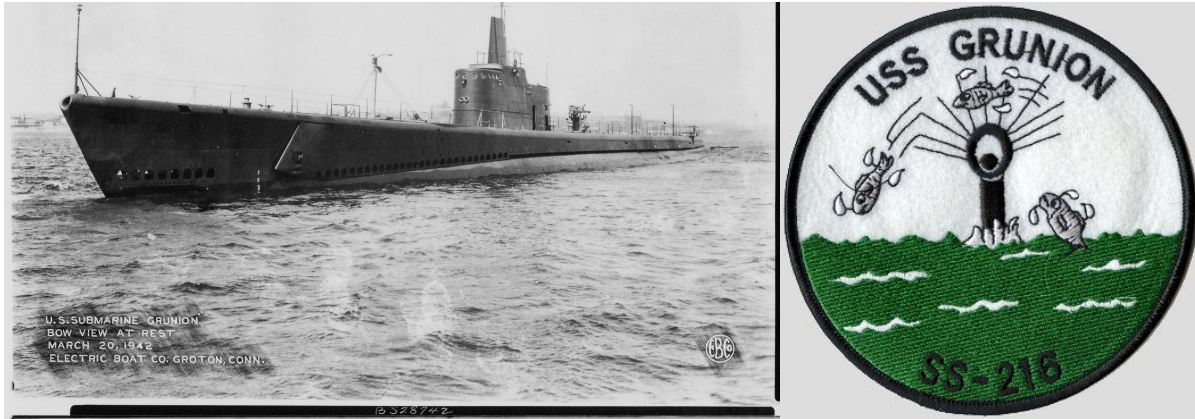


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 July 2018



USS Grunion SS-216

Base Officers

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

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Chaplain – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

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Meeting called to order at 1902 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 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 Chief of the Boat led the members present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Ivan Meixell, Dave Padora, Mike Smith, Tom Crosby, Darryl Betz, Bob Smith, Don Ransel, Frank McDevitt and Tom Dahl.

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.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an ending actual balance of \$x as of 31 May 2018 and an actual ending balance of \$x as of 29 June 2018.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we are still at 49 members. Bob also talked about the program from last year in signing up potential members at the West End Fair again. Members present agreed to adopt the recruiting tactic as last year.

Correspondence: There was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor request. There was also a thank you letter form Eagle Scout, Dominic Bierman.

Flag Memorial: Frank McDevitt continues to report out that the Flag Drop Boxes are still quite active. Bob said he would like to obtain the sandblast equipment from Ken Smith to fix our boxes.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Journal of the Pocono Plateau and the Focus, there was also an ad in the Time News according to Dave Padora.

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

Budget & Donations: No report.

Eagle Scouts: Mike Smith stated that there was an Eagle Scout Court for Zachary Steven Brown back on the 15th of July.

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

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 30th 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 Dominick Bierman back on the 18th of June in Jim Thorpe. This was the last Court of Honor for the gentleman from the Elks Lodge as he is retiring from these events. Also received a thank you letter from him before this meeting.

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.

Frank McDevitt inquired if we tried to volunteer at the race track. Darryl stated that his attempt to do so fell through. There are still two more race weekends coming up in July and August.

Bob Smith stated that the base decals are here and the first is free to the members. Any member wanting an extra, they are \$2 apiece.

Jack Rader's office contacted Bob Smith regarding the Highway Sign for Route 115. The motions have passed and it is now up to PennDOT to have the signs installed. Jack Rader will contact our base when this will occur. Mike Smith also stated that a Judy Dolgos-Kramer from the Times News would like to be contacted for the ceremony and unveiling. Mike Smith has her contact information. Bob would also like to get members from both the Scranton Base and the Lehigh Valley Base for the photo-op. The section of Rte 115 to be named will be from Jonas Road to Long Pond Road.

Bob also mentioned the possibility of going to Groton for a Sub School Graduation in the near future.

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.

New Business: Mike Smith also stated that there was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Zachary Steven Brown that was held on the 15th of July in Cresco, PA. Due to the short notice, we were unable to find a presenter and his certificate will be mailed.

Bob presented a letter with a design from the Scranton Base with their intention to have t-shirts made. If any members are interested, please contact Jeff Owens at the Scranton Base.

National is asking each base for donations for the souvenir book for this year's National Convention Cruise. Prices start at \$25 for a business card size and go up from there. We decided to table this till next meeting.

Good of the Order: Congratulations to Tom Dahl on his entrance into the Holland Club for having been qualified in submarines over 50 years and good standing in the Submarine Veterans. Tom Dahl Qualified in 1963 of the John Marshall. Along with the certificate was a challenge coin, ID card and patch.

Binnacle list: Bob was finally able to contact Bob Vaughan a couple of weeks ago. Bob and Ruth are now living in Senior Home in Middletown, NY and are doing well. The sailing list has been updated with their new address and number according to Bob Smith.

We have not heard from Dave Jones in a bit either.

We have not heard much from Janet Holmes either as to how Rich is doing. We have heard that he does get excited when someone contacts him. Our only link was Carol Shields, but she has since moved to Virginia.

Calendar of Events:

15 Aug 2018: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

19 - 25 Aug 2018: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Will need volunteers to help set up, run the booth and tear down.

8-9 Sep 2018: Victorian Day's in Belvidere, NJ.

19 Sep 2018: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs.

30 Sep 2018: Chestnuthill Township Community Day Event

17 Oct 2018: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs. Raffle winner to be drawn after meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 Aug 2018 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.

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

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1943 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary