

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 May 2018



USS Lagarto

SS-371

Base Officers

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Meeting called to order at 1907 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 May:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| 23 May 1939 | USS Squalus | SS 192 | 26 Men |
| 03 May 1945 | USS Lagarto | SS 371 | 88 Men |
| 22 May 1968 | USS Scorpion | SSN 589 | 99 Men |

Chaplain Crosby led the members with an invocation.

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

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes for April have been posted and the Secretary provided the April Minutes for the members present.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read by the base secretary, as the treasurer is out of town for this meeting. The treasurer report states that our base had an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 April 2018.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith stated that we have 49 members and looking into another membership drive at the West End Fair.

Ways and Means: No report.

Flag Box Program: No report.

Correspondence: No report from the secretary other than Eagle Scout invitations. Bob Smith read an e-mail from Jeff Owens about the possibility of going back to Sub School for one of the class graduations.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he has placed the usual ads in the Focus and the Pocono Plateau, though Bob said that they don't always make the current edition. There is also an ad in the Times News.

Parade: We will be in the Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on Monday, 28 May 2018. Line up will be at 0930 Hrs with step off at 1000 hrs.

Speakers Bureau: No report.

Eagle Scouts: There are a number of Eagle Scout Courts of Honor within the next couple of months as shown in the Calendar of Events.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base has one coming up at the end of this week.

Old Business: Bob stated that he is still waiting on word from Camelback about having them as our prize package again this year. The gentlemen who ok's this is out of town until next week. As for help in printing the tickets, Vena from the Flag Store in Sciotta, PA will donate \$150 towards the cost. In turn, we will have her added to the ticket as our sponsor.

The Pocono Pines Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, 28 May 2018 at 1000 with line up at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center by 9:30.

Bob Smith stated that he would pick up people at the American Legion parking lot around 9:12 and take them to the elementary center. There will be food sponsored by the legion after the ceremony.

Bob Obrecht still hasn't heard any more about the Memorial Highway except that the paperwork has been submitted.

Frank McDevitt talked about our volunteering at the Pocono Raceway again for those interested in doing this. There are three weekend events, 1st one on the first weekend of June, the next in July and the last one in August for Indy Car. Darryl Betz will be our liaison with those who will be attending for the June Race Weekend.

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Lagarto. Supposedly sunk due to Anti-Submarine Operations with a Japanese Mine-Layer.

New Business: Bob Smith stated that Alan Dempsey did attend the small games of chance seminar that was sponsored by Jack Rader's office. Bob said that Alan would take care of getting the necessary permits we need.

There is a new Eagle Scout Court of Honor invitation for a Dominick Matthew Bierman to be held on Monday, 18 June 2018 at 6PM at the Christ Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe, PA.

Frank and Bill talked about our previous attendance and things to see and do in the Groton / New London area if we were to go to one of these class graduations.

Bob said that he went to a couple of printers to get prices for window stickers for our vehicles with our base logo. One printer was \$1.25 per sticker, another printer was \$2.50 per sticker.

Tom Crosby made the 1st motion to have window stickers made for \$1.25 each. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. The members present agreed and motion passed.

Good of the Order: Still no answer back from Bob Vaughan and how he and Ruth are doing.

Patie Pule introduced herself as the new commander of the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post. The members present introduced themselves. The group talked about the Flag Day Ceremony and how we join the legion members with the ceremony, the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and other events at the Legion Post.

Gerald and Nancy Zeman are still staying with her son, while things progress into having their house rebuilt after the fire they suffered through.

Calendar of Events:

19 May 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for River John Marks at the Chestnuthill Park Building on Rte 715, Brodheadsville, Pa at 3PM. Bob Smith agreed to do the presentation.

20 May 2018: Dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Michael A. Scardigno, Jr and Eric G. Sharp at the Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Co at 3PM. Mike Smith will do the presentation.

28 May 2018: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at Tobyhanna Elementary School. Step off will be at 1000 hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the cemetery across from the school after the parade. Also after the ceremony, the Wilson-Fischer post will be serving a basic lunch at noon.

14 Jun 2018: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. We will have food for this meeting. The meeting will start at 5PM. The Flag Day Ceremony will be held at 6PM with the Legion Post Members.

18 Jun 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Dominick Matthew Bierman at the Christ Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe, PA at 6PM. Bob Obrecht was looking into doing the presentation, but is not committed at this time.

4 July 2018: Happy 4th of July.

18 July 2018: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs

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.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, 14 June 2018 at 1700 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post, followed by Flag Day Ceremony at 1800 Hrs.

1st motion made by Mike Smith to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Bill Klose.

All in favor, motion carried.

The base members joined the Commander in reciting 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.”

At the end of the meeting, Tom Crosby offered a benediction to the members present.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1954 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary