



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

### MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** December 5, 2018 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob Potts, President  
Clay 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:** Murray Evans  
Thomas Zung

**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 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, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to go out of the regular order of business and directly into Good of the Order (9:32 a.m.).

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

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

Former Commissioner Thomas Zung presented Executive Secretary Lorri Slivka with a gift to congratulate her on her retirement.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Chris Grau to return to the regular order of business (9:37 a.m.).

AYES: Baher, Grau, 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 November 2018. Following is a report of my activities outside of the CCVSC for the month of November 2018.
- Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council meeting held at the American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for September 2018, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, November 8<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.
- Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – I attended Post 91's annual Veterans Day festivities which included a luncheon provided by the Ladies Auxiliary, and dinner provided by the Sons of the American Legion.
- Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended my grandson's "Salute to Veterans" program held at Big Creek Elementary School, in Middleburg Hts.
- Friday, November 16-17<sup>th</sup> – I, along with my fellow Commissioners, attended OSAVSC training in Dublin, Ohio.
- Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Council executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the October 2018 financial reports for executive board approval, as District Financial Officer.
- Thursday, November 29<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.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

#### AMVETS Post 80 Events:

- I completed the August financial reports for Post 80 for November 2018 and attended the monthly meeting.
- The honor guard continues to serve funeral honor duties at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery. Their last service was on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- A new member has joined the AMVETS honor guard.

#### Other Activities:

- During August I attended all the scheduled CCVSC Open and Appeals meetings.
- I took the yearly on line training course that is now required in order for commissioners to retain their required revalidation from the department of Ohio Department of Veteran Services.
- I attended the required two day training session in Columbus Ohio during November.
- The Italian American war veterans have scheduled their yearly meeting and dinner that will be attended by 75 members and guests.
- I have submitted the yearly tax report for the Italian American war vets. And the post has sent a total of \$1,250 in donations to various charitable organizations that help the needy and children.
- I have received many thanks from a veteran that I had referred and who was subsequently connected for various conditions.
- I am working with a female veteran to help her get a possible service connection.

## VA REMEMBERS PRESIDENT BUSH

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie – Statement on the Passing of President George H. W. Bush - "All of America's veterans are saddened by the passing of President George H. W. Bush. His

courage in combat was special even during the war in the Pacific, where our forces demonstrated some of the highest levels of valor and heroism in our history. When holding the highest offices in our country, he never forgot those who wore the uniform. The Department of Veterans Affairs sends its thoughts and prayers to the Bush family in remembrance of this extraordinary American.”

#### Christopher Grau – DAV

- November 7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC public meeting and participated in the OSAVSC online training.
- November 9<sup>th</sup> – I participated in the Dover Elementary School Veterans Day Celebration in Westlake, Ohio.
- November 14<sup>th</sup> - I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> - I attended the DAV Chapter 108 monthly meeting in Rocky River.
- November 16/17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Fall Training Conference.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- November 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Appeals meeting.

NOTE: There are no scheduled JVC meetings until January 2019.

There is no scheduled DAV Chapter 108 meeting in December 2018.

#### Clayton Uzell – VFW

- November 1<sup>st</sup> – I conducted the VFW Memorial ritual at Fioritto Funeral Home for VFW member Ajay Mastrobuono (Post 5799 in Little Italy which is now defunct). Eight members took part and a flag case was presented to the family. Ajay was a 68 year old Viet Nam Air Force Veteran Master Sgt. with 21 years of service.
- November 7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting and completed the OSAVSC online training at 4 p.m.
- November 10-11<sup>th</sup> – I participated in the VFW Poppy distribution at Dave’s Supermarket in Richmond Heights.
- November 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC appeal meeting.
- November 16-17<sup>th</sup> – I attended OSAVSC training in Dublin, Ohio – A topic of discussion was creating and promoting a respectful work environment.
- November 19<sup>th</sup> - I attended VFW Post 7536’s meeting. We conducted regular business and discussed the upcoming Christmas party on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 28<sup>th</sup> - I attended the CCVSC appeal meeting.
- November 29<sup>th</sup> – I judged Police/Fire/EMT entries for District 7 and state – District 7. The winners were Post 2133 Cleveland Police Department Detective John Graves, Post 9295 Mentor Firefighter Jerry Craddock, and Post 943 Ashtabula Paramedic Michael Ferron.

#### Bob Potts – VVA

- November 6<sup>th</sup> – I attended VVA Chapter 249 Board and Membership Meeting.
- November 7<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 14<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- November 16/17<sup>th</sup> – I attended the OSAVSC Fall Training Conference.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 28<sup>th</sup> – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – I attended VVA Chapter 249 Board and Membership Meeting.
- I helped the spouse of a vet who is in a nursing home with info and contact information.
- I stopped by the Parma Office, but they were busy so I just said Hi!

Financial Assistance Commission Meeting Results For 12/12/2018 to 12/12/2018

Name	Address	Occupation	Approved Amount	Vote Result F/O/A
Bilal Abdul-Mani	27391 Pineview Drive, Westlake, 44145	Investigator	\$3,711.82	4/1/0
James D Almond	4000 Woburn Ave., Cleveland, 44109	Medical/Clinical Technician	\$1,853.60	4/1/0
Hollie M. Gaughan	4907 Lincoln Avenue, Parma, 44134	Technician	\$1,229.68	5/0/0
Gregory Jessie	17425 Biltmore Avenue , Cleveland, 44128	Gas Pumping Station Operators	\$594.87	5/0/0
George Lockett III	8301 Detroit Ave.# 213, Cleveland, 44102	Camp Counselor	\$0.00	0/5/0
Mario Martinez	3235 West 86th Street, Cleveland, 44102	Machinist	\$1,068.32	5/0/0
Edward R Pearl	3711 E. 49th Street, Cleveland, 44105	Laborer or Freight Mover	\$1,702.40	3/2/0
Ray D Wilson	35 Severance Circle, #914, Cleveland Heights , 44118	Taxi Driver	\$0.00	2/3/0

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution 2018-23 providing for the purchase of an updated security swipe system was suspended pending further research.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2019-01 providing for the renewal of the eVetAssist veteran software program for fiscal year 2019 from Enterprise Resource Partners, expenses will not exceed \$6,200.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

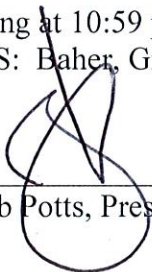
A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue; matter to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:49 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:58 a.m. In Executive Session a personnel issue was discussed and the Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 p.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)