



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
THOMAS T. K. ZUNG
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT SCHLOENDORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JAMES L. STOLZ
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Room 200 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: November 5, 2008 9:20 a.m.

PRESENT: Frank Pocchi, President
Bob Potts, Vice President
Thomas Zung, Secretary
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Tom O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: John A. Evans, Sr., American Legion Post 315/13th District.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Pocchi 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 minutes of October 15, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocchi. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Level III Board Appeals meeting of October 15, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocchi. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Level III Board Appeals meeting of October 29, 2008 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocchi. NAYS: None. Motion carried. The Executive Director asked the Board for a re-determination of case file #70020, approved by the Board upon receipt of verification of a grievance filed by the client against his employer. Upon further review later, it was discovered that the grievance was actually denied. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to rescind the decision to approve case file #70020, noting that it is not the intention of the Board to pursue the matter if assistance has already been received.

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocchi. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to dispense with the reading of the correspondence since we have a Consent Agenda, with the exception of those items set aside, to be addressed during the regular order of business, and with any corrections and/or additions. (No items were set aside.)

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

The Consent Agenda reports of approved and denied cases are still a work in progress.

REPORTS:

Commissioners' Reports

Bob Potts- VVA

- October 7, I attended the monthly Board meeting and we started the planning for the 2009 Sportsman's Show. This year, we will continue to concentrate on making this an information booth. We will sell our POW/MIA shirts, as usual. Along with those ideas, we decided to look into a drawing in order to attract more attention to our booth. We will also have our dog tag machine available.
- The Chapter is looking into advertising in the local papers to try and increase membership. We have lost over a third of our members in the last couple of years and need to get new members with fresh ideas.
- October 21st, we held our monthly membership meeting. It was agreed to cancel the November 4th board meeting because of Election Day.
- November 7th, the Chapter will participate in the Veterans' Day program at Holly Lane Elementary school and will present the colors in the opening ceremony.

Thomas Zung, VFW

- I paid a visit to the Wade Park VA Medical Center and was impressed with the helpfulness and friendly attitude of our service officer, Robert Erb and trainee, Charlene Jorge. I spoke with some veterans outside their office who expressed gratitude for the assistance they received and for the professional manner in which they were treated.
- The VFW Post 1056 held their monthly meeting and agreed to donate funds to Bryan Yankulov, the artist who is providing pen and ink portraits of deceased Cuyahoga County veterans to our commission.
- I had an opportunity to drive by a limited section of a military base in Okinawa, Japan, with security escort. The bases are huge and there are several of them located in different locations of the island for security reasons. The morale is high and the troops are mostly always on alert. They do have some amenities including some of the most beautiful golf courses I have ever seen. Bless our service men and women serving abroad; our nation owes them so much.
- I will be absent from the November 19th Board meeting in order to attend the funeral of my brother, Lt. Cmdr. M.K. Zung, USNR retired, at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. He formerly served as head of anesthesiology on the Navy Hospital ship USS Hope during the Korean War.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- October 1st, I attended the American Legion council meeting at Post 343 at 7:30 p.m.
- October 2nd, I attended the OSAVSC District 2 meeting at American Legion Post 12 in Elyria, Ohio. The guest speaker was Mr. Hartnett, Director of the new Department of Veterans Services for Ohio.
- October 9th, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. as post commander.
- October 23rd, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- I will be attending the American Legion 13th District meeting on November 5, 2008 at Post 572 at 7:30 p.m.
- I will be conducting a Veteran's Day Program at Rohem Middle School in Berea, on November 10th.
- I will be attending a Veteran's Day Program at Albion Elementary School in North Royalton, Ohio on November 11th, where my granddaughter attends school.
- Post 91 Membership meeting is November 13, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
- Post 91 Executive Board meeting is November 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Dan Weist – DVA

- October 15th, I attended the VFW General meeting.
- Monday evening, November 3rd, I attended a VFW bereavement ceremony for the 1st Vice President who passed away from cancer. The burial was yesterday at Rittman Cemetery.
- November 7th, I am going to make a presentation at St. Brendan's Catholic School in North Olmsted.
- November 8th, at St. Raphael's the VFW has a program on patriotic writing and this year the subject is "How Could We Best Assist our Veterans". A cash award is given to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners.
- November 26th, I will be attending the VFW Policeman & Firefighter of the Year awards ceremony at the North Olmsted Community Center.
- November 11th, Veteran's Day, I will be attending a ceremony outside the North Olmsted City Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- October 2nd, I attended the OSAVSC District 2 meeting where we had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Hartnett, the new director of the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services.
- October 7th, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 Executive and General meeting.

- On Sunday, October 12th, the AMVETS Post 80 held the Commander's Ball at the Sherwood Forest Party Center. The event was well-attended with 92 people present. The attendance was helped by members of the Maple Hts. American Legion joining in.
- October 31st, the Italian American War Veterans held their open meeting at Gavi's restaurant. A date for the state department meeting has not yet been set due to the hospitalization and surgery of the state commander.
- November 3rd, Director Shloendorn and I participated in the Union negotiations for union members of the CCVSC.
- November 4th, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 Executive and General meeting where we discussed the reinvestment of a CD coming due on November 5th. The Post continues to volunteer for bingo at Brecksville (Oct. 13th). The post will be celebrating Veteran's Day at the Maple Hts. City Hall on November 11th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Schloendorn reported that we have received three bids for the move to our new location, but recommended the first floor in our present building. After some discussion, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and pursue a five-year lease for the first floor location in our present building.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Mel Baher to not participate in the county's Early Retirement Investment Plan.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Possible changes to the "Guideline for Assisting Students" and "Guideline for Definition of an Unexpected Hardship" were discussed. The Board decided to defer this matter to the next open public meeting.

The CCVSC Holiday Luncheon has been set for Wednesday, December 17, 2008.

An additional Level III Board Appeal is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2008.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Frank Pocci opened the floor to visitors for any comments or questions. The following bullet points were topics of discussion.

John A. Evans, Sr.

- CCVSC personnel responsible for issuing bus ticket transportation at the VA Wade Park Medical Center are doing an outstanding job and are courteous and professional when dealing with the veteran clients.
- A CARES meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 6th at the Wade Park VA Medical Center.
- Mr. Evans is stepping down as the American Legion representative at Wade Park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss the union contract and an employee application for employment.

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:57 a.m.)

A motion was made by Thomas Zung and seconded by Bob Potts to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Potts, Zung, Baher, Weist, Pocci. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:40 a.m.)

The union contract was reviewed in Executive Session. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the proposed union contracted as submitted by the Executive Director.

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

The Board instructed the Executive Director to discuss a matter concerning an employee's job application with the individual and put a notation of such in their personnel file.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

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

Frank Pocci
President

Thomas Zung
Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: Jim Stolz, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2639)

Memorial Affairs Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)

Mobile Meals Program Jeff Sedlak, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2615)

Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)

Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)