



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**VACANT**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**JAMES RILEY**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FERONNE WILLIAMS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650  
Email: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

### MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** June 7, 2023 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob Potts, President – via Zoom (unable to vote)  
Mel Baher, Vice President  
James Riley, Secretary  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director  
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary  
Matthew Convery, Assistant County Prosecutor

**EXCUSED:** None.

**VISITORS:** None.

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Bob Potts, President.

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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). Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to go out of the regular order of business to discuss client cases and appeals, compensation of a public employee, pending or imminent court action, and to prepare for collective bargaining strategy. Motion seconded by Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:12 a.m. In Executive Session the Board heard client cases and appeals, discussed preparations for collective bargaining, pending imminent court action and compensation of a public employee.

The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client appeal that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached. The Executive Director and Deputy Director were instructed on how to proceed.

Motion was made by Frank Pocci to correct overtime hours for exempt and non-exempt employees based on current county rules. Motion seconded by Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to return to the regular order of business and discuss Commissioner Reports, Old Business, New Business, and Good of the Order.

Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

## **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

### Mel Baher – American Legion

- May 7, 2023 - attended 13<sup>th</sup> District Summer Convention held at Post 610
  - elected Finance Officer and Delegate to National Convention
- May 11, 2023 - attended Post 91 membership meeting held at 7 p.m.
  - elected Post Finance Officer and Delegate to State Convention
- May 20, 2023 - attended JVOCC luncheon at Holiday Inn Rockside
- May 22, 2023 - attended 13<sup>th</sup> District executive board meeting held at Post 610
- May 25, 2023 - attended Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- May 27, 2023 - decorated graves at Woodvale Cemetery
- May 29, 2023 - participated in Memorial Day parade and services at Post 91

Initiated several DD214 requests with Mary at the CCVSC office.

Volunteered at Post 91 with planned activities and work parties, as needed.

### Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- attended Memorial Day activities at AL Post 91
- participated in Memorial Day ceremonies at Adams Street Cemetery and Woodvale Cemetery
- participated in the Memorial Day parade in Berea and afterwards the Memorial Day event at Post 91
- attended the Memorial Day ceremony at American Legion Post 572 in Parma
- presided over the ITAM Post 34 meeting where I referred on individual for a possible claim

Gave a replacement flag to replace a worn one.

Referred a VA representative to a VSC Service Officer.

Made everyone in attendance at the ITAM meeting aware of the impact of the PACT Act.

### James Riley – VFW

- May 7<sup>th</sup> - attended VFW District 7 meeting in Bedford
- May 8<sup>th</sup> - gave Guitars 4 Vets lesson to group of 12 Vets
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - rifle salutes at Rittman National Cemetery
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - Joint Veterans Council meeting
- May 11<sup>th</sup> - attended Catholic War Vets meeting
- May 16<sup>th</sup> - attended VFW Meeting at my Post
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - organized annual luncheon for Joint Veterans Council for 238 people
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - performed at Memorial Day service at Grace Presbyterian church in Lakewood
- May 24<sup>th</sup> - attended VSC meeting (remote) at my Post
- May 27<sup>th</sup> - placed Veterans flags at Alger Cemetery in Cleveland
- May 28<sup>th</sup> - performed at Garfield Hts. Memorial Day service with Mayor Matt Burke, also a veteran

- May 29<sup>th</sup> - conducted Memorial Day ceremony at VFW 2533
- May 31<sup>st</sup> - spoke to students at St Mark Church in Cleveland about Memorial Day
- May 31<sup>st</sup> - performed rifle salute for funeral of 22-year-old Marine killed in car crash on I-90

**Bob Potts – VVA**

- drove members of the VVA in the Memorial Day parade
- attended Memorial Day presentation at the end of the parade

Approached by a man about a young marine who died in a car accident. Olmsted Falls will honor Vietnam Veterans on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There is no update to the RTA – Veteran Ride Free Program. A meeting will be held soon.

2023 VetConnect has not been scheduled yet. The outreach team is trying to schedule the event in October.

The Director mentioned that there is no county space available for client training. He is looking elsewhere for suitable space.

There is no update to new headquarters construction. The County must approve the design before the job can go out for bid.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Commissioner Pocci continues to assess homes and businesses to determine need for new flags.

Jim Riley continues to participate on honor guard for deceased veterans being buried at Rittman. He will be attending the VFW State Convention and participating in Flag Day events. Mr. Riley will provide flags for new US citizens, and he will attend the swear-in events for Army recruits.

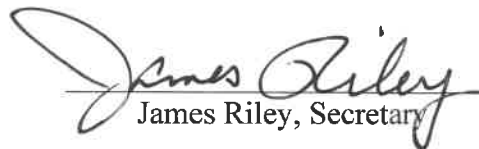
Commissioner Baher will attend Flag Day events at Post 91 and will be traveling to Dayton, Ohio for the American Legion state convention.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.



Bob Potts, President



James Riley, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Filing claims with the Dept. of  
Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:  
Financial Assistance Manager:  
Executive Director:  
Deputy Director:  
Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)  
Jeanne Bell (216)-698-2635  
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)  
Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)  
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)