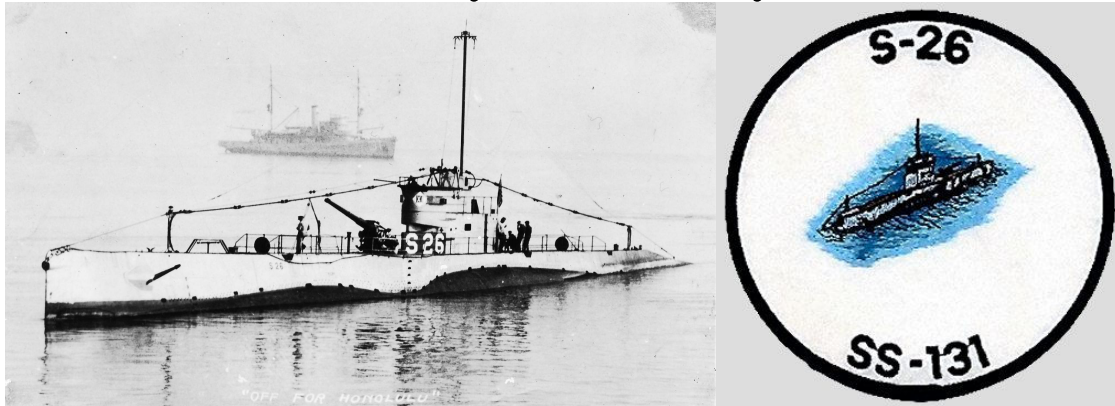


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 January 2016



USS S-26 (SS-131)

Base Officers

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

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlincs@ptd.net

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

Ph (570) 646-6223. E-mail address: patfrank@ptd.net

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

Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

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

Ph (570) 298-2439. E-mail address: seagoatc@epix.net

COB – Alan Dempsey

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 Acting Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of January:

15 Jan 1916	USS E-2	SS-25	4 Men
24 Jan 1942	USS S-26	SS-131	46 Men
10 Jan 1943	USS Argonaut	SS-166	105 Men
05 Jan 1944	USS Scorpion I	SS-278	77 Men
12 Jan 1945	USS Swordfish I	SS-193	89 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Mike Smith, Don Ransel, David Wright, Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt, Ken Smith and John Kelly.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

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

Don Ransel made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as posted. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion to accept the minutes as posted. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$xxxxx.xx as of 1 Dec 2015 with an income of \$xxxx.xx and an expense of \$xxxx.xx for the month of December. This resulted in an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 Dec 2015.

David Wright made the 1st motion to accept the treasurer's report. Don Ransel made the 2nd motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that all members with the exception of Tom Crosby and Anthony Hicks have paid their 2016 National/Base Dues. Both members have until 31 Jan 2016 to remit their dues or they will be reported as DINQ to National. Also, National dues are now \$25.

Bob stated that there is a prospective new member that would like to join and will be submitting a check for dues. Bob stated he would send an application to this gentleman. The gentleman's name is William Gregor.

Budget / Donation: All donations recommended have been sent out.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary read a couple of thank you letters received. The first letter was from the Wounded Warriors Project, thanking us for our donation in Dec 2015. The base also received thank you letters from the Salvation Army and from Valor Clinic. The base also received a Christmas Card from Bob and Ruth Vaughan as well as a thank you letter from St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish on behalf of Frank McDevitt for support of their 3rd annual golf outing.

Bob Smith read an e-mail from a Steve Hnatowicz in regards to his father, Michael. Michael Hnatowicz enjoyed talking with a couple of our members, especially David Wright, during the West End Fair. Michael was interested in joining our base, but his son Steve, informed Bob that Michael passed away on Thanksgiving at the age of 92. Michael Hnatowicz served on board the USS Guavina and took part in Operation Lifeguard.

Flag Box Program: Frank McDevitt continued to report that the base flag drop boxes are doing very well in terms of collections.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he placed the usual ads in the standard papers, with the exception of the Pocono Record. Pocono Record now asking for \$1.50

Parades: There are two St. Patrick's Day Parades in March. One in Jim Thorpe, the other in Stroudsburg.

Eagle Scout: Frank McDevitt reports that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 20th of February.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No report.

Fundraising: Bob Smith stated that we should think about the fundraising for this year within the next couple of months.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS S-26 (SS-131). Submarine was lost after being struck by their escort, PC-460.

Old Business: Bob was asked about the tent for the float and stated that the base defer that until the spring, when the weather gets warmer. Will be looking for help to put the tent in place behind the Legion Post.

We had 30 people attend the Christmas Dinner and had special guest Amy form the valor Clinic to accept our donation for their efforts.

New Business: Bob stated that he submitted an annual report to Huey Dietrich about the base activities for 2015. Bob had copies available for those who wished to read them.

Frank McDevitt stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for a Corey Hahn on the 20th of February. Frank is looking for a volunteer to do the presentation. The Court of Honor will be held at the Church of Jesus of the Latter Day Saints in Stroudsburg, PA from 2-5PM.

Bob Smith talked about the possibility of a day trip to go see a replica of the USS Holland in Totowa, NJ. Totowa is also the place where John Holland is buried.

The Secretary talked about the two parades in March. The first is the Carbon County St. Patrick's Day Parade on the 13th of March. Look into possibility of visibility with this parade and to have participation of members who live near Jim Thorpe.

The other parade is the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, Pa on the 20th of March.

Bob Smith asked the members present if we wish to have a Fund raising event for 2106. Ken Smith made the 1st motion for the base to have a fund raising event this year, Don Ransel made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith asked the members present if we wish to attend the West End Fair this year as well.

Ken Smith made the 1st motion for the base to attend the West End Fair, John Kelly made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Frank McDevitt talked about a way that the Lions Club would raise some money. They would volunteer at the Pocono Raceway to check bags, usher people, collect trash and whatever else need to be done (other than parking). Each person would earn about \$70 per day, per person. There are three race weekends to attend. Frank McDevitt was asked to write this proposal up and e-mail it to the base members for further consideration.

Bob Smith asked for the permission of the base to have Bill Klose pay the annual dues for the base insurance. So moved by the members present.

The base was asked to attend the Chestnuthill Township Community Day again this year. The event doesn't happen until September, but we have been asked to return from the son of our late member George Eckert.

Bob Smith is looking into having new membership cards made. Possibly looking into having metal cards made. Bob is asking for permission to pursue this endeavor. Mike Smith was also looking for the stickers for the 2016 year for our cards. Ken Smith stated he would bring them next meeting.

Bob Smith asked about the possibility of having the Christmas Dinner on a Saturday next December. Bob is looking for replies if this is feasible.

Good of the Order: Dave Jones is in the hospital with acute colitis and is unable to be at our meeting tonight. Dave is in the Palmerton Hospital undergoing tests. Please keep him in your thoughts.

Skip Baker is suffering from complications due to diabetes and is having problems with his feet and legs and was also unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Calendar of Events:

17 Feb 2016 Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

20 Feb 2016: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Corey Hahn, Stroudsburg, PA.

13 Mar 2016: St. Patrick's Day Parade in Jim Thorpe, PA.

16 Mar 2016: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

20 Mar 2016: St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 Feb 2016 at 1900 hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by David Wright to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by John Kelly.

All in favor, motion carried.

The members present joined the Base Vice-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 1956 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

