



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: June 1, 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 Pocchi, Vice President
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
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 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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Bob Potts - VVA

- May 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- May 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- May 12th – I visited Rocky River High School to speak to the sophomore and junior students about the Vietnam Experience. Classes started at 7:45 a.m. and finished at 3:00 p.m. We explained to them that this is not only to give them real information on Vietnam, but it also serves as a healing process for the Chapter members that attend. We got a great response from the students and teachers.
- May 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- May 26th – I visited Westlake High School and spoke to sophomore students who just finished reading the book, "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien.

- May 30th – VVA Chapter 249 marched in the Bay Village Memorial Day parade. I did not march this year, but I did attend.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both CCVSC open public board meetings and both Level III appeal hearings during the month of May.
- Friday, May 28th – I placed flags on the graves of veterans at both COE and Butternut Cemeteries in North Olmsted.
- Saturday, May 29th – I was at Lakewood Park Cemetery in Rocky River where 2,300 flags were placed on the graves of veterans.
- Monday, May 30th, Memorial Day
 - 7:00 a.m. – I attended a flag raising ceremony at VFW Post 7647 in North Olmsted.
 - 8:00 a.m. – I attended a ceremony at City Hall in North Olmsted.
 - 8:30 a.m. – We were bussed, along with the boy scouts and girl scouts, to both COE and Butternut Cemeteries.
 - 10:30 a.m. – I attended the parade down Lorain Rd. to North Olmsted Park, and the ceremony at the flag pole.
 - 12:00 p.m. – I attended the luncheon at Post 7647 for all veterans and their families that wished to attend.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- May 1st – I attended the VFW District 7 Convention held at VFW Post 6846 Geneva. The year-end reports were given and officers were elected for the 2016-2017 year. I attended the installation and luncheon that followed.
- May 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- May 16th – I attended the Post 7536 meeting and reviewed Memorial Day weekend events.
- May 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- May 28-29th – I distributed poppies to shoppers at Dave’s Supermarket located at Richmond and Wilson Mills Rds. From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., both days. I, and another member, visited a WWII vet that was homebound.
- May 30th – I took part in a Memorial Day ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery. The Post laid wreaths for veterans of the CCVSC, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Marine Barracks Bombing Beirut, Afghanistan & Iraq Wars, and the VFW Auxiliary.

Frank Pocci – (report submitted prior to the meeting)

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 meeting and gave my report.
- I attended the meeting of the Italian American War Veterans.
- I referred five veterans for possible VA benefits.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, May 4th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at the Henry Morgan American Legion Post 451 in Rocky River, Ohio. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for March 2016, as District Finance Officer. Also, the Past District Commanders conducted the annual Post Everlasting ceremony for our departed comrades.
- Thursday, May 12th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. Election of Post officers was conducted and I was re-elected as an executive board member and as a delegate to the District and State conventions.

- Monday, May 23rd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting held at the American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the April 2016 financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, May 26th – 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.
- Saturday, May 28th – I, along with numerous volunteers, decorated over 1500 graves at the Woodvale, Adams St., St. Paul's, and St. Mary's cemeteries. This year, I had the duty as cemeteries chairman for Post 91.
- Monday, May 30th – I attended the 148th Memorial Day services at Adams St. and Woodvale cemeteries. Afterwards, we lined up for the annual parade and I drove a WWII veteran (Robbie Robinson) in the CCVSC van and concluded with our ceremony at McKelvey Park, where Patrick McLaughlin was our guest speaker.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, June 5th – the American Legion 13th District Summer Convention; American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 10:00 a.m.; Also, it is my wife and my 40th wedding anniversary. I'm on the hook for dinner.
- Thursday, June 9th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting.
- Tuesday, June 14th – Flag Day ceremony at Post 91, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 23rd – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting.
- Thursday through Sunday, June 23-26th – American Legion Department of Ohio Convention at the Holiday Inn, Independence, Ohio.
- Monday, June 27th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting; and American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mel Baher asked that the Memorial Affairs Dept. look into 100+ graves at Woodvale Cemetery that may need headstone resetting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:55 a.m.)

Asst. County Prosecutor Brian Gutkoski joined the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:35 a.m.

In Executive Session, personnel compensation and Department of Labor procedures were discussed. No further action was taken.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 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)