



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: September 1, 2021 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Christopher Grau, President
Frank Pocci, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Mark Musson, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Clay Uzell, Commissioner
Mel Baher, Commissioner

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 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: Grau, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the Commissioner's reports. (All Commissioners have a copy)

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

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I completed the financial reports for Post 80 and presented the report at the monthly meeting on August 3rd.
- The honor guard is continuing to perform funeral honors at the national cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

- Some of the members attended the reenactment of the WWII Normandy Invasion in Conneaut, Ohio.

Other Activities

- During August I attended all scheduled CCVSC meetings.
- The ITAM Post 34 met on August 31st with 26 in attendance.
- The Catholic War Veterans may have to dissolve as there may not be leadership for the Post.
- I am currently working with a couple of veterans who may need assistance.
- Our ITAM Service Officer, Bob Krenciglova spoke with a few veterans at VFW Post 1974 who should file a claim. I am working with him to see if we can advertise one of our meetings and get more veterans to attend. Apparently, these veterans knew nothing about our commission and the work we can do for veterans. I will advise on any development.

Note: Washington D.C. (August 10, 2021) – AMVETS is proud to honor several first responders and local heroes during the organization’s 76th National Convention in Greensboro, NC, August 20th. The award presentation is coordinated by AMVETS’ HEAL Program, which assists veterans with the medical needs and quality healthcare they’ve earned, at no cost to the veteran.

Those to be honored are Prince George’s County Officer Dominick Gabriel Chambers, Prince Williams County Firefighter Victor Angry and State Senator Jeremy McPike, and Veterans Employment Services Manager for Northern Virginia Serena Bermudez, who is also a Navy Veteran.

Clay Uzell – VFW

No report for August.

Mel Baher – American Legion

Attending the American Legion National convention in Phoenix, AZ.

Bob Potts – VVA

- August 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- August 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 19th – I attended VVA Chapter 249 meeting. The President was absent from the meeting because of vacation so I stood in and ran the meeting.
- August 31st – The CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting was cancelled.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- August 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- August 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- August 18th – On vacation
- August 31st – The CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting was cancelled.

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.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to go out of the regular order of business to go into Executive Session due to time constraints.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss a certain personnel matter – employment, matter to be kept confidential, and two (2) client cases and appeals.

AYES: Grau, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:31 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 9:44 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed a certain personnel matter regarding employment, a matter to be kept confidential, and client cases and appeals.

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

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to return to the regular order of business.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Updated COVID protocols were discussed. The Executive Director will draft new protocols for review by the Board.

The October VetConnect event was discussed. As with past events, the total amount of expenses are not to exceed \$25,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2021-06 providing for the purchase of a “dog tag” identification plate stamp machine for advertising and outreach purposes. The purchase agreement is with Identisys and will not exceed \$15,000.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2021-08 for the purchase of outreach/marketing material for outreach and support services to the veterans of Cuyahoga County. The purchase agreement is with 4imprint Business Solutions USA and will not exceed \$25,000.

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

The Deputy Director’s team developed a poster based on his belief and saying, ‘One Team One Fight.’ The Commissioners liked the poster and welcomed the idea of posting it around the office to remind staff that we are all in the business of helping veterans together.


Staff training was discussed. The CCVSC is closed for multiple days throughout the year while the Veterans Service Officers (VSO) are in training. Due to closures during this training, staff training will not be a full day during the months when the VSO’s attend training. Instead, the staff training will take place on the Tuesday immediately preceding training in Columbus. Training will be held during the morning, leaving the afternoon for travel time for the VSO’s.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

AYES: Grau, Poggi, Potts. 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)