



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: May 7, 2025 9:30 a.m.

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

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, Potts, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Mel Baher – American Legion

- April 2nd – attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at Post 627 in Newburgh Hts. at 7:30 p.m.
 - presented reports for February 2025 as District Finance Officer
- April 10th – attended Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
 - presented financial reports as Post Finance Officer
- April 24th – attended Post 91 Executive Board meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
 - presented the March 2025 financial reports as Post Finance Officer

- April 29th – attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 627 in Newburgh Hts., Ohio.
- presented the March 2025 District finance report, as District Finance Officer

Initiated several DD214 requests with Mary at the CCVSC office.

Referred Veteran to CCVSC Service Officer for follow-up on claim.

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

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- Completed Guitars 4 Vets program
- Attended the ITAM Post 34 business meeting
- Advised a veteran regarding filing a claim
- Completed the AMVETS Finance Report
- Distributed two flags to veterans who need a replacement

James Riley – VFW

- April 2nd – casket side VFW funeral for member of VFW 2533 – McGorray Hanna in Westlake
- April 10th – Monthly rifle detail at Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman
- April 12th – Annual Joint Veterans Council Veteran of the Year luncheon in Independence
- April 14th – Guitars 4 Vets for monthly jam session (lessons each Monday)
- April 15th – monthly VFW #2533 meeting
- April 19th – Rifle salute with Joint Veterans marking 6 Revolutionary War graves in Westlake
- April 26th – Attended VFW District 7 audit meeting in Strongsville
- Wrote article for the DD214 newspaper – honoring Marine POW near Westlake

Lenon Wright - DAV

- Attended the DAV District meeting
 - reported Chapter 116 activity for the last three months
- Attended the DAV Chapter meeting. Served as the Chapter's Treasurer and Adjutant
- Attended the Commissioner training in Dublin, Ohio
- Spoke with Craig Nichols in Men's Homeless Shelter regarding the number of veterans in the shelter

Bob Potts – VVA

- Working with the treasurer from the VVA Chapter to determine what to do with Chapter funds.
- Fielded calls about the VVA Post shutting down
- Spoke with Rocky River High School about speaking at the annual veteran's event

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve the proposed budget for 2026 with changes as discussed. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

The Executive Director gave his weekly building update. The elevator is being worked on and will be functional before occupancy. The furniture has been delivered and will be stored by National Furniture until the building is complete. The electrical wires have been moved from over the roof. The replacement of the roof is scheduled to begin on May 17th.

The lease extension for the current building is with the Law Department. No update has been provided.

There are no updates on the lease for the storage facility. The Board requested a renewable clause be added.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Reiss has obtained veteran transport policies from other counties to get some ideas for the new transport vehicle. A policy will be written prior to the new vehicle arriving. The drivers will have cell phones in case they are needed. Veterans' caretakers or spouses may be able to travel with the veteran. A decision will be made prior to the routes starting.

The Commissioners inquired about the mobile vehicle activity. The mobile vehicle should be driven at least a couple times a week for maintenance reasons. The agency will provide training by a professional.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to approve resolution 2025-15 providing for the purchase of 2,000 challenge coins to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, expenses not to exceed \$10,500.

Motion seconded by Lenon Wright. Discussion: None.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a pending or imminent court action, compensation of a public employee and discipline of a public employee. Motion seconded by Bob Potts.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:49 a.m.)


The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:29 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed a pending or imminent court action, compensation and discipline of a public employee. The Director and Deputy Director were directed on how to proceed.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to correct the starting salary of Stephene Cheatham. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m. Motion seconded by Mel Baher.

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



Jim Riley, President



FOR: Lenon Wright, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Financial Assistance Manager:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

John Rosine, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-4798)

Geniece Garner (216)-698-4955

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

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