



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: November 19, 2014 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: VFW Post 1974
4305 Woodrow Avenue
Parma, Ohio 44134

PRESENT: Clayton E. Uzell, President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Daniel T. Weist, Vice President
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: George & Charlotte Totle; John & Mary Stamler; Bob Caster; George Durinka; Curt Helman; Jim Leppa; Bob Krenciglova; Jerry Noga; Stan Kilijanzyk; Rich Novak; Cindy Caster; Charles Miller; Sandra Uzell; John Slivka; Larry Amato; Robert Erb

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Clayton Uzell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Uzell thanked Cmdr. Bob Caster and members of VFW Post 1974 for their hospitality in hosting the CCVSC evening public Board meeting.

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. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (attached)

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director recommended that postage stamps, purchased prior to the Commission's use of the county mailing system, be made available to staff to purchase at face value, and proceeds from the sale be used to create a parking meter fund for veteran clients.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and create a parking meter fund with proceeds from the sale of CCVSC postage stamps.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2014-28 providing for the purchase of 499 food cards from Dave's Supermarket for clients of the CCVSC who seek financial assistance during the holiday season, expenses not to exceed \$24,950.00.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2014-29 providing for the purchase of up to 22 Topaz Siglite Sig Capture Pads for the financial assistance department and service department, expenses not to exceed \$2,112.00.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve a job posting for the position of Veterans Service Officer, with a minor revision, and an application deadline of December 11, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve a job posting for the position of Benefits Counselor, with a minor revision, and an application deadline of December 11, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve a job posting for the position of Eligibility Specialist, with revisions, and an application deadline of December 11, 2014

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:


Executive Director Jon Reiss gave a brief history of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission and summary of the benefits and services available to the veterans of Cuyahoga County. President Uzell opened the floor to visitors for any comments. CCVSC Service Officers Larry Amato and Robert Erb answered questions and concerns regarding VA Compensation, DIC benefits and other VA related issues.


EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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


Clayton E. Uzell, President


Mel Baher, Secretary

CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Progress Report on the State of the Commission

October, 2014

Issued by:

The CCVSC Commissioners

Clayton E. Uzell - President, VFW

Daniel Weist – Vice President, DAV

Mel Baher – Secretary, American Legion

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

Bob Potts – VVA

November 19, 2014

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of October 31, 2014:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Attended meeting at CEOGC regarding PIP plans and winter assistance
- Met with Diana and Neil from iHeartRadio
- Attended a meeting at NEOCH
- Attended SPI meeting in Mansfield
- Met with Brad Hutchinson from the VOA
- Attended RISFAC meeting
- Met with Theresa Gavalya from the Vets Center

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

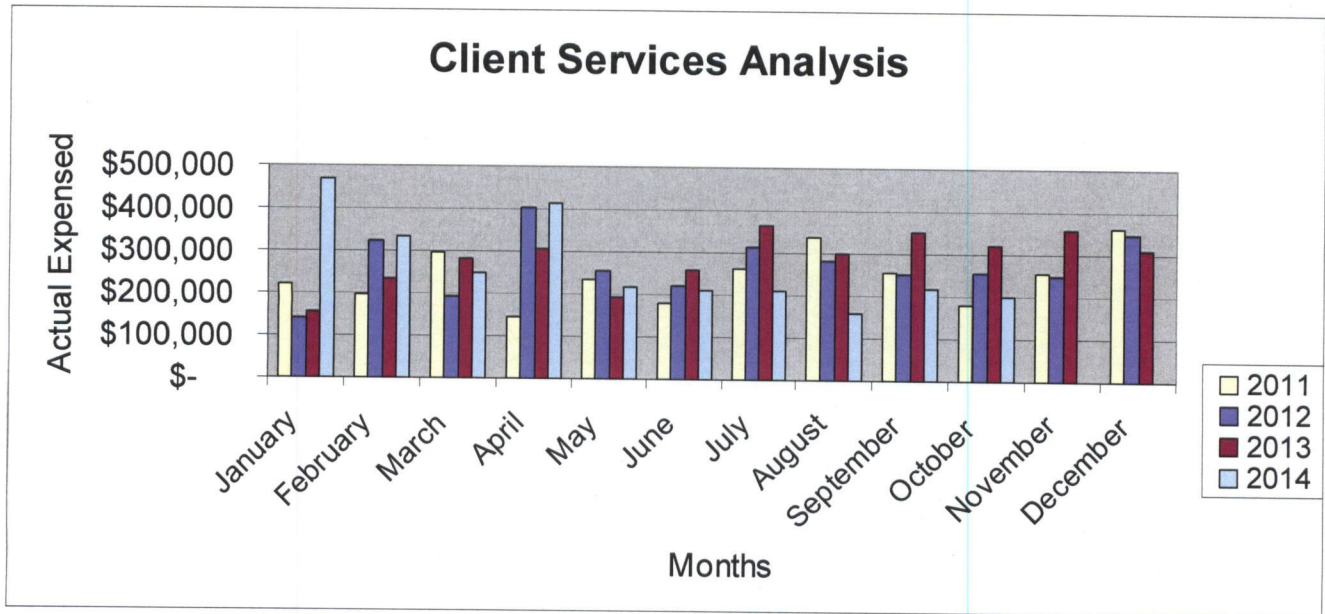
- Submitted: 16
- Positive: 16
- Negative: 0

Finance Department

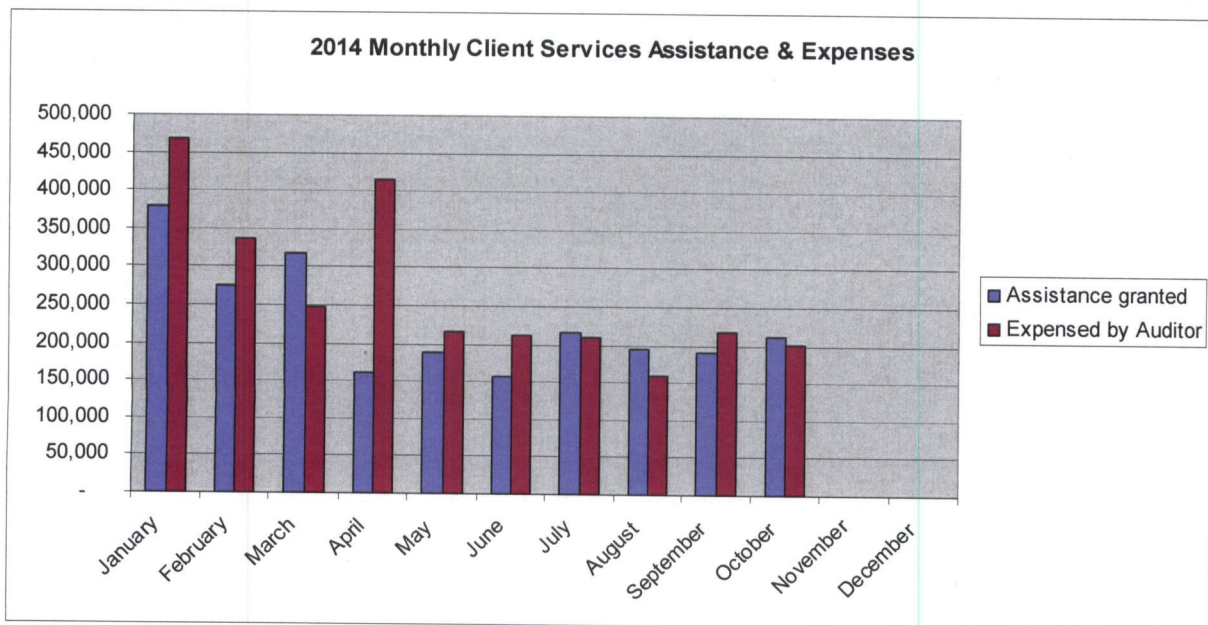
Below are selected October reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

Client services include: Financial Assistance for Medical, Food, Mortgage, Rent, Utilities, Infant Layette, Personal Hygiene, Shoes & Clothing

Comparative Chart Analysis



Actual 2014 Expenses



Total 2014 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2014	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
Salaries	1,823,984	1,469,301	-	280,211	1,749,512	74,472
Fringe Benefits	638,394	557,004	-	125,306	682,310	(43,916)
Commodities	33,000	23,026	-	4,605	27,631	5,369
Contract Services	507,477	339,561	816	215,895	555,456	(47,979)
Controlled Expenditures	323,643	153,502	-	50,172	203,674	119,969
Client Services	3,251,069	2,683,640	-	431,844	3,115,484	135,585
Other Expenditures	358,377	226,821	3,500	61,006	287,827	70,550
Capital Outlay	51,000	29,518	4,467	10,482	40,000	11,000
Total Expenditures	6,986,944	5,482,373	8,783	1,179,521	6,661,894	325,050

Assistance Department:

- October 2014: \$201,275 (Down from \$322,407 in 2013)
- YTD 2014: \$2,683,642 (Down from \$2,769,011 in 2013)

The October Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	October 2014	October 2013	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	971	896	8.4%
Applications taken	772	735	5.0%
Applications withdrawn	(10)	(26)	-61.5%
Applications denied	(49)	(49)	0%
Applications approved	713	660	8.0%
Transportation only approvals	(563)	(437)	28.86%
F/A applications approved	150	223	-32.7%

Indicator	YTD 2014	YTD 2013	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	8196	8875	-7.7%
Applications taken	7149	7535	-5.1%
Applications withdrawn	(179)	(283)	-36.7%
Applications denied	(549)	(537)	2.2%
Applications approved	6421	6715	-4.4%
Transportation only approvals	(4627)	(4573)	1.2%
F/A applications approved	1794	2142	-16.2%

- First Time Assistance
 - October 2014: 33 (Down from 46 in 2013)
 - 30 approved, 0 at Level III, 0 partial, 1 denied, 2 withdrawn
 - YTD 2014: 361 (Down from 452 in 2013)

Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of October, 2014.

Appeal Officer workdays	18
Cases on hand at beginning of month	1
Cases received	41
Cases worked	<u>38</u>
Cases on hand at end of month	4

	October	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>		
Cases Approved	21	310
Cases Denied	16	149
Cases Denied/withdrawn, no show	0	10
Cases Withdrawn	<u>1</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	38	490

	October	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Board Appeals</u>		
Cases Approved	6	61
Cases Denied	0	47
Cases Withdrawn	0	1
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	6
Client is Eligible (Review DD-214)	0	0
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	6	116

Medical and Other Transportation:

- October 2014: \$13,332.00 (YTD: \$119,402.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$12,917.00 (YTD: \$116,162.50)
- Other: \$415 (YTD: \$3,240)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- October 2014: \$9,126 (YTD: \$61,123)
 - Dental: \$8,516 (YTD: \$30,441)
 - Vision: \$610 (YTD: \$7,180)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$22,652)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- October 2014: \$8,667.80 (Up \$675.80 from October 2013)
- YTD 2014: \$108,495.72
- 9 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 2
 - Marine: 2
 - Navy: 1
 - Army: 4

Following are the 2014 Year to Date statistics for Memorial Affairs:

	October	2014 YTD	October	2013 YTD
DD-214 Search	123	1,047	108	1,099
Benefits Counseling	667	8,210	839	8,794
Undelivered-Incorrect Headstone/Research	15	124	20	142
Presidential Memorial Certificates	57	764	76	926
National Cemetery Referrals	58	555	62	621
Blue Star Service Banners	0	0	0	20
Indigent Burials	9	113	8	104

Veterans Service Officers:

Parma

	<u>Oct</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	18	236
----- Follow Up	70	694
DIC Claims	1	8
----- Follow Up	2	34
Pension Claims	5	40
-----Follow Up	4	95
Medical	0	5
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	17	165
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	140	1269
All Other	<u>94</u>	<u>496</u>
Total	351	3042

Wade Park

	<u>Oct</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	17	232
----- Follow Up	91	1056
DIC Claims	0	9
----- Follow Up	0	21
Pension Claims	9	98
-----Follow Up	57	444
Medical	4	37
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	26	274
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	470	3168
All Other	<u>126</u>	<u>1024</u>
Total	800	6363

Main Office

	<u>Oct</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	83	812
----- Follow Up	453	3417
DIC Claims	4	43
----- Follow Up	14	145
Pension Claims	27	325
-----Follow Up	140	1431
Medical	3	73
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	104	879
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	961	8575
All Other	<u>413</u>	<u>3367</u>
Total	2202	19,067

Interviews:
 • 1,966 (YTD: 17,214)
 FA Referrals:
 • 48 (YTD: 437)
 Total:
 • 2,014 (YTD: 17,651)
 Phone Calls:
 • 3,389 (YTD: 32,378)

Social Work

Social Work

- October Total Signed In: 145 (YTD: 1,618)
 - Seen: 133 (YTD: 1,417)
 - Not Seen: 7 (YTD: 68)
 - Offline: 5 (YTD: 146)
 - New Veterans: 17 (YTD: 238)

- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 93 (YTD: 1,004)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 40 (YTD: 413)

Referrals

- Internal Referrals
 - FA: 63
 - VSO: 43
 - Employment Specialist: 5
- Outside Agencies
 - VA Medical: 42
 - Employment
 - ODJFS: 6
 - CEOGC: 0
 - Towards Employment (N4S): 2

Employment

- October Internal Referrals: 25
 - No Contact: 5
- Total Seen: 24 (YTD: 352)
- Offline: 69 (YTD: 276)
- Rescheduled/No-Show/Cancelled: 6 (YTD: 137)
- Employment Orientation: 9 (YTD: 130)
- Direct Placements: 5 (YTD: 22)

Ohio Veterans Home Network:

In October, two veterans were taken to the OVH for tour and admission evaluation.

At the OVH, there are 5 beds available in the nursing home and 40 beds available in the domiciliary.

Mobile Kits

We need to purchase a \$25 Microsoft App Store gift cards for the document scanning app, along with MS Office for the tablets. The purchase order for these items has been sent to Steve F. Training on the tablets can take place after the purchase and installation.

PC Purchase

PC's are in, and will be deployed after the Sheriff's PC's, and the election PC's.

Virtualization of our eVET server will be completed either simultaneously or shortly thereafter.

2013 Office for the Commissioners laptops has been ordered. The software currently on the laptops was only a trial version, and has expired. Office Outlook is included in the Office suit purchased.

Network Changes

AT&T Mifi wireless 4G units have been issued. I need all old equipment returned.

eVET

John Yan is changing eVET to work with the non-LCD signature pads. The software patch will be available with the next eVET update.

Purchase order for 11 additional units of the new signature pad has been requested.

**Submitted by:
Jon Reiss
Executive Director**