



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

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: March 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 Clay Uzell and seconded by Mel Baher 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:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of February 2018. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of February 2018.
- Wednesday, February 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council membership meeting held at American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for December 2017, as District Finance officer.
- Thursday, February 8th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. I presented my membership report, as 1st Vice Commander.
- Thursday, February 22nd – 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.

- Sunday through Tuesday, February 24-27th – I was in Washington, D.C. for the American Legion National Conference. Our team met with Stephen Hostelley, (Legislative Director to James Renacci) and Joe Herrbach (Legislative Correspondent for Marcia Fudge.) We discussed current American Legion legislative issues with both parties.
- Monday, February 26th – I was unable to attend the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting due to my Washington, D.C. trip.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I completed and forwarded the February 18th financial reports for Post 80.
- The honor guard served funeral honor duties at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery on February 6th and postponed the monthly meeting to the second Tuesday in March.
- The activities committee is planning several trips of military interest during 2018.

Other Activities

- In February, I attended all the scheduled CCVSC meetings.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) monthly meeting. As finance officer, I also completed our financial report.
- The ITAM Dept. of Ohio meeting is scheduled in Lorain for April 8th.
- I referred one veteran to the CCVSC for advice on improving an existing claim.

Veteran's Administration News

VA Partners with Cohen Veterans Network to Increase Access to Mental Health Resources

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Cohen Veterans Network, Inc., (CVN) announced a new partnership to increase Veterans' access to mental health resources to reduce Veteran suicides. (2/27/18)

VA introduces New, Improved Modernized Leasing Program – *WASHINGTON* – Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a modernization of its leasing program to better align the agency's major lease procurements with other federal agencies and the private sector, with an emphasis on increased competition, cost savings and speed to market. (2/26/18)

'We want to connect with Veterans before they know they need us' – *WASHINGTON* – Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of Concierge for Care, a health-care enrollment initiative that connects with former service members shortly after they separate from the service. (2/22/18)

Clay Uzell – VFW

- February 3rd – I attended the Strongsville VFW Post Past District 7 Commander's meeting and luncheon.
- February 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 8th through 10th – I attended the VFW Auxiliary National Mid-Winter Conference held in Nashville, TN.
- February 18th – I attended the VFW District 7 Conference held at VFW Post 9520 in Brunswick. I gave out safety awards and spoke on the upcoming awards banquet to be held on March 3rd at Bedford Post 1082.
- February 19th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting. I conducted the regular meeting where we voted to buy life memberships for three post members in attendance.
- February 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

Bob Potts – VVA

- February 5th – I attended Senator Sherrod Brown’s press conference held at the CCVSC regarding a program assisting veterans with VA overpayments.
- February 6th – The VVA Chapter 249 board and membership meetings were not held due to no quorum.
- February 7th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- February 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- February 27th – I had a meeting with the Chapter 249 president to start planning for the End of the War Ceremony.
- February 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- March 6th – I attended Chapter 249 board and membership meetings.
- I met with an Afghan veteran and reviewed benefits that he may be eligible to receive. I also assisted a fellow Marine veteran and his wife in submitting a VA Claim.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held regarding the procedure for payment of mortgage/utility bills, due to an isolated incident that uncovered a flaw in our process. It was agreed that employees will now schedule a client with payment processing, in addition to providing a hard copy of the mortgage/utility. Once payment is made, the payment processor will check the client out.

A preliminary discussion on the 2019 Budget was held. The Director provided a draft copy which reflects staffing levels and salary base changes. The final budget will be submitted in May.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2018-07 providing for the purchase of 200 food cards for clients of the CCVSC who seek financial assistance. The food cards will be purchased from Aldi’s Supermarkets and the purchase agreement will not exceed \$20,000.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

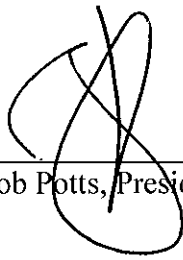
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:45 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:18 a.m.


In Executive Session, two employee overpayments and employee discipline were discussed. The Director was given instructions on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 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)