



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

Cuyahoga County

Veterans Service Commission

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: August 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 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

- July 4th – I attended the Lakewood July 4th parade.
- July 5th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- I attended both open public meetings and both Level III appeal hearings at the CCVSC during the month of July.
- The August 2nd VVA meeting was cancelled due to summer vacations.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III appeal hearings during the month of July.
- I attended the VFW North Olmsted meeting the third Wednesday of the month.

- I attended a pig roast at VFW Post 7647 the last weekend of July. A new deck was built in re-dedication for being in that location for the past 10 years. Approximately 250 tickets were sold and nine young veterans signed up for membership.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- July 6th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 13th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- July 18th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Lyndhurst meeting and went over programs for the new year.
- July 20th – I visited the traveling wall in Middleburg Heights and stopped by the CCVSC information booth and visited with our employees.
- July 21-29th – I attended the VFW National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. I attended all business sessions. The presidential candidates were there and they addressed us on Monday and Tuesday. I attended the installation of VFW National Cmdr. Duffy and National VFW Auxiliary President Bishop, as well as my wife, Sandra, who was installed as National District Council Member D. I attended the reception that followed honoring their installations and the banquet that was held the following evening celebrating National President Collette Bishop.
- I referred two clients to the CCVSC who spoke with Service Dept. Manager Melinda Halliburton and were very pleased with the service she provided.

Frank Pocci - AMVETS

- I attended the August 2nd meeting and gave my financial report. I reported that we have received and deposited the Memorial Day refund from the county.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The Post had to buy gun cases for the honor guard rifles, as it was not possible to store them in the closet in the facility we use.

Other Activities:

- I attended all of the scheduled meetings for the CCVSC during the month of July.
- I referred one individual to the service department at our Parma location.
- I attended the meeting of the Italian American War veterans on July 29th.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans Dept. of Ohio Convention in Lorain, Ohio. A new commander was selected and I was reappointed as state adjutant. The swearing in will take place in October.
- I visited the moving Vietnam wall in Middleburg Hts. The event was well attended and I also had an opportunity to visit with the CCVSC employees who were located at our table with information for veterans.

VA NEWS:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) today announced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has been cut nearly in half since 2010. The data revealed a 17-percent decrease in veteran homelessness between January 2015 and January 2016-quadruple the previous year’s annual decline-and a 47-percent decrease since 2010. (8/1/16)

Mel Baher – American Legion-

- Monday, July 4th – I attended, and participated in, the Fourth of July events at Post 91. I also helped park cars for the evening fireworks display.
- Wednesday, July 6th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I

presented the executive board approved financial reports for May 2016, as District Finance Officer.

- Thursday, July 14th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 24th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the June financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, July 27th – 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, August 3rd – the American Legion District Council meeting is scheduled for American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 11th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 22nd – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled at American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 25th – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 26th – I will be departing for Cincinnati, Ohio to attend the American Legion National Convention with meetings scheduled for Saturday, a parade on Sunday, and the convention Tuesday through Thursday.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board selected the new CCVSC logo, but recommended two different options. The Executive Director will present the updated sample at the next open public meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director noted that the acceptable use of government office equipment is intended for use internally and not to be used internationally.

The CCVSC does not recognize domestic partnerships with regards to financial assistance applications. The veteran must be married to his/her partner and provide a certificate of marriage.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Clay Uzell noted that the VFW National Commander is Irish and his choice of pin is a clover.

Bob Potts will not be in attendance for the August 10, 2016 Level III appeals hearings. Additionally, there will be no Level III appeals scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

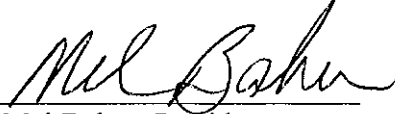
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:10 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:58 a.m.

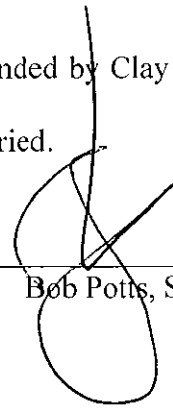
A personnel issue, required to be kept confidential, was discussed in Executive Session. No further action is required.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 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)