



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: April 7, 2021 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Christopher Grau, President
Frank Pocci, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clay Uzell, Commissioner
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
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 Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell 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 completed the financial reports for Post 80 and presented at the meeting held on April 6th.
- The honor guard is continuing to perform funeral honors at the national cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. However, only 6 members are currently able to perform the honors.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 4th and all officers plan to attend.
- At the next meeting, or the following one, decisions will be made regarding the Posts of Officers.
- We discussed places we might visit as a group. Among places discussed is the Vietnam memorial in Clinton, Ohio.

Other Activities

- I participated in all the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC for March.
- The Italian American War Veterans is expected to resume their meetings at the end of May, June at the latest, barring a resurgence of the COVID virus.
- The Catholic War Veterans are not yet having any meetings due to the need to elect a new commander and other officers.
- Attached are some news articles from the AMVETS Department of Ohio.

Bob Potts – VVA

- March 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- March 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal and Special meetings.
- March 17th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- March 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.

Note:

I had a discussion with an event planner to schedule a meeting for VVA Chapter 249. The meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2021.

I am working with an Army Vietnam Veteran to file his claim for hearing loss.

I went to the West Side Vet center for a celebration of Vietnam Veterans.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- March 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- March 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal and Special meetings.
- March 11th – The Mentor Police Department gave out the Police Officer of the Year Award to District 7 winner, Dan Radigan, Detective.
- March 15th – I attended the Post 7536 meeting, held at the Willoughby Hills Post. We conducted regular business and nominations were held for the new year 2021-2022. All current officers were nominated to stay in place.
- March 17th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- March 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.

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 March 2021 (except March 17th). Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of March 2021.
- Sunday, March 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council Spring Conference held at American Legion Post 421, in Fairview Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and I presented the January 2021 executive board approved Finance report, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, March 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 April 2021 were discussed.
- Wednesday, March 17th – I participated in the annual St. Patrick Day events held at American Legion Post 91. The event was well attended starting at noon, and our sandwiches were sold out by 5:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 19th – I departed for Columbus, Ohio to attend the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter conference held at the Crown Plaza Hotel. After attending the Saturday morning

meetings, I attended the evening Department awards banquet, where I received several awards for Post 91 membership achievement (a plaque and check for \$200.00) and a Gift for the Yanks award (a plaque and a glass trophy for largest Post contribution (\$15,814.00) in the American Legion Department of Ohio. On Sunday morning I attended the Department Executive Board breakfast, followed by the Executive Board meeting, which I attended as a Department Assistant Sgt. At Arms, and as Chairman of the Department Credentials committee. The upcoming July 2021 Department Convention, in Independence, Ohio was discussed and finalized. Department Convention dates are July 9th through July 11th.

- Monday, March 22nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive board held at American Legion Post 421, Fairview Park, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m., and I presented the February 2021 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, March 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 April, including new canteen and food service hours, due to the relaxed curfew.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- March 3rd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting via Zoom.
- March 7th – I participated in a memorial service for Gerry Criddle, USN at St. Mary's in Berea and family reception at the American Legion Post 91 of Berea.
- March 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal and Special meetings via Zoom.
- March 17th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public meeting.
- March 24th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.

Note:

DAV Chapter 108 – The March meeting was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is 04/15/2021.

JVC of Lakewood/Rocky River – the March meeting was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is 04/13/2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the 2022 Budget as presented.

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

The County will have the potential new building for the CCVSC assessed by a professional engineering firm to determine what repairs and upgrades will be needed. Once the information is obtained, the county will consider the move.

All employees will return to the office full time on April 19th. The date for clients to return has not yet been determined.

The letter to go out to the cemeteries regarding Memorial Day flag distribution will be finalized this week. Flags can be picked up at the storage unit on April 24th and 25th.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Pocci provided information on a veteran who received a shopping cart from the VSC.

Commissioner Uzell mentioned that his daughter is interviewing with Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office.

Commissioner Baher announced that the Mayor of Berea has cancelled the city's Memorial Day parade and ceremony. Post 91 will still hold a Memorial Day ceremony at the Post and Adam's Street, and place flags at Woodvale Cemetery. Post 91 will also host a luncheon for all those who participate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

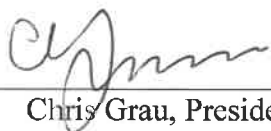
A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a certain personnel matter – employment and a matter to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:35 a.m.)

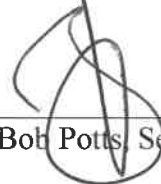
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:41 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed a certain personnel matters regarding employment, matters to be kept confidential, and advised the Executive Director how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 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:

Finance Dept.:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

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)