



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
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: January 8, 2020 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
 Christopher Grau, Vice President
 Frank Pocci, Secretary
 Bob Potts, Commissioner
 Jon Reiss, Executive Director
 Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
 Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator
 Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor
 Melisa Fisco, Assistant Law Director

EXCUSED: Clay Uzell, Commissioner

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts 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. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I completed the financial reports for November and December for Post 80 and presented the details at the monthly meeting.

Other Activities

- During December I attended the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I participated in three (3) union negotiation sessions.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans meeting and dinner.
- I stopped to visit the VSC employees at the Parma CBOC.

Bob Potts – VVA

- December 4th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeal Meeting.
- December 11th - I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- December 18th - I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- December 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public and appeal meeting.
- December 11th – I attended the CCVSC open public and appeal meeting.
- December 15th – I set up and attended the VFW Post 7536 Christmas party at the Lyndhurst Community Center. Sixty people attended and a good time was had by all.
- December 16th – I attended VFW Post 7536's meeting. Business was conducted and Christmas party expenses were discussed. The cost of the Patriots Pen contest, the six winner awards, the ten runner-up awards, and the pizza party for the eighty-one students who participated, were split with the auxiliary.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- December 1st – I attended and participated in the OVH Sandusky Bingo and Pizza luncheon.
- December 4th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- December 11th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- December 13th – I attended the funeral of VSC past Executive Secretary Lorri Slivka's father.
- December 18th - I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- December 25th – there was no meeting.

Note: There is no DAV Chapter 108 meeting in December.

The Joint Veterans Council (JVC) of Lakewood & Rocky River will resume the normal meeting schedule in January 2020.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all of the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of December 2019. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of December 2019.
- Sunday, December 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council Winter Conference held at American Legion Post 91, in Berea, Ohio. I presented the executive board approved October 2019 Finance report as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, December 12th – 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.
- Wednesday, December 18th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting and Christmas party held at American Legion Post 91, Berea, Ohio. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m., and a very fine Christmas dinner was provided to all in attendance.
- Thursday, December 19th – I, along with Commissioner Pocci, attended a union contract negotiation meeting held from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the board conference room.
- Thursday, December 26th – I attended the Post Executive Board meeting and presented an updated membership report, as Post 1st Vice Commander. Also, again, a very fine Christmas dinner was provided to all in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to purchase three tables at the Veteran of the Year ceremony. Dan Weist, former Commissioner, will accept the award on behalf of Service Officers. The ceremony will take place on February 22, 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio.
AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Action Items – Update:

- 1) **Employee Overpayments** – Ms. Smith continues to make payments on time.
- 2) **Dental Trial Program** – Work in progress.
- 3) **Smart Board** – The Smart Board has been installed. It will be used for training and meetings. The Executive Director will research the option of tele-benefits which will allow the service officers to work on claims remotely.
- 4) **Emergency Program for Homeless Veterans** – The Executive Director is in contact with area hotels to establish an account to house veterans in emergency situations. After further discussion it was decided that money would be loaded on the agency credit card to cover the costs short term. The veteran will sign a disclaimer and the cost will count as a month of assistance.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director proposed an income based medical program. Dental, vision and hearing aid applications will be similar to the abbreviated winter clothing applications and will be based on income guidelines determined by the Executive Director.

The 2020 holiday schedule was discussed. A memo adopting the new schedule will be prepared for approval at the next meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Chris Grau to go into Executive to hear four (4) client cases and appeals.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:06 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:28 a.m. The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client appeals that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Chris Grau to go back into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, pending or imminent court action and matters to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:32 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:20 a.m. In Executive Session the Board reviewed issues regarding union negotiations and discussed ending the probationary period for Adam Radikovich.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to end the probationary period for Adam Radikovich. A memorandum will be prepared for signature at the next Board meeting.

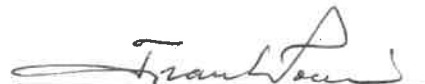
AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Frank Pocci, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Charlene Amos, Service Officer Mgr. (216-698-3831)

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

Finance Dept.:

Larry Amato, Financial Operations Mgr. (216-698-2391)

Social Work Dept.:

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

Executive Director:

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Commissioners:

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