

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 19 November 2014



## USS Albacore (SS 218)

### 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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**Chaplain – Vacant**

**Meeting called to order** at 1908 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Gerald Zeman, Frank McDevitt Tom Shields, Ken Smith and Skip Baker.

We also had a guest and prospective new member. We would like to welcome Edgar Coumes to the base. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary reported that the October minutes were posted to the base website.

Frank McDevitt made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as posted. Gerald Zeman made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept the minutes as posted. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$xxxx.xx with an income of \$xxx.xx and an expense of \$xxx.xx for the month of October. The treasurer then reported an ending balance of \$xxxxx.xx as of 31 Oct 2014.

Gerald Zeman made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurer's report. Frank McDevitt made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Ken Smith reported that we have 34 members on the sailing list. Ken also reported that most are up to date on their dues

**Budget / Donation:** The budget / donation committee presented the members present at this meeting with a list of donations from our raffle income.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence received.

**Flag Box Program:** Flag Drop boxes continue to be quite active throughout the region.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he placed the usual ads in the local papers as well as one in the Pocono Record.

**Parades / Memorial Events:** Bob Smith is displeased with what he calls the "Piss Poor" turnout at the last two events.

**Budget / Donation:** Gerald Zeman gave his recommendations as to the disbursement of the raffle proceeds.

**Storekeeper:** The base storekeeper has 2015 Submarine Calendars available for sale. Price is \$8 each.

**Fundraising:** Bob Smith compiled a list of raffle sales for the last year for members to look at.

**Dinner/Dance:** Christmas Dinner to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December at Robert Christians in Pocono Lake, PA.

**Eagle Scout:** No Courts of Honor coming up.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** No Report.

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

**Old Business:** Bob Smith expressed his displeasure regarding the lack of turnout by our members for the Veterans Expo in Marshall's Creek and the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg. There were only three in attendance at each of these events. We would like to see a better turnout if we are going to attend these events.

Bob Smith handed out the complete raffle book sales for 2014 for the base and stated that we did very well with individual sales this year compared to previous years. Also included was the breakdown of sales by night at both the West End Fair in Gilbert, PA and the Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ. The total of all sales totaled \$xxxx.xx for use for donations and base functions

Bob Smith stated that the Christmas Dinner / Party will be held at Robert Christians Restaurant in Pocono Lake this year. Cocktail hour will begin at 18:30 (6:30PM) and dinner will begin at 19:30 (7:30PM) Cost is \$15 per person with the base picking up the remaining tab. Bob is asking that money be sent to him for the dinner to minimize confusion the night of the dinner. Bob is also asking that members attending to either call him or e-mail him as to meal choice to get an accurate number for the restaurant.

Bob Smith talked about a list of events that the base could do that was submitted by Tom Shields a couple of months ago and was listed in the September Minutes. To Reiterate:

Christmas Dinner.

Trip to USS Becuna and lunch afterwards.

Back to Sub School for a graduation.

Blue & Gold Dinner/ Dance in the spring.

Trip to USS Intrepid Seaport Museum with USS Growler and Dinner in Little Italy in NYC.

A visit to the USS Ling.

Dinner meetings, look into starting next year.

A trip to Pocono Downs / Mohegan Sun Casino and dinner.

For the ladies: Look into setting up the Subvettes program.

We will bring these up again starting at or after the January meeting. We are looking for more participation in these events beyond the core group of members that typically attend.

**New Business:** The Budget / Donation committee submitted a plan of donations from the money that was allocated to our donations pool from our raffle proceeds. The following is the list of donations and amounts:

Wounded Warrior Project	\$xxx
Fisher House Foundation, Inc.	\$xxx
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post	\$xxx
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program	\$xxx
VALOR Clinic Foundation	\$xxx
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild	\$xxx
Salvation Army USA	\$xxx
Operation Touch of Home	\$xxx

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the donation committee report as read. Ken Smith made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed.

Frank McDevitt stated that any donation we make to the Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program be submitted by the 13<sup>th</sup> of December in time for their event, which he believes is going to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

Frank McDevitt stated that he has since become fairly involved with the Valor Clinic and the renovations to make the old Jonas Hotel into the Valor Clinic for Homeless Veterans. Frank stated that if anyone has question about the outfit and what they are doing, please see him. Frank talked about the repairs made to the hotel, mostly funded by donations of time and money and what the clinic is all about. The clinic is there to help homeless veterans with housing until they are able to get back on their feet. The clinic has many programs to do just that. They currently have 5 veterans living there, with the capacity for about 12. The veterans must be committed to the 90 day program. NO DRUGS or ALCOHOL ALLOWED and veterans are screened. There is also a curfew of 9PM with lights out by 11PM. They also have provision for housing dogs for those vets that have them.

After some discussion about having the base meeting two nights before the dinner party, Gerald Zeman made a motion that we have just a small meeting before the Christmas Dinner and to have the future December meetings on the night of the dinner. Skip Baker made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to the proposal. All in favor, motion passed.

Tom Shields suggested that we try to see about a combined meeting with the Scranton Base. Also suggested, perhaps making it a dinner meeting in a different location.

The base secretary remitted a couple of receipts to the base treasurer to be reimbursed for the purchase of printer cartridges totaling \$92.18.

\*A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the latest date of 31 Jan 2015, the National level will consider you DINQ at that time.\*

**Good of the Order:** None.

#### **Calendar of Events:**

27 Nov 2014: Happy Thanksgiving.

19 Dec 2014: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. Cocktails start at 1830, Dinner at 1930. Small base meeting prior to start of dinner.

25 Dec 2014: Merry Christmas

1 Jan 2015: Happy New Year

21 Jan 2015: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

**Next full meeting** will be held on, 21 January 2015 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Gerald Zeman to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Mike Smith.

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 2000 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. As a reminder, Base dues are due by the end of December. Any dues not paid by 31 January will be considered delinquent.

Pizza was ordered for the end of the meeting for members who wished to partake. This was postponed from the October meeting.