



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
LENON WRIGHT
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 4, 2024 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
James Riley, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Lenon Wright, 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 President Mel Baher with the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Frank Pocci called roll.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to consider employment of a public employee. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:42 a.m. In Executive Session the Board considered employment of a public employee.

A motion was made by Jim Riley 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 Lenon Wright. Discussion: None.

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Mel Baher – American Legion

- August 8th – attended Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.

- presented July 2024 financial reports as Post Finance Officer
- August 14th – attended 13th District council meeting held at Post 572
 - presented June 2024 financial reports as District Finance Officer
- August 22nd – attended Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
 - presented updated financial reports as Post Finance Officer
- August 23rd – departed for New Orleans, LA to attend the American Legion National Convention – returned August 29th

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

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- Attended the AMVETS monthly meeting
- Attended the Italian American War Vets meeting
- Referred one veteran to the VSC Service Department
- Attended the D-Day Conneaut Commemoration along with 12 other veterans and guests
- Will present a widow with a flag case for her deceased husband
- Attended Guitar for Vets training and Berea performance

James Riley – VFW

- August 1st – attended planning meeting with Cleveland City Hall staff to plan Veterans Day ceremony
- August 5th – Guitars 4 Vets lesson and group session
- August 7th – Guitars 4 Vets attended Berea Veterans picnic
- August 8th – attended the Catholic War Veterans monthly meeting
- August 12th – Guitars 4 Vets lesson and group session
- August 13th – conducted Joint Veterans Council meeting – planning Veterans Day ceremony
- August 16th – performed rifle salutes at Western Reserve National Cemetery with Joint Veterans Honor Guard
- August 26th attended military remembrance ceremony at Seven Hills City Hall for Afghan 13

Lenon Wright - DAV

- August 1st – visited with the veterans at the Men’s Homeless Shelter. Donated bus tickets on behalf of the DAV
- August 21st – attended the DAV monthly meeting. Served as treasurer and adjutant for the chapter
- August 23rd – met with Michael Sering, the VP of the Men’s Homeless Shelter and presented him with a \$1,000 donation from the Disabled American Veterans.
- August 27th – Coordinated with the VP of the YWCA to meet and discuss how the DAV can better assist the homeless female veterans

Bob Potts – VVA

- Attended the VVA meeting with 7 veterans in attendance
- Working with the wife of a veteran to complete a claim for PTSD
- Referred a veteran to VA counselors to overcome his problems with PTSD

OLD BUSINESS

The Executive Director gave his weekly building update. The timeline for the headquarters project is 458 days. The project will begin when the building is completely vacated. Mr. Reiss will order copies of the building blueprints.

A date will be set for the Active Shooter (ALICE) train the trainer training and the commissioners were again invited to the teambuilding training on September 6th.

Plans for VetConnect 2024 are going well. The team will be fine tuning plans over the weeks leading up to the event.

Will and POA discussions will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Executive Director will be meeting with the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial on September 13th to discuss plans to add them to the VSC website. The Honor Roll will likely have its own tab.

Executive Director, Jon Reiss, will reach out to Public Works to discuss trading in the VSC's old vehicles.

Possible software solutions are being researched and discussed.

Jon Reiss will be meeting with the City of Cleveland this week to discuss the proposed veteran's village.

NEW BUSINESS:

A policy to prohibit the hiring of family members of current employees will be discussed at the next open public meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Baher announced that the American Legion National Commander Elect will be attending the POW/MIA service and Post 91's steak dinner on POW/MIA Day on September.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.

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



Mel Baher, President



Frank Pocci, 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)