



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: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
 1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

### MINUTES

DATE: September 7, 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 Bob Potts 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

- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III appeal hearings during the month of August.
- Our Chapter marched in the North Olmsted Homecoming parade on August 26th. The parade stopped and did a present arms for one of the Chapter's fallen members.
- September 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended my VVA Chapter meeting.

##### Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all board meetings during the month of August.
- I attended my VFW monthly meeting the third Wednesday of the month.
- I attended the annual North Olmsted Homecoming celebration in the park. I worked two shifts at the VFW tent and explained the function of the club. Over the weekend, six new members joined.

- I was contacted by a friend, Tony Mangoni, who has a health care business called Solidarity. He is involved with the unions and veterans with TBIs. They are learning that many Gulf War, Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans with TBIs are developing Alzheimer's disease. I am working on arranging a meeting with representatives of Solidarity and VA Medical Director, Sue Fuehrer, to hopefully recognize Alzheimer's as a claim.

#### Clay Uzell – VFW

- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 10<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- August 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW District 7 C of A Conference at Post 943 in Ashtabula. We went over the budget and I gave the safety program report and passed out CCVSC brochures.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post meeting at 7536 Lyndhurst and spoke about the National Convention I attended in North Carolina and the District C of A Conference.
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 7536 family picnic held in Gates Mills – all had a good time.
- August 24<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- August 25<sup>th</sup> – I attended a funeral for Past District Commander, George Dennison, and took part in the VFW ritual held at Craciun Berry Funeral Home on Detroit Road.
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended State Chairmen's computer training at VFW Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio.
- I referred one client for a tour to the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- The Post donated \$100 to support the D-Day event in Conneaut.
- AMVETS Post 80 members will meet for a cruise and lunch on the Goodtime on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Other Activities:*

- I attended all of the CCVSC scheduled board meetings during the month of August.
- I referred one individual to the service department at our Parma location.
- I attended the meeting of the Italian American War Veterans on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- I sent out mailings for the ITAM Dept. of Ohio meeting in Lorain, Ohio on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- I stopped for a short visit to our employees at the Parma CBOC.

#### **VA NEWS:**

#### **VA Awards \$300 Million More in Grants to Help End Veterans Homelessness**

**The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today awarded approximately \$300 million more in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to help thousands of very low-income Veteran families around the nation who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing. The SSVF grant program provides access to crucial services to prevent homelessness for Veterans and their families. (8/30/16)**

#### Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the executive board approved financial reports for June 2016, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District annual picnic held at the German Central grounds in Parma, Ohio. I was in charge of all financial matters for the picnic as District Finance Officer.
- Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council executive board meeting at the American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the July financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, August 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.
- Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – I departed for Cincinnati, Ohio to attend the American Legion National Convention. I attended meetings on Saturday, participated in the parade on Sunday, and I attended the convention meetings Tuesday through Thursday.
- Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference held at American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio. I presented the July 2016 finance report as District Finance Officer. Also, I presented the 2016-2017 executive committee approved District budget to the council, on behalf of the budget committee chairman, who was unable to attend.

*Upcoming Events:*

- Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – I will again be the master of ceremonies for the fifteenth annual September 11<sup>th</sup> Commemoration ceremony to be held on the Berea Triangle at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> – Post 91 will host the annual POW-MIA remembrance ceremony on the Post pavilion at 7:00 p.m. I will participate as a reader of names and provide the sound system equipment as needed.
- Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting is scheduled at American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

*Asst. County Prosecutor Brian Gutkoski joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2016-15 Addendum providing for the purchase of six (6) Kronos time and attendance systems with hardware maintenance and services from Sophisticated Systems, expenses not to exceed \$25,005.00.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2016-21 providing for the purchase of 499 food cards from Dave's Supermarket for clients of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission during the holiday season, expenses not to exceed \$24,950.00.

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

The Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission is once again in total control of the flag order and reimbursements for Memorial Day. It will now, however, be handled as an administrative duty.

In order to create more flexibility, the Executive Director recommended a new policy outlining the authority for each level of management for progressive discipline and defines what is disciplinary and non-disciplinary. Following discussion, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the Progressive Discipline Policy dated September 7, 2016, effective immediately.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Clay Uzell noted that dozens of headstones were knocked from their bases and several markers were cracked at Cleveland’s Erie Street Cemetery over the Labor Day weekend. The Executive Director will contact the City of Cleveland to possibly assist in replacing any veterans’ headstones.

Laurene Rutkowski has submitted official notification of her resignation effective September 30, 2016. Laurene has been a valued employee of the CCVSC for over 26 years. The Board extends congratulations and best wishes to Laurene in her retirement.

Bob Potts asked that a CCVSC service officer be present for their VVA meeting on November 1, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the American Legion 421 Clifton Post, 22001 Brookpark Rd., Fairview Park, Ohio.

Clay Uzell will be participating in the Lyndhurst Home days parade this upcoming weekend.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:36 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 12:29 p.m.


A personnel issue was discussed in Executive Session. The Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 p.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/Memorial Affairs:	Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)
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)