



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

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: September 27, 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

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING/LEVEL III APPEALS

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Feronne Williams and Patricia Smith led a discussion about financial assistance policies and the lack of consistency in the way they are applied. Ms. Smith explained that many cases are making it to Level II without the required documents. She does the best she can to make sure the application is complete, but often is unable to acquire all needed documents. Trish explained that when these applications make it to Level III, the board is able to assist without the documents, based on the applicant's word. This makes it very difficult to hold the applicants accountable. They know if they make it to Level III, the Board may not require the documents and may approve the application without the documents. Many veterans just ask to go right to Level III, rather than through the steps. The Board directed Ms. Smith to add a statement at the beginning of her summary, listing the documents requested and those that were not provided. This will make it clearer to the Board and they will be able to discuss it with the applicant.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss client cases and appeals, VetConnect, and to consider employment and compensation of a public employee. Motion seconded by AJ Thompson.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:49 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed client cases and appeals and VetConnect. The consideration of employment and compensation of a public employee were postponed until the next open public meeting.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, 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:
Finance/Operations Manager:
Executive Director:
Deputy Director:
Commissioners:

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Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)