



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

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



### MINUTES

**DATE:** July 7, 2010 9:37 a.m.

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

**VISITORS:** None.

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dan Weist, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung 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, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### Thomas Zung – VFW

- I attended the monthly meeting of VFW Post 1056. Greetings were sent to members confined due to poor health. The sale of Memorial Day poppies were not as good as last year; a reflection of the poor economy. The Mayor of Euclid commended the VFW Honor Guard at the Memorial Day Parade. The CCVSC Jeep was in the Bratenahl Village parade for the first time.
- June 22<sup>nd</sup>, I attended a luncheon at the City Club for South Korean Ambassador and special guest, Gen. Robert Haas. Ambassador Haas attended a ceremony honoring South Korean veterans from Cleveland and he spoke about two-way trade and liberation of his country by our military.
- Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended a luncheon with several fellow veterans from the Korean War Veterans Association. We reminisced about war stories, recalling the freezing weather conditions and lack of proper clothing. We made a toast to our comrades in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War.

### Mel Baher – American Legion

- June 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Summer Convention at Post 572 at 10:00 a.m. Art Wesley was elected new District Commander.
- June 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- June 24<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Post 91 E-board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- June 25-27<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Dept. of Ohio American Legion State Convention in Toledo, Ohio. I served on the Department's Credentials Committee.
- July 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended a Historical Marker dedication at the Adams Street Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.
- July 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the City of Berea Independence Day Parade at 7:00 p.m.

#### Upcoming Events:

- 1) July 8<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) July 16-17<sup>th</sup> – I will be attending the OSAVSC Summer Convention in Dublin, Ohio with my fellow commissioners
- 3) July 22<sup>nd</sup> – American Legion Post 91 E-board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

### Bob Potts – VVA

- June 1<sup>st</sup>, I attended my monthly board meeting. It was decided not to have a membership meeting for July and August because of the summer vacation season.
- June 15<sup>th</sup>, I attended the monthly membership meeting.
- July 4<sup>th</sup>, I marched in the Lakewood July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- June 5<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) State Convention in Youngstown, Ohio. Officers were elected. I was reappointed as the Adjutant for the Department of Ohio.
- June 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended the ITAM General meeting. A motion was made and approved to extend an Honorary Membership to an Army Air Corps WWII togglier who flew many missions over Germany.
- The evening of June 25<sup>th</sup>, I participated in the Middleburg Hts. Summer in the City Parade representing the CCVSC. I rode in the parade in a Mustang convertible with the CCVSC signs on the side. We were the first car following the Honor Guard from Strongsville VFW Post 3345. After the parade, I (with the help of my daughter Marisa Pocci Carney) distributed CCVSC brochures to the crowd. I also left brochures at the Middleburg Hts. Recreation and Senior Center.

#### AMVETS EVENTS:

- 1) June 1<sup>st</sup> – Post 80 and Installation of Officers
- 2) June 15<sup>th</sup> – Executive Meeting and General Meeting
- 3) June 19<sup>th</sup> – Clean up day at the post
- 4) July 6<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting at the post

### Dan Weist – DAV

- June 16<sup>th</sup>, I attended the monthly meeting at VFW #7647.
- June 19, I attended a Port Council meeting and played a round of golf with Senator Tom Patton at the Links Golf Course.
- July 16-17<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending the OSAVSC Summer Convention in Dublin, Ohio.

**STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)**

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the report of the Executive Director as submitted.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung to accept the Addendum to the Food and Shelter Monthly Allowance Guideline for Condo Fees dated July 7, 2010, as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioners will be attending the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioner's Summer Convention in Dublin, Ohio on July 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Board is in the process of reviewing current policies and guidelines and making revisions when necessary.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung to accept the revision of the Policy Procedure for Consent for Release of Information dated July 7, 2010, as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the revision of the Guideline for Payment of Indigent Funeral Expenses dated July 7, 2010, as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Mel Baher noted that on June 4, 2010, Amended Substitute HB 519 was passed and becomes effective September 8, 2010. It contains several changes to Ohio's Charitable Gaming Laws contained in ORC 2915, to include the following:

- 1) Expenses – Definition is changed to include payment of real property taxes and assessments that are levied on premises where bingo is conducted.
- 2) Equipment – Charitable organizations are now allowed to own equipment, lease equipment from a licensed charitable organization, OR lease it from the landlord of a premise where bingo is conducted.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

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

Daniel T. Weist, President

Frank Pocci, 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)

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)

# **CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

## **Progress Report on the State of the Commission**

**June, 2010**

**Issued by:**

### **The CCVSC Commissioners**

**Daniel Weist – President, DAV**

**Mel Baher – Vice President, American Legion**

**Frank Pocci – Secretary, AMVETS**

**Thomas Zung – VFW**

**Bob Potts - VVA**

**July 21, 2010**

**Submitted By: Robert E. Schloendorn – Executive Director**

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of June 30, 2010:

**Executive:**

The Executive Director

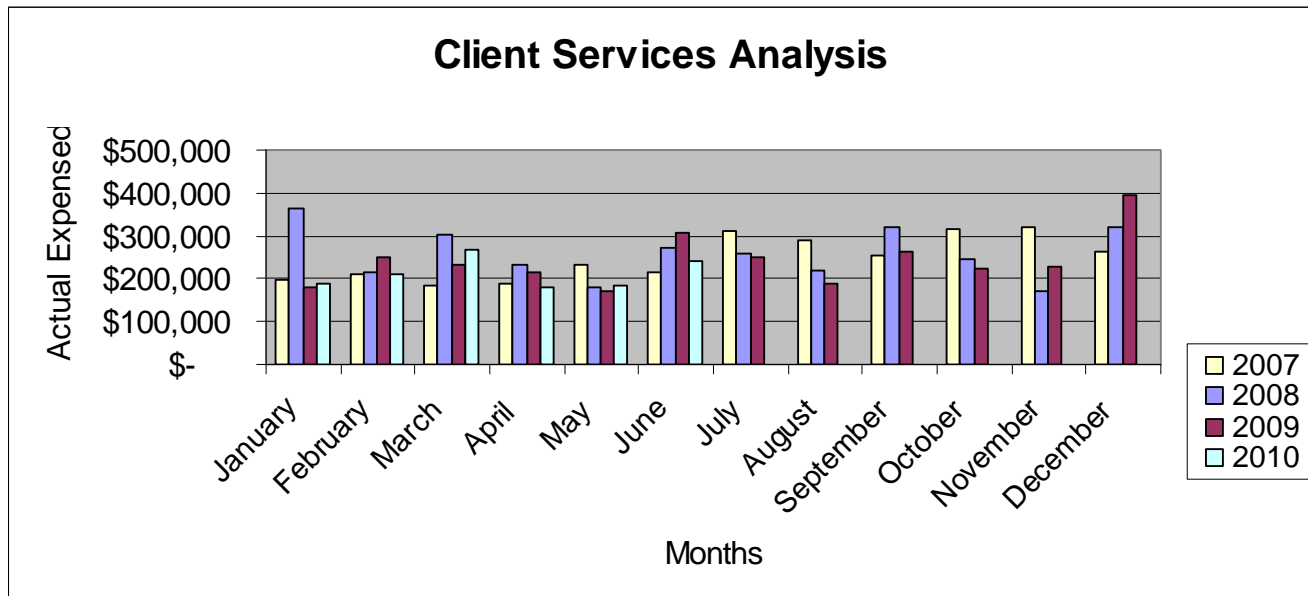
- Attended a Transition Advisory Group meeting

**Finance Department**

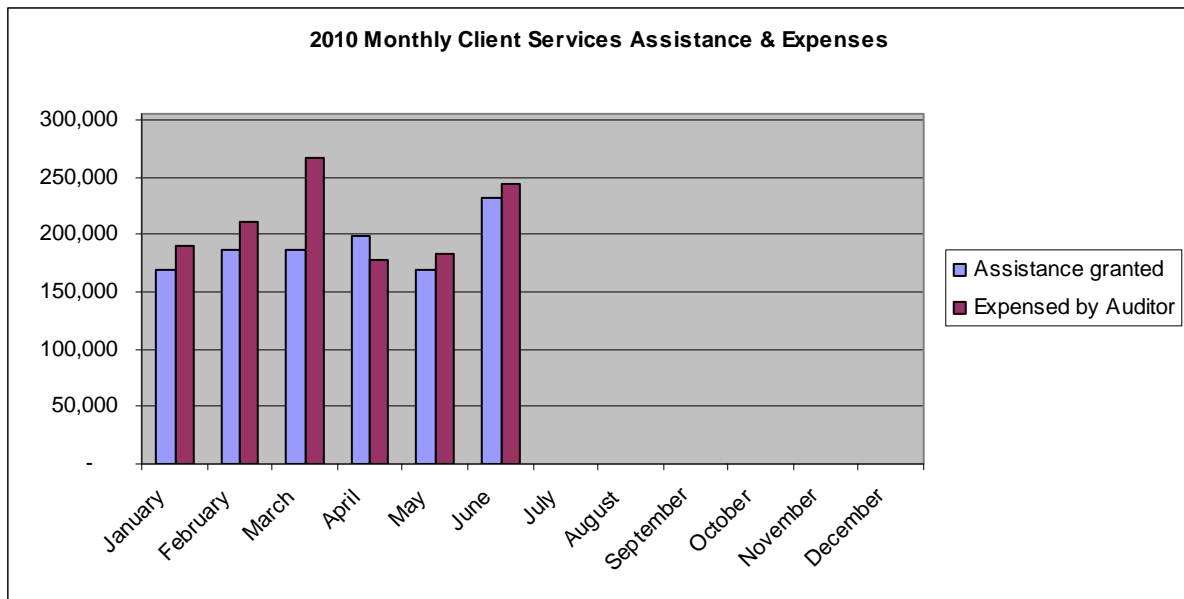
Below are selected June reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

**Client services include: Financial Assistance for Medical, Food, Infant Layette, Personal Hygiene, Shoes & Clothing**

**Comparative Chart Analysis**



**Actual 2010 Expenses**



### Total 2010 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2010	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
<b>Salaries</b>	1,758,034	816,927	-	896,260	1,713,187	44,847
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	675,357	297,433	-	319,314	616,747	58,610
<b>Commodities</b>	46,064	10,555	-	28,401	38,956	7,108
<b>Contract Services</b>	1,028,776	299,348	297,432	228,003	527,351	501,425
<b>Controlled Expenditures</b>	283,188	51,342	-	231,846	283,188	-
<b>Client Services</b>	3,637,537	1,271,814	-	1,800,000	3,071,814	565,723
<b>Other Expenditures</b>	356,930	63,474	72,600	187,468	250,942	105,988
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	26,350	6,237	13,333	14,763	21,000	5,350
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	7,812,236	2,817,130	383,365	3,706,055	6,523,185	1,289,051

## Assistance Department:

June financial assistance totaled \$243,214, up from \$183,056 issued during May and down from \$305,788 issued in June of 2009. Year to date client assistance for 2010 is \$1,271,813 and YTD for 2009 was \$1,349,472, down \$77,659.

The June Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>June 2010</b>	<b>June 2009</b>	<b>% Change</b>		
Number of clients seeking hardship assistance	778	1054	-26.2%		
Total applications taken	648	893	-27.4%		
Applications Withdrawn	(89)	(186)	-52.2%		
Applications Denied	(70)	(20)	250%		
Total applications approved for hardship assistance (with trans.)	489	687	-28.8%		
Transportation only approvals	(267)	(455)	-41.3%		
F/A applications approved	222	232	-4.3%		

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>YTD 2010</b>	<b>YTD 2009</b>	<b>% Change</b>		
Number of clients seeking hardship assistance	4229	5546	-23.7%		
Total applications taken	3600	4896	-26.5%		
Applications Withdrawn/Denied	(585) (287)	(1286)	-32.2%		
Total applications approved for hardship assistance (with trans.)	2728	3610	-24.4%		
Transportation only approvals	(1555)	(2329)	-33.2%		
F/A applications approved	1173	1281	-8.4%		

During June, 2010, 45 veterans applied for assistance for the first time bringing the 2010 YTD total to 264. Of the 45 new claims, 35 were approved, 1 was partially approved, 0 were approved at Level II, 1 was denied and 8 were withdrawn. In June, 2009, 64 veterans applied for assistance for the first time bringing the 2009 YTD total to 284.



**Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of June, 2010.**

Appeal Officer workdays	13
Cases on hand beginning of month	7
Cases received	+49
Cases worked	<u>-42</u>
Cases on hand end of month	14

<b><u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u></b>	<b><u>June 2010</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Cases approved	7	39
Cases denied	30	119
Cases denied/withdrawn, no show	3	20
Cases withdrawn	2	13
No determination at Level II (Referred to Level III)	0	0
Cases referred back to Financial Asst./Social Worker	0	2
*Cases not eligible for appeal	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>196</b>

<b><u>Board Appeals</u></b>	<b><u>June 2010</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Cases approved	12	75
Cases denied	6	48
Cases withdrawn	0	4
Cases verifying fraud	1	3
Fraud not verified	0	0
Asst. rescinded due to false statements on application	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>130</b>

**Medical and Other Transportation:**

June medical assistance expensed for transportation totaled \$8,396.50 for the month, \$8,396.50 for bus tickets and \$0 for taxi services.

**Medical and Dental Programs:**

Medical payments for June amounted to \$926 with \$926 expensed for Dental and \$0 for Vision. Year to date medical expenses totaled \$27,003. Dental payments year to date are \$21,064 and Vision year to date payments are \$3,165.

\$0 in Miscellaneous Medical payments were expensed in June. Year to date Miscellaneous Medical payments are \$2,774.

**Memorial Affairs Department:**

\$11,259.12 was expensed during June, 2010 for indigent veteran funeral expenses, up \$3,673.48 from May, 2009. During June, 12 indigent burials were approved. The burials were for 2 Air Force, 1 Marine, 1 Navy and 8 Army veterans.

**Following are the 2010 Year to Date statistics for Memorial Affairs:**

	<u>June</u>	<u>2010 YTD</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>2009 YTD</u>
DD14 Search	119	649	142	918
Benefits Counseling	982	5,756	1,089	4,983
Undelivered-Incorrect Headstones/Research	24	78	12	219
Presidential Memorial Certificates	116	761	183	1128
National Cemetery Referrals	87	525	87	1144
Blue Star Service Banners	1	7	2	7

**Veterans Service Officers:**

Following are some of the major statistics reported by VSO Murray Evans for the month of June, 2010 for the Brecksville satellite office.

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation DIC Claims & Follow ups	47	222
Pension claims and follow ups	27	110
Medical	1	45
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	4	39
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	137	776
All Other	<u>37</u>	<u>220</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>1412</b>

Following are some of the major statistics reported by VSO's Robert Erb and Iris DeHart for the month of June, 2010 for the Wade Park satellite office.

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation DIC Claims & Follow ups	41	220
Pension claims and follow ups	23	133
Medical	7	43
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	22	99
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	92	616
All Other	<u>32</u>	<u>224</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1335</b>

**June performance indicators report for the VSO division indicates the following activities were accomplished:**

**June  
2010**

	VETERAN				DEPENDENT			
	2009	YTD '09	2010	YTD '10	2009	YTD '09	2010	YTD '10
Compensation/DIC Claims	72	341	78	339	3	39	6	26
Follow-up Pending Claims	95	474	88	466	3	24	11	35
Pension Claims	14	149	22	101	16	83	27	106
Follow-up Pending Claims	59	347	39	285	27	184	20	129
Medical	20	118	35	207	3	13	5	28
Notice of Disagreements	8	40	5	48	0	4	0	0
Appeals & Waivers	21	78	15	71	0	4	0	3
Eligibility Verification Reports	0	86	6	84	1	49	1	19
Change of Address	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	0
Education Assistance	6	26	7	55	6	8	4	17
Cert. Eligibility - Home Loan	2	5	1	21	0	0	0	0
Insurance Discharges, Request for copy	1	11	2	5	0	7	2	3
Headstone/Marker Application	83	601	106	611	0	24	1	7
Referrals to Other Agencies	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	1
P of A Service Organization Misc. Application/Corresp.	22	99	19	120	7	13	1	7
Ohio Veterans Home	53	393	90	377	17	79	11	63
Burial Benefits High School Diploma Applications	228	1358	259	1601	40	158	48	235
Discharge Upgrades 10-10 EZ Forms	6	21	10	24	0	16	6	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>705</u>	<u>4237</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>4472</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>709</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>700</u>

**% Chg. YTD**  
12.4%  
**% Chg. YTD**  
4.6%

**TOTAL (Vet + Dep)**

	'09	YTD '09	'10	YTD '10
	830	3961	930	5110
	3	60	3	62
	833	4021	933	5172

Interviews: Service Dept. Clients	705	3466	787	4410	125	495	143	700
Fin. Asst. Referrals	3	56	3	62	0	4	0	0
Office YTD	708	3522	790	4472	125	499	143	700
Phone Calls	2560	12313	2713	13656				

## **Information Systems:**

### **Document Management**

KnowledgeTree upgrades have been partially successful. Upgrading to the newest release requires a Windows 2008 Server which we now have. The updates will be applied and tested in July.

### **KVM – keyboard/mouse Controller**

The KVM controller which runs the monitor, keyboard and mouse for our four servers has been replaced with a more reliable and less expensive unit.

### **Microfilming**

The remaining VSO documents will be microfilmed by the County Recorder's office during August. Yearly catch-up scans will be done for Financial Assistance and Memorial Affairs at the end of 2010 based on the Recorder's project schedule.

### **Bluetooth Keyboards and Mice**

With the help of Tim Peterson from the Information Services Center we will be getting our Dell Bluetooth keyboards and mice replaced shortly. These units have been a source of annoyance ever since we got them because of their unreliable behavior. The replacements will be from Microsoft and they will be at no cost to the agency.

### **County Ombudsman Office:**

No new information or problems were reported regarding the CCVSC.

### **Ohio Veterans Home Network:**

In June no veterans were transported to the Sandusky home for tours and admission evaluations.

The waiting list for the Ohio Veterans Home includes 31 veterans waiting for nursing home standard care, 8 veterans for nursing home special care, 1 veteran for the domiciliary and 6 for the domiciliary plus.

### **Department of Veterans Services:**

The next meeting for the Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee is scheduled for August 19, 2010.

**Submitted by:**

**Robert E. Schloendorn  
Executive Director**