



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: July 7, 2021 9:31 a.m.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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 completed the financial reports for Post 80 and presented it at the meeting held on June 8, 2021.
- I filed the tax report for Post 80.

Other Activities

- During May I attended all scheduled CCVSC meetings.
- I attended the VVA meeting.
- I attended the Italian American War Vets meeting and luncheon.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- June 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting via Zoom.
- June 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting via Zoom.
- June 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting via Zoom.
- June 21st – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting.
- June 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting via Zoom.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of June 2021. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of June 2021.
- Wednesday, June 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council Meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the April 2021 executive board approved Finance report, as District Finance Officer. Also, past 13th District Commanders conducted our annual Post Everlasting service for our departed comrades from 2020 and 2021.
- Thursday, June 10th – 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. A Father's Day breakfast was going to be provided by the Post Auxiliary.
- Monday, June 14th – Post 91 conducted its annual Flag Day ceremony on the Post pavilion at 7:00 p.m. As Post Commander, I was master of ceremonies for the event which was well attended.
- Thursday, June 24th – 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 July 4th, the Department convention July 9-11, the annual Family picnic in August, the annual ALR pig roast in September, a clam bake in October, and a Duck Race event for November.
- Monday, June 28, 2021 – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m., and I presented the May 2021 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.

Bob Potts – VVA

- May 30th – VVA Chapter 249 did not march in the Memorial Day Parade in Bay Village. There was only a service at Lakeside Cemetery.
- June 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- June 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 17th – I attended VVA Chapter 249 meeting.
 1. The meeting was held outside with 9 members present.
 2. The financial report was given with discussion on how monies can be spent.
 3. We discussed how to get members to come to meetings.
 - a. Speakers
 - b. Minor league baseball game
 - c. Visit to Washington DC Vietnam Memorial
 - d. Visit to Copley Vietnam Memorial
- June 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Note: I attended a 4th of July party with friends and while there I talked with a marine regarding his benefits and how to appeal his claim. I referred the veteran to the CCVSC.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- June 1st – I joined the American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio.
- June 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 9th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- June 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 17th – I attended DAV Chapter 108 meeting. This was the last meeting until September.
- June 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

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

JVC of Lakewood/Rocky River – the next scheduled meeting is 01/12/2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

Deputy Director F. Williams gave a detailed update on the Grand Re-opening event on July 17th. Several opportunities will be available for veterans, to include claims processing and adjudication, financial assistance, VA medical registration, etc. The event will be advertised via a TV interview with the Director, Google and Facebook blitzes, flyers, etc. The event is scheduled on July 17th from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

J. Reiss reported that the cost of a direct mailer to all VSC clients will cost between \$10-12,000. It was decided that direct mail is no longer as effective, and the money would be better spent on other sources of advertising.

Satellite offices will soon be ready. G. Garner is already stationed at the Parma CBOC and the assigned service officers will return to Wade Park soon.

J. Yan continues to work on the self-check-in function. This will offer more flexibility to the office support position.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the possibility of a holiday party. A tentative date was set for December 10th. The Executive Director and Deputy Director will work out the details and present potential options.

The VSC is not willing to work with landlords who have committed fraud. Clients whose landlord has been determined to have committed fraud will be offered the option of help to relocate.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Frank Pocci suggested giving the July 17th Grand Re-opening event a name. There was also discussion about this being an annual or semi-annual event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matter – employment/demotion.

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

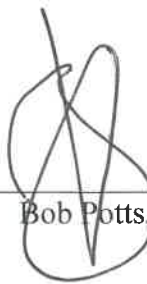
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:38 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed personnel matters regarding employment/demotion.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 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:

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

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)