



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

JOHN C. MURPHY
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: December 2, 2009 9:37 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director

ABSENT: Thomas Zung, Vice President
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Art Stone, 7th District VFW/American Legion Post 451

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 Dan Weist to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda as published. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended my post meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- November 4, I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at American Legion Post 703 at 8:00 p.m.
- November 10th, I was at Smith Elementary School in Berea to speak to five different classrooms about Veterans Day.
- November 11th, I hosted a Veterans Day program at Berea High School at 9:00 a.m., Roehm Middle School at 1:00 p.m., and the Southern Hills Nursing Home at 2:30 p.m. Post 91's Ladies Auxiliary served a luncheon from noon to 2:00 p.m. and the Sons of the American Legion served dinner from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- November 12th, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. as Post Commander.
- November 25th, I conducted the American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events for December 2009

- December 6th, the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference will be held at Post 91 at 10:00 a.m.
- December 10th, Post 91 will hold its monthly membership meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- December 13th, the District Executive Board meeting will be held at Post 703.
- December 23rd, Post 91 will hold its monthly executive board meeting.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio from November 20-22, 2009. At the conference, Larry Moore, Director/CVSO of Richland County VSC, reported that a Training Improvement Committee was formed to conduct and review the CVSO and CVSC training program. Multiple meetings were held over a four-month period and were attended by representatives from the OSAVSC, OSACVSO, and ODVS. As a result, the new 2010 Training Policy was adopted. The following decisions were made without giving the OSAVSC members an opportunity to approve them.
 1. Unfunded mandate to force county service officers to become members of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers and to attend out-of-state training for five days per year at least every three years. The cost would be very expensive considering travel, hotel, registration fees, and meals.
 2. Veterans service commissions would also be mandated by the NACVSO to send all service officers to both three-day spring and fall service officer schools, costing the counties even more taxpayer money.

Bob Potts – VVA

- November 3rd, I attended my monthly board meeting. The topic of discussion was ways to get members to come to our meetings. Moving the chapter back to American Legion Post 421 was an option.
- November 6th, members of our chapter were invited to Westlake High School for “Breakfast with a Vet.” The students from the cooking class prepared the breakfast, which was very good! There were veterans from the VFW post who also attended.
- November 11th, Commissioners Zung, Weist, and I attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony at the Wade Park VA Medical Center.
- November 14th, my daughter took me to the Cavaliers game for Veterans Appreciation Night. A joint service Honor Guard presented the colors and two members of the Air Force sang the National Anthem. During the breaks, members of the National Guard and Air National Guard units were brought out onto the court and honored. They also had current members of the service and veterans stand and paid tribute to them.
- On November 17th, I attended the monthly membership meeting at the new location and seventeen members attended. Best of all, we signed up three new members.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director received a request from Carolyn Wies, sub-contractor for the Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF), to support veterans across the nation by giving a year’s

supply of daily wellness vitamins to as many veterans as possible. Following discussion, the Board agreed to respectfully decline due to the fact that the DVNF is not a federally chartered group.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

President Potts turned the meeting over to David Maier, Appeals Officer, for an update on Level II Appeals. Dave Maier distributed a report of YTD Level II Appeals and/or reviews for 2006 (321), 2007 (348), and 2008 (463). He also provided a projected report for the month of December 2009, which showed 27 appeals and/or reviews, 373 YTD.

Roger Erickson, Sr. Systems Administrator, displayed two notebook PCs and asked the commissioners to select one to replace their current outdated ones. Commissioners Baher, Potts, and Weist selected the Dell Notebook, and Commissioner Pocci opted to order an Inspiron Laptop. Commissioner Zung will make his selection at the next meeting.

The Executive Director stated that since policies are in place, the Board must include an explanation as to why a denied case was approved at Level III. Further discussion was deferred to Executive Session.

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

Art Stone

- Replacement of outdated computers
- Boy Scout Eagle project- replacing burial stones at Butternut Cemetery

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a policy issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:12 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:37 a.m.)

In Executive Session, discussion took place concerning policy issues relating to Level III Appeals. No action was taken.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

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

Bob Potts, President

Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: John Murphy, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2637)

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

Mobile Meals Program: Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2379)

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

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