



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

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: July 1, 2015 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Weist followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, June 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council Summer Convention at 10:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for April 2015, as District Finance Officer. Election of District officers, executive board members, and National convention delegates were conducted. I was elected Finance Officer and as a delegate to the National Convention.
- Thursday, June 11th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00p.m.
- Monday, June 22nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio. I presented May 2015 financial reports to the executive committee for approval, as District Finance Officer.

- Thursday, June 25th – I drove to Toledo, Ohio for the American Legion, Department of Ohio State Convention, which ran from Friday, June 26th through Sunday, June 28th. I worked as the Department credentials committee chairman, responsible for registration of all delegates, alternates and guests.
- Thursday, June 25th – the American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. I was excused from that meeting due to my responsibilities for the Department Convention in Toledo, Ohio.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, July 1st – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio. I will be representing the May 2015 financial reports, approved by the executive committee, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, July 9th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 23rd – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I serve as an elected board member.
- Monday, July 27th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Post 572 in Parma, Ohio. I will be presenting the June 2015 financial reports for approval, as District Finance Officer.

Bob Potts – VVA

- June 2nd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- June 3rd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- June 17th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- July 4th – Chapter 249 will march in the Lakewood 4th of July parade.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- June 3rd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 9th through 14th – I attended the VFW 95th State Convention held in Cincinnati (Sharonville). I attended all the required meetings and received a National Citation for the Safety program that I chaired. I voted as delegate for VFW Post 7536. I attended the banquet on Saturday night and installation of new officers on Sunday morning.
- June 15th – I attended the Lyndhurst VFW Post 7536 meeting where discussion took place concerning our upcoming picnic.
- June 17th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 22nd – I attended the Past President's dinner at VFW Post 1974 in Parma. I called bingo for the ladies after the dinner/meeting.
- June 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- June 26th – I attended a funeral in Avon On-the-Lake for a past Department president's mother.
- June 29th – I assisted in the planning of the Cathedral summer event to benefit homeless families and veterans to be held July 3rd from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral on E. 9th & Superior. Our guest speaker was CCVSC Executive Director Jon Reiss. I assisted Denise Calabrese, President/CEO of Holy Spirit Prayer Center with the veteran's portion of the program. I also arranged for Fair Port Harbor honor guard to present colors at the event.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended all board meetings at the CCVSC during the month of June.
- I participated in the Middleburg Hts. Summer in the City parade where I presented the CCVSC.

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 June meeting and gave the post financial report.
- I submitted the tax reports for AMVETS Post 80 for fiscal year ending May 31, 2015.
- I attended the June meeting of the Italian American War Veterans.
- The AMVETS Post 80 and Italian American War Veterans Post 34 were together for a special viewing of the COD submarine. Twenty individuals participated and both posts made a donation to the COD.
- I referred two veterans to our service officers at the Parma CBOC.
- I am looking into possible aid and attendance for a disabled World War II veteran.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended the monthly meeting at VFW Post 7647 and was re-elected Quartermaster.
- I attended all CCVSC board meetings during the month of June.
- I spoke with both Mike Moses, legislative agent for the Ohio State County Veterans Service Commissioners Association and the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers, and Sen. Tom Patton, Senate Finance Committee, concerning the budget bill and any amendments that affect Chapter 5901 and the funding of the veterans service commissions.

Brian Gutkoski joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director provided the Board with an estimate of \$130,000.00 for the purchase of a new CCVSC mobile van. His recommendation was to shelve the idea for a minimum of one year and concentrate on utilizing the county library system and area veterans' organizations to post a veterans service officer one day a week. The Board concurred. Additionally, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to authorize the Executive Director to arrange for the CCVSC Jeep Liberty to be wrapped.

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

We have not yet received a response from County Executive, Armond Budish, concerning compensation for CCVSC commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director has submitted a new CCVSC phone tree script to the county which eliminates individual department numbers and will send all incoming calls to one number. After four rings, the message will be sent to voice mail that will be cleared by the receptionist.

The service department manager is scheduled to take the new CCVSC employees to the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio for a tour on Tuesday, July 7th at 10:00 a.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Executive Director distributed copies of a report of expenditures for veterans, federal versus county from 2006-2014. Total federal VA dollars spent within the county increased from 2006-2014 by \$2,528,160,471.00. County budget spent in 2014 compared to 2006 is an increase of \$860,598.00. The report also shows that the county veterans' population has decreased by 25,748 since 2006.

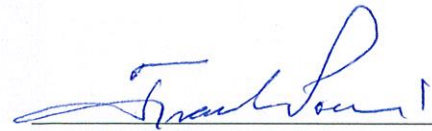
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

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


Daniel T. Weist, President


Frank Pocci, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)
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:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)