



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: February 3, 2016 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: 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.

A motion was made by Dan Weist 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, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Bob Potts – VVA

- January 5th – I attended the VVA 249 Board and Membership meetings.
- January 6th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 13th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- January 20th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 27th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- February 2nd – I attended the Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting. There was a presentation from Barry Wemyss from the Lakewood Division on Aging.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all of the CCVSC board meetings and appeal hearings during the month of January.
- I attended the VFW North Olmsted meeting on Wednesday, January 20th, where we concluded our yearly business.
- I visited staff at both the Wade Park VA and Parma CBOC offices.

Clay Uzell – VFW

December Report:

- December 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 6th – I attended the District 7 Past Commander's Christmas Dinner at Applebee's in Willoughby Hills.
- December 7th – I observed Pearl Harbor Day – Silent Remembrance.
- December 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- December 13th – I attended the Cuyahoga County Council Past President's Christmas dinner held at Stancato's Restaurant in Parma.
- December 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting. That evening, I attended a funeral service for a Post member's wife who passed away. I also participated in a VFW Auxiliary service.
- December 18th – I attended the CCVSC holiday luncheon, compliments of the commissioners and executive director.
- December 20th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Christmas party held at the Lyndhurst Community Center.
- December 21st – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting. Regular business was conducted, we reviewed Post Christmas party expenses and discussed membership and Camp Lejeune legislation.
- December 23rd – I attended the Level III appeals hearings.

January 2016 Report:

- January 20th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 21-24th – I attended the VFW State Conference in Cincinnati, attended C of A meeting and general business sessions. I presented the Safety Report and gave awards to the seven Districts that took part in the Law Enforcement Officer/Firefighter of the Year Program. Post Commanders were recognized and I presented the State winners with their awards at the banquet Saturday night. They are Pete C. Tobin, U.S. Marshal Southern District of Ohio, entered by VFW Post 7005 West Jefferson District 11, and R. Mike Warner, Concord Twp. Fire Chief, entered by VFW Post 9252 Mentor District 7.
- January 27th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the February 2nd meeting and gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery during December.
- A question was raised regarding how a veteran would need to apply for hospice care, which is now supposed to be available for any veteran.
- Our past Post Commander, Jim Soltis, passed away. Funeral services will be Friday, and he will be buried at Rittman National Cemetery. The Post 80 Honor Guard will be providing funeral honors for our comrade.

Other Activities:

- I attended all of the scheduled CCVSC Board meetings during the month of January 2016.
- I referred one veteran to our service department.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans meeting on January 29th and distributed the new membership cards to those present.
- Long time member and judge advocate of ITAM Post 34, Nello Cernoia, passed away. Visitation will be held Thursday and the funeral will be on Friday.
- The VA apparently sends a form to veterans who receive health coverage that is to be used for IRS purposes.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, January 6th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at 7:30 a.m. at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio. I presented the executive approved financial report for December 2015, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, January 14th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meet at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 15th – I departed for Columbus, Ohio to attend the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Thirteenth District received three Department awards: 1st place for best District Web-site; 1st place for best District Historian Scrapbook; and a \$50 check for American Legion Post 233 for achieving membership quota prior to January 1, 2016.
- Tuesday, January 26th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 28th – 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.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, February 3rd – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park. I will be presenting the financial report for December 2015, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, February 11th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 22nd – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park.
- Thursday, February 25th – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I serve on the board as an elected board member.

Asst. County Prosecutor Brian Gutkoski joined the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to accept a revision of the Policy on Tardiness dated February 3, 2016. The policy was revised to match the progressive discipline process outlined in the County's Policies and Procedures Manual.

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

Jon Reiss noted that he is still waiting for the county to respond to his request for a meeting to discuss the Memorial Day Reimbursement Program for 2016 and the Flag Distribution Program in 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director explained changes to his State of the Commission and Finance Report. The revised report will be presented to the Board at their open public meeting February 17, 2016.

Discussion took place concerning adding ethnicity status on Financial Assistance applications in order to track data. The Asst. County Prosecutor recommended collecting the data verbally and give the applicant the "option" to accept or refuse.

The Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County (JVCOCC) will be sponsoring the annual Officer Installation and Outstanding Veteran of the Year Award dinner on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence, Ohio. Jon Reiss asked Commissioners to respond to him by the next meeting if they wish to attend.

It is the internal policy of the CCVSC is to provide the most reasonable form of transportation to staff when travel out of state is required for education and training purposes. The Board granted authorization for the Executive Director to compensate staff, not to exceed the price of air travel, for the reimbursement of mileage expenses when using their personal vehicle.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The VVA will have a booth at the IX Center to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War Commemoration from March 18-20, 2016. The CCVSC will look into obtaining a booth for the event, free of charge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel medical issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:40 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:55 a.m.

A medical issue of an employee was discussed in Executive Session. The Executive Director was instructed to follow up with the employee regarding health benefits and ensure that there is no exposure to the employee or the CCVSC.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

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| 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 (216-698-2655) |
| Social Work Dept.: | Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379) |
| Executive Director: | Jon Reiss (216-698-2611) |
| Commissioners: | Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646) |