



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**CHRISTOPHER GRAU**  
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: October 3, 2018 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President  
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President  
Mel Baher, Secretary  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Christopher Grau, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary  
Mary Kitko, Administrative Assistant  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. Two items were set aside to be addressed in Executive Session. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

##### Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC (except one appeal meeting due to a prior commitment) during the month of September 2018. Following, is a report of my activities outside of the CCVSC for the month of September.
- Sunday, September 9<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. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for July 2018, as District Finance Officer.
- Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – I was master of ceremonies at the September 11<sup>th</sup> commemoration held on the Berea Triangle at 9:00 a.m. We had a great turnout for our 17<sup>th</sup> annual event.

- Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting. I presented my updated membership report, as Post 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.
- Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the Annual POW/MIA ceremony held at American Legion Post 91 pavilion at 6:00 p.m. I read the purpose and meaning of the POW/MIA table along with the history of the POW/MIA flag. I also read names of those still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.
- Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 703 in Parma Hts., Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the August 2018 financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting and presented an updated membership report, as Post 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.
- Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – I attended the City of Berea's honoring and plaque presentation for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Albert E. Baesel. It was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death while serving in WWI. He was killed in action while attempting to rescue a wounded comrade, Cpl. Ryan. For his bravery, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. American Legion Post 91 is named in his honor. The bronze plaque was mounted on the Triangle clock tower by the City of Berea.

#### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended two meetings at the CCVSC.
- I attended the AMVETS monthly meeting.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans meeting.
- I referred one veteran to the Parma CBOC.
- I am working with a veteran in filing a VA claim.

#### Chris Grau –VVA

- September 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC public meeting.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended a 9/11 Memorial Service at City Hall, City of Rocky River.
- September 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC public meeting.
- September 20<sup>th</sup> – I attended the DAV Chapter 108 meeting. The first meeting after summer.

**NOTE:** There are no scheduled JVC meetings until December 2018.

#### Clayton Uzell – VFW

- September 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – I participated in the Lyndhurst Home Days Parade by driving the CCVSC van behind the Strongsville Post 3345 Honor Guard. After the parade, I attended the re-dedication of the Veteran's Monument in the park. Post members laid a wreath and raised the flag while the Brush High School band played the National Anthem. Mayor Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- September 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- September 17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Post 7536 meeting where regular business was conducted. I distributed Vietnam anniversary pins to new members.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – I attended the VFW Post 2133 clam bake fundraiser for a new parking lot. A good time was spent by all.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- September 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended the Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- September 5<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.



- September 12<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal meeting.
- September 13<sup>th</sup> – We were invited to Lakewood High School to speak to the sophomore and junior Social Studies classes. This was part of a summer project to speak to Vietnam Veterans about their experiences and visit the Traveling Wall.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – I was excused from the CCVSC open public meeting because I was on vacation.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> – I spoke with a Vietnam Veteran regarding his benefits and discussed how to get information on the VA medical plan. This person was a long time high school buddy and Marine that went through boot camp at Parris Island SC and Infantry training at Camp Geiger, NC.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearing.
- September 27<sup>th</sup> – I stopped by the Parma CBOC and stopped by to say hello to Bill Vissi.
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – I attended the Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

ODVS online training for the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018, following the open public meeting.

Effective January 1, 2019, the CCVSC will have varied office hours; four ten-hour days and five eight-hour days to better serve veteran clients. Jon Reiss will contact the County Risk Management Dept. to review proper security procedures. Signage informing the public of the new hours will be posted.

Resolution 2018-14 providing for a contract with PayScale.com for the purpose of creating and maintaining a market-based compensation model for the CCVSC was removed from consideration for further follow up with the county vendor.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2018-15 providing for the purchase of 499 food cards for clients of the CCVSC who seek financial assistance during the holiday season. The food cards will be purchased from Dave's Supermarket and will not exceed \$24,950. AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

An open and continuous posting for Veterans Service Officer will be publicized on the CCVSC website at <http://cuyahogavets.org/>.

The Board and Executive Director have decided to run a three-month pilot program to build our social media needs. An interested internal candidate who already possesses knowledge of the commission will be asked to volunteer, on a part-time basis (one to two hours per day), with the option of full-time at a later date. Further details will be forthcoming.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

This year's holiday luncheon will be held at P.J. McIntyre's Irish Pub, 17119 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, 44111, on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the monthly staff meeting.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Jon Reiss received complimentary passes to attend a movie premier screening of the "First Man" at the Valley View Cinema on October 9, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend should see Jon.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss two items pulled from the Consent Agenda; a complaint filed with ODVS and correspondence from the Attorney General’s Office.

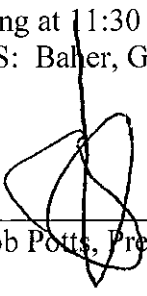
AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:55 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:28 a.m.

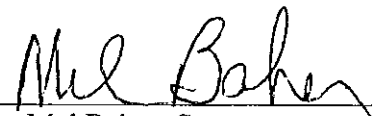
In Executive Session, an ODVS complaint and correspondence from the Attorney General’s Office were discussed and the Executive Director was advised on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, 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:  
Finance Dept.:

Social Work Dept.:

Executive Director:

Commissioners:

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

Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Mgr. (216-698-2391)

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

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

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