



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEISI
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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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: August 3, 2011 9:30 a.m.

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

VISITORS: None.

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 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:

Bob Potts – VVA

- July 4th – I started the march at Lakewood's 4th of July parade.
- July 5th – I attended our monthly membership meeting. The guest speaker, Walter P. Knake, Jr., is a clinical psychologist specializing in therapy and the diagnosis of adults and children with the emphasis on PTSD.
- July 6th – The CCVSC Board held their monthly open public meeting.
- July 13th – I attended the first CCVSC Board Appeals meeting of the month.
- July 27th – I attended the second CCVSC Board Appeals meeting of the month.
- July 27th – I sat in on a client interview with Eligibility Specialist, Dave Plagman. This turned out to be a very interesting interview with the veteran client leaving very upset.

Dan Weist – DAV

- July 20th – I attended my monthly VFW meeting.
- August 5th – I will be attending a meeting at the CCVSC with representatives of the VA, CEOCG and the Carpenter's Union concerning the Helmets to Hard Hats Program.

Clayton Uzell – VFW

- July 6th – I attended the monthly CCVSC Board meeting.
- July 13th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Board Appeals meeting.
- July 15-16th – I attended the OSAVSC Summer Convention in Dublin, Ohio. I learned that 100% disabled veterans can get free lifetime plates for their cars. All that is needed is a current letter from the VA stating that they are 100% disabled. Attorney Mike Moses has been hired to represent the commissioners as a lobbyist in Columbus. Contact Shawn Hannon at the Attorney General's Office at 614-728-2142 to handle any questions on the veterans court.
- July 18th – I attended a Post meeting at VFW 7536.
- July 20th – I attended the CCVSC monthly meeting and reported on the summer convention in Dublin, Ohio.
- July 22nd – I attended the VFW Council of Administration Conference in Columbus. At 8:00 p.m. the general meeting was held. We went over the budget and chairmen reports. I gave my report on the safety program for this year- police/fire/EMT and hunter/gun. I also shared with everyone some home/Post and travel/vacation safety tips.
- July 23rd – I attended schools of instruction on gaming from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and computer/website training at 1:00 p.m. I set up a new/updated web for 2012 programs. I attended the Ladies Auxiliary membership skit at 6:00 p.m. and a homecoming banquet for newly elected Commander "Mort" Ward.
- July 24th – I attended a Ladies Auxiliary school on membership at 9:00 a.m. and then headed home.
- July 25th – I attended a past presidents meeting/dinner and called bingo for ladies at VFW Post 1974 in Parma.
- July 27th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting. Afterwards, I sat in with Eligibility Specialist, Trish Smith, for a client interview. It was very informative.
- I also attended the District 7 picnic at VFW Post 3345 in Strongsville Ohio at the end of this month.

Frank Pocci – AMVEIS

- July 5th – I attended the Post 80 General meeting and gave my financial report for the month of June. The report was approved.
- I completed and sent the tax reports for AMVEIS Post 80 to the IRS for fiscal year 2010.
- I attended the August 3rd General meeting at Post 80 and I gave the financial report for the month ending in July.

Other activities:

- I submitted the article clarifying our mission at the CCVSC, which was misrepresented by the Plain Dealer in June, to American Legion Post 91 in Berea and VFW Post 3345 in Strongsville. The article was published in American Legion Post 91's July newsletter and will be published by VFW Post 3345 in their August newsletter. My thanks to these large Posts (each having 650+ members) for

publishing these articles so that our veterans know and appreciate what the CCVSC actually does for our veterans.

- I attended the Italian American War Veterans Dept. of Ohio convention in Lorain, Ohio on July 17th. I was reappointed as state adjutant. We were disappointed that only about half of the Ohio posts were represented.
- On July 29th, I attended the Italian American War Veterans Post 34 meeting. Twenty-two members were present. We dedicated the meeting to one of the founding members, Jerome Cangelosi, who had passed away. After the meeting, eight of the members attended the funeral home services and paid honors to our departed comrade. We presented the family with a flag case from the CCVSC. The son was very appreciative of this gift.
- While attending another funeral at Craciun Funeral Home, the funeral director saw my CCVSC shirt and came over to speak with me. During the conversation, he mentioned how helpful and diligent Laurene Rutkowski and Patty Fowler, of our Memorial Affairs Dept., are. He was so appreciative of them.
- The ladies of the Middleburg Heights Women's Club checked with me to make sure that the meeting that Mel Baher and I will be attending in October is still on and I assured them that it is.
- I referred two veterans to our Service Dept. who are very likely candidates to receive service-connected disability due to their injuries in Korea and Vietnam.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended the American Legion State Convention July 1st – 3rd in Columbus, Ohio.
- July 3rd – I was the announcer for the annual Independence Day parade at 7:00 p.m.
- July 10th – I was a volunteer for the American Legion 13th District annual picnic held from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the German Central grounds on York Road.
- July 14th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- July 28th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 E-board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events.

- August 11th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- August 21st – the American Legion Post 91 annual family picnic is scheduled from noon to 6:00 p.m.
- August 25th – the American Legion Post 91 E-board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director received a response from Matt Rubino, Director of the Office of Budget & Management, to our public records request concerning the distribution of the 25 mill that is not appropriated for the CCVSC and is returned to the county's general fund. Mr. Rubino states that "The revenue generated by the unappropriated 0.25 mills is used to fund other County operations that receive General Fund dollars on a shared basis." The Office of Budget & Management's 2011 Second Quarter Fund Forecast was enclosed with the response.

The County Council has not yet approved the contract with CBS Outdoor for our bus advertisements. It was originally on their agenda for last Monday but has been rescheduled to August 8th. The County Council has suggested that each contract be presented to, and approved by, the CCVSC Board in the form of a resolution prior to submitting the requests.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to approve CCVSC Resolution 2011-03 as read by the President. Under discussion, a minor correction was made to Paragraph 2. Dan Weist and Bob Potts amended the original motion to include the change. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion passed.

The Board recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Ohio Dept. of Veterans Service's Regional training for District #3 will be held on October 13, 2011 in Ravenna, Ohio. Commissioners Pocci, Potts and Uzell will be attending. Commissioner Weist will attend District #2's training in Mansfield, Ohio on September 13th.

The Summit County Veterans Service Commission's annual golf outing will be held Friday, August 26th at Paradise Lake Golf Course, 1900 Randolph Rd., in Mogadore, Ohio. Bob Potts, Dan Weist, Bob Schloendorn and Ron Renk will be representing the CCVSC.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Potts had an opportunity to sit in on a client interview with Eligibility Specialist Dave Plagman last week. As a result, Bob suggested that the fraud disclaimer on the financial assistance application be read at the start and end of each interview to ensure that the client fully understands that false statements may lead to prosecution. Bob also suggested that a second monitor be available for each Eligibility Specialist so the client would be able to see what data is being entered on their application. The Board concurred and asked the Executive Director to look into purchasing the monitors.

The Executive Director proposed that the part-time receptionist move to a full-time status during the summer months to cover the vacation time of her replacements. After some discussion, the Board recommended that the Eligibility Specialist staff be utilized to cover vacations.

The Brecksville VA Hospital will be having a decommissioning ceremony September 5, 2011. The Executive Director recommended closing the CCVSC office effective that day and post signage as to where our service officer will be stationed. The Board concurred.

Discussion took place concerning raising the dollar amount used for indigent burials. It was agreed to have the Memorial Affairs Dept. contact other large county veterans service commissions for the amount they use and then submit a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

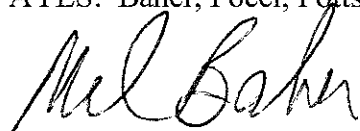
The Board briefly discussed legal separation status when applying for financial assistance. Asst. County Prosecutor, Tom O'Donnell, stated that the State of Ohio does not recognize legal separation. It was agreed, however, that the CCVSC will continue to follow our existing policy and require certain documentation regarding legal separations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

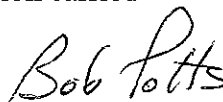
There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 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)