



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL I. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER

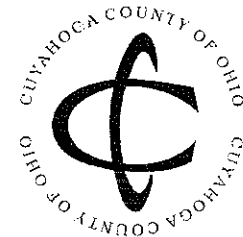


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: October 5, 2011 9:30 a.m

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

VISITORS: ODJFS Staff: Mike Ellis, Josh Collins, Mone' Givner, Angela Cash,
Clayton Cozy

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mel Baher, 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 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

Bob Potts – VVA

- 9/6/11 – I attended our monthly membership meeting.
- 9/7/11 – I attended the CCVSC monthly open public meeting.
- 9/14/11 – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- 9/20/11 – I, along with fellow commissioners, attended the CCVSC monthly meeting at American Legion Post 703 in Parma, Ohio at 7:00 p.m.
- 9/27/11 – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- 10/4/11 – I attended the monthly board meeting for Chapter 249. A veteran's program that will be held in July 2012 was discussed. This program will be run by the Vietnam Veterans of America Buckeye State Council.

Dan Weist – DAV

- 9/7/11 - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- 9/13/11 – I attended ODVS Regional training in Mansfield, Ohio along with Commissioner Pocci.
- 9/14/11 – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- I attended an outreach event of the Fraternal Order of Police on 9/14/11 and with the USO on 9/16/11.
- 9/21/11 – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting at American Legion Post 703 in Parma, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. to generate more interest and awareness of the benefits and services of the Commission.
- 9/28/11 – I spoke about the homeless population at a media event at Mall A. I addressed the crowd and made them aware of the Community Partnership Program that will be held on October 12, 2011 at the Wolstein Center and of the federal agencies that address the homeless. The event was well received.
- I also generated a letter to DAV Post 249 indicating my interest in the DAV slot on the CCVSC Board beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2016.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- 9/7/11 – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting
- 9/11/11 – I drove the CCVSC van in the Lyndhurst Home Days parade. I handed out literature and took part in the Memorial Service Rededication of the Veterans Monument in City Park. The wreath laying was done by the VFW and District 7 Ladies President. I addressed the crowd and asked them to remember the 9/11 victims. The flag was raised and the Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mayor Cicero.
- 9/14/11 – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- 9/16/11 – I attended the District 7 Past President's diner and meeting at the Golden Coral in Northfield, Ohio.
- 9/19/11 – I attended the Post 7536 meeting and discussed having a speaker from the CCVSC come to the November 21st meeting.
- 9/21/11 – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting at American Legion Post 703 on York Road in Parma, Ohio at 7:00 p.m.
- 9/22/11 – I attended a funeral for the Past State VFW Ladies Auxiliary President's husband from Tiffin, Ohio.
- 9/26/11 – I attended the Parma Post 1974 Past President's meeting/dinner and called bingo for the Ladies Auxiliary
- 9/28/11 – I attended the CCVSC Level III hearings.
- 10/1/11 – I attended a Founder Day Celebration in Columbus, Ohio at the Greenlawn Cemetery and marched with District 7. I also attended the program and luncheon at Post 9473 in Reynoldsburg.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- 9/6/11 – I attended the AMVETS general meeting.
- 9/13/11 – I attended the AMVETS Dept. meeting in Painesville, Ohio.
- I provided the AMVETS donations representative with information related to the CCVSC so that it can be passed along to needy veterans.
- I contacted Len Proper about installation of the training individual at the CCVSC and passed related information along to our Executive Director.

- 10/2/11 – I attended the AMVETS Post 80 Commander's Ball where approximately 80 people were in attendance.
- 10/4/11 – I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General meeting.
- The Post 80 Honor Guard served at seven funerals at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

Other Activities:

- 9/13/11 – I attended the ODVS Regional training in Mansfield, Ohio along with Commissioner Dan Weist. The training was perhaps the best I have ever attended.
- 9/21/11 – I, along with the other commissioners, held an open outreach meeting at the VFW Post 703 in Parma, Ohio.
- 9/30/11 – the Italian American War Veterans held their monthly meeting where we introduced five new members. Considering that the regular membership plus lifetime members number about forty, this was a great positive addition.
- We will be having an outreach meeting on October 6th sponsored by the Middleburg Heights Women's Club. I, along with Commissioners Baher and Potts, will be conducting a slide show presentation. The club has advertised in the Plain Dealer and local church bulletins. They are expecting at least 50 people to attend. The club's meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and our presentation will start at approximately 7:00 p.m. I will be there early to set up our PC and overhead projector.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Thursday, September 8th, I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I serve as 1st Vice Commander in charge of membership.
- Sunday, September 11th, American Legion Post 91 hosted the tenth anniversary commemoration service held McKelvey Park at 10:00 a.m. I served as master of ceremonies. The City of Berea was represented by Mayor Cyril Kleem, Chief of Police Mark Schultz and Fire Chief Ted Novak. Our guest speaker was James Cole, former Green Beret and CEO of Noshok in Berea. The service was well attended by the public, partly because of the annual Arts Festival.
- Friday, September 16th, American Legion Post 91 hosted its annual POW-MIA service at 7:00 p.m. at the Post home on the pavilion. Names of Ohioans still listed as POW/MIA were read as part of the service.
- Thursday, September 22nd, I attended the American Legion Post 91 e-board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events.

- Saturday, October 8th, American Legion Post 91 will host its annual clam bake, serving from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 13th, American Legion Post 91 monthly membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 27th, American Legion Post 91 monthly executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor, arrived at 9:40 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The issue of funeral expenses under the Guideline for Definition of an Unexpected Hardship was revisited. It was agreed that funeral expenses of an immediate family member, including travel

expenses if held out of town, may be considered an expense when applying for financial assistance. Contributions to funeral expenses may only be considered if verification of the expense is provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

American Legion Post 451 has requested that the CCVSC purchase Canadian flags for members of their post and the Canadian Legion Post in Rocky River to decorate veterans' graves in Northeast Ohio on Memorial Day. Tom O'Donnell stated that by statute, the county is obligated to purchase American flags and recommended that American Legion Post 451 purchase the Canadian flags and submit back to the county for reimbursement as an allowable expense. The Board concurred.

The CCVSC Holiday Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 16th at Pacers Restaurant, 1080 E. 260th Street in Euclid, Ohio. The luncheon will be provided by the Commissioners and Executive Director.

Bob Schloendorn has been invited to attend a county budget hearing to discuss the CCVSC 2012/2013 bi-annual budget. Bob noted that the CCVSC 2012 Budget has already been done and there are no numbers available for the 2013 Budget at this time.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Clay Uzell noted that the District 7 VFW Conference will be held at the Doubletree South Cleveland Hotel in Independence, Ohio October 8-9, 2011. The POW/MIA Banquet will be held on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

President Baher opened the floor to visitors for any comments.

Mike Ellis and fellow veterans' representatives of the Dept. of Job and Family Services introduced themselves and expressed a desire to develop a better rapport between offices and once again work closely with the CCVSC in assisting the veterans in Cuyahoga County. They were invited to stay and meet with the Financial Assistance Manager to gather more information.

Roger Erickson, Sr. Systems Administrator, presented the Board with information concerning running Knowledge Tree as a "cloud" application (internet) as a possible replacement for our current electronic file system (Knowledge Tree). Roger explained that the Cloud program runs in an Amazon data center and requires no hardware, no updates, has fast indexing and full support, and is the wave of the future in managing data. The cost is the same for both options. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to initiate a two-week trial of Cloud and if a positive recommendation is made, prepare a resolution to purchase the program.

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


Robert Erb, CCVSC Service Officer, returned to work October 4th from nine months of active duty at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Rob presented the Board with an American Flag that was flown over the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor and a certificate recognizing the CCVSC for its patriotism and dedicated service to veterans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

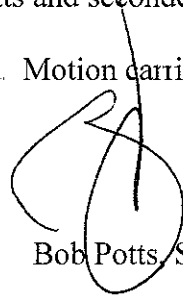
There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, 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)