



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
VACANT
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
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: February 7, 2018 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
DAV Commissioner, Vacant
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Potts followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Clay Uzell – VFW

- January 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- January 17th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 18-24th – I attended the VFW Mid-Winter Conference held at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio. I attended the C of A meeting and gave the safety report. I presented the awards to participating VFW Posts who entered Law Enforcement/Fire Fighter candidates. On Saturday, I presented the awards to our State winners for Law Enforcement/Fire Fighters/EMT. I attended the Voice of Democracy banquet.
- January 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I gave the financial report for Post 80 on February 6th. Over the last month, we have welcomed three new members into the Post.
- AMVETS was disappointed that the NFL did not broadcast the one-page ad during the super bowl. It was reprehensible that the NFL would permit players to kneel during the National Anthem (and they do have a right to do so), but not permit the AMVETS to show an ad that simply stated “stand for the Flag.”
- The Honor Guard served funeral duties at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery on January 16th, in frigid weather conditions.

Other Activities:

- During January, I attended all the scheduled CCVSC meetings.
- I was told by two veterans of how knowledgeable and expeditious our service officer Bill Vissi is at the Parma CBOC. I told them I would pass this information along.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) monthly meeting. As finance officer, I also completed our financial report.
- I attended the VFW convention at the Holiday Inn Independence. I visited with a number of veterans and discussed the services and benefits of the CCVSC.
- I attended a meeting at the CCVSC on February 5th with Senator Sherrod Brown to hear about the improvements made for when a veteran owes the VA money due to overpayments, and how the VA will set up an affordable repayment plan that will not cause an undue hardship for the veteran.

Mel Baher – American Legion

I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of January 2018. Following, is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of January 2018.

- Wednesday, January 3rd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council membership meeting held at American Legion Post 627 in Newburg Hts., Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for November 2017, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, January 11th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I presented my membership report, as 1st Vice Commander.
- Friday, January 19th – to Sunday, January 21st – I attended the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter conference held in Columbus, Ohio at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. I attended all scheduled meetings and listened to the National Commander as she addressed the conference meeting on Sunday.
- January 22nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 627 in Newburg Hts., Ohio. I presented the December 2017 financial reports for board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, January 25th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I presented my updated membership report, as 1st Vice Commander.

Bob Potts – VVA

- The VVA did not conduct a meeting in January 2018.
- I attended both CCVSC open public meetings and both Level III appeals hearings during January.
- I attended Senator Sherrod Brown’s press conference at the CCVSC on Monday, February 5th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jon Reiss provided board members with a draft copy of the new vehicle wrap. Recommended changes will be made and the revision will be sent to the board, via email, for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2018-04 requesting authority for the Executive Director to attend national conferences and symposiums as necessary to enhance veterans' services throughout Cuyahoga County for Year 2018, expenses not to exceed \$10,000.00.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The County will no longer send expense reimbursements to the office. All checks will be mailed directly to the employee's home address. Staff was asked to verify their current address with the Finance Dept.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

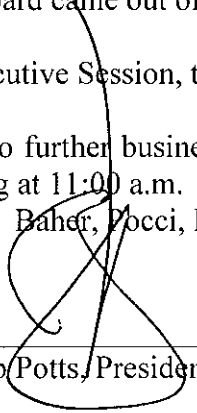
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:37 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:59 a.m.


In Executive Session, the Board discussed a personnel matter and advised the Director on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

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



Bob Potts, President



Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance/
Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Social Work Dept.:

Executive Director:

Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Mgmt.) (216-698-2379)

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)