

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 17 October 2018



## USS Dorado (SS 248)

### Base Officers

**Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith** / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601  
Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: [rlines@ptd.net](mailto:rlines@ptd.net)

**Base Executive Officer – James Kelly** / 302 Frisco Court, East Stroudsburg, PA. 18301  
Ph (570) 807-2453. E-mail address: [masterchiefkelly@hotmail.com](mailto:masterchiefkelly@hotmail.com)

**Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith** / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638  
Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: [klaital@ptd.net](mailto:klaital@ptd.net)

**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  
Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: [crosbytr@webcrosby.com](mailto:crosbytr@webcrosby.com)

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

28 Oct 1923	USS O-5	SS 66	3 Men
07 Oct 1943	USS S-44	SS 155	56 Men
11 Oct 1943	USS Wahoo	SS 238	79 Men
12 Oct 1943	USS Dorado	SS 248	78 Men
03 Oct 1944	USS Seawolf II	SS 197	102 Men
17 Oct 1944	USS Escobar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	80 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Shark II	SS 314	90 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Ivan Meixell, Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Darryl Betz, Gerald Zeman, Frank McDevitt, Tom Crosby and John Kelly

We were also joined by the wives and family of a couple of our members.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary provided minutes for the members at the meeting. Also, minutes were e-mailed to all members.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$x as of 30 Sep 2018.

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

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob stated that we have 52 members in our base.

**Budget / Donation:** There are now five members on the committee, including Gerald Zeman, Tom Crosby, Ken Kull, Alan Dempsey and Bob Obrecht.

**Correspondence:** Bob stated that the only correspondence was an invitation from the Keystone Base, details in New Business. Also a check was received from Pocono Raceway.

**Flag Box Program:** Flags continue to be picked up from our various drop boxes.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he did not place the ads in the local papers at this time.

**Speakers Bureau:** No invitations for the upcoming Veterans Day Holiday.

**Dinner:** Christmas Dinner to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December at Robert Christians in Blakeslee, PA.

**Parades:** Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Line-up will be at the Stroudsburg High School and end at Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg.

Veterans Day Parade in Lansford, PA on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Line-up will e-mailed once information is obtained.

**Eagle Scout:** Mike Smith reported that are no Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up. Last two certificates were mailed due to short notice of the events.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base attending an event this Friday at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Mike Smith read from Submarine operations of WWII about the loss of USS Dorado. Dorado was declared lost due to unknown conditions.

**Old Business:** There is the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Line-up will be at the Stroudsburg High School, like the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Line-up is around Noon with the parade stepping off at 1PM. Bob Smith said he would pick up those who wish to park at the end of the parade route and bring them to the school.

There is the Veterans Day Parade in Lansford, PA on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Ivan sent our application in and verified our entry. More information to be listed on the website. There is a rain date on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, 14 Dec 2018 at Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA. There is further information on the base website. The menu may still be the same as what is posted on the website. The price per person will be made available at a later date. Cost may still be \$20 per person, or it may change. We are waiting on information from the restaurant. The time for the dinner has been moved forward to 6PM for cocktail hour and dinner to start at 7PM. Please let Bob know ahead of time what you would like for the meal.

Bob talked about our participation in the Chestnuthill Township Community Day event last month. The field was very soggy from all of the rain we have had this summer. It was a sunny day, but not a hot day like last year. Bob extends a thank you to Alan Dempsey, Frank McDevitt and others who attended the event.

A thank you letter was sent to the Dyle E. Bray Homeowners Association for their donation to our base.

**New Business:** Bob read a letter from the Keystone Base stating that we are invited to join them on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery for a re-dedication ceremony for the Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial. Information will be posted on the website.

The base received a check from the Pocono Raceway for the sum of \$x for three man-days volunteered during the second NASCAR Racing weekend in August. Frank McDevitt talked about how we received this amount. This is a good opportunity to make money. It is based on number of people per group doing the event and it is paid as a sum per person per day. This may be a better option than the West End Fair.

Bob would like the Budget Donation Committee to convene for about 1 hour prior to the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will start around 6PM. Bring your idea forward to this meeting, including other charitable organizations.

Bob Smith stated that he would have a full report on the raffle sales at the November Meeting. Bob stated that we did poorly this year at the fair and have about \$1000 set aside for charities.

Annual Base and National Dues are to be turned in by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. National Dues are \$25. Base dues remain at \$10. Invoices for dues will be sent out.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths Across America campaign again this year. The local Lions Club will have a ceremony on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November at 11AM at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The ceremony lasts about half an hour and all are invited.

Tom Crosby stated that the American Legion will be hosting a block shoot on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. Prizes are meat based. Please see Tom Crosby after the meeting if interested.

Bob is looking for other ideas for fundraising. Please submit any ideas for the base to continue to raise funds for charity.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Obrecht asked if we had any donations to Disabled American Vets (DAV). Bob also talked about a gentleman in the Bethlehem area that does photography and this gentleman would like to do the group photo when Rte. 115 gets dedicated.

Bob Smith talked about our re-entry back into the boat sponsorship program. Bob asked the members if it would be okay for the treasurer to pick the boats, as there was a nice article in the American Submariner Magazine on those boats who do not have sponsors, yet. The members agreed.

Binnacle List: Bob spoke to a Don Smith from Lehighton. Don is a primary caregiver for his wife and is unable to attend our meetings. He would like to come to one.

Chuck Parke, our member from Connecticut had a procedure to re-attach a pacemaker lead and he stated that he would like to attend one of our meetings.

Have not heard from Bob Vaughan since he and Ruth moved to see how they were doing.

Bob restated that he went to Ken's house after Belvidere last month to pick up the last mail box, but it could not be moved as it is mired in the mud.

### **Calendar of Events:**

4 Nov 2018: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade, starts at the Stroudsburg High School, step off at 1PM.

10 Nov 2018: Wreaths Across America ceremony to be held at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center at 11AM.

11 Nov 2018: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in Lansford, PA. Step off at 1:30PM.

14 Nov 2018: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs.

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.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 14 November 2018 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Chaplain Crosby offered a benediction to the meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Ivan Meixell to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Gerald Zeman.

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.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1956 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. the winning raffle ticket was drawn by a member of the legion post at the conclusion of the meeting and the winner from Stroudsburg, Pa was contacted and he requested the cash equivalent instead of the Camelback Prize.

PSs. Food was provided by the base, pizza was the theme for tonight. Thank you to John Kelly for running to get the pizza. The legion post also provided Philly Style Pretzels to the members.

.