



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: November 4, 2020 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
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None.

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, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of October 2020.
- I am working to obtain Service-Connected benefits for a 94-year-old WWII Veteran.
- I completed the required training for the state department.
- AMVETS Post 80, Italian American War Veterans and Catholic War Veterans have postponed all meetings until further notice.
- AMVETS Post 80 will not have funeral honors at Rittman, including an Honor Guard, due to illness of a member who contracted COVID 19.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- October 7th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.

- October 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- October 14th – I completed continuing education for the Ohio Department of Veteran Services.
- October 18th – I attended the District 7 meeting held at Mentor Post 9295.
- October 19th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting held at Willoughby Hills Post 4358.
- October 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Bob Potts – VVA

- October 7th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 14th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- October 14th – I completed continuing education for the Ohio Department of Veteran Services.
- October 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- I received a call from American Legion Post 738 and answered several questions regarding services and benefits.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- October 7th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 13th – I attended DAV Chapter 147’s monthly meeting held at VFW Post 1082. I spoke about services offered by the CCVSC and aid distributed to veterans the first half of the year.
- October 14th – I attended a special event held by Congressman Anthony Gonzales to award metals to WWII Carpetbagger Bill Schacki posthumously. The family was presented with the Purple Heart, Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal and the European/African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.
- October 15th – I attended DAV Chapter 108’s meeting.
- October 21st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 28th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Note: DAV Chapter 108’s next scheduled meeting is 11/19/2020.

JVC of Lakewood/Rocky River – scheduled meetings will resume in January 2021.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of October 2020. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of October 2020.
- Wednesday, October 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. I presented the August 2020 executive board approved Finance report, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, October 8th – As Post Commander, I conducted the Post 91 membership meeting. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with minutes of previous meetings approved, a finance report was presented to the body, a membership report was given, and an activities report was presented. Under Good of the Legion, planned activities for November were discussed and finalized.
- Thursday, October 22nd – As Post Commander, I conducted the Post 91 Executive Board meeting. After all updated reports were given, a discussion was held concerning planned events for November. The board approved planning of a revers raffle for November 14, 2020.
- Monday, October 26th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive board meeting at 7:30 p.m., held at American Legion Post 469, in Cleveland, Ohio. I presented the September 2020 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer. Due to increased COVID-19 numbers, the November 2020 District meetings are scheduled to be virtual meetings, instead of face to face.

Post 91 will replace the Albert E. Basil medal on his wall on Veterans Day at 11:00 a.m. Lunch provided by the Auxiliary will follow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Operations Manuals were prepared and distributed to the Commissioners. SOP manuals are being worked on and will be distributed when they are complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

Holiday food cards will be distributed similarly to the winter clothing program. Income based applications will use income charts based on 200% of the poverty guidelines. The number of food cards distributed will be based on the number of household family members. An SOP will be written and distributed to staff.

Due to COVID guidelines, there will be no holiday party this year.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2020-28 for the purchase of RTA bus ads for the Veterans Service Commission for a twelve-month period. Expenses not to exceed \$100,000.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The city of Rocky River will rededicate a WWI plaque at Memorial Hall on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

The Cuyahoga County Scenic Railroad is offering veterans free rides on Veterans Day. A reservation is required.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss certain personnel matters to include employment.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:22 a.m.)


The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:59 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed a personnel matter regarding employment.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Chris Grau to return Chad Laubenthal to his former position and pay of Veterans Service Officer, prior to completion of his probationary period as Outreach Coordinator, for reasons of inefficiency and unsatisfactory performance.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 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)
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: