



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: August 5, 2015 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Daniel T. Weist, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary
Brendan Doyle, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner

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, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, July 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for May 2015, as District Finance Officer.
- Saturday, July 4th – I volunteered to help park cars at Post 91 for the annual City of Berea fireworks display, which can be viewed from the Post parking lot, as they are shot off over Coe Lake.
- Thursday, July 9th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 23rd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I serve as an elected board member.

- Monday, July 27th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio. I presented June 2015 financial reports to the executive committee for approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Sunday, August 2nd – I attended and volunteered at the annual 13th District picnic held at the German Central Club on York Rd., in Parma Hts., Ohio. The picnic ran from noon until 6:00 p.m. and was well attended.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, August 5th – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts., Ohio. I will be presenting the June 2015 financial reports, approved by the executive committee, as the District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 13th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 24th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Post 309 in Maple Hts., Ohio. I will be presenting the July 2015 financial reports for approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 27th – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. However, I will be excused from that meeting as I will be in route to Baltimore, MD., to attend the American Legion National Convention. The convention runs from Saturday, August 23rd through Thursday, September 3rd. On Friday, August 28th, the National Security Commission members, of which I am a national appointee, will be making a special trip to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Bob Potts – VVA

- July 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 4th – Chapter 249 marched in the Lakewood July 4th parade.
- July 7th – The Chapter membership meeting and board meeting were cancelled.
- July 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- July 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- August 4th – I attended the Chapter membership meeting and board meeting.

Clayton Uzell – VFW (report was submitted prior to the meeting)

- July 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 3rd – I helped organize a benefit for homeless families and veterans, hosted by Holy Spirit Prayer Center's Denise Calabrese, President/CEO. The opening ceremony's Honor Guard was from Fairport Harbor VFW Post 7754. Guest speaker Jon Reiss, CCVSC Executive Director, spoke to veterans and passed out literature. The benefit was held at St. John's Cathedral at E. 9th & Superior.
- July 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- July 10th through 12th – I attended the VFW Dept. of Ohio C of A held in Cincinnati. I attended all required meetings, gave the safety report, and passed out free gun locks for the safety project.
- July 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 17th through 22nd – I attended the VFW National Convention held in Pittsburg, PA. I attended all the meetings and was voted delegate for VFW Post 7536. I attended President Obama's visit.
- July 24th – I arranged a grave side service for a WWII Veteran who died while visiting his brother in California. I presented the family with a flag and flag case. The service was held at Zion Memorial Park in Bedford Hts., Ohio.
- July 25th – I attended the District 7 family picnic held at Willoughby Hills Post 4358 on White Rd.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the August 4th AMVETS Post 80 meeting and gave my financial report.
- I will be filing for the reimbursement for the Post donation for Memorial Day very late, as both our Commander and Sr. Vice were ill and unable to get the receipts until late July; hopefully we will be reimbursed.
- The Honor Guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- Post members are planning a private tour of the COD submarine.

Other Activities:

- During the month of July, I attended three of the meetings at the CCVSC, as I injured my knee and was unable to walk for about a week.
- I attended the meeting of the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34 on July 31st, where I updated the attendees on the annual convention held in Lorain, Ohio. I was re-elected as the adjutant for the state and four of the Post 34 officers were able to attend.
- I visited the Parma CBOC on two occasions and advised a couple of veterans on how to go about filing claims.

WHAT IS A SOLDIER

In a war, soldiers are the people who do the fighting, on the ground, in planes, or from boats. *Soldier* is also a verb that means to serve in the military, or to continue on through difficult times. What is an army without soldiers? It's a bunch of guns on the ground. A *soldier* is the man or woman who fights for their government and carries the weapons, risking their life in the process. The word comes from the Latin *solidus*, which is the name of the gold coin used to pay soldiers who fought in the Roman army. To "solder on" means to not give up even when life is tough.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all of the CCVSC board meetings during the month of July.
- I attended a small ceremony at the VFW North Olmsted Post in honor of July 4th and 9/11 veterans. The Post was open to all veterans and lunch was provided by the Post.
- I attended the OSAVSC Summer Conference in Dublin, Ohio from July 24-26, 2015. Changes in PERS health care for 2016 were discussed. The information will be distributed to CCVSC commissioners that did not attend.
- I attended several events for a family reunion with fifty-six of my relatives from all over the country.

OLD BUSINESS:

Weekly calls have been placed to the County Executive concerning CCVSC commissioner compensation and no response has been received to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

The CCVSC Executive Director has been presented a unique opportunity to station a service officer at the VA Regional Office and is looking into the possibility. The Regional Office has approximately 800 walk-ins per month with 25% of those individuals seeing service officers.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The CCVSC annual picnic is scheduled for Friday, August 7th at the Upper Edgewater Shelter - East Park. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The fall outreach Board meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 p.m., location to be announced at a later date.

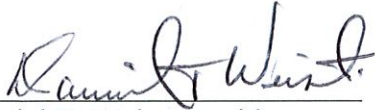
Jon Reiss received an invitation to attend the Access to Care Conference in Washington, D.C., a three-day conference for post 9/11 veterans. Jon will present a detailed agenda of the meeting to the Board at the next public meeting for approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, 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)