



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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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: September 4, 2013 9:30 a.m.

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

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 Frank Pocci 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:

Clayton Uzell – VFW

- August 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 9th-11th – I attended the VFW State Council of Administration Conference in Columbus and reported on the Police/Fire and Safety requirements for 2013-2014. I also attended the testimonial dinner for Commander Keith Jeffers and took part in a comedy skit.
- August 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- August 18th – I attended the VFW District 7 Council of Administration held at Post 387 on W. 140th St. and passed out CCVSC pamphlets. I asked all in attendance to refer prospective clients to our office and spoke about my safety program.
- August 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 24th – I attended a VFW Spokes & Wheels Rally in Columbus to raise money for our National Home. I had the CCVSC van on display. Over \$9,200.00 was raised by District 7 and we placed 1st in the State.

- August 26th – I attended the Past President’s dinner held at VFW Post 1974 in Parma and called bingo for the ladies.
- August 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the general meetings at Post 80 on August 6th and September 3rd where I gave my financial report.
- Commander, Jim Soltis, recovered from surgery and presided over the meeting.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The reimbursement form for Memorial Day expenses was received from the county.
- There have been tentative offers for the sale of the post.

Other Activities:

- I attended the two open meetings and the two appeals meetings held at the CCVSC during the month of August.
- I attended the general meeting of the Italian American War Veterans on August 30th, where the membership voted on an approved charitable contributions.
- I called a veteran for whom we were able to increase his SCD pension to over 50% to make sure he will get in touch with our service officer so he has a full understanding of the benefits beyond the pension he will now be entitled to.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, August 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at Parma Post 572. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 19th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive board meeting held at Parma Post 572. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 22nd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting, where I serve as an elected board member.
- Saturday, August 24th – I departed for the American Legion National Convention in Houston, TX. On Sunday, I attended the Ohio Caucus and participated in the annual parade. Tuesday through Thursday, I attended convention meetings and returned home late Thursday evening.
- Tuesday, September 3rd – I transported a veteran to the CCVSC for application for first time assistance, to meet with a service officer to file a claim, and to meet with our employment specialist.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, September 8th – American Legion District Fall Conference is scheduled for Post 703 at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 11th – I will be master of ceremonies at the 12th annual commemoration of Patriot Day on the Berea triangle at 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, September 12th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, September 23rd – American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled at American Legion Post 703 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, September 26th – American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I was out of town for the August 7th open public meeting, but I attended the board meeting on August 21st.
- I attended both Level III appeal hearings during the month of August.
- I attended the VFW annual meeting on August 21st.
- DAV Chapter 108 suspends its meetings for the summer, but will hold its September meeting on the 19th.
- On Friday, September 13th, I will take part in a USO fundraiser at Sweetbriar Golf Course in Avon Lake.
- I have referred several veterans to the CCVSC for assistance.

Bob Potts – VVA

- August 6th – VVA Chapter 249 board meeting (not held - on hiatus)
- August 6th – VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting (not held - on hiatus)
- August 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals meeting.
- August 21st – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- September 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting.
- September 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director will remind staff that a notation should be made of all corrections and/or additions in eVetAssist.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Results of a study conducted by the ODVS claiming that there are not enough service officers to get claims into the VA system prompted negative articles to be published in newspapers. The Executive Director will look into the matter and report back to the Board at the next open meeting.

Commissioner Uzell will be driving the CCVSC van in the Lyndhurst Home Days parade on Saturday, September 7th.

Asst. County Prosecutor Brian Gutkoski informed the Board that County Council voted on the Charter Amendment and, as a result, the CCVSC will continue to be represented by the County Prosecutor's Office, but any litigation will now be handled by the County Law Department.

Executive Director is to investigate a complaint letter sent by a CCVSC client to the Prosecutor's Office and brought to our attention by the Asst. County Prosecutor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to conduct interviews for the position of Executive Director.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:00 a.m.)

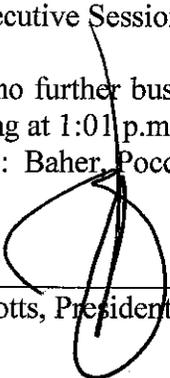
A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (1:00 p.m.)

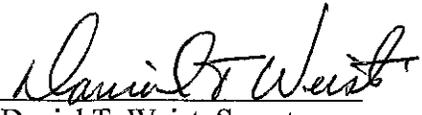
In Executive Session, the Board interviewed potential candidates for the Executive Director's position.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

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



Bob Potts, President



Daniel T. Weist, 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)