



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:** October 2, 2013 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob Potts, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President  
Daniel T. Weist, Secretary  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

**EXCUSED:** Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

**VISITORS:** Sue Fuehrer, VA Medical Center Director

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to go out of the regular order of business for a presentation by Sue Fuehrer, Medical Center Director, on the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. Ms. Fuehrer spoke of the wide range of primary, secondary and tertiary care services offered at the VAMC to eligible veterans covering 24 counties in Northeast Ohio.

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

*Asst. County Prosecutor, Brian Gutkoski, joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.*

At the conclusion of the presentation, a motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Dan Weist to return to the regular order of business.

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

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

Due to time constraints, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to submit Commissioners' written reports to the Executive Secretary for the record.

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

### Dan Weist - DAV

- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III Appeal hearings during the month of September.
- I attended my monthly VFW meeting on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- September 28<sup>th</sup>, I attended a VFW memorial service for a WWII veteran.
- I was contacted by twelve veterans interested in obtaining VA benefits and referred them to the CCVSC.

### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference held at Parma Post 703. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – For the twelfth consecutive year, I was master of ceremonies for the annual commemoration of Patriot Day on the Berea triangle at 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday – September 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the annual POW-MIA remembrance ceremony held at American Legion Post 91. Due to a schedule conflict, I arrived a little late to be one of those selected to read the names.
- Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting held at Parma Post 703. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the District financial reports as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting, where I serve as an elected board member.

#### *Upcoming Events:*

- Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting is scheduled for Euclid Post 343 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting is scheduled at American Legion Post 343 at 7:30 p.m.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS (report submitted prior to the meeting)

- September 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the AMVETS general meeting where I gave my financial report.

#### *Other Activities:*

- I attended the general meeting of the Italian American War Veterans on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III Appeal hearings during the month of September.
- I referred two veterans for CCVSC benefits and services. One veteran visited the Parma CBOC and the other veteran came to the main office on Prospect.

### Clay Uzell – VFW

- September 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. Candidates for the executive director position were interviewed in Executive Session.
- September 8<sup>th</sup> – I drove the CCVSC van in the Lyndhurst Home Days Parade and passed out pamphlets. The Veterans Memorial was rededicated in the park. I conducted the memorial service along with the Mayor of Lyndhurst. On behalf of VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst, I was presented with a flag that flew over the State House by State Representative Marlene Anielski, Ohio House District 6. I invited Rep. Anielski to visit the CCVSC to learn of the benefits and services available to veterans of Cuyahoga County.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- September 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the annual pig roast at VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst and gave several veterans information on the CCVSC.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting and interviewed candidates for the position of executive director in Executive Session. Later that evening, I left for New Orleans for the VFW Ladies Auxiliary National President “Sissy Borelle’s” homecoming.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the Past President’s dinner held at VFW Post 1974 Parma. I called bingo for the ladies.
- September 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- September 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Founder’s Day parade and banquet at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus and the banquet that followed at VFW Post 9857. The State Commander presented me with a coin and shirt for “teamwork” recognition.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – I attended the District 7 Past President’s dinner at Champps-Lyndhurst.
- I referred two veterans to the CCVSC.

### Bob Potts – VVA

- September 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting followed by the membership meeting.
- September 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. Candidates for the position of executive director were interviewed in Executive Session.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. The last of the candidates applying for the position of executive director were interviewed in Executive Session.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – I went to the Parma CBOC for a copy of my medical records and while I was there, I stopped to talk to VSO, Randy Stevenson.
- September 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – I discussed veterans’ benefits and the VSC service officers with a Somalia veteran.
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting followed by the membership meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

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

The Executive Director will be attending a budget hearing with County Council on Monday, October 28, 2013, between 1:00-5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Justice Center.

The CCVSC holiday luncheon will take place on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at Champps Restaurant in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

**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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:10 a.m.)

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, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (1:40 p.m.)

In Executive Session, the Board conducted a second interview to three potential candidates for the Executive Director’s position and unanimously selected Jon Reiss.

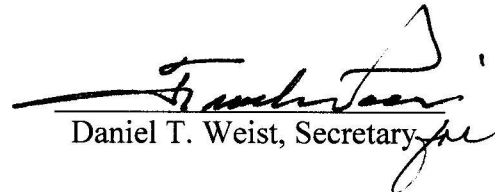
A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept the consensus of Commissioners to hire Jon Reiss as Executive Director effective Monday, October 28, 2013, at a salary of \$114,490.36, Range 18, Step 11, pending the completion of a drug and background check and 180 day probationary period.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

AYES: Baher, 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)