

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 October 2012



USS Escolar (SS 294)

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

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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 Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer 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 October:

28 Oct 1923	USS O-5	SS 66	3 Men
07 Oct 1943	USS S-44	SS 155	56 Men
11 Oct 1943	USS Wahoo	SS 238	79 Men
12 Oct 1943	USS Dorado	SS 248	78 Men
03 Oct 1944	USS Seawolf II	SS 197	102 Men
17 Oct 1944	USS Escolar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	80 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Shark II	SS 314	90 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Ken Smith, Ivan Meixell, Skip Gallagher, Tom Shields, Gerald Zeman, Skip Baker and John Kelly.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Secretary provided the September Meeting Minutes for review at this months meeting. The minutes to be posted to the website were given to Bob Smith on a CD, due to computer issues.

1st motion to accept the minutes as presented made by Tom Shields. Dave Padora made 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer was absent due to being out of state for the meeting.. Bob Smith read the treasurers report that was given to him by Bill Klose. The ending balance for September 28, 2012 was \$xxxx.xx. Bob Smith gave a final accounting of the raffle income from this years' contest.

Bob Smith stated that Bill Klose had sent in our end of year report to National.

1st motion to accept Treasurers report was made by Tom Shields. Mike Smith made 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: No Report. Rich Holmes not present at this meeting.

Budget: No report.

Correspondence: None

Flag Box Program: Bob Smith stated that he and John Kelly removed the Flag Drop Box from Country Junction and relocated it to the new Kinsley Shop Rite in Brodheadsville. Bob stated that the box is located near the Pharmacy and that he already has picked up a couple of flags from it.

Speakers Bureau: Bob Smith inquired about speaking at Tobyhanna Elementary School on Veterans Day. Frank McDevitt stated that we have not received an invitation from them yet.

Dinner/Dance: Annual base Christmas Dinner to be held at the Village Squire Steak House Restaurant on 21 Dec 2012.

Parades: We will be attending the Barrett Township Halloween Parade on 28 Oct 2012. Judging begins at 1200 hrs and step-off between 1300-1400 hrs. Please meet at Tom Shields house by 1200.

We will be attending the Carbon County Veterans Day parade in Palmerton, PA on 11 Nov 2012. Meet uptime is at 1PM, with parade step off at 2PM. Bob stated that the information is on the website.

Eagle Scout: Mike Smith stated that he was unable to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Gregory N. Krautkremer. Mike stated that he did not receive the Eagle Scout Certificate in time for the presentation and that the Certificate contained the wrong person to represent the Pocono Base. Frank McDevitt stated that he would get back to Vic Paterno and send a corrected certificate when it became available.

Old Business:

Tom Shields would like those attending the Barrett Township Halloween Parade to meet at his house by 1200 Hours. The parade will step off at about 1:30PM. Tom Shields stated that he would provide food and drinks at his house after the parade. We will need enough people to comprise a Color Guard. Directions to Tom Shields house can be found on the base website under the calendar link.

We will be attending the Veterans Day program again this year at Pleasant Valley High School in Brodheads ville, PA. Ken Smith and Bob Smith are looking for volunteers to help set up on the 11th of November after the parade in Palmerton.

There is also a concurrent speaking engagement at the Tobyhanna Elementary School on Veterans Day. We have not received a formal invitation to this event at the time of this meeting.

Bob Smith stated that the annual base Christmas Dinner information is up on the website. The dinner will once again be held at the Village Squire Steak House Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA on Friday, 21 Dec 2012. The reception will start at 6:30PM and dinner will start at 7:30PM. Please contact Bob by either phone or e-mail of your intent to attend and how many in your party and please pick from the menu posted on the website for your choice of food.

Gerald Zeman talked about the Veterans Event that was held in Dingman's Ferry this past weekend. It was an expo about the various issues regarding veterans' programs and benefits. Bob Smith thanked John Kelly for following him to the event.

Ken Smith made a final recommendation regarding our participation in regards to the Sea Scouting program. Ken stated that he was going to attend one of their meetings, but stated that he felt the group did not want to participate in the program. Ken Smith made a motion that we shelve the proposal to participate in the Sea Scout program until a later time. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed to put the program on the 'back burner'.

There was discussion about from the Budget Committee as to how far we want to spend out of our treasury. Currently, the Budget Committee is Ken Smith and Gerald Zeman. Bob Smith stated that he would e-mail the committee members the values of the mandatory expenses for the upcoming year and we would go from there.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Escobar.

New Business:

Bob Smith talked about an invitation to attend an event at East Stroudsburg University on the 13th of November. The invitation came from a person who is in charge of Veterans affairs at the university. Bob Smith asked for her to send an e-mail regarding the event. There is no information at this time regarding the event or if we would bring the sub to the event.

Skip Gallagher talked about a program called Quilts of Valor and had some informational brochures regarding the program. Skip stated that they are asking for a donation to help with the cost of shipping the quilts to various locations. Skip stated that most of the work is done by people with handicaps. The information was given to the Budget Committee for review and

recommendation. Skip stated that there have been over 67000 quilts made and donated at the time of this meeting.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith again expressed his thanks for the members who sold the raffle tickets at the Carbon County Fair in Palmerton, PA., the West End Fair in Gilbert, PA and the Victorian Days event on Sunday in Belvedere, NJ.

Mike Smith returned the key for the flag drop box that was at Country Junction.

Bob Smith made a recommendation that the November meeting be moved up one week to the 14th of November, due to the normal date being so close to Thanksgiving. All members present agreed with the change of date.

The Base Secretary stated that he would not be present for the next two meetings and is asking for someone to step up to do the minutes for the next couple of months. He stated that he would be out of town until around Christmas.

The winner of our annual base raffle will be drawn after the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

Calendar of Events:

28 Oct 2012: Barrett Township Halloween Parade.

11 Nov 2012: Veterans Day Parade in Palmerton, PA.

12 Nov 2012: Veterans Day event at the Pleasant Valley High School. Our Base Float will be there.

12 Nov 2012: Veterans Day, tentative speaking engagement Tobyhanna Elementary School though no invitation received yet.

14 Nov 2012: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

22 Nov 2012: Thanksgiving Day.

21 Dec 2012: Pocono Base Annual Christmas Dinner to be held at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 November 2012 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Skip Gallagher to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Gerald Zeman.

All in favor, motion carried.

The members present joined the Base Commander in the reading of the Base Creed.

“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 of America and its Constitution.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1952 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary