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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: September 9, 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  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

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

- Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts., Ohio. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for June 2015, as District Finance Officer.
- Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – I attended the 18<sup>th</sup> annual James C. Masie golf outing sponsored by American Legion Post 91. The event was held at Emerald Woods golf course. I worked on the committee that registers golfers and distributes the prizes to the winning teams.
- Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the First Annual Veteran's fair at the USS Cod located at Burke Lakefront. The event was well-attended and I spoke with several veterans about the CCVSC. Several of the local veterans' organizations were in attendance.

- Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Cuyahoga County Fair at the Berea Fairgrounds. While there, I stopped by to visit with the folks working the CCVSC booth.
- Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts. I presented the July 2015 financial reports to the executive committee for approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. However, I was excused from that meeting as I was in route to Baltimore, MD., to attend the American Legion National Convention. The convention ran from Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. On Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, the National Security Commission members, of which I am a national appointee, made a special trip to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Also, on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, we made a trip to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorials.

*Upcoming Events:*

- Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – I will again be the Master of Ceremonies for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of Patriot Day on the Berea triangle at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – the American 13<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio. I will be presenting the July 2015 financial reports, approved by the executive committee, as the District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00p.m., where I serve as an elected board member.
- Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Post 703 in Parma Hts. I will be presenting the August 2015 financial reports for approval, as District Finance Officer.

Bob Potts – VVA

- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III Appeal Hearings during the month of August.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting. The post meeting in September was cancelled for no quorum of members.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- No report was submitted, as he was out recovering from surgery.

Frank Pucci – AMVETS

- I attended the August 4<sup>th</sup> AMVETS Post 80 meeting and gave my financial report.
- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and one Level III Appeal Hearing during the month of August.

Dan Weist – DAV

- August 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the meeting at VFW Post 7647 in North Olmsted.
- I transported several veterans to various appointments to the Wade Park VA and Parma CBOC.
- I attended the North Olmsted Homecoming festival celebrating the year-long celebration of the city's bicentennial.
- I attended both of the CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III Appeals Hearings during the month of August.
- Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – I will be attending a roundtable discussion with members of Senator Sherrod Brown's office to discuss veterans' issues at the VA.



**OLD BUSINESS:**

The fall CCVSC outreach meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at VFW Post 2850 located at 3296 West 61<sup>st</sup> St., Cleveland, Ohio at 7:00 p.m.

After obtaining further information on the Access to Care Conference in Washington, D.C., the Executive Director has decided not to attend.

Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor, informed Jon Reiss that the CCVSC is not included on County Council's 2016-2017 Biennial Budget Hearing Schedule, because our budget is based off a guaranteed amount that we will be receiving.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept Resolution 2015-31 requesting authority for AMVETS membership dues for Year 2016 for ten Cuyahoga County VSOs, expenses not to exceed a total of \$350.00.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Clay Uzell will be using the CCVSC van on Sunday, September 12, 2015 to participate in the Lyndhurst Home Days parade.

The Executive Director asked the Board to reconsider a holiday schedule for 2016. Jon was asked to provide a report of the number of veterans who applied during the holiday season in 2014. The matter will be revisited at the next open public meeting.

The 2015 Holiday Luncheon will take place on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be forthcoming.

The Executive Director has compiled the following list of veterans' issues at the VA that will be submitted at a roundtable with members of Senator Sherrod Brown's office on Friday, September 11, 2015:

- 1) Payment for emergency care at non-VA facilities
- 2) Emergency mental health services
- 3) Prescriptions
- 4) Primary Care
- 5) Choice Program
- 6) Backlog of VA appeals
- 7) Self-submission of claims

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 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)