

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 14 November 2007



USS Corvina SS-226

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer - Rich Holmes / P.O. Box 147, Bartonsville, PA. 18321-0147

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Base Executive Officer – Frank McDevitt / P.O. Box 790, Pocono Pines, PA. 18350-0790

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Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

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Base Supply Officer – Bill Klose / P.O. Box 28, Noxen, PA. 18036-0028

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COB – Tom Shields / P.O. Box 219, Mountainhome, PA. 18342

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Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1910 by Base Commander Rich Holmes at the American Legion Wilson-Fisher Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	63 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	78 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	85 Men
11 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

Roll Call: Members present were: Rich Holmes, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, and George Eckert.

The Base Commander led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Base Secretary read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Corvina.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary read the minutes from the October Meeting.

1st motion to accept the minutes made by Bob Smith. 2nd motion made by Frank McDevitt.
All in favor, motion passed.

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

1st motion to accept the treasurers' report made by Frank McDevitt. 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby.
All in favor, motion passed.

Old Business:

Rich Holmes contacted the Maine Base and was able to get a set of plans that could be used to build our float. Bob Smith stated that he wanted to look at the plans, but neither Rich nor Frank brought them. Frank McDevitt stated that they are working plans.

Rich Holmes stated that the interview at "The Flag Store" with BRCTV went well. Only Frank was on the final cut on the "Pocono Report".

As of this meeting, Frank and the others still have not received their business cards.

Rich Holmes, Bob Smith, Al Tafa and his son attended the Veterans Day Ceremony in Stroudsburg on Saturday. Rich was called upon to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Rich gave the secretary the itinerary for our records.

The base secretary took the suggestion from Tom Shields and created small business cards for the 4th grade students at Tobyhanna Elementary School. Rich Holmes and Mike Smith went to Tobyhanna Elementary on Monday the 11th on November for a presentation. We were joined by PFC Kelly, who was a student at the school, before going on and joining the Army. The business cards featured silver dolphins and the words "Future Submariner" for the kids and gold dolphins with "Honorary Submariner" for the teachers. Both sets of cards had the base website printed on them. Rich Holmes read a story about "Lucky Fluckey" and the sub that sank a train. The kids enjoyed that very much.

Rich stated that he was given permission to talk to John Jaques directly regarding the insurance issue. We are still waiting as of this meeting. Rich is hoping to hear something positive by the Christmas Party.

Frank stated that after 2 ½ months, we can finally place a flag drop box at the Shop Rite in Mount Pocono.

Frank also stated, that after about 2 years of trying, we also now have a locker to use. The problem is that it is larger than expected. Frank states that the locker needs to be painted so it matches the paint in the Legion Post and not the Kelly Green that the locker is currently painted. Frank stated that we also have two plaques to be hung up on the wall.

New Business:

Rich stated that we received 1st place for our website at the D2/D5 meeting back in October. Bravo Zulu and well done to our Webmaster, Bob Smith.

Frank McDevitt stated that he and Bob Smith both won prizes front the 50/50 at the D2/D5 Meeting.

Good of the Order:

2008 Base and National Dues due by 1 Jan 2008. Stickers for our cards have arrived from National.

This years Christmas Party/Dinner will be held on Wednesday the 12th of December. The location will be at Bailey's Restaurant in Mount Pocono, starting at 1800 hrs. Please come out and join us. We will try to contact Grover and Oliver this year as well as Joe Kolb's wife. We will also invite Bob Vaughan and his wife for the dinner. Frank McDevitt is asking for a head count so he can let the restaurant know. Please contact him by Friday the 7th of December if you are planning to attend and how many are going. Right now, we have about 16 to 18 people attending.

Lake Naomi Trails is again accepting donations for packages to be sent to the troops overseas. In the past, we have passed the hat and then matched the donations from the treasury. This needs to be accomplished before Thanksgiving this year.

At the time of the meeting, Grover was in the hospital and Rich went to see him on Sunday the 10th. Rich stated that he looked good and is as ornery as ever. Grover stated that he had to get out of this place. Grover also stated that he is looking forward to the double zero.

Rich Holmes stated that he sent a copy of the invitation for the party to those who do not have e-mail. He stated that he also contacted Bob and Ruth and they are coming.

Next official meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 Jan 2008 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fisher Post.

Rich Holmes entertained a motion to adjourn.

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 2012 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary