



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
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: August 6, 2014 9:30 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Cory Paul, American Red Cross

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 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, Pocchi, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, July 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park, Ohio. I presented the June 2014 financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, July 10th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 24th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 28th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 421. I presented updated financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Saturday, August 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District annual picnic at the West Side Irish American Club on Jennings Rd. I was a volunteer working with gate, food & beverage, and bus tickets.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, August 6th – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I will be presenting financial reports for July 2014 as District Finance Officer.
- Saturday, August 9th – Post 91 will host its 16th annual James C. Masie Memorial Golf outing at Emerald Woods Golf course from 9:00 a.m. until it's over. I work as a volunteer for registering golfers and prize distribution.
- Sunday, August 17th – American Legion Post 91 will host its annual family picnic from noon until 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 18th – American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 572.
- Saturday, August 23rd through Thursday, August 28th – I will be in Charlotte, NC for the American Legion National Convention. I am registered as a delegate from Ohio representing Post 91 and the 13th District.
- Thursday, August 28th – American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Bob Potts – VVA

- July 1st – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting and board meeting.
- July 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 4th – Chapter 249 marched in the Lakewood 4th of July parade.
- July 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- July 21st – I attended the wake of Chapter 249 Secretary, Jim Gasho, who passed away suddenly.
- July 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- August 5th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 general meeting on August 5th. I gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- I advised the membership that we are now tax exempt and we should be receiving a refund for taxes paid in 2013.
- The post is sold and we are awaiting the final completion of the sale. In the future, we will be meeting at a new location and the mailings from the CCVSC will need to be sent to the new address, which I will provide. In the meantime, they can be given directly to me and I will submit them to the post at our monthly meeting.
- Our fiscal year concluded on May 31st. I have submitted the required tax forms and they have been accepted.

Other activities:

- During July, I attended three of the four scheduled meetings at the CCVSC. I also referred two veterans for assistance by our service officers.
- I attended the monthly meeting of the Italian War Veterans Post 34 on July 25th. At the June yearly convention, I was reappointed as state adjutant.
- I accompanied one veteran to the Parma CBOC to apply for a veteran's health care card.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all of the CCVSC meetings during the month of July.
- DAV Chapter 108 does not conduct meetings during the summer months, but will resume meeting in September.
- July 26th – I attended a fundraiser for the Chief Petty Officer's Association.

- Thursday, September 11th – I will be attending a 9/11 ceremony at North Olmsted's main fire station on Lorain Road.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- July 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- July 10th through 12th – I attended the VFW C of A conference held at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio. I attended all the meetings and gave a program report on the Safety, Law Enforcement/Fire Fighter of the Year qualifications. I attended the banquet homecoming for State Cmdr. Bob Poole.
- ~~July 14th – I attended a Lake/Geauga County VFW dinner held at the China Buffet in Mentor on the Lake.~~
- July 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 18th through 23rd – I attended the 115th VFW National Convention in St. Louis, MO. I attended all the scheduled meetings and served on the national Veterans Service Committee where I reviewed resolutions. I attended the Veteran's Patriotic Rally and other events.
- July 28th – I attended the Past President's dinner at Parma VFW Post 1974 and called bingo for the ladies.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director presented his monthly budget review. July's projections show a five-month average (January-July) of \$225,395.00 with a remaining budget of \$1,126,975.00.

Mechanisms are now in place in eVetAssist to issue \$50 food cards in lieu of food vouchers. The trial run will take place by the end of this month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jon Reiss has responded to County Council's request for guidance on 2014 Veterans Service Fund distributions. With "no appropriative authority or decision making authority over these funds," the CCVSC submitted the following recommendations in order of priority:

- 1) Greater Cleveland Fisher House – The Fisher House will bring family support to a veteran during a time of medical hardship.
- 2) Help2Vets 2-1-1 program – This twenty-four hour call center provides information on multiple veterans' programs with referrals.
- 3) The Cleveland Municipal Court Veterans Docket – the docket offers programs that give veterans a chance to overcome their previous mistakes and/or errors in judgment and provides a true path towards independence.
- 4) Legal Aid Society – provides assistance to prevent homelessness and/or eviction and to clear up legal matters that prevent them from obtaining long-term stability and success.

The CCVSC Board will conduct a medals/awards presentation to veterans and/or widows on a quarterly basis. The following dates were approved:

- September 3, 2014
- December 3, 2014
- March 4, 2015
- June 3, 2015

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2014-22 requesting authority for seven CCVSC service officers to attend the OSACVSO winter quarterly meeting and training in Dublin, Ohio from September 17-19, 2014, expenses not to exceed \$4,886.00.

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

The CCVSC will be partnering with Metro Health personnel to travel through the City of Euclid in the Metro Mobile Enrollment Unit's 38-foot RV, during the month of August, to discuss Medicaid and VA benefits in an attempt to get veterans off of Medicaid and on VA rolls.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Cory Paul, Disaster Program Specialist with the American Red Cross, presented the Board with an explanation of their services and intent to work hand-in-hand with the CCVSC in assisting veterans of Cuyahoga County.

Mel Baher paid a visit to CCVSC staff working at the Cuyahoga County Fair in Berea and feels our presence is very beneficial.

Managers will be asked to give the Board a brief update on their department and provide potential goals and objectives for 2015. The presentations will be given at the first meeting of the month and the Executive Director will advise each manager of their scheduled date and time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:30 a.m.)

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


AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:00 a.m.)

In Executive Session, client and personnel issues were discussed and the Executive Director was given advice on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, 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)