



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/TIME: February 6, 2019 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Clay Uzell, President
 Mel Baher, Vice President
 Christopher Grau, Secretary
 Frank Pocchi, Commissioner
 Bob Potts, Commissioner
 Jon Reiss, Executive Director
 Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
 Dale Pelsozy, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None

VISITORS: None

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau 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.) Several items were set aside for discussion under Old Business.

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Christopher Grau – DAV

- January 2nd – I attended the CCVSC public meeting.
- January 7th – I attended and assisted with the funeral service for retired Sgt. Major Carl Eaton, USA and Vietnam Vet, in Westlake, Ohio. The VFW Post #3345 (Don Kennett Honor Guard Commander), Strongsville, provided the Honor Guard.
- January 9th - I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.

- January 10th – I attended the Military internment for Sgt. Major Carl Eaton, USA, at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.
- January 16th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- January 17th – I attended DAV Chapter 108 monthly meeting.
- January 17th – I participated in a Webinar hosted by the SECVA Wilke Townhall Webcast.
- January 23rd – I attended the meeting with JVC and the Mayor of Rocky River to discuss the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony.

*I have recused myself from the JVC until the VSC personnel matter is resolved.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I completed the financial report for Post 80 and presented the details at the monthly meeting
- The honor guard continues to serve funeral honor duties at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery. Their last service was on November 9th.
- A new member has joined the AMVETS Honor Guard and took part in the funeral honors detail for member Pat Santangelo who passed away in January. Pat was a life member of the AMVETS Post 80 and the Italian American War Veterans Post 34. He was active in all post activities and also served in the honor guard.

Other Activities

- During January I attended two of the scheduled CCVSC Open and Appeals meetings.
- I am working on advising a Marine veteran on how to proceed in filing an appeal to the VA for service connection.
- I attended the Italian American War Vets monthly meeting.
- I attended the Catholic War Vets monthly meeting.

VA News Release – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released findings from its most recent analysis of Veteran suicide data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This report yields several important insights:

- Suicide rates increased for both Veterans and non-Veterans, underscoring the fact that suicide is a national public health concern that affects people everywhere.
- The average number of Veterans who died by suicide each day remained unchanged at 20.
- The suicide rate increased faster among Veterans who had not really used Veterans Health Administration health care than among those who had.

Bob Potts – VVA

- January 1st – the Chapter 249 Board and Membership meeting was cancelled because of the holiday.
- January 2nd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- January 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- January 16th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 23rd - I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- February 5th – I attended Chapter 249 Board Meeting and Membership meeting.
- I referred the wife of an Army Veteran who needed help because he was placed in a nursing home.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of January 2019. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of January 2019.
- Wednesday, January 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 309, in Maple Hts., Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive board approved financial reports for November 2018, as District Finance Officer.

- Thursday, January 10th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. and I presented the current membership report, as Post 1st Vice Commander.
- Thursday, January 24th – I missed the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting, due to being on the road, returning from out of town. However, I left the Post 91 Adjutant and updated membership report.
- Saturday, January 26th – I departed for Columbus Ohio to attend the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter conference. I attended the National appointees meeting on Saturday and the Conference session on Sunday. I returned home Sunday evening.
- Monday, January 28th – Was the scheduled American Legion 13th District Executive board meeting – however, that was postponed due to the passing of a Legionnaire. The re-scheduled meeting was set for Wednesday – January 30th – however, the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- January 2nd – I attended the CCVSC first Open Public meeting of the new year.
- January 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- January 10-13th – I attended the VFW State Conference in Columbus as State Safety Chairman. I gave a report at the business session and presented the law enforcement and firefighter of the year awards to Shelby County Sheriff, John Lenhart and Lieutenant Georg Sorge II from the Norwich Township Fire Department at the awards ceremony. I attended the banquet on Saturday night to honor our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen student winners \$38,000 given out to the students.
- January 16th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 23rd - I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- January 27th – I attended the VFW Post District 7 Commanders luncheon and meeting at the Village Diner in Orange Village.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director provided a spreadsheet with the former employees' paybacks. The Director will contact the employee who has not made recent payments and keep the Board updated.

The 2019 evening outreach meeting schedule has not been set yet. Locations and dates to be determined. Commissioner Frank Pucci suggested issuing ID cards at these and other meetings to increase attendance and assist more veterans.

Correspondence, including complaints, were taken from the Consent Agenda and discussed. The Executive Director has responded, or will respond, as directed by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2019-06 providing for the purchase of 1,000 Veteran Service Commission commemorative coins for the recognition of community partners of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission. The coins will be purchased from American Solutions for Business, and not to exceed a total of \$4,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2019-07 requesting authority for the Executive Director to reimburse the staff for memberships at gym/fitness centers, not to exceed \$65 per month, per employee, and not to exceed an agency total of \$25,000.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Two candidates for the open continuous Service Officer posting were introduced to the Board.

The Executive Director was contacted by Habitat for Humanity. They will be meeting soon to discuss mutual opportunities.

The Executive Director was instructed to contact the Executive regarding the status of new commissioner's pay.

Commissioner Baher spoke to Bill Overton. Mr. Overton complimented the CCVSC on superior service to the veterans for the past three to five years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

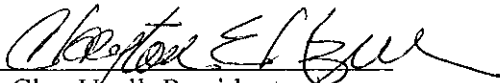
A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue; matter to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:53 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:07 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 Bob Potts and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

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


Clay Uzell, President


Chris Grau, 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)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)