

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Thursday, 14 June 2007



**USS O-9 SS 70**

#### Base Officers

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**Chaplain - Vacant**

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**Meeting called to order** at 1617 by Base Commander Rich Holmes at the American Legion Wilson-fisher Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Base Bell was tolled once for the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of June:

20 June 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	33 Men
12 June 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
01 June 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	84 Men
04 June 1944	USS S-28	SS 133	50 Men
14 June 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 June 1945	USS Bonefish	SS 223	85 Men
14 June 1960	USS Sargo	SSN 583	1 Man

A moment of silence followed.

The Chief of the Boat led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Rich Holmes, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Bob Smith, Tom Shields, Tom Crosby, Stan Merker, Frank McDevitt and George Eckert. We wish to welcome Stephen E. Pace, our newest member to the organization. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

The secretary confirmed that a quorum was present.

**The Minutes:** The secretary read the May minutes with the following correction.

Bob Smith stated that we received four boxes from the Times News, not three.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as corrected made by Tom Crosby. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Bob Smith. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx on 31 May 2007.

**Correspondence:** Rich Holmes stated that we are starting to get correspondence from the VA in Stroudsburg. One letter he read was for a "Come join us for a 'Hour of Honor' on June 11<sup>th</sup>". The letter stated that this is an hour of honor to remember our servicemen and women who have been killed during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Another letter from the VA states that we may be eligible for a refund for expenses for Memorial Day and/or other Veterans Day expenses. This can cover the cost of up to \$250 for the expenditures of supporting commemorative events (i.e. food, beverages excluding alcohol, etc, etc.) The secretary will handle the application for the refund, as these are part of the duties of the secretarial position. Original receipts must be attached for the reimbursement to be paid by Monroe County. We applied for reimbursement for the Memorial Day wreath as well as the food for the Flag Day ceremony/meeting.

We received a letter from the International Submariners Association-USA for an application of membership and a contribution for sponsorship for the ISA Congress in San Diego, CA in 2009. If any questions arise, we are directed to look at the following website as to the gist of this organization. Their website is [www.isausa.org](http://www.isausa.org). The letter goes on to say that this will be the first time the US has hosted this congress, which began in 1962. The base secretary will hold the original letter.

Rich Holmes has been corresponding with Vince Flaugherty regarding the USSVI liability insurance program. Rich received correspondence basically stating that the insurance program has lapsed and no carrier wants to pick up on this due to the different laws regarding coverage in each state.

### **Old Business:**

Two items under old business are the Memorial and renaming Rte. 611. Rich Holmes stated that since he sees Tom Crosby at a class that they are taking he asked Tom to help with the Route 611 issue.

Tom Crosby's reply was that he talked to John Siptroth, who is the representative for the East Stroudsburg area, and is all for the renaming of 611. Mr. Siptroth stated that the easiest way to do it is in portions. Tom stated that Mike Carroll is also in favor of this project. Tom was told that a letter or an e-mail could be used to get the ball rolling, since both Mr. Siptroth and Mr. Carroll are on the transportation committee. Since Mr. Scavello is already in favor of this project, we should not have a problem in this area of Pennsylvania, since they represent three different districts along route 611.

Bob Smith brought a Flag Drop box with him for us to look at. Rich Holmes brought up the idea of putting our creed on the bottom of the box, to let the public know what we are about.

Bob Smith also stated that he picked up a copy of the Times News for 14 June 2007, this included the article about he and Rich Holmes picking up our flag boxes. This seemed very appropriate since today is Flag Day. Bob stated that he wants to pick up a couple extra copies.

Frank McDevitt would like us to get started on the trailer at its present location. He would like to get the bunting on it after checking it for livestock.

Bob brought up the issue about getting a set of locks with identical keys. Tom Crosby says he can get as many as we would like.

Mike Smith brought up the idea of purchasing a brick for the POW-MIA Memorial that is at the Tobyhanna Army Depot. The memorial is located across from the existing 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial. The cost for each brick is \$100 and can be engraved. Mike Smith suggested the following “United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. – Pocono Base”. A motion was tendered and accepted by the members present to purchase a brick.

The annual base picnic will be held at the same pavilion as last year on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

Flag Day ceremony to be held after today’s meeting.

**Good of the Order:** none.

**Next meeting** will be held at the American Legion, Wilson-Fisher Post in Pocono Pines, PA. on 18 July 2007 at 1900 hrs.

Rich Holmes entertained a motion to adjourn.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to adjourn made by Bob Smith. 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion made by Tom Crosby.

All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Rich Holmes led the recitation of the Creed of USSVI.

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government.”

Rich Holmes offered a closing prayer.

Rich Holmes declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1723 hrs.

Food and drinks followed the meeting and the Flag Day Ceremony was held in conjunction with the American Legion post at 1800 Hrs. Over 1000 flags were ceremoniously burned.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary