



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: October 19, 2016 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: VFW Post 1082  
343 Northfield Rd.  
Bedford, Ohio 44146

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President  
Frank Pocci, Vice President  
Bob Potts, Secretary  
Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary  
Iris DeHart, Veterans Service Officer

ABSENT: Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Andrew Cashmon; Frances Jane Spellacy; Elizabeth Allenick; Carlo Gilliam; Sandra Uzell; Cathy Adams; John Slivka; Willie Adams; Therese Capps; Jeff Capps; Marion Campbell; Joseph Gales; Marcus Jennings; Wallace Hambrick; Ardena Coy Jones; Ronald Jordan; Henry Jones; Joseph Spellacy; John Lachowski; Louis Graves, Sr.; Valerie Jones; Joe Bright; John Freeman; Tilda Freeman; Harold Miller

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 Clay Uzell 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. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT:**

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Director continues to look into identifying new domain names for the CCVSC. Several ideas were suggested at the last meeting, but they are not available. The Executive Director will investigate the matter further with the possibility of bundling several domain names for a ten-year span, so there would be multiple ways to locate us.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2016-27 providing payment for veteran’s headstone re-setting fees in Hillcrest Cemetery, expenses not to exceed \$16,900.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Commissioner Baher thanked Commander Joe Giles and members of VFW Post 1082 for providing the CCVSC an opportunity to conduct our open public board meeting at their Post in order to expand the community awareness of our organization.

Commissioner Baher opened the floor to visitors for any comments and/or questions.



The Executive Director gave a brief explanation of the services the CCVSC provides. Discussion followed regarding federal and state benefits veterans may be entitled to through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, such as widow’s pensions, aid and attendance, service-connected compensation and disability pensions, and temporary and emergency financial assistance available to qualified Cuyahoga County veterans, surviving spouses and their dependents.

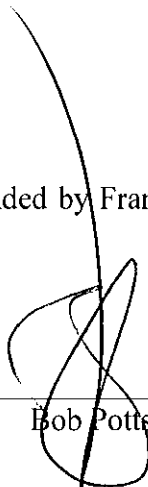
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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

  
Mel Baher, President 

  
Bob Potts, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requests for Financial Assistance:  
Filing claims with the Dept. of  
Veterans’ Affairs/Memorial Affairs:  
Social Work Dept.:

Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)  
Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)  
Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management  
(216-698-2379)  
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)  
Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)

Executive Director:  
Commissioners:

# **CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

## **Progress Report on the State of the Commission**

**September, 2016**

Issued by:

**The CCVSC Commissioners**

**Mel Baher –President, American Legion**

**Frank Pocci –Vice President, AMVETS**

**Bob Potts – Secretary, VVA**

**Clayton E. Uzell - VFW**

**Daniel Weist –DAV**

**October 19, 2016**

**Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director**

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of September 30, 2016:

**Executive:**

The Executive Director

- Met with ODVS
- Met with ESPN
- Attended the USO Golf Outing
- Attended Veterans Treatment Court
- Attended the Community Employment Collaborative meeting
- Met with Linear
- Attended Master List meeting
- Attended OSACVSO training in Columbus
- Attended Northeast Ohio Veterans Engagement Board meeting
- Met with Department of Veterans Affairs, Community Veterans Engagement Board
- Met with representative from Cleveland State
- Met with I-heart Radio

**Customer Satisfaction Surveys**

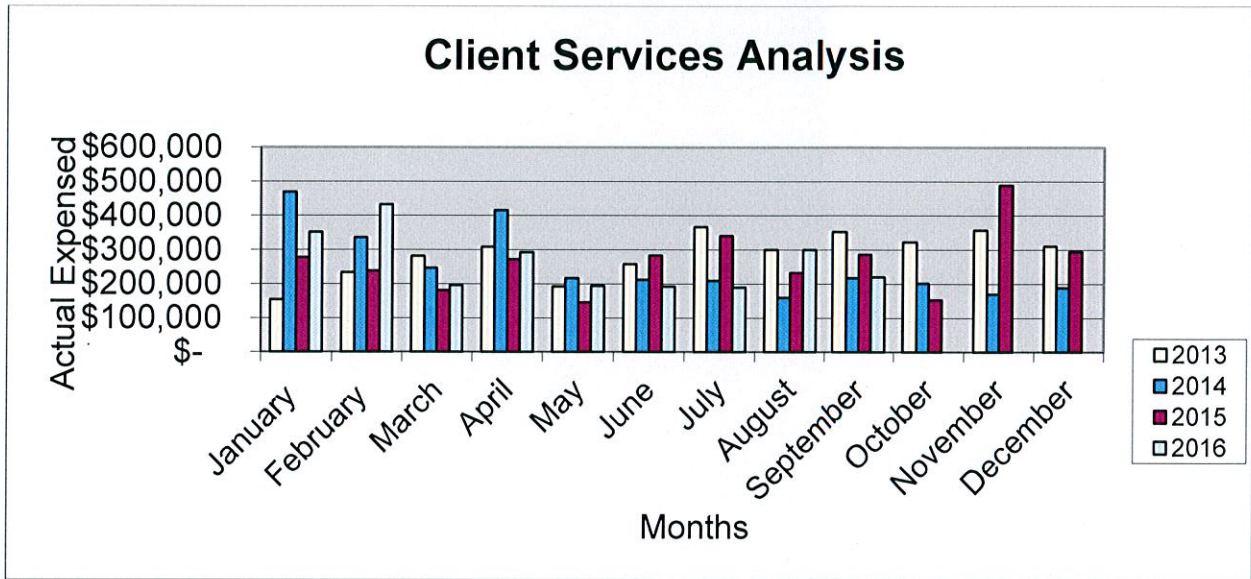
- Submitted: 7
- Positive: 6
- Negative: 1- Veteran very upset. Took the day off work and was told all Service Officers were leaving for training in 30 minutes. No one able to assist.

## Finance Department

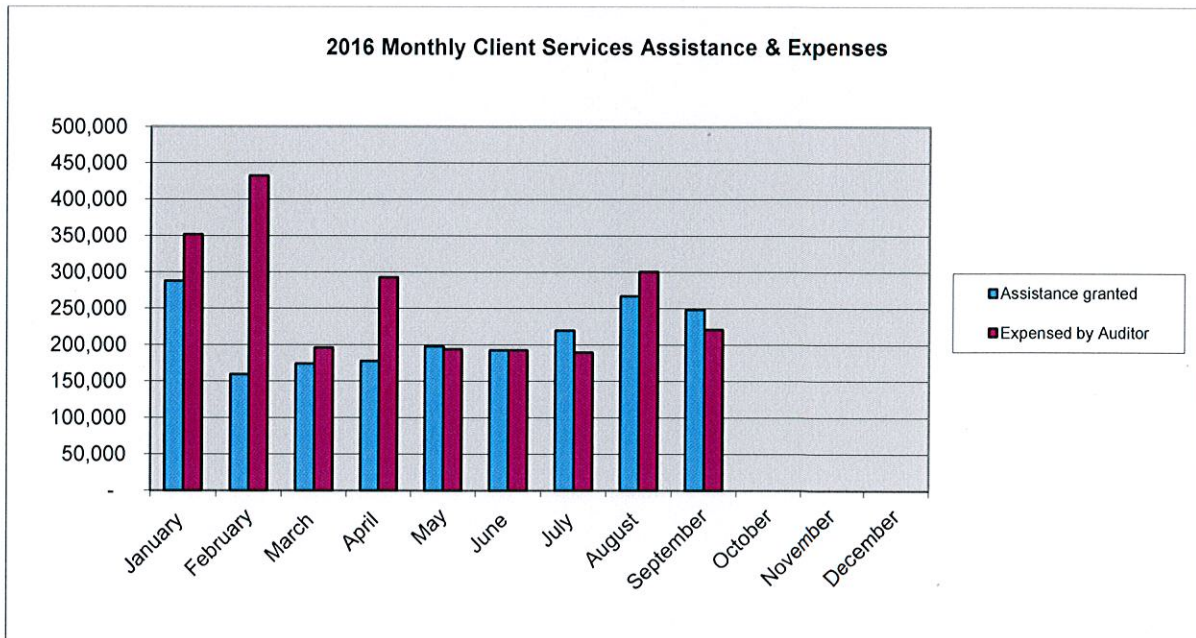
Below are selected September reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

**Client services include: Financial Assistance for Medical, Food, Mortgage, Rent, Utilities, Infant Layette, Personal Hygiene, Shoes & Clothing**

### Comparative Chart Analysis



### Actual 2016 Expenses



## Total 2016 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2016	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
<b>Salaries</b>	1,837,426	1,252,263	-	554,398	1,806,661	30,765
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	689,876	505,931	-	156,354	662,285	27,591
<b>Commodities</b>	30,776	18,600	-	6,970	25,570	5,206
<b>Contract Services</b>	386,765	188,566	1,021	198,199	386,765	-
<b>Controlled Expenditures</b>	225,081	-	-	225,081	225,081	-
<b>Client Services</b>	3,865,646	2,369,910	-	892,239	3,262,149	603,497
<b>Other Expenditures</b>	367,290	266,827	3,279	68,345	335,172	32,118
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	117,006	11,796	19,968	48,261	60,057	56,949
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	7,519,866	4,613,893	24,268	2,149,847	6,763,740	756,126

## Assistance Department:

- September, 2016: \$248,065 (Down from \$268,233 in 2015)
- YTD 2016: \$1,923,995 (Down from \$1,989,637 in 2015)

The September Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Sept. 2016</b>	<b>Sept. 2015</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Clients seeking assistance	354	332	6.6%
Applications taken	273	305	-10.5%
Applications withdrawn	(44)	(45)	-2.2%
Applications denied	(49)	(71)	-31.0%
Applications approved	180	189	-4.8%

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>YTD 2016</b>	<b>YTD 2015</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Clients seeking assistance	3134	2259	38.7%
Applications taken	2429	2173	11.8%
Applications withdrawn	(397)	(427)	-7.0%
Applications denied	(467)	(461)	1.3%
Applications approved	1565	1285	21.8%

- First Time Assistance
  - September, 2016: 34 (Down from 48 in 2015)
    - 34 approved, 0 at Level III, 0 partial, 0 denied, 0 withdrawn
  - YTD 2016: 274 (Down from 335 in 2015)
- Withdrawn applications from August that were unresolved: 27 of 49

In September, **76.9%** of all applications for assistance were approved, at Level I, II, or III.

Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of September, 2016.

<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	21	198
Cases Partially Approved	7	30
Cases Denied	26	173
Cases Withdrawn	<u>1</u>	<u>18</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>419</b>

<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	9	59
Cases Denied	5	48
Cases Partially Approved	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	2
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>109</b>



### **Medical and Other Transportation:**

- September, 2016: \$13,288.00 (YTD: \$127,154.00)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$13,048.00 (YTD: \$125,894.00)
- Other: \$240 (YTD: \$1,260)
- Transportation Approved: 545 applicants (YTD: 4,954)

### **Medical and Dental Programs:**

- September, 2016: \$9,345 (YTD: \$54,623)
  - Dental: \$9,345 (YTD: \$45,502)
  - Vision: \$0 (YTD: \$3,280)
  - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$5,841)

### **Memorial Affairs Department:**

- September, 2016: \$8,239.80 (YTD: \$71,950.40)
- 9 Indigent burials
  - Air Force: 1
  - Marine: 1
  - Navy: 0
  - Army: 7

**Service Department:**

	Compensation	Pension	DIC	Follow-Up	Medical	POA	Miscellaneous Correspondence	DD214 Requests	Headstone	Presidential Memorial Certificates	National Cemetery Referrals	Other
Wade Park	38	8	1	246	10	57	362	82	-	1	-	127
Parma	23	6	-	60	2	16	35	16	-	-	-	95
Main Office	22	6	6	73	1	29	157	135	28	58	-	74
Federal Building	6	1	-	27	-	7	45	7	-	1	-	21
CRRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Benefits Team	-	1	-	4	-	1	4	3	-	-	-	1
<b>Total (Month)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>Total (YTD)</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2983</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>5007</b>	<b>1526</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2175</b>

Interviews:  
 • 1,614 (YTD: 16,282)  
 FA Referrals:  
 • 25 (YTD: 285)  
 Total:  
 • 1,639 (YTD: 16,571)  
 Phone Calls:  
 • 2,280 (YTD: 29,725)

## **Social Work**

- September, 2016: Total Signed In: 75 (YTD: 652)
  - Seen: 59 (YTD: 513)
  - Not Seen: 3 (YTD: 40)
  - Offline: 13 (YTD: 99)
  - New Veterans: 2 (YTD: 9)
  
- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 33 (YTD: 280)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 27 (YTD: 234)
- In September, 0 veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

## **Referrals**

- VA Medical: 0
- Employment: 3
- Debt Counseling: 9
- Other: 5
- Financial Workshop: 14 - 2 no-shows/late are included in the 'Not Seen' number
- Nutrition Workshop: 7 – 1 no show included in the 'Not Seen' number

**Submitted by:**

**Jon Reiss  
Executive Director**