



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

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650
Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: February 5, 2020 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Christopher Grau, Vice President
Frank Pocchi, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Clay Uzell, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator
Melisa Fisco, Assistant Law Director

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

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 Clay Uzell 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, Pocchi, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Frank Pocchi – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I completed the financial reports 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 during January.
- I attended the funeral of a Post 80 member.
- A Post 80 member asked if there is help for an elderly disabled veteran's father. I told him how to follow up with the CCVSC.

Other Activities

- During January I attended the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC and participated in the special meetings for progress on the agreement with the Union.

- I attended the Italian American war veterans meeting where a death benefit for members in good standing was reviewed and confirmed.
- I spoke to a veteran about a claim he filed with one of our service officers but had not gotten a return phone call. After checking our records, we had no record of him calling anytime after the claim was filed. I will speak to the veteran as there appears to be some confusion on his part.
- I obtained a DD214 for a veteran who had lost his records. I will present him the document personally.
- I visited the Parma CBOC office to say hello to our employees there. I also stopped by the Wade Park offices, but our office doors were closed with clients being seen and I did not disturb.

Bob Potts – VVA

- January 1st – CCVSC open public meeting cancelled – office closed for holiday.
- January 8th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeal Meeting.
- January 15 - I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- January 21st – I stopped by our offices at Parma CBOC and spoke with Bill Vissi.
- January 22nd - I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- January 22nd – I attended VVA Chapter 249 monthly meeting.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- January 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public and appeal meeting.
- January 16th – I attended the VFW Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus, Ohio.
- January 17th-18th – I attended the Council of Administration meeting on Thursday and Friday. I gave a report and awards for Police and Fire Fighter of the Year and to participating Posts that submitted entries. I attended a private reception and awards banquet on Saturday evening.
- January 22nd – I attended the CCVSC open public and appeal meeting.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- January 8th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting. I turned in a dog tag to the Executive Director to help locate its owner. It was found in North Olmsted near the Great Northern Mall.
- January 15th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- January 16th – I attended and participated in the DAV Chapter 108 January meeting.
- January 17th – I provided a referral (Mike Gallo, USA). The referral came through a local church in Westlake.
- January 21st – I referred Linda Shnure, who's grandson has on-going Army payroll issues (9+ months), to Bryan Bowman (Veterans Coordinator) at Rep. Anthony Gonzales' (OH-16) office.
- January 22nd - I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.
- January 28th – I made an inquiry for educational benefits for Trinity Wobler, daughter of Zachary Wobler (KIA Iraq 2005).
- January 29th - I attended the CCVSC Public and Level III Appeals Meeting.

Note: The Joint Veterans Council (JVC) of Lakewood & Rocky River resumed the normal meeting schedule in January.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all of the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of January 2020. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of January 2020.

- Wednesday, January 8th – 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 November 2019 Finance report as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, January 9th – 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.
- Friday, January 17th – I, along with Commissioner Pocci, attended a union contract negotiation meeting held from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the board conference room.
- Thursday, January 23rd – I attended the Post Executive Board meeting and presented an updated membership report, as Post 1st Commander.
- Saturday, January 25th – I traveled to Columbus, Ohio to attend the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter conference held at the Crown Plaza hotel. I attended the National appointees' meeting held on Saturday at 4:00 p.m., to receive a briefing on my upcoming trip to Washington DC in March. On Sunday, I attended the conference and received a \$100.00 membership- award presented to Post 91.
- Monday, January 27th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 572, in Parma, Ohio. I presented the December 2019 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director has submitted the needs assessment survey to the county. The ED will update the Commissioners when there is an update.

The VSC will reserve three tables for the Veteran of the Year ceremony. One table will be donated to the VA Hospital.

Senator Brown's Round Table will take place in the VSC board room on Friday, February 21st at 6 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2020-06 requesting authority for five CCVSC Commissioners and Executive Director to attend various conferences and training to maintain accreditation with the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners (OSAVSC) in 2020, expenses not to exceed \$8,430.00.

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

The Executive Director discussed the purchase of two new refrigerators for the lunchroom after one of the refrigerators broke down.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to go back into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, certain personnel matters, and a client case.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:58 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:13 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed collective bargaining bullet points, including items that have been approved and items that still need to be discussed, two employee discipline matters, and client cases.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. 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)
Larry Amato, Financial 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)

Finance Dept.:
Social Work Dept.:
Executive Director:
Commissioners: