



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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1849 Prospect Avenue • Room 200 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: August 6, 2008 9:33 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Bill Montague, VA Medical Center; John Evans, Sr., American Legion Post #315/13th District; Mrs. Evans, Lawrence Florence, American Legion Post #315; Art Stone, VFW 7th District Commander/American Legion Post #315; and Richard Danielson, Korean War Veterans of American Post #69.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Pocci 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 minutes of July 17, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Level III Board Appeals meeting of July 17, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the correspondence since we have a Consent Agenda, with the exception of those items set aside, to be addressed during the regular order of business, and with any corrections and/or additions. (No items were set aside.)

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

The vote on cases approved and denied on the Consent Agenda was deferred to the August 20, 2008 Board meeting because we are still unable to retrieve the information from Client Track at this time.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to accept indigent burials approved for June 2008 as listed on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of those set aside, to be addressed in Executive Session. (None were set aside.)

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

Agenda Item E1. Commissioners' Reports

Bob Potts - VVA

- July 19th, Chapter 249 marched in the Fairview Park Day's parade. They stepped off at Lorain and West 220th St. and marched to West 210th St. ending at Westgate Shopping Center.
- August 24th, Chapter 249 will march in the North Olmsted parade.
- Last night, I attended the monthly board meeting for Chapter 249. Discussion took place concerning POW/MIA Remembrance Day in September. We will be outside the Wal-Mart stores in North Olmsted, Elyria, and Avon Lake handing out black poppies and collecting donations.

Thomas Zung – VFW

- July 10th, Commander Ed Morrow conducted the monthly meeting of VFW Post 1056. We discussed the upcoming homecoming for VFW Department Commander Richard Uzl.
- Saturday, July 26th the VFW held a homecoming ceremony for Department Commander Richard R. Uzl at the Holiday Inn in Independence. There was a big turnout with VFW members from throughout Ohio in attendance. Of particular mention, were the Honor Guard and the special Junior ROTC unit from Lorain, Ohio.
- On behalf of the CCVSC, I sent a personal check to the VFW Strongsville Post for Lance Cpl. Blackmon who was very ill with cancer. Regretfully, I am sad to report that he passed away from cancer last week. The donated funds will help the widow and his family.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- July 4th – I worked Post 91's annual celebration for the community's fireworks.
- July 10th – I conducted the American Legion Post 91's membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. as post commander.
- July 11-13th – I attended the American Legion Dept. of Ohio State Convention in Dayton, Ohio where I serve on the Credentials Committee as Vice Chairman.
- July 24th – I conducted Post 91's Executive Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. as post commander.
Upcoming Events for August 2008:
 - 1) Post 91 James C. Masie Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing – August 9th
 - 2) Post 91 membership meeting – August 14th
 - 3) American Legion National Convention, August 24-29th in Phoenix, Arizona

Dan Weist – DAV

- DAV meetings have been suspended for the summer. The next meeting will take place the second Thursday in September.
- July 4th – I attended a parade in North Olmsted that the VFW Post 7647 honor guard participated in.
- August 5th – I attended a House Committee meeting of VFW Post 7647

Frank Pocci – Amvets

- I attended a general meeting of the Italian American War Veterans.
- I attended Amvets Post 80's General Meeting.
- I visited American Legion Post #3 in Ketchikan, Alaska while on vacation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Agenda Item F1. Executive Director - Submitting Personnel Requests.

Melanie Wine has submitted a letter of resignation. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the resignation of Melanie Wine effective August 1, 2008.

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

The Executive Director was instructed to review and update the following policies and guidelines and submit his recommendations to the Board at the next meeting:

- 1) "Performance Evaluation Policy" dated June 23, 1997
- 2) "Guideline for Employee Dress in the Work Place" dated September 26, 1996
- 3) "Key Control Policy" dated August 18, 1999
- 4) "Cuyahoga County Identification Card Policy" dated May 11, 1999

Bob Schloendorn reported that John DeMuth, of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, met with William Hartnett, Director Designee of the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services, Tim Espich, Deputy Director of the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services, and Richard Hatcher, Acting Superintendent of the Ohio Veterans Home, to discuss the Northeast Ohio Veterans Home Feasibility Study. Mr. DeMuth was told that they need to get authorization from their attorneys before providing him with a response to his information and data request. Once this information is obtained, Mr. DeMuth will generate his findings to the CCVSC.

Since the last Board meeting, Bob met with managers to discuss a four-day workweek and other options as a result of the gas crisis and asked them to get feedback from their staff. Employees were surveyed and the result is that the office will continue on a five-day work week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Agenda Item G1. Ohio's Heroes Memorial Art Project

Cpl. Nathan Anderson of Howard, Ohio obtains photographs of deceased Cuyahoga County veterans, does pen and ink drawings of them, and donates the pictures, free of charge, to the fallen soldier's family. Bob Schloendorn asked the Board for approval to contact Cpl. Anderson to negotiate a price to purchase the pictures of eight (8) Cuyahoga County deceased soldiers and prominently display them here at the Commission, pending a signed release from the families. Board members concurred and instructed Bob to proceed with the purchase.

Agenda Item G2. Regional Training

Regional training for Cuyahoga County is scheduled for Thursday, October 16th at VFW Post #1055 in Ravenna, Ohio at 6:30 p.m. Each regional education program will be worth two (2) education credits for commissioners and one (1) educational credit for service officers.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Agenda Item H1. Presentation by Bill Montague, Director of the VA Medical Center

Bill Montague presented pictures and gave an update on the construction of the new Wade Park VA Medical Center. He also distributed information on a Welcome Home Celebration for OEF/OIF

Veterans. The event will take place on Sunday, September 14, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Falls River Front Amphitheater and Pavilion. (Information is included with the minutes.)

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

Art Stone

- VFW post report of activities

John A. Evans, Sr.

- A staff member will be assigned to replace Melanie Wine at our satellite office at Wade Park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:28 a.m.)

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

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:06 a.m.)

The Board approved personnel recommendations made by the Executive Director in Executive Session.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

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

Frank Pocci
President

Thomas Zung
Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: Jim Stolz, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2639)

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

Mobile Meals Program Jeff Sedlak, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2615)

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

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