



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

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: July 2, 2014 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Commissioner

VISITORS: None.

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 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

Mel Baher – American Legion

- 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. I was re-elected as District Finance Officer and as a delegate to the National Convention in August.
- Thursday, June 12th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 14th – I participated in the American Legion annual Flag Day ceremony on the Post pavilion at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 23rd – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 469.
- Thursday, June 26th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday – July 2nd – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for Post 421 in Fairview Park, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I will be presenting financial reports for June 2014 as District Finance Officer.
- July 10th through July 13th – I will be in Cincinnati, Ohio for the American Legion Department of Ohio Annual Convention. I serve as Credentials Chairman and will make my reports on Saturday and Sunday for the total amount of voting delegates registered for the convention.
- Thursday, July 24th – American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 28th – American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 421.

Bob Potts – VVA

- May 26th – Chapter 249 marched in the Memorial Day parade.
- June 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting and the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting.
- June 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- June 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- July 1st – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting.
- July 4th – Chapter 249 will march in the Lakewood 4th of July parade.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both open public board meetings and both Level III appeal hearings during the month of June.
- June 18th – I attended the VFW North Olmsted post meeting and was inducted as Quartermaster for the upcoming year.
- July 4th – I will be attending a Fourth of July ceremony at North Olmsted Park.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- June 1st – I attended the VFW District 1 Convention at Post 2489 in Bryan, Ohio.
- June 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- June 11th through the 15th – I attended the 94th VFW State Convention in Perrysburg, Ohio. I attended as a delegate to Post 7436 Lyndhurst. I gave the safety/law & firefighter year end report and asked to serve as chairman for the upcoming year. I attended the banquet on Saturday evening and the speaker was National Jr. Vice Cmdr. John Biedrzycki. I attended the installation of newly elected VFW and Ladies Auxiliary officers, State Cmdr. Bob Poole and State Auxiliary President Sandra Uzell. Both are District 7 members. During the ceremony, Sandra's daughter, Mona, active duty Navy, drove in from Virginia Beach to surprise her mom – and she was!
- June 16th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting where we discussed business and upcoming events.
- June 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 23rd – I attended a Past President's dinner at Parma VFW Post 1974 and called bingo for the ladies.
- June 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Updates from the Executive Director:

- 1) Traffic has been limited at the McCafferty office with only 52 clients seen since the first of the year. As a result, that office will now be staffed a half day on the first and third Monday of each month.
- 2) CCVSC will have a presence at area libraries one day a week. Jon is working on a timeline and target locations that are not near the downtown office.
- 3) The 2014 budget projection for financial assistance through June shows a remaining budget of \$1,264,417.00 with a six-month average of \$210,736.17.
- 4) A new proposed salary schedule for 2015 was presented to the Board. After some discussion, it was agreed to readdress the issue later in the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

The CCVSC will be issuing gift cards in lieu of food vouchers with Dave's Supermarkets on a trial basis. If the test run is successful, other area supermarkets will be considered.

The Hiring Our Heroes event took place on Thursday, June 26, 2014. The affair was a huge success with 144 employers and approximately 350 registered veterans.

The next new hire for CCVSC will be a Benefits Coordinator. This individual will be performing the combined duties of a Service Officer and Eligibility Specialist.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss a client issue.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:45 a.m.)

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


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

In Executive Session, the Executive Director advised the Board of a client issue and was given instruction on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

AYES: Baher, 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)