

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 14 November 2018



USS Capelin (SS 289)

Base Officers

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

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Gerald Zeman, Mike Smith, Tom Crosby, Gene Peppe, Darryl Betz, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt and David Wright.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on-board for the benefit of member David Wright.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary provided the October Minutes for the members present as well as e-mailed to the base members. The October Minutes will be posted to the website after corrections are made.

Treasurers Report: No report, treasurer has been out of town since last meeting.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we are up to 53 members, Also, a reminder that base and National dues need to be in by the 31st of December. One new member since last month, also a friend of Bob Smith.

Correspondence: None.

Flag Box Program:

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he placed the usual ads in the local papers as well as one in the Pocono Record.

Parades / Memorial Events: No parades in the foreseeable future

Budget / Donation: Gerald Zeman gave his recommendations as to the disbursement of the raffle proceeds.

Storekeeper: No Report

Fundraising: No report. Done for the year, funds have been disbursed.

Dinner/Dance: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 14th of December at Robert Christians in Pocono Lake, PA.

Eagle Scout: There are two Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. Both listed in the calendar of events.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base has an event on Friday the 16th of November at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Capelin. Lost due to an unknown cause.

Old Business: Bob Smith has the final fundraising report available for the members, the report will not be mailed out, unless specifically asked for. Credit goes to Daryl Betz for selling over \$300 in individual sales, Gene Peppe for over \$150 and Frank McDevitt for over \$100.

Bob Smith stated that the Christmas Dinner / Party will be held at Robert Christians Restaurant in Pocono Lake this year. Cocktail hour will begin at 18:00 (6PM) and dinner will begin at 1900 (7PM) Cost is \$20 per person with the base picking up the remaining tab. Bob is asking that money be sent to him for the dinner to minimize confusion the night of the dinner. Bob is also asking that members attending to either call him or e-mail him as to meal choice to obtain an accurate number for the restaurant.

Bob Smith talked about the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg back on the 12th of November. The weather was perfect. Also, at the end of the parade there was music and food at Dansbury Park. The only major comment Bob has was our location within the parade. We were towards the end of the parade. The parade was well attended by our members.

Bob also talked about the Veterans Day Parade in Lansford, PA back on the 5th of November. It was a chilly, but sunny day and was well attended by our members. The secretary was able to cut and paste a picture of our float in the Times News.

The invitation from the Keystone Base is still open to attend the Submarine Memorial Re-dedication at the Ft. Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths Across America that was held. Frank said it was a great success again this year and that they actually had it on 11/11 at 11AM.

New Business: The Budget / Donation committee submitted a plan of donations from the money that was allocated to our donations pool from our raffle proceeds. The following is the list of donations and amounts:

Wounded Warrior Project	\$50
Fisher House Foundation, Inc.	\$200
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post	\$400
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program	\$100
VALOR Clinic Foundation	\$300
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild	\$50
Salvation Army USA	\$100
Operation Touch of Home	\$50
Disabled American Veterans	\$200

DAV is a new program that we are donating to this year. There were no previous donations to this group.

Gerald Zeman made the 1st motion for the donations as presented. Bill Klose made the 2nd motion for the donations. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob will be sending invoices for those who owe dues, also included is a form to fill out to correct, or update any contact information for the base sailing list.

A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31st of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the end of December, the base will consider you DINQ at that time.

Mike Smith reported that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for a Brett Wagner to be held on the 17th of Nov at St. Luke's Emergency Transport Center in Tannersville, PA at 1PM. Bob Obrecht has agreed to do the presentation.

There is also an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an August Rendazzo to be held on the 9th of December at 2PM AT St. Peter's UMC in Saylorsburg, PA. Bob Smith agreed to do the presentation.

Bob Smith is looking at creating a new committee for the float to repair some damage that was noticed during the Veteran's Day Parade a couple of weeks ago. Bob Obrecht and Darryl Betz agreed to be part of the committee. Looking to start this in the spring when nicer weather gets here.

Bill Klose said that the new calendars are available for purchase. Cost will be \$8 apiece. Bill is looking to get a count to order. Bill will have them at the Christmas Dinner.

Good of the Order: There will be no meeting on the 19th of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 14th of December.

The base has agreed to sponsor the USS Rickover and the USS Montana. They were picked by the treasurer and these boats have had no sponsorship lately.

Skip Gallagher said that Sam is home now. She has been in and out of the hospital lately due to illness.

Calendar of Events:

17 Nov 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brett Wagner.

9 Dec 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for August Rendazzo.

14 Dec 2018: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. Information also posted on website.

25 Dec 2018: Merry Christmas

1 Jan 2019: Happy New Year.

16 Jan 2019: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

20 Feb 2019: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

Next full meeting will be held on, 16 January 2019 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 14th of December.

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

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.”

Chaplain Crosby offered a benediction at the end of our meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1934 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. As a reminder, Base dues are due by the end of December.