



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

ROBERT E. SCHLOENDORN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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### MINUTES

DATE: August 7, 2013 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Daniel T. Weist, Secretary

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bob Potts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell 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. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting held at Garfield Hts. Post 304. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended a meeting held by Senator Sherrod Brown at the CCVSC to discuss the backlog of veteran's VA claims. Several veterans' organizations and counties were in attendance.

- Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District annual family picnic held at the German Central Foundation on York Rd. in Parma, Ohio. The event began at noon and lasted until 6:00 p.m. I volunteered in the instant bingo game sales and fulfilled my duties as finance officer.
- Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting held at Post 469 on Memphis Avenue. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting where I serve as an elected board member.

#### Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Budget – Audit – Finance committee meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Post 91.
- Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting is scheduled at American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 Scholarship Golf Outing is scheduled at Emerald Woods Golf Course at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting is scheduled at American Legion Post 572 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – I will be departing for Houston, TX, to attend the annual National Convention of the American Legion. I will be attending meetings that begin on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> and continue through Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the general meeting at Post 80 on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>, where I gave my financial report.
- Our Commander, Jim Soltis, is recovering from surgery.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> at noon, the Honor Guard participated at Stafford Park for the flag raising ceremony.
- The reimbursement form for Memorial Day expenses was submitted to the Public Works Dept.
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> is AMVETS day and all members were encouraged to help other veterans.

#### Other Activities

- I attended the two open meetings and the two appeal meetings held at the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission during July.
- I attended the general meeting of the Italian American War Veterans on July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- I brought one veteran in to the offices on Prospect Avenue to file for hearing tinnitus. I also referred another to our service officer at the Parma location.
- I attended the meeting at the CCVSC on July 15<sup>th</sup> where we hosted Senator Sherrod Brown in a review on how to improve filing for veterans and reducing the processing time of veterans' claims. The meeting was well attended by representatives from various organizations and counties.
- On July 17<sup>th</sup>, I attended a cruise-in to help veterans in the parking lot of Carrie Cerino's restaurant where I was able to set up a display of the flyers from the CCVSC and made the sponsors there aware of the services we provide.
- July 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended the annual convention of the Italian American War Veterans Dept. of Ohio in Lorain, Ohio. I was nominated and reappointed as the Adjutant.

- July 26<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Italian American War Veterans Post 34 general meeting where I gave my report as the Adjutant and acting Quartermaster.

#### Clayton Uzell – VFW

- July 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Lake/Geauga Past County Council dinner.
- July 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III hearings.
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended a meeting called by Senator Sherrod Brown at the CCVSC to discuss the veterans' benefit backlog issue. Various representatives from the veterans' organizations were in attendance. I also attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting to discuss upcoming events.
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – I departed for the VFW National Convention which was held in Louisville, KY, where I attended meetings and other events.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting followed by the membership meeting.
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the roundtable meeting with Senator Sherrod Brown at the CCVSC to discuss the backlog of VA claims.
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – VVA Chapter 249 board meeting was cancelled.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Terry Walker, Manager of the Social Work Dept., gave a brief update of her department's progress and her monthly activities with the Veterans Treatment Docket.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Bob Schloendorn will be attending a meeting at Senator Sherrod Brown's Cleveland office on August 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the homeless issue among veterans.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss the candidacy for Executive Director and the interview process.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:20 a.m.)

*Frank Pocci left the meeting at 10:25 a.m. for a previously scheduled appointment.*

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

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:40 a.m.)

In Executive Session, the Board reviewed the list of candidates and will be formulating an interview method. The matter was postponed to the next open public meeting when all Commissioners are present.

With no further business, a motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

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



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Bob Potts, President



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Mel Baher, Secretary pro tem

**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)