



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: March 3, 2021 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Christopher Grau, President
Frank Pocchi, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clay Uzell, Commissioner
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Brian Gutkoski, Assistant County Prosecutor
Mark Musson, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chris Grau, President.

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Frank Pocchi 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 sent the details via email to the commander and adjutant.
- The honor guard is reviewing their ability to continue to provide funeral honors at the national cemetery in Rittman.
- The Post is meeting in March. I will not be able to attend due to another commitment. However, I do plan on resuming attending the meetings in April.

Other Activities

- I have received both of my COVID shots, and it has now been 14 days since my second one. This will now allow me to participate in more veteran related events.
- I participated in all the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC for February.
- The Italian American War Veterans executive committee plans on meeting in April to elect a new commander, due to the death of our commander Col. Sal Felice. We will also discuss how to conduct future meetings ensuring the safety of our members.
- The Catholic War Veterans continue to suspend meetings until further notice.
- I have been working with a WWII veteran to help him with the appeal of a denied hearing/tinnitus claim and for necessary dental work.

Note:

The VA has issued further guidance to protect veteran's personal information.

The VA inoculated, for COVID, its one millionth veteran during February.

The VA continues to suspend the collection for all benefit overpayments and for medical co-payment debts incurred after April 2020.

Bob Potts – VVA

- February 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- February 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.
- February 17th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- February 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.

Note:

I worked with a Vietnam Veteran to receive his ratings with the VA.

I am working with our Chapter Board to start up monthly meetings.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- February 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- February 4th – I attended a Zoom interview for re-appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the CCVSC.
- February 7th – I attended the VFW District 7 Conference held at Parma Post 1974. General business was discussed. As Safety Chairman, I passed out plaques to the posts that participated in our Law Enforcement/Firefighter/EMT program. I also gave a year end report and an update on CCVSC business.
- February 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.
- February 16th – I received my second COVID shot with no side effects.
- February 17th – I flew to Clearwater, Florida and Sanibel Island. I attended the VFW Auxiliary National Mid-Year Conference and visited with family living in the area. I returned on the 28th.

Note:

I referred two veterans to the CCVSC.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of February 2021. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of February 2021.
- February 3rd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council on-line virtual meeting at 7:30 p.m. I presented the executive board approved December 2020 Finance report as District Finance Officer.

- Thursday, February 11th – I conducted the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting as Post Commander. 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 March 2021 were discussed and finalized.
- Monday, February 22nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive board on-line virtual meeting at 7:30 p.m. I presented the January 2021 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, February 25th – 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 March. Also discussed were plans for the St. Patrick's Day menu and take-out orders.
- Saturday, February 26th – I attended and participated in the Post 91 Reverse Raffle. Just under 100 (95) people were in attendance. Masks and social distancing were practiced by all. Everyone was glad to be out and having a good time. Getting closer to returning to normal.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- February 1st – I provided a ride for an Army Vietnam Veteran from a Cleveland Clinic rehab facility to his residence.
- February 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- February 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.
- February 17th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- February 18th – I began assisting a family with hospice care for a Navy Veteran (friend of the family).
- February 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.

Note:

DAV Chapter 108 – The February meeting was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is 03/18/2021.

JVC of Lakewood/Rocky River – next scheduled meeting is 03/16/2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2021-04 for annual maintenance of CCVSC call center/call management communication software from Five9, not to exceed \$50,000 per year.

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

The CCVSC dental program was discussed. Metrohealth Dental will remain the preferred vendor, but Veterans will be permitted to use their own dentist for treatment. Applications will be taken for veterans below 300% of the poverty guideline. An SOP will be distributed to staff.

The CCVSC will no longer accept uncharacterized discharges, even with an exception. Any veteran with an uncharacterized discharge should be referred to a service officer to file for an upgrade.

Requiring proof of assets for a financial assistance application was discussed. A decision was made to only require checking and savings documents. Retirement accounts are not required.

Outreach items were reviewed for purchase. The Executive Director will get quotes and present a resolution after all information is gathered.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

New boardroom chairs and wardrobes were discussed. The Executive Director will proceed with purchase.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a client case and a certain personnel matter – employment.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:37 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:38 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed a client case for dental, a client case from the previous week appeals, and certain personnel matters regarding employment.

The Executive Director was directed to post job openings for a Quality Assurance Coordinator for Service and Outreach Coordinator.


A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to promote Terrance Ness to the position of Financial Operations Manager.

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

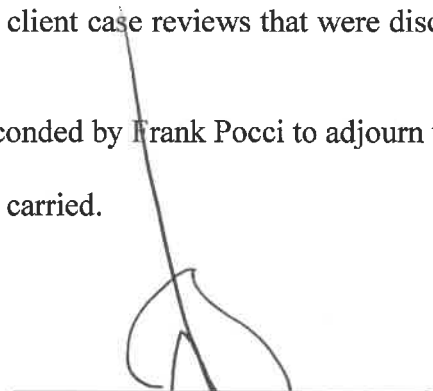
The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client case reviews that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 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 Manager (216-698-3831)
- Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager. (216-698-2639)
- Terrance Ness, Financial Operations Manager (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: