



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

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

### MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** May 24, 2023 6:11 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob Potts, President  
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:** Albert Mitchell, VSC Outreach Coordinator  
Robert McEndree, VSC Outreach Coordinator  
JoAnne Boulter, VSC Outreach Coordinator

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

#### **STATE OF COMMISSION FINANCE REPORT**

The State of the Commission Report was not represented. All Commissioner's have a copy. There were no non-VSC guests at the meeting and the report had been presented at a previous meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Memorial Day flags have been distributed to all posts and cemeteries that requested them. J. Reiss will post on Facebook that any organization in need of flags can pick them up at the VSC office.

RTA has agreed to exchange the expiring bus tickets. Some of the tickets will be distributed to community partners who serve veterans. The RTA is considering the Veteran Ride Free program presented by Jon Reiss. They will reach out to Mr. Reiss for further discussion.

The new headquarter building plans continue. At last week's meeting, lighting, plumbing fixtures, and the digital sign were discussed. There is concern that the requested sign and outdoor lighting will be vandalized. Other options will be discussed at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Dates for VetConnect 2023 were discussed. The VSC would like to host the event in the late fall and offer coats and boots to the veterans. The outreach team will check with Rocket Mortgage Field House to assess available dates for a Saturday morning in the fall. S. Byers will create a community partner calendar to prevent conflicts with dates.

The VSC will be hosting a PACT Act Clinic on July 22<sup>nd</sup> for all veterans. The event will allow veterans to review the information needed to submit a claim and an intent to file will be submitted to protect their date of claim. Due to time constraints, only simple claims will be worked and submitted at the clinic. The VSC will advertise the clinic and flyers will be distributed.

A motion was made by Mel Baher hire Mercedes Hester in the role of Operations Specialist, effective June 12, 2023. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Jim Riley stated that he assisted in laying 17,000 flags at Holy Cross Cemetery for Memorial Day. He also mentioned the Garfield Heights Memorial Day event and Mr. Riley was the main speaker at the Guitars for Vets Memorial Day program.


Commissioner Potts mentioned inviting the County Executive, the judges and the Mayor to a future board meeting. Jon Reiss followed up by saying that he had personally invited them multiple times.

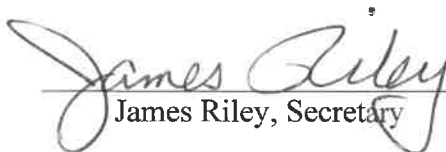
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, 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)