

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21 October 2020



USS Escolar (SS 294)

Base Officers

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

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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 1900 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

Chaplain Tom Crosby delivered the invocation to the members present.

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: Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Don Ransel, David Wright, Tony Sturla, Frank McDevitt, Gene Peppe, Bob Sweeney, and John Kelly

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 Skip Donohue. The Base Secretary was out of state for the September Meeting. Please let Bob Smith know if any corrections need to be made. The secretary provided minutes for the members present.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported and actual ending balance of \$x as of the 30th of September. The treasurer wrote out two checks prior to the October and gave them to Tom Crosby for the sum of \$x for our donation to the Wilson-Fischer Post for allowing us to use their facilities and a donation of \$x for the Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we still have 53 members in our base.

Budget / Donation:

Correspondence: The base received a thank you letter from Vena Ackerman of the Flag Store in Sciota, PA. Vena has been made an Honorary Member of our Base and was given a plaque since last meeting.

Flag Box Program: Flags continue to be picked up from our various drop boxes. We also have a couple of boxes in storage at Locust Village. Frank McDevitt is looking for someone to take over the program, including re-furbishing the one's that need it the most.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he placed the usual ad in the Times News. Bob said he may not put any ads in for the December Meeting, as it will be part of our dinner.

Speakers Bureau:

Dinner: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 13th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA at the former Robert Christian Restaurant.

Parades: Veterans Day Parade at the Pocono International Raceway, 8 Nov 2020.

Eagle Scout: No courts of honor noted.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the program is on hold for the foreseeable future.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht said he and Bob Smith updated the appearance of the Bollards with a larger rope and wrapped them individually on their respective bollard. We still have the silhouette that we could possibly be repainted as SSN-804, the new USS Barb.

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of USS Escobar. Consensus is that she possibly struck a mine, as the area was supposed to have been filled with them.

Old Business: Bob Smith said he contacted Chris Eckert in regards to his ability to be an Associate Member of our base, as his father, George Eckert was a member. Chris has accepted this, but will not be able to attend any of our functions, as he no longer lives in the Chestnuthill Township area.

There is the Veterans Day Parade that will be held this year at the Pocono International Raceway along the Front Stretch w/ spectators socially distanced along the stretch. Parade is set to step off at 1PM on Sunday the 8th of November.

Mike Smith thanked Bob Obrecht for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 20th of September for Jacob William Glavich at the Monroe County Library in Stroudsburg, PA. Bob said it was an outdoor event.

New Business: Annual Base and National Dues are to be turned in by January 1st, 2021. National Dues are \$25. Base dues remain at \$10. Invoices for dues will be sent out for those not at our meeting. Please get them sent in.

Bob Smith is entertaining ideas for the base to do next year. Looking into different ways to make our funding.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths Across America campaign again this year. The local Lions Club will have a ceremony on the 7th of November at 11AM at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The ceremony lasts about half an hour and all are invited.

The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 20 Dec 2020 at Murph's Hideaway on Route 940 at 1PM. This was formerly known as Robert Christian's. There is further information on the base website. Please let Bob Smith know of your choice of meal and number of guest so they can plan accordingly. The price will remain \$20 per member.

Good of the Order: Alan Dempsey wondered why the USS Seawolf had 102 men lost, when the normal complement for her class was 60 officers and men. She was carrying extra crew and 17 Army Personnel when she went down.

The base held individual meetings to present the plaques to the various people over the last month.

Also, some members of the Base would like to see the Submarine Veterans sign in a larger format. According to what Sheila was able to find out from Jack Rader's office, that sign is a standard size. We would be willing to chip in to get one the next size up, if possible. There are other remembrance signs that are large enough to be seen from a decent distance.

Binnacle List: Frank McDevitt will be out of commission in November due to getting Hip Replacement Surgery at the Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest Campus off of I-78 in Allentown.

Bob Smith is still looking at trying to go to Totowa, NJ and visit the John Holland Memorial.

Calendar of Events:

3 Nov 2020: Election Day, please get out and vote.

8 Nov 2020: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade at the Pocono International Raceway at 1PM.

18 Nov 2020: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

26 Nov 2020: Thanksgiving.

20 Dec 2020: Annual Base Christmas Dinner to be held at Murph's Hideaway (former Robert Christians) on Rte. 940.

25 Dec 2020: Merry Christmas.

1 Jan 2021: Happy New Year

Next meeting will be a brief meeting prior to our Base Dinner on the 20th of December at 1PM.

Chaplain Crosby read the benediction provided by the chaplain to the members present.

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.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1939 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary