



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

Cuyahoga County

Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: January 6, 2021 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Christopher Grau, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Clay Uzell, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary - Remote
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor - Remote

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mel Baher, President.

A motion was made by Clay Uzell 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. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Commissioner's reports were suspended until the next meeting on January 20, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

COVID guidelines have been modified. Modifications include:

1. Masks are to be worn at all times when employees are not alone.
2. Only one employee in the break room at a time. There will be no eating in the breakroom, only retrieval of food and/or drinks.
3. Masks must be worn in offices when another employee is in the room. The only exception is the leaderships' offices because there is enough room to socially distance.

4. Employees must notify the Director if traveling into a COVID red zone and be prepared to quarantine for 14 days. Employees must use their own time for a 14-day quarantine. FFCRA is no longer an option.
- Updated guidelines will be sent to employees and AFSCME. Employees must respond that the guidance has been read and understood.

Plastic barriers have been ordered for public spaces. Employee office barriers have been ordered and delivered. The Executive Director has asked the manufacturer to expedite the barriers for the public spaces.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers on the CCVSC Board

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to elect the following officers on the CCVSC Board for Year 2021, using the guideline established in January 2007. There were no other nominations.

President	Chris Grau (DAV)
Vice President	Frank Pocci (AMVETS)
Secretary	Bob Potts (VVA)

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

An updated organizational chart was presented by the Executive Director. The chart will again be updated to include the new Officers on the CCVSC Board following today's election. The new chart will be reviewed at the January 20, 2021 meeting.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adopt the Counties Holiday Schedule without additions.

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

The 2021 evening outreach meeting schedule will be addressed in March. No decisions can be made at the current time due to COVID restrictions.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Frank Pocci provided information to two veterans regarding burial at the National Cemeteries. Mr. Pocci also stated that he retrieved a broken food cart from the food pantry that was provided by the CCVSC. He will bring it to the next meeting so the Finance Manager can contact the manufacturer. Finally, a member of the AMVETS post passed away from COVID. Mr. Pocci discouraged the Honor Guard from attending services due to the COVID threat.

Clay Uzell's nephew passed away the week before Christmas. His nephew was a Marine Corp Veteran as well as a client.

Bob Potts attended two funerals. One was for a 90-year-old veteran of WWII and the other was his wife's cousin who passed away from COVID.

Chris Grau reported that both the Joint Veterans Council and the DAV have cancelled their January meetings. No decision has been made regarding the February meetings at this time.

Mel Baher reported that the American Legion District meetings are being conducted virtually. Post 91 meetings are being held at the post. The meeting hall is large enough to maintain social distancing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Chris Grau and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a certain personnel matter, employment and discipline, a matter to be kept confidential, collective bargaining, and Level III appeals.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:51 a.m.)

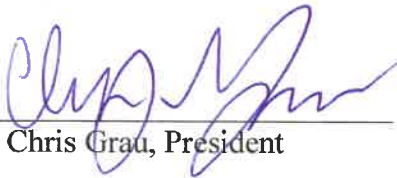
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:53 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed certain personnel matters regarding employment and discipline, a matter to be kept confidential, matters of collective bargaining, and a Level III Appeals.

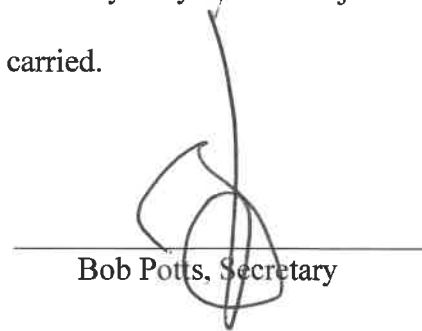
President Mel Baher stated that the Board considered three (3) client appeal today.

The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client appeals that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

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


Chris Grau, President


Bob Potts, 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)
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)

Finance Dept.:
Executive Director:
Deputy Director:
Commissioners: