio where I served as Credentials Chairman. Awards were presented and Post 91 received an award for 12 continuous years of all-time high in membership, and two awards for our donations to the Gift for the Yanks program. Also, the election of Dept. officers for the ensuing membership year was held on Sunday.

Upcoming events for July 2009

- July 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be participating in holiday events scheduled in the City of Berea.
- Post 91 Membership meeting is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- July 12<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District annual summer picnic to be held at NASA.
- Post 91 Executive Board meeting is scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Dan Weist – DAV

- June 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended a flag burning ceremony by VFW Post 7647 in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus.
- June 17<sup>th</sup>, I attended the VFW Post 7647 Monthly meeting where the installation of officers took place.
- On Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, the VFW will sponsor and participate in a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in North Olmsted.

Bob Potts – VVA

- Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending a 4<sup>th</sup> of July ceremony in Lakewood, Ohio.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

It was noted for the record, that we still have not heard from the judges of the Common Pleas Court regarding the VVA appointment on the CCVSC Board.

Bob Schloendorn mentioned that Bill Montague is planning on extending an invitation to President Obama or Vice President Biden and to our CCVSC Board to attend a groundbreaking ceremony of the new VA Hospital Bed Tower Extension upon its completion. President Obama's stimulus achievement plan is expected to create approximately 2,900 new jobs in the construction of the medical center's project.

The Executive Director passed around a furniture catalog and asked the Board to select a boardroom conference table for our new office space.

The Dept. of Veterans Services has distributed Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) for Year 2008. Cuyahoga County received \$1.73B, 1/3 of the state's allocation of \$3.5B.

Bob Schloendorn noted that Richard Sicha, Principal Planner of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, has been forwarding study chapters to him on the Northeast Ohio Veterans Home Feasibility Study. The CCVSC Board can expect a briefing in the very near future.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mel Baher made note of the following legislative updates:

**HB 219** - designates a portion of Interstate Route 77 within Summit County as the "Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Kuglics Memorial Highway".

**HB 221** - designates the Ohio Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park in the Village of Clinton, County of Summit, as the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park for the State of Ohio.

**HB 147 -** to give the right of disposal to the United States Secretary of Veterans' Affairs regarding abandoned or unclaimed remains of persons who are entitled to be buried in a national cemetery.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

It was previously decided to invite managers to attend rotating Board meetings to update the Board on their department's progress and activities. Bob Potts turned the meeting over to Terry Walker for a presentation on the Social Work Department.

Terry presented the Board with an outline describing the Social Work Department and briefly explained each section:

- 1) Social Work Department's purpose
- 2) Projects that have been developed or are in the progress of being developed
- 3) Customer code of conduct
- 4) Advertisement
- 5) Helping veterans prepare for their job search
- 6) Case management for unemployed veterans
- 7) Objectives

Terry concluded her presentation by introducing David Hatcher, Social Worker, who assists her in their department's mission to fulfill the common needs of veteran clients.

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

Art Stone

- VFW updates
- Robert Combs cancer fund - \$200,000 raised
- Cleveland Honor Flight Program is in dire need of funds

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

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

Bob Potts, 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: John Murphy, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2637)

Memorial Affairs: Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)

Mobile Meals Program: Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2379)

Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)

Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)