

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 January 2020



USS Scorpion SS-278

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 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 January:

15 Jan 1916	USS E-2	SS-25	4 Men
24 Jan 1942	USS S-26	SS-131	46 Men
10 Jan 1943	USS Argonaut	SS-166	105 Men
05 Jan 1944	USS Scorpion I	SS-278	77 Men
12 Jan 1945	USS Swordfish I	SS-193	89 Men
08 Jan 2005	USS San Francisco	SSN-711	1 Man

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt, David Wright, Darryl Betz, Gene Peppe and Tony Sturla.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary reported that the December minutes were posted to the base website. There will be a corrected set sent. Original was noted to have missed Ivan Meixell as attending the base dinner.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported the following ending balance for the month of December. There was an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Dec 2019, with outstanding checks to be cleared. Our base is also waiting on final payment for volunteering at the Pocono Raceway.

Before the committee reports, Bob Smith said that we have Declarations for Office, as this is an election year for our base.

Alan Dempsey declared his intent to be Base Treasurer and Chief of the Boat.

Bob Obrecht declared his intent to be Base Vice Commander.

Mike Smith declared his intent to be the Base Secretary.

Tom Crosby declared his intent to remain as Base Chaplain.

Bill Klose declared his intent to remain as Base Storekeeper.

Bob Smith declines to make any declaration to remain as Base Commander. Bob is looking for someone else to take the Commander position, which he has held for 10 years. Bob said he would continue as Membership chair.

By the rules of the Base By-laws, the nominations for the Base Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer will remain open thru the March Meeting, at which time the votes will be cast by the members present at the March Meeting and Installation of Officers occurs.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are 52 active members as of this meeting with two members still owing dues. Bob Smith has been unable to contact Karl Pope and has been subsequently been dropped by our base. The two delinquent members are Dave Jones, who moved to South Carolina and Steve Munding.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary had no correspondence to be read, but Bob Smith showed the members a copy the Patriot, it is a semiannual magazine from the Fisher House. Bob Smith also said our base received a certificate from the Holland Club Committee for our donation for their efforts. Our base sent a \$50 donation to the committee. Bob said he will post it on the website. The base also received a bunch of letters to the members of our base who attended the Veterans Day Event at the Pleasant Valley Intermediate School. They are asking for feedback for the event.

Flag Box Program: Flag boxes continue to be productive.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place any ads in the local papers.

Parades: No parades until at least March. Next parade may be St. Patrick's Day, but no invitations have been received.

Eagle Scout: Mike Smith reported that there was a Court of Honor for a John Tichy last weekend in Chestnuthill Township. Mike thanked Bob Smith for attending the Court of Honor for Antonio Clemente back on December 20th. We also will be sending an Eagle Scout package to base member, Joe Lentivech in Georgia for his grandson, Quinn Henry Skurpski. His court of honor is on the 24th of Feb.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht reported that the Lehigh Valley Base will be going this Friday. Bob Obrecht said that any members may attend, but have to be a volunteer.

Ships Store: Bill Klose reported that he still had a fair amount of unsold 2020 calendars available to the members.

Float Committee: No Report.

Fundraising: Bob Smith stated the base voted to have another raffle this year and that we will attend the West End Fair again. Bob Smith also wished to talk to the Victorian Days committee about returning in September. He asked Tony Sturla to join him.

Bus trip: We are looking at having a bus trip on Sept 19th to NYC this year. We are still working on costs per person times of departure and return. Looking at leaving from the Wilson-Fisher Post at 7AM and leave around 4:30 PM. Lunch will be on your own, but we are looking to have snacks and water for the trip. Drop off will be at the 9/11 Museum and we are looking at going to the Jewish Heritage Museum nearby. The rest of the day will be on your own. Stay tuned for further details. The committee will meet again at 6:15 PM on the day of the Feb Meeting. The bus we are looking into will hold 53 people and the members of the base get first dibs, before we advertise to the public.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Scorpion. Cause of loss remains unknown.

Old Business: Alan Dempsey asked about getting a plaque made, or an honorary membership for Mario Scavello for his assistance in the highway naming on Route 115. Bob Smith said he forgot to bring along what he had and we are looking into adding Jack Rader, Vena Ackerman and Chris Eckert. There was discussion of having the remaining plaques made for Mario Scavello and the others from the same place as where the Lehigh Valley base got them for Jack Rader. There was some confusion, but Alan was looking into getting one specifically for Mario Scavello. Not anything to do with honorary membership in our base.

Alan Dempsey made the first motion for the base to purchase the plaque for Mario Scavello. Frank McDevitt made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith is asking for feedback from the Christmas Dinner. How was it, what could be better, or look into another venue. There were parking issues, timeliness of the food and how it came out. The owner apologized profusely for the night, he stated that he was busier than usual for that night. The major issue is that they are not able to accommodate large parties at once. More of cook to order with no room for large orders. Woody's was a last minute deal, since Robert Christians closed unexpectedly. We will look though out the year for a possible new venue that can accommodate at least 35 people. Please e-mail Bob with some suggestions, there is time.

Bob is asking the base as to what to get the widows of founding members Rich Holmes and Bob Vaughan. Frank McDevitt has Janet's actual address, as we were trying to get something for her back in November. After some discussion, Gene Peppe made a motion that our base purchase flowers for both Janet Holmes and Ruth Vaughan. Tony Sturla Made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

New Business: Alan Dempsey made mention that he has heard from a couple people, that the signs are too small and can be missed quite easily. Alan is wondering if we could have that looked into. They are most likely the standard size for the type of highway. Alan said he would ask that question of Jack Rader's office.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith stated that he expects our District Commander, Huey Dietrich will join us for one of our meetings sometime during the year.

Bob Smith talked about our base supporting one of the two charities in which Vena, the owner of the Flag Store in Sciotta is involved with. She has sponsored our raffle tickets for the last couple of years and she has a Veterans section in her store, in which a picture of our base float with some of our members is prominently displayed. According to Bob, she sponsors the Breast Cancer Awareness and Uterine Cancer Awareness. Bob Smith was asking if we would like to make a donation to one of her causes, either now, or a later date.

Tom Crosby asked what portion of the raffle tickets is sponsored by Vena and use that amount to donate to one of here charities, in her honor.

After some discussion, David Wright made the motion that the base donate \$125 to one of the charities in her honor. Tom Crosby made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith will get the names of the charities and give that info to the treasurer.

Bob Smith stated that our base won the Best Float for the Veterans Day Parade in Lehighton. The prize was \$50 and the money was turned over to the treasurer at the Christmas Dinner.

Food for thought by Bob Smith, Feb 2020 s the 20th year since the base was founded. He is looking for suggestions for any celebrations throughout this year.

Calendar of Events:

19 Feb 2020: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

18 Mar 2020: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

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

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.

1st motion made by Bob Obrecht 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 1953 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. Mike Smith will take the base klaxon home for a little maintenance, it was sounding quite sour.

