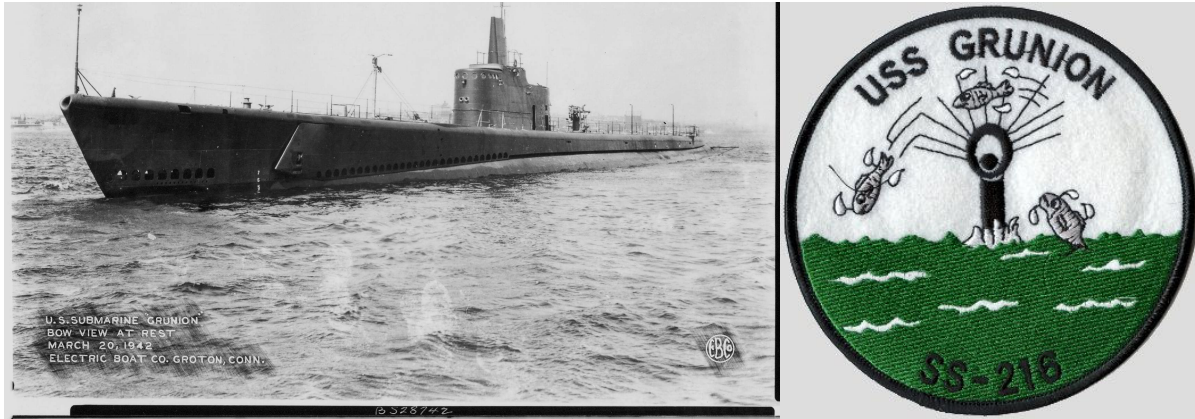


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 19 July 2017



**USS Grunion      SS-216**

### 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](mailto:rlincs@ptd.net)

**Base Executive Officer – Ken Smith**

**Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith** / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638  
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**Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey** / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210  
Ph (570) 355-5876 / [alanalan9633@hotmail.com](mailto:alanalan9633@hotmail.com)

**Chaplain – Tom Crosby** / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466  
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**Meeting called to order** at 1905 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, Bob Obrecht, tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of July:

17 Jul 1911	USS A-7 (Shark)	SS-8	7 Men
30 Jul 1919	USS G-2 (Tuna I)	SS-27	3 Men
30 Jul 1942	USS Grunion	SS-216	70 Men
04 Jul 1944	USS S-28	SS-133	49 Men
26 Jul 1944	USS Robalo	SS-273	84 Men

Tom Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Mike Smith, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Don Ransel, Darryl Betz, Bill Klose and Frank McDevitt.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The June Minutes were posted to the base website and the Secretary provided copies of the minutes for the meeting.

Tom Crosby made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as posted and presented. Bill Klose made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** The Secretary read the Treasurers report, as he was away for the meeting. There was ending balance of \$xx as of 30 June 2017

Bill Klose made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the Treasurers report as read by the Secretary. Frank McDevitt made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob talked about the program from last year in signing up potential members at the West End Fair again.

**Correspondence:** There was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor request. A previous request from Chestnuthill Township and from Carbon County.

**Flag Memorial:** Frank McDevitt continues to report out that the Flag Drop Boxes are still quite active.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Journal of the Pocono Plateau and the Focus.

**Parades:** Invites to the Veterans Day Parades for Carbon County and Monroe County.

**Budget & Donations:** No report

**Eagle Scouts:** Mike Smith stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** No Report. Bob Obrecht talked about the program that the Lehigh Valley Base does and the hoops they had to go thru.

**Fundraising:** West End Fair after next month's meeting.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Grunion.

Lost off the coast of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, possible sunk due to anti-submarine activity near Kiska Island. She was stationed in Dutch Harbor.

**Old Business:** Bob Smith talked about the invitation from the Chestnuthill Township for their Community Day event that will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September at the Chestnuthill Township Park from Noon to 5. We were asked to attend again, as the township supervisor is the son of departed member George Eckert.

Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor for Reuben Graham that was mailed before the meeting. Mike Smith also talked about a court of honor for Noah Rodgers that was held one day after asking about the court. Was held in Jim Thorpe and was first time doing one of our presentations in Carbon County.

Mike Smith described the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for our new members and what it entails and who usually attends and what we provide to the Eagle Scout. We give them a certificate and a patch.

Bob said that we have received our Small Games of Chance Certificate and he thanked Alan Dempsey and Tom Crosby for their efforts in obtaining this certificate.

Bob has sign-up sheets for the West End Fair and Victorian Days, so please sign up here or via e-mail. We will have vendor passes and guest passes for the week. The pass is good for the entire week. We usually do well in ticket sales at the fair.

Bob has received a couple more Holland Club Challenge Coins and has either mailed them out to members or handed them out to those present at this meeting.

**New Business:** Bob read an invitation from Carbon County for the Veterans Day Parade to be held in Nesquehoning, Pa this year on November 5<sup>th</sup>. There is time to consider going to this and the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

Bob also read an e-mail regarding the fate of the USS Ling. The owners of the area where the Ling is moored want to develop the land. The Ling sustained damage during Super Storm Sandy and has been closed to visitors since then. The Ling cannot be moved without dredging the channel and the costs of dredging. This went out to all of the bases in hopes of getting donations.

The base was invited to attend the installation of officers for the Sons of the American Legion and the auxiliary. To be held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Good of the Order:**

Binnacle list: Sam Gallagher is still in the hospital due to a severe infection and will be held for a few more weeks. Ken Smith is home from having Lip Cancer Surgery and is awaiting further information. Dave Spence is in the hospital due to a foot infection. Dave Jones is also having health issues and had hoped to attend tonight's meeting, but was unable to attend.

## Calendar of Events:

22 July 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Reuben Scott Graham at the Reformed Church of Bushkill, East Stroudsburg at 1PM. Certificate was mailed.

30 July 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Zachary Gothard to be held at the Reeders Fire Company in Reeders, Pa at 1PM. Bob Smith to do the presentation

16 Aug 2017: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

20 – 26 Aug 2017: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Will need volunteers to help set up, run the booth and tear down.

9 – 10 Sep 2017: Victorian Day Event in Belvidere, NJ.

20 Sep 2017: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs.

24 Sep 2017: Chestnuthill Township Community Day Event

18 Oct 2017: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs. Raffle winner to be drawn after meeting.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 16 Aug 2017 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The Base Commander, Bob Smith led the members present in the recitation of the USSVI National 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.”

Tom Crosby offered a closing prayer.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Mike Smith All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1955 hrs.

Respectfully submitted  
Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary