



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: April 6, 2016 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clayton Uzell, Commissioner
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Vice President
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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Bob Potts – VVA

- March 1st – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- March 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 4th – I attended the District 3 training at the Ashtabula Elks Post 208 in Ashtabula, Ohio.
- March 8th – I attended the VVA Chapter 15 executive meeting to discuss the final plans for the “Vietnam End of the War Commemoration.”
- March 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- March 11th – I talked with Terry Walker, CCVSC Social Worker, regarding space available to have a CCVSC mobile unit set up shop to see veterans.
- March 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 17th – I went to American Legion Post 91 with neighbors to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. While there, I talked with veterans regarding services offered by the CCVSC.

- March 18-20th – Reminder that the 50-year commemoration of the Vietnam War will be held during the IX Center Piston Powered Auto-Rama.
- April 1-2nd – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 5th – I attended my last membership and board meeting as President of the Chapter. We elected new officers for the next fiscal year.
- April 30th – Reminder of the Vietnam End of the War Commemoration at 1:00 p.m. on Mall A. Guest speaker will be Judge Michael Jackson.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both regular meetings of the Board and both Level III Appeal hearings during the month of March.
- March 3rd – I attended the 3rd District OSAVSC training held at the Ashtabula Elks in Ashtabula, Ohio at 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, March 17th – I attended the Irish Goodfellow's brunch for St. Patrick's Day. Ohio Senator Tom Patton and Judges Nancy Fuerst and Donna Fitzsimmons were in attendance.
- March 16th – I attended the North Olmsted VFW meeting and was re-elected Quartermaster.
- April 1st & 2nd – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio with my fellow commissioners.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- March 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 4th – I attended the 3rd District OSAVSC training at the Ashtabula Elks in Ashtabula, Ohio.
- March 5th – I attended the District 7 VFW awards banquet held at Fairport Harbor Post 7754. I presented awards to our Law Enforcement & Firefighter of the Year for District 7 and sponsoring Posts.
- March 6th – I attended a pancake breakfast fundraiser at VFW Chatham Post 6892.
- March 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- March 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- March 21st – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting in Lyndhurst, Ohio. Regular business was conducted and nominations were made for Post officers. I was re-elected Post Commander.
- March 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- March 29th – I stopped by the Parma CBOC to visit our two service officers, but both were unavailable at the time.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Friday, March 4th – I, along with my fellow commissioners, attended the 3rd District OSAVSC training held at the Ashtabula Elks in Ashtabula, Ohio at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, March 6th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council Spring Conference that started at 10:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park, Ohio. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for January 2016, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, March 10th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 17th – I assisted Post 91 with its annual St. Patrick Day luncheon and dinner event from noon until 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 24th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I serve on the board as an elected board member.
- Monday, March 28th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 610 in Brook Park, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the February financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.

- Friday, April 1st – I, along with my fellow commissioners, traveled to Dublin, Ohio to attend the OSAVSC meetings and training held at the Embassy Suites on Saturday, April 2, 2016, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming events:

- Wednesday, April 6th – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Theodore Roosevelt American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. I will be presenting the February executive approved financial reports, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, April 14th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 25th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Theodore Roosevelt American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. I will be presenting the March financial reports for executive board approval, as the District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, April 28th – 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.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS (report was submitted prior to the meeting)

- I attended the April 4th meeting and gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery and also for the internment of our deceased Past Commander, Jim Soltis.
- The Post is planning a trip to the Air Force museum in Dayton, Ohio on April 18th.
- The AMVETS Dept. is sponsoring the White Clover Program to connect veterans with their local communities and is asking for donations used to support and assist local veterans in the area that are in need.

Other Activities:

- During March, I attended all of the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I referred a widow for claim filing to our service department.
- I attended the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services in Dublin, Ohio for the two-day training session; 87 of the 88 counties were represented.
- March 4th, I attended the VSC 3rd District training in Ashtabula, Ohio. The focus there was on employment opportunities for veterans.
- The Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34 held its monthly meeting the morning of April 1st with thirty-two members in attendance.
- The ITAM Dept. of Ohio Spring meeting was held in Lorain, Ohio at Post #1, where the commander gave notice that he will not run again. There, I met with the ROTC trainer for the students enrolled at Lorain High School, who was interested in taking them to visit the COD submarine. I put her in touch with the crew that operates the COD Information and Visitor Center so that a private tour may be arranged.
- The evening of April 4th, I attended the VVA Chapter 249 monthly membership meeting where a voting took place for new officers.

VA NEWS:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the award of twelve major contracts that will enhance its ability to deliver timely disability benefits claims decisions to the nation's Veterans in line with the MyVA initiative. The contracts make up a \$6.8 billion enterprise-wide Medical Disability Examination Program under Public Law 104-275, and represents a major step forward in improving the disability examination experience for Veterans. (3/29/16)

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board's spring outreach meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, June 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Baher will contact the commander of VFW Post 6676 in Berea, Ohio to see if the Post would like to host the evening meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2017 Budget was reviewed in its entirety by the Board and Executive Director and a few changes were suggested.

The Executive Director received four quotes from companies that do re-branding and the options were discussed with the Board. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to approve Resolution 2016-12 to enter into a contract with Linear Creative for a marketing plan that includes branding, logo design, website and social media development, production of TV and radio commercials and re-design of print media. Expenses are not to exceed \$24,700.00.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Executive Director will look into obtaining Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary pins through the Department of Defense.

Ed Ball, CVSO of Shelby County VSC, will be contacted with a request for an electronic copy of the Blue Water Navy and Presumptive Exposure to Agent Orange presentation that was given at the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio on April 2, 2016. At the conference, it was also learned that re-appointed commissioners will not be required to attend the first stand-alone training following their appointment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss a client and personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:10 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:53 a.m.

The Board confirmed the hiring of Thomas M. Pearce for the position of Benefits Coordinator, with a probationary period of 180 days, effective Monday, April 25, 2016.

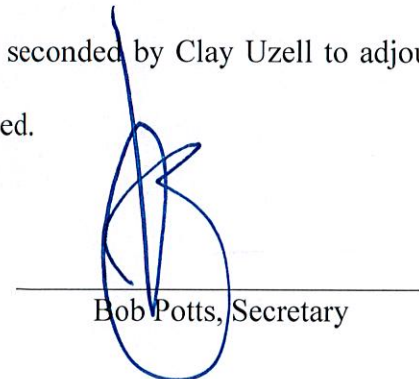
Compensation for an employee was also discussed in Executive Session and the Executive Director was given instructions on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

AYES: Baher, 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)