

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 October 2019



USS Seawolf II (SS 197)

Base Officers

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

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlincs@ptd.net

Base Executive Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732

Ph (484) 705-6018 / E-mail address: aquaknot339@gmail.com

Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210

Ph (570) 355-5876 / alanalan9633@hotmail.com

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

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

Meeting called to order at 1904 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 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 Escolar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	80 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Shark II	SS 314	90 Men

Gene Peppe delivered the invocation provided by our base chaplain 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: Members present were: Tom Kaluzny, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Frank McDevitt, Ken Kull, Gene Peppe, Don Ransel, Darryl Betz, Tony Sturla, Bob Sweeney, and John Kelly.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on.

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

Meeting Minutes: The minutes posted to the website by the Base Commander. Minutes for the September meeting were done by the acting secretary. The Base Secretary was out of state for the September Meeting. Please let Bob Smith know if any corrections need to be made.

Treasurers Report: There was no report for October as the base treasurer was out of town. The base is solvent and is awaiting the final tally of the raffle money.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we have 53 members in our base. One new member from the West End Fair in George Williams. There are several other application still out.

Budget / Donation:

Correspondence: The base received a thank you letter from Mathew Rakus for our Eagle Scout Certificate. The other was an e-mail from Huey Dietrich about each base with over 25 members giving National \$25 for Liability Insurance at the National Level. The information will be given to the treasurer when he gets back.

Flag Box Program: Flags continue to be picked up from our various drop boxes. We still need to obtain the one that is at Ken Smith's house in New Jersey.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he places the usual ads in the local papers at this time.

Speakers Bureau:

Dinner: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 13th of December at Woody's in Long Pond, PA.

Parades: Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 3th of November. Line-up will be at the Stroudsburg High School and end at Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg.

Veterans Day Parade in Lehighton, PA on the 10th of November. Line-up will e-mailed once information is obtained.

Eagle Scout: Please see the old and new business sections regarding the Courts of Honor since September.

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

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht said he has plans to make bollards for the float to cap off the lift mechanism and a block of wood to help secure the submarine to the cradle assembly better than current. Also at least one of the taillights has been repaired.

Mike Smith read from Submarine operations of WWII about the loss of USS Seawolf II. Seawolf was sunk due to friendly fire anti-submarine actions, after being mistaken for a Japanese submarine supposedly in the operating area.

Old Business: There is the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 3th 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 Lehigh, PA on the 10th of November. More information is listed on the website, including map of parade route. There is a rain date on Nov 17th.

The following Eagle Scout Certificate Packets were mailed prior to the Base Secretary leaving for Texas: Camillo Reyes, whose court of honor was on the 14th of September in Tannersville, PA. Matthew David Rogers on September 21st in Stroudsburg, PA and Matthew Rakus that was held on the 14th of September at their place of residence in Sciota, PA.

Mike Smith thanked Bob Obrecht for the dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 22nd of September for Patrick Carney and Anthony Nostro at the Great Bear Golf and Country Club in East Stroudsburg, PA.

There was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an Evan Smith that was held on the 12th of October. The certificate package will be mailed after the secretary is able to print it out. Was in need of printer ink.

There is also an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brian William Bauer to be held at the Christ Lutheran Church, 189 Church Road, Jim Thorpe, PA on the 19th of October at 4PM. Mike Smith had agreed to do the presentation for our base.

Bob talked about the base receiving a check from the Pocono Raceway for the sum of \$287 for days our base volunteered during the NASCAR Racing weekends in June and August. The total should have come to \$665 for Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith and Jay Ansky for a total of about 7 man-days. They will be cutting us a check for the remaining money owed. This will help make up for the lost revenue as we were excluded from attending the Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ this year. The Lehigh Valley Base was also short changed as well according to Bob Obrecht.

New Business: There is a new Eagle Scout Court of Honor request for Ean E Lofstrom to be held at the VFW Post 2540, 546 Fawn Road in East Stroudsburg, PA on November 2nd at 2PM. Bob Obrecht has agreed to do this presentation. The secretary will have the package available to Bob before the court of honor.

Bob Smith talked about an Eagle Scout Court of Honor that was held in Texas and how we mailed the certificate package down to him, without realizing at the time that one of our

members, James Kelly, was living in Texas near where the court of honor was held. Bob mentioned this as another of our base members, Joe Lentivech is currently living in Georgia and his grandson has attained the rank of Eagle Scout and would like us to send him our Court of Honor Package. As soon as we have the name of the scout and the date of the court of honor, we will have the package mailed down to Joe.

There are multiple events occurring over the first couple of weeks in November. There is a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast in Lehighton on the 2nd of November, A Veterans Dinner at Rimrock Masonic Lodge in Stroudsburg on the 5th and a Veterans Day Luncheon sponsored by the American Legion Post 903 to be held at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall in East Stroudsburg, PA on the 10th of November. More information can be found on the Base Website in the Calendar of Events.

These is also another Veterans Breakfast that is sponsored by the Honorable State Rep Rosemary Brown at the East Stroudsburg High School South on North Courtland Street in East Stroudsburg, PA on the 16th of November. Also listed on the base website calendar.

Bob would like the Budget Donation Committee to convene for about 1/2 hour prior to the November 20th meeting. This will start around 6:30PM. Bring your ideas forward to this meeting, including other charitable organizations.

Annual Base and National Dues are to be turned in by January 1st, 2020. National Dues are \$25. Base dues remain at \$10. Invoices for dues will be sent out. Please get them sent in.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths Across America campaign again this year. The local Lions Club will have a ceremony on the 9th of November at 11AM at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The ceremony lasts about half an hour and all are invited. Frank also talked about the Lions Club having a wood cutting event to support the Valor Clinic at the clinic this weekend after the October meeting. The heating system for the Valor Clinic is an outside boiler.

Bob Smith talked about how to see the American Submariner magazine online. We also did not get into this issue, since our Dedication Ceremony was after the submissions were to be sent in.

The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, 13 Dec 2019 at Woody's Family Restaurant in Long Pond, 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 is 6PM for cocktail hour and dinner to start at 7PM. Please let Bob know ahead of time what you would like for the meal. The change of venue is due to Robert Christian closing due to health issues of the owner.

Darryl Betz proposed that our base start a Facebook Page to further get us further noticed if someone does a search for submarines and the like. Darryl will take the lead and create the page. All of the members present agreed for the Darryl to move forward with his idea.

Bob Smith talked about our raffle income this year. It was the best in individual sales. We also received a donation from Ardent Mills, Darryl's place of employment. We did not do so well at the West End Fair and did okay at the Chestnuthill Township Day on the 29th of September. The base has received \$x up to the day before the October Meeting. There is still

more money to be turned in up to the end of the October Meeting. Currently we have about \$x available for donations.

Good of the Order: New member George Williams is eligible for induction into the Holland Club. George qualified in submarines back in 1969. Was may do the presentation at the Christmas Party if the documentation is available.

Davy Jones is having a rough time and has a Go Fund Me page on the internet.

Ken Smith may be moving to Pittsburgh, PA, or out of state to be with family.

We are looking into making the following people Honorable Members of our base: Jack Rader, Mario Scavello, Chris Eckert (who can be an associate member, as his father, George was a member of our base) and Vena Ackerman of the Flag Store.

A sheet has was sent around for those members who wish to get a submarine calendar for the 2020 year from Bill Klose.

Calendar of Events:

3 Nov 2019: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA at 1PM.

10 Nov 2019: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in Lehighton, PA. Step off is 2PM.
Map sent by Secretary to be posted on website.

20 Nov 2019: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

28 Nov 2019: Thanksgiving.

13 Dec 2019: Annual Base Christmas Dinner to be held at Woody's on Rte. 115.

25 Dec 2019: Merry Christmas.

1 Jan 2020: Happy New Year

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Gene Peppe read the benediction provided by the chaplain to the members present.

1st motion made by Don Ransel to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tony Sturla.

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 2000 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 Penn Forest Township, Pa was contacted.

.