



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
AJ THOMPSON
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
JAMES RILEY
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FERONNE WILLIAMS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: October 4, 2023 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
 Mel Baher, Vice President
 James Riley, Secretary
 Frank Pocci, Commissioner
 AJ Thompson, Commissioner
 Jon Reiss, Executive Director
 Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
 Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
 Craig Morice, 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 AJ Thompson. Discussion: Items moved to Executive Session.

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Mel Baher – American Legion

- September 3, 2023 - attended 13th District council meeting held at Post 703 at 10:00 a.m.
- provided financial reports as District Finance Officer
- September 14, 2023 - attended Post 91 membership meeting held at 7 p.m.
- provided financial reports as Post Finance Officer
- September 15, 2023 – conducted POW/MIA ceremony for Post 91 as Chairman of the POW/MIA committee at 7:00 p.m. – Post Pavilion
- September 27, 2023 – attended 13th District Executive Board meeting held at Post 703 at 7:00 p.m.
- provided financial reports as District Finance Officer
- September 28, 2023 – attended Post 91 Executive Board meeting held at 7:00 p.m.

- presented updated financial reports as Post Finance Officer

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

AJ Thompson – DAV

- The Greater Cleveland Area Community DAV Chapter established its DAVW (DAV-Women) Division, the first in the nation. Established to embrace military service and the sacrifice of women in the armed forces. Commander T. Delaney works with female veterans struggling with Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and PTSD.
- PTSD/MST support group meetings are facilitated by A. Mitchell, who has grown the group and has been able to support those suffering from PTSD who, in turn, have been able to support each other.
- DAV Chapter 147 will participate in Congresswoman Shontel Brown's Veterans Roundtable Meeting along with other Veterans Organizations.
- DAVA Chapter 147 (auxiliary) conducted its first Forget-Me-Not membership and fundraiser drive on September 24th.
- DAV Chapter 147 hosted its annual DAV Day Picnic & Fishing event. Many distinguished guests were in attendance and Fox 8 News and VFW Media covered the event.
- The VA Volunteer Service Officer, Senior Chapter Service Officers and the team of Chapter Chaplains continue to assist veterans in a variety of ways, including filing VA claims for veterans.

Upcoming events include Chapter meeting (10/24), Navy Birthday Event (10/13), Marine Corps Birthday Event (11/10), and Veterans Day celebrations on November 11th.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- attended the AMVETS Post 80 meeting. Gave financial report
- attended Italian American War Veterans meeting and discussed having two new members join
- I was the recipient of honors as County Employee of the Year from the Italian Heritage Foundation for my work with veterans at the CCVSC
- Gave the monthly AMVETS financial report on October 3rd
- I assisted and referred two veterans with filing VA claims
- worked to obtain the necessary documentation for the funeral home to arrange a funeral at Rittman National Cemetery
- working with a local school to help celebrate Veterans Day

James Riley – VFW

- September 7th – meeting at Burke Lakefront Airport with Mayor Bibb's staff for Veterans Day
- September 9th – met with the Murphy family – Navy veteran – regarding OVH matters and preparing house for sale
- September 11th – monthly Guitars for Vets lesson
- September 12th – JVCOC monthly meeting
- September 14th – Rittman National Cemetery 8 rifle salutes at military funerals
- September 17th – Sons of American Revolution – North Royalton rifle salute at six Revolutionary War soldier's graves
- September 17th – VFW Post 2533 monthly meeting
- Joint Veterans Honor Guard rifle salute – Army veteran funeral – Aurora, Ohio

Bob Potts – VVA

- attended all VSC meetings

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director Reiss briefed the Board on the headquarters building updates. The elevator in the new building is unable to be repaired, it must be modernized. There is no update regarding the boiler warranty or an .TA bus stop.

The lease for the VSC current location has been received. The VSC is waiting for county approval to make it official. C. Kehoe is working on a new garage door and opener. She is also working on the fire panel update.

J. Reiss spoke to the Director of the Parma CBOC. She is open to the idea of the VSC parking the mobile vehicle at the CBOC to assist veterans. More information to follow.

Deputy Director Williams is working on the language for new client acceptable behavior signs. The signs will set an expectation of respect and respect will not be negotiable.

The Board was briefed on options for cleaning staff. The Board has instructed the Directors to research the options and present the findings at a future meeting.

Financial assistance applications that involve misrepresentation will be handled in-house and not involve the Prosecutors Office. The notification letter will be revised, and no further applications will be taken until restitution has been made.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Catholic War Veterans serve cookies in the VAMC lobby. They expressed the need for additional funds. This is not something the VSC is able to do, but they will be referred to the American Legion and other military organizations who have funds earmarked for charity.

Mr. Reiss was contacted with a request to supply bus tickets at an event. The VSC is unable to provide tickets for this type of event because there is no control in place to ensure the attendee is a veteran.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Pocci was recognized as the County Veteran of the Year for Cuyahoga County. Over 200 people attended the event, and it was a wonderful event.

Commissioner Riley will be the guest speaker at the Union Club on November 8th for Veterans Day.

Commissioner Potts met with a surgeon. The damage is severe, and surgery will be very complex. Recovery time is expected to be long.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher to go into Executive Session to consider compensation and discipline of a public employee. Motion seconded by AJ Thompson.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Thompson. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:55 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:50 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed compensation and discipline of a public employee. The Executive and Deputy Directors were advised on how to proceed.

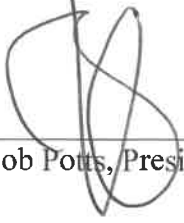
. motion was made by Mel Baher to set a dual role premium based on the length of time of the dual role is worked, as outlined. Motion seconded by AJ Thompson. Discussion: The length of time the employee is in the dual role per pay period will determine the amount of compensation.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m. Motion seconded by Mel Baher.

AYES: Baher, Poggi, Potts, Riley, Thompson.

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)