

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

19 December 2021

Photo # 19-N-20993 USS Sealion off Provincetown, Massachusetts, 6 October 1939



USS Sealion (SS-195)

Base Officers

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A brief meeting was held before the dinner at 1400 by Base Commander Bob Smith at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA (former Robert Christian's). Bob Smith was the master of ceremonies. The Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following submarine force losses for the month of December and for our departed shipmates

16 Dec 1917	USS F-1 (Carp I)	SS 20	19 Men
17 Dec 1927	USS S-4 (Snapper I)	SS 109	34 Men
10 Dec 1941	USS Sealion I	SS 195	5 Men
10 Dec 1941	USS Seadragon	SS 194	1 Man

Shipmates on Eternal Patrol:

Charles Butler, Edgar Coumes, George Eckert, Harold Franklin, Grover Kiick, Joseph Kolb, Don Malkames, George McCutcheon, Oliver Nordmark, Eugen Rees, Harold Schedin, Tom Shields, David Spence, James Staub, Ezra Swartz, Robert Vaughan and Richard Holmes

Sailor's, rest your oars.

Members present at the dinner were: Darryl & Beth Betz, Tom & Jen Crosby, Alan & Vicky Dempsey, Skip & Ann-Marie Donohue, Ken Kull, Frank McDevitt, Ivan & Marianne Meixell, Bob & Irene Obrecht, Gene & Mary Peppe, Don & Dixie Ransel, Bob & Sheila Smith, Bob & Catherine Sweeney and David & Donna Wright.

Chaplain Crosby led everyone with an invocation

All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting Minutes: The November 2021 minutes have been posted to the base website

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer gave the secretary a copy of the financial report for Oct 30 – 30 Nov 2021. There is an actual ending balance of \$x as of the 30th of November 2021.

Committees: No reports,

Since there is usually a short meeting before the meal, we do not have a reading of a lost boat for December. This month, let us remember the USS Sealion (SS-195). She was struck by bombs while at the Cavite Navy Yard by a Japanese air raid. Two bombs struck her, one ruptured the main ballast tank and another struck aft of her conning tower. Four sailors were killed in the engine room and a fifth died as a POW. Due to the damage from the air raid to the yard, she was scuttled completely on Dec 25th 1941 after salvaging what could be saved. Her namesake replacement, USS Sealion II (SS-315), commanded by the former exec of the Sealion I (SS-195), sank the Japanese battleship Kongo. 4 of the six torpedoes shot at the battleship bore the names of the four men who died on the first Sealion.

Old Business: No Report.

New Business: No Report.

Good of the Order:

Just a reminder that base and national dues are due by Dec 31, 2021, or you will be listed as DINQ.

Calendar of Events:

25 Dec 2021: Merry Christmas

1 Jan 2022: Happy New Year.

19 Jan 2022: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

16 Feb 2022: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19 Jan 2022 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Chaplain Crosby delivered the benediction after the dinner.

“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.”

Respectfully submitted,
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. The hors d’oeuvres were splendid and plentiful, and guests were invited to take remainders home. Murph's provided, on them, individual jumbo shrimp platters for each guest.

Guests cleared out pretty much by 4:00 Sunday afternoon looked like a winner for future parties.

That is all, a success in my estimation,