



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: June 2, 2021 9:36 a.m.

PRESENT: Christopher Grau, President
Frank Pocci, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Clay Uzell, Commissioner – Via Zoom
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 President Chris Grau followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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:

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I completed the financial reports for Post 80 and will present it at the meeting held on June 8, 2021.
- The honor guard is continuing to perform funeral honors at the national cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.
- The state department will be recertifying the Post.
- May 15th was Armed Forces Day. Members flew their flags.
- Some of the members attended the Memorial Day service in Walton Hills at the village hall.
- The fiscal year ended in May. After June 8th I will be completing the necessary tax forms.

Other Activities

- During May I attended three of the four scheduled CCVSC meetings. I did not make the 4th meeting due to a medical appointment.
- The Italian War Vets Post 34 has appointed its new officers and support staff for the next two year term ending in September 2023.
- The ITAM Post 34 has scheduled the first full meeting for June 18th.
- The Catholic War Veterans are not yet having any meetings due to the need to elect a new commander and other officers. At this point no members have applied to the post.
- I attended the installation of officers at American Legion Post 91 in Berea.
- I joined the American Legion Post 91 Memorial Day event at Woodvale Cemetery in Middleburg Heights to pay homage to our fallen.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- May 5th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 28th-29th – the Post members conducted the Poppy Drive in Mayfield Hts.
- May 21st – The Post took part in the annual Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of May 2021. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of May 2021.
- May 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Summer Convention held at American Legion Post 572 in Parma Ohio. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and I presented the March 2021 executive board approved Finance report, as District Finance Officer. Election of new District officers were conducted, and I was re-elected as District Finance officer. I was also nominated and elected as Delegate to the National Convention to be held in Phoenix, AZ, at the end of August 2021.
- Sunday May 9th – I volunteered with the Post Mother's Day Breakfast which was held from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Turn-out was very good and everyone went away happy.
- Thursday, May 13th – 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 activities report was presented. Election of new Post officers for the 2021-2022 membership year were conducted, and I was re-elected as Post Commander. Also, as Post Commander, I am automatically a Delegate to the Department of Ohio Convention to be held July 9th – 11th in Independence Ohio, at the Holiday Inn.
- Monday, May 24th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 572, in Parma, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the April 2021 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, May 27th – 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 June, including Flag Day June 14th, which will be conducted on our Post pavilion at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday – May 28, 2021 – I participated in the decoration of Veteran graves at the Woodvale Cemetery. Over 1700 graves, in 12 major sections, were given a new American flag, by our 30 plus volunteers. It was a really cold day, but fortunately no rain.
- Monday – May 31, 2021 – Post 91 conducted its opening Memorial Day ceremony at 8:00 a.m. in front of our Post home, then proceeded to the Adams Street Cemetery and paid our respects and honored our dead with a 21-gun salute. At 9:00 a.m. we proceeded to the Woodvale Cemetery to repeat our service and honor our Post namesake, Medal of Honor recipient Albert E. Baesel.

Bob Potts – VVA

- May 5th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 12th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- May 9th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 meeting. We discussed adding the name of veteran to the name of the Post. The Post will continue as long as there are enough members for the number of officers needed.
- May 19th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 26th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- May 5th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 12th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- May 19th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 21st – I attended DAV Chapter 108 meeting. I was re-appointed as the Chapter Senior-Vice Commander.
- May 26th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- May 29th – I assisted the JVC with placement of 3,914 flags at Lakewood Park Cemetery. We had over 100 volunteers this year!
- May 31st – I participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Lakewood Park Cemetery.
- May 31st – I assisted a Vietnam Veteran at the Concord Rehab facility in Westlake with retrieving personal clothing items from his residence and then dropping off along with lunch.

Note: DAV Chapter 108 – the next scheduled meeting is 09/16/2021.

JVC of Lakewood/Rocky River – the next scheduled meeting is 06/15/2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

Deputy Director F. Williams researched diversity training. It was decided to schedule the county training on diversity. If the training is not thorough enough, other training will be considered.

A new dress code guideline was presented. It is the belief of the Board that if employees look professional, they will act professional and they will receive respect from the clients. The guideline was written to outline what is and is not considered professional.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Mel Baher to adopt the Dress Code Guideline dated June 2, 2021.

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

Melisa Fisco, Account Manager with Clemans, Nelson & Associates, Inc. is being considered as a consultant for human resource and collective bargaining questions. Assistant County Prosecutor, Mark Musson, will review the contract and send the agreement for approval.

The fee structure for VetPro was once again discussed. J. Reiss will work with eVet to determine if they can/will assist with data migration.

The VSC Grand Re-opening has been postponed to July 17 due to an Indian's game. The event is scheduled for July 17, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for staff and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for clients. Outreach items and food will be purchased for the event.

It is suggested that employees and clients who are not vaccinated wear a mask, but it is not required.

NEW BUSINESS:

J. Reiss and F. Williams will work on a strategic plan for the agency. Events to be included in the plan include chapter meetings, veteran holidays, meetings, training, the County Fair, the budget and community events.

J. Reiss will reach out to the landlord to have the parking garage professionally cleaned. Contingency funds will be used to cover the cost.

Commissioner Uzell will reach out to a VFW Post to host the Commissioner’s outreach meeting scheduled for October 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Frank Pocci will contact Middleburg Hts., to schedule a Spring 2022 outreach meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


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


AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:05 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 12:01 p.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed personnel matters regarding employment and matters to be kept confidential.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.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)
Terrance Ness, 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: