



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

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### MINUTES

DATE: May 4, 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 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

- April 1-2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board and membership meetings.
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Chapter 15 membership meeting where we are finalizing plans for the “End of the Vietnam War.”
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public board meeting.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – The End of the Vietnam War
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – VVA Chapter 249 board and membership meeting.  
Chapter 249 Speaker’s Bureau has been invited to Rocky River High School and Westlake High School to talk with the students regarding the Vietnam Experience.

### Dan Weist - DAV

- April 1-2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference held at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio.
- I attended both open public board meetings and both Level III appeal hearings during the month of April.
- I transported three veterans to their appointments: two to the CBOC in Parma and one to the Wade Park VA medical center.
- I attended my monthly VFW meeting and was appointed Quartermaster again.

### Clay Uzell – VFW

- April 1-2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Spring Conference in Dublin, Ohio with my fellow commissioners. I visited VFW Post 4719 Gahanna and attended a steak roast fundraiser for the VA hospitals.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public board meeting.
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting where elections were held. I was elected Commander again and all the positions were filled.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the District 7 Testimonial for Commander Fife and President Sawicki at Brunswick Post 9520.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public board meeting.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Past District 7 President's meeting held at TGI Fridays in Brooklyn, Ohio.
- I also attended the District Convention where we received several cases of Girl Scout cookies to be delivered to the Naval Base in Norfolk, VA.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and gave my financial report focused on our new reinvestment in a 7-month CD.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The AMVETS Department is sponsoring the White Clover Program to connect veterans with their local communities and is asking for donations to be used to support and assist local veterans in the area in need.
- Several members of Post 80 visited the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.
- Officers for the coming year were selected and will be installed at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### *Other Activities:*

- I did not attend the CCVSC open public board meetings on April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. I did, however, participate in a teleconference on April 13<sup>th</sup> and did attend the Level III appeal hearings on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- I referred two individuals to our service department; a veteran who may not be eligible to file a claim because of assets, and the other was a Navy veteran who contracted cancer due to asbestos while on a Navy ship.
- I attended the meeting of the Italian American War veterans on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Our members, who work at tending for the COD submarine, set up tours for the Lorain High School ROTC free of charge.

### **VA NEWS**

***The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that the Dayton VA Medical Center has been officially selected as the site for the National Department of Veterans Affairs Archives. Secretary***

*Robert A. McDonald made the announcement this morning speaking to a group of Dayton-area leaders. (4/12/16)*

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – 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<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting held at the Theodore Roosevelt American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for February 2016, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council executive board meeting held at the Theodore Roosevelt American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the March 2016 financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – 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.

*Upcoming Events:*

- Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Henry Morgan American Legion Post 451 in Rocky River, Ohio. I will be presenting the March 2016 executive board approved financial reports, as District Finance Officer. Also, the Past District Commanders will be conducting the annual Post Everlasting ceremony for our departed comrades.
- Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Election of Officers for the ensuing year will be conducted at the meeting.
- Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Henry Morgan American Legion Post 451 in Rocky River, Ohio. I will be presenting the April 2016 financial reports for executive board approval, as the District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, May 26<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, May 30<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 will hold its annual Memorial Day ceremonies with an American Flag raising at 8:00 a.m. and the Adams Street Cemetery service immediately following. At 9:00 a.m., a second service will be conducted at Woodvale Cemetery located at Fowles and Engle Roads. At 10:30 a.m., the annual Memorial Day parade will step off from behind the Berea Commons and conclude with our Memorial Day program at McKelvey Park.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Recommended changes have been made to the 2017 final budget based on results of the Dept. of Labor audit. The total budget for 2017 is \$6,860,106.00. A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to approve the CCVSC 2017 proposed budget as written.

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

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist to approve the Policy on Time and Attendance dated May 4, 2016 with a minor change.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to approve the revised Policy for Premises' Admittance dated May 4, 2016.

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

*The Board recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.*

The Executive Director submitted a new and revised records retention schedule to the Board for their review and approval at the next public meeting. The schedule will then be sent to the Records Commission to be addressed in June. If approved, it will be signed and forwarded to the Auditor of State for their approval and then submitted back to us to incorporate into policy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2016-13 providing for the purchase of an ongoing maintenance agreement for the Workforce PayHub Time and Attendance System for the 2016 fiscal year, expenses not to exceed \$8,772.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2016-14 providing for the purchase of advertising at the Rockside Road Food Truck Feast with Rubber City Radio Group, Inc., expenses not to exceed \$3,375.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Jon Reiss will be attending the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans 2016 Annual Conference & Membership meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 3, 2016.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:45 a.m.

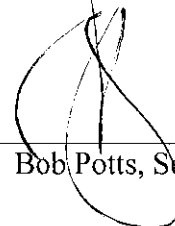
In Executive Session, the Executive Director provided the Board with an update on employee compensation.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 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)