



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

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650  
Email: [vsccmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vsccmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



### MINUTES

DATE: March 2, 2016 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President  
Frank Pocci, Vice President  
Bob Potts, Secretary  
Clayton Uzell, Commissioner  
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner  
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 Clay Uzell and seconded by Dan Weist 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

- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals Hearings.
- February 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the funeral of Scott Manley (Chapter 249 member) and talked with his wife regarding VA benefits and funeral arrangements.
- February 17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 TET dinner at Moosehead Hook & Ladder. Thirty-one members and their wives attended and a good time was had by all.
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals Hearings.
- February 27<sup>th</sup> – I, along with fellow commissioners, attended the Annual JVCOC Installation and luncheon held at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – I will be attending the VVA Chapter 15 board meeting to discuss plans for the End of the War Ceremony.

- March 18-20<sup>th</sup> – Reminder that the 50-year Commemoration of the Vietnam War will be held during the IX Center Piston Powered Auto Rama.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – End of the War Ceremony held at Mall A in downtown Cleveland.

#### Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both open public meetings and both Level III appeals hearings during the month of February.
- February 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Annual JVCOC Installation and luncheon held at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio.
- Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW North Olmsted monthly meeting. The Post changed their meetings to the third Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- February 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting and set the dates for upcoming events.
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Past District 7 President’s dinner held at Applebees in Willoughby Hills.
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – The Post hosted the VFW District 7 Conference held at the Lyndhurst Community Center. I took part in the Joint Memorial Service and attended the business session. I gave my safety report and informed members on the upcoming awards banquet. The CCVSC had an outreach table set up and Executive Director Jon Reiss spoke under the Good of the Order about the Commission’s benefits and services.
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- February 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Annual JVCOC Installation and luncheon held at the Embassy Suites in Independence with fellow commissioners honoring the Veteran of the Year.
- February 29<sup>th</sup> – I took a veteran client to the Parma CBOC to meet with a service officer.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery on March 1st. The regular monthly meeting was rescheduled to March 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Other Activities:*

- During February, I attended all of the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I brought a Vietnam veteran to our service officer at Parma to file a claim due to exposure to Agent Orange and his contracting of lung cancer.
- I attended two funerals for WWII veterans and presented the families with flag cases.
- The Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34 held an executive meeting to review charitable donations for 2016.
- At the ITAM meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>, the above donations were duly approved by the membership.
- I mailed the notices for the ITAM state department meeting to be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Post 1 in Lorain, Ohio.
- On February 21<sup>st</sup>, I attended the TET offensive VVA Chapter 249 meeting/dinner.
- Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, I, along with other representatives of the CCVSC, attended the meeting/luncheon of the Joint Veterans Council honoring the Veteran of the Year.
- I will be attending District 3 Commissioner training on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Ashtabula Elks Post 208.

## **VA NEWS:**

In his FY 2017 budget, President Obama is proposing \$182.3 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Funding will continue to support the largest transformation in VA history; expand access to timely, high-quality health care and benefits; and advance efforts to end homelessness among Veterans.

### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, Ohio. I presented the executive approved financial report for January 2016, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council executive board meeting at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the January financial report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – 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.
- Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> – I, along with my fellow commissioners, Executive Director Jon Reiss, Finance Department Manager Steve Fernandez and Service Department Manager Melinda Halliburton, attended the 91<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Installation and Awards luncheon at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio. The event was sponsored by the Joint Veterans' Council of Cuyahoga County. Honored were the top NCO's of the Marine Corps and Army, along with Jim Quisenberry, who also received the 2015 Outstanding Veteran of the Year Award.

### *Upcoming Events:*

- Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – I, along with my fellow commissioners, will be attending the Third District OSAVSC training to be held at the Ashtabula Elks Post 208 in Ashtabula, Ohio at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council Spring Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park, Ohio. I will be presenting the executive board approved financial report for January 2016, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – I will be assisting Post 91 with its annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon and dinner event from noon until 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park, Ohio.

*Asst. County Prosecutor joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.*

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Director provided Board members with information on the CCVSC Community Ambassador Program which will begin on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The chart outlined a breakdown of communities and staff assigned to each area. Staff members will be distributing CCVSC information to libraries, community centers, Chamber of Commerce, senior centers, etc.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2016-10 providing for the purchase of radio and online advertising with Radio-One, expenses not to exceed \$10,000.00.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2016-11 providing for the purchase of radio and online advertising with TSJ Media, expenses not to exceed \$10,000.00.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a client issue and personnel issue.


AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:12 a.m.)

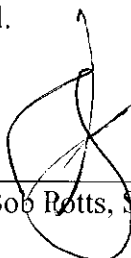
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:48 a.m.

The client issue and personnel issue were discussed in Executive Session and the Executive Director was given instructions on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

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

  
Mel Baher, President

  
Bob Potts, 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 (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)