

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 20 September 2017



USS Grayling (SS 209)

Base Officers

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Base Executive Officer – Ken Smith

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Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210
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Chaplain – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466
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Meeting called to order at 1900 by Acting Base Commander Alan Dempsey 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 September:

25 Sept 1925	USS S-51	SS 162	32 Men
09 Sept 1943	USS Grayling	SS 209	76 Men
28 Sept 1943	USS Cisco	SS 290	76 Men

Tom Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Alan Dempsey, Ivan Meixell, Dave Padora, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Don Ransel, Tom Crosby, Daryl Betz, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull and Frank McDevitt.

The base welcomed one of our newest members in attendance: Ken Kull, who served and qualified on-board James Madison SSBN-627 (Gold Crew)

The base members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

Meeting Minutes: The August Minutes were posted to the website and the Base Secretary provided minutes at the meeting.

Bob Obrecht made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as provided. Don Ransel made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported ending balances of \$x as of 31 July 2017 and an ending balance of \$x as of 31 Aug 2017.

Alan also gave the members present a rundown of the base operating expenses.

A full report will be given at the October meeting when all raffle incomes have been tallied.

Tom Crosby made the 1st motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. Don Ransel made the 2nd motion to accept. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: We are now up to 51 members including 5 new members signed up from the West End Fair.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary stated that the only correspondence was a Thank You letter from Jebediah Sussenbach for our Eagle Scout Presentation.

Flag Boxes:

Charity / Donation:

Publicity: Bob Smith has the usual ads in the local papers this month for our meeting, including the Time News in the Carbon County Area.

Dinner/Dance: The annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, 15 December 2017 at Robert Christian Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA.

Parades: Barrett Township Halloween Parade on the 29th of October. Line up to be at 1PM.

Eagle Scout: No invitations reported.

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

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Grayling. Cause of loss is unknown.

Old Business: Bob Obrecht talked about our earlier attempt to have a portion of one of the roads named for the Submarine Veterans. We had originally tried for a portion of Rte 611. We never got anywhere with it even with Mario Scavello. Bob is interested into revisiting this and possibly looking at a portion of Rte 115 if possible.

New Business: Alan talked about the upcoming annual Christmas Dinner for this year. It will be held again at Robert Christian's Restaurant. Alan talked about the cost of the dinner menu going up by \$1.00 and discussed how after the built in gratuity, that we end up paying \$42 per person including our standard \$15 per person and the base picking up the rest of the tab.

After a bit of discussion Alan Dempsey suggested that the members now pay \$20 per person for the dinner, with the base picking up the rest of the tab. Part of the reasoning is the lower income from the raffle this year, as well as the \$1.00 increase in menu price.

Don Ransel made the 1st motion to accept the member price increase to \$20 per person. Bob Obrecht made the 2nd motion to accept. All in favor, motion passed.

Please make sure you get any outstanding raffle tickets and money turned in before the October 18th Meeting.

Good of the Order:

Binnacle List – Dave Padora said that Dave Spence was in the hospital a while ago and was told that his legs and feet aren't doing too well. Dave Padora called him again before our meeting and Dave Spence's wife said that he had taken a turn for the worse.

Dave Jones made an appearance at the West End Fair along with his therapy dog. Says he is doing ok.

Skip Baker, who moved to North Carolina called a few times and says that he has good days and bad days due to diabetic issues.

The winner of the Raffle will be drawn next month after our regular meeting. According to Alan, we only have to have a record of who the winner is and his/her address. This information will not be made public. We just need it for our records for the Small Games of Chance.

Calendar of Events:

24 Sep 2017: Chestnuthill Township Community Day Event, Noon to 5PM

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

29 Oct 2017: Barrett Township Halloween Parade. Line up by 1PM. Parade starts at 2PM.

5 Nov 2017: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade to be in Nesquehoning, PA.

11 Nov 2017: Veterans Day.

12 Nov 2017: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA.

15 Nov 2017: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

15 Dec 2017: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

20 Dec 2017: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post. To be combined with our annual dinner.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 October 2017 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Ivan Meixell to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby.

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.”

Tom Crosby offered a closing prayer.

Alan Dempsey declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1926 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary