



American Legion
MEL BAHER
 COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
 COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
WILLIAM R. CAINE
 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

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650
 Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
 1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: January 4, 2017 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
 Frank Pocci, Vice President
 Bob Potts, Secretary
 William R. Caine, Commissioner
 Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary
 Jon Reiss, Executive Director

EXCUSED: Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner
 Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Baher took a moment to welcome William R. Caine, the new CCVSC commissioner appointed to the Board representing the Disabled American Veterans, for term commencing January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2021. Commissioner Caine is a former Asst. Prosecutor for Cuyahoga County, currently engaged in private practice, a graduate of John Carroll University and the Cleveland Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, and served active duty in the U.S. Army from 1973-1976 and Reserves from 1977-1987. In turn, each Commissioner introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their military service and years at the CCVSC.

A motion was made by Bob Potts 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, Caine, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Bob Potts - VVA

- December 6th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- December 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 13th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals meeting.

- December 16th – I attended the annual CCVSC Christmas luncheon on Massimo da Milano’s Restaurant.
- December 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals meeting.
- December 28th – I attended a retirement luncheon for Commissioner Dan Weist at Don’s Lighthouse Inn.
- January 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- January 28th – VVA Chapter 249 Annual TET Dinner will be held at the VFW Post on W. 140th.

William Caine – DAV

- December 2nd – I attended the DAV Chapter 116 Christmas Dinner Dance.
- December 4th – I participated in the DAV Ohio Christmas party at the Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home.
- December 9th – I attended a planning meeting at the IX Center for the Military Vehicles Weekend this coming June.
- December 14th – I participated in the DAV holiday party at the Cleveland VAH Transition House.
- December 20th – I attended the session of the Cleveland Municipal Court Veteran’s Court in the Justice Center.
- December 28th – I was sworn in as Commissioner of the CCVSC by the Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in the Justice Center.
- January 2nd – I participated in a Holiday Social at the Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home.
- January 3rd – I responded to a call for assistance from Malachi House for CCVSC support for Veterans residing in a local hospice.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I completed and reported the financial report for the end of December 2016.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The Post discussed activities for 2017, including a possible overnight trip to the Air Force Museum in Dayton and the commemoration of D-Day in Conneaut.

Other Activities:

- During November, I attended all of the scheduled meetings for the CCVSC.
- Italian American War Veterans of Ohio’s quartermaster resigned due to personal reasons. As the adjutant, I wrote to all members who may be interested in the position.
- I stopped to visit our employees at the Parma CBOC and while there, I had an opportunity to speak to the director and told her that we are working on a replacement for our vacant office. Meanwhile, Charlene Jorge continues to be very busy. I also stopped in at Wade Park and briefly spoke to VSO Robert Erb.
- I referred one veteran who may need to file a claim and working with another veteran who seems very reluctant to deal with the VA due to trust issues.
- I forwarded a resume from a veteran ex-police officer who asked me if there was any available positions at the CCVSC. I told him we would keep it on file should a position occur that suited his qualifications and consider him along with other applicants.
- I attended the Italian American War Veteran’s Christmas meeting/dinner where spouses and significant others were invited. It was well-attended with 88 people. As finance officer, I also completed our financial report.
- I spoke with Charlene Jorge about a very unstable/unruly veteran and stopped by to say hello to our service officer, Bill Vissi, newly assigned to the Parma CBOC.

VA NEWS

Veterans Crisis Line Improves Service with New Call Center Opening in Atlanta -

The Department of Veterans Affairs cut the ribbon today for its new Veteran Crisis Line (VCL) satellite office in Atlanta allowing the life-saving hotline to expand capacity by nearly 600 veterans each day essentially doubling VA's ability to help veterans in need. (12/20/16) – See more at: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel#sthash.ZclJJ8Yw.dpuf>.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, December 4th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference held at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and included several guest speakers. I presented the executive board approved District Finance report for October 2016 as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, December 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 16th – I attended the annual CCVSC employee Christmas party provided by the Commissioners and the Executive Director. The setting was Massimo da Milano Restaurant and the food was excellent. We also presented outgoing DAV Commissioner Dan Weist with a plaque expressing our gratitude for 15 years of service to the Commission.
- Wednesday, December 21st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting held at the American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. This was our annual Christmas party for all the executive board members and their spouses.
- Thursday, December 22nd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m. I serve on the board as an elected board member.

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

- December 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 10th – I attended the VFW District 7 Past Commander's Christmas luncheon at Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen in Middlefield, Ohio.
- December 11th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Christmas dinner at the Lyndhurst Community Center. I emceed the event and we honored our student Voice of Democracy winner. She and her parents were guests of the Post. She read her speech and received a \$100.00 check from the Post.
- December 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- December 16th – I attended the CCVSC Christmas luncheon for staff funded by the Commissioners and Executive Director at Massimo da Milano's Restaurant, 1400 W. 25th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
- December 19th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting and presented Joan Nemeth from "Feed My Sheep" Ministry for Homeless Veterans with a \$2,000.00 check from the Department of Ohio VFW Charities and a \$100.00 check from our Post 7536 to help stock their food pantry.
- December 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings. Afterwards, the Commissioners, Executive Director and Executive Secretary took Commissioner Weist and his wife to lunch for his retirement. He will be missed.
- I also referred one veteran to the Parma CBOC to enroll in the VA system.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Items:

1) **Financial Assistance Procedures and Training Manual**

A finalized copy of the FA Procedures & Training Manual was presented to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adopt the revised manual, effective January 4, 2017, as presented by the Executive Director.

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

2) **CCVSC Front Windows; Update**

Work in progress.

3) **HVAC Control Unit; Update**

Work in progress.

4) **Boardroom TV Sets; Update**

Work in progress.

5) **Handicapped Van Service; Update**

Work in progress.

6) **Kronos Time Management; Update**

Work in progress.

7) **Cameras/Garage Door; Update**

Work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers on the CCVSC Board

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to elect the following officers on the CCVSC Board for Year 2017, using the guideline established in January 2007. There were no other nominations.

President **Frank Pocci (AMVETS)**

Vice President **Bob Potts (VVA)**

Secretary **Clayton Uzell (VFW)**

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The following VA updates were discussed:

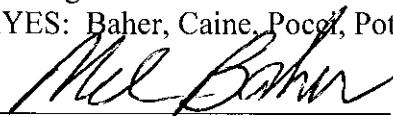
- 1) Not paying concurrent payments to retirees that are receiving retirement and disability that were grandfathered in.
- 2) Congress is considering removing 15 former disabilities that are currently being rated for service connected disabilities as chronic and of no connection to service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

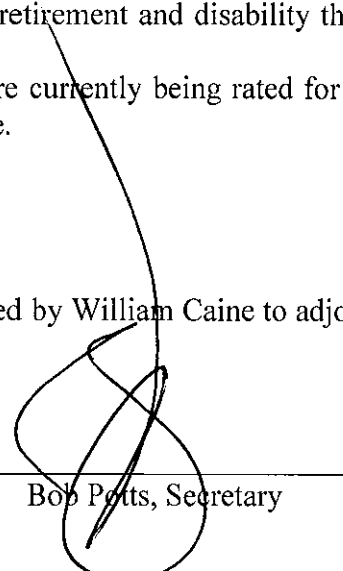
There were no items for executive session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by William Caine to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Social Work Dept.:

Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Mgmt.) (216-698-2379)

Executive Director:

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Commissioners:

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