

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 15 September 2021



USS Grayling SS-209

Base Officers

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Meeting called to order at 19:08 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 September:

25 Sept 1925	USS S-51	SS 162	32 Men
09 Sept 1943	USS Grayling	SS 209	76 Men
28 Sept 1943	USS Cisco	SS 290	76 Men

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

Roll Call: The following members were present: Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, David Wright, Frank McDevitt and John Kelly.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The August Minutes were posted to the website and the Base Secretary provided minutes at the meeting.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Aug 2021. There are outstanding checks to be cashed and raffle income turned in at this meeting.

Committees:

Membership: We currently have a total membership of 53 members. We have three new members from the West End Fair and one prospective member from Belvidere, NJ.

Correspondence: Covered under Eagle Scouts and an invitation to the Jim Thorpe Veterans Day Parade.

Flag Boxes: Flag boxes continue to be productive.

Publicity: None this month

Christmas Party: Will be held on December 19th, Sunday, at 1 PM.

Parades: Stroudsburg Veterans' Day Parade scheduled for November 7th. Also the Jim Thorpe Veterans Day Parade on the 7th of Nov.

Eagle Scout: Please see New Business and the Calendar of Events.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Not active.

Budget/ Donation: Budget committee to provide report once the base raffle concludes in October.

Float Committee: Please see new business.

Old Business: Mike Smith thanks David Wright for doing the presentation for Eric A. Reagle at the Chestnuthill Township Park Building, 221 PA-715 in Brodheadsville, PA on September 12th.

Also a thank you to Tony Sturla for doing the presentation of our Eagle Scout Certificate for his grandson, Jacob William Pino back on August 22nd at the Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church in Stroudsburg, Pa.

Alan talked about the Christmas party. He discussed the fact that the base has covered half the cost in the past for all who attended. Alan has recommended that it be updated to state that the member and one guest will be covered for half the cost, any member with more than one guest will need to pay the full cost for the additional guests. David Wright made the first motion

to change the Christmas Dinner Price as stated above. John Kelly made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed. Information will be made available to all members.

Alan talked about the insurance coverage for our float and trailer combination. We currently pay \$52 per year for \$x coverage. Alan did some checking with the insurance agent and we were quoted up to \$x for the same \$52 per year, or up to \$x for \$102 per year. There was discussion amongst the members present about the potential costs for material and such if the float and trailer were damaged. Alan Dempsey made the first motion to raise the insurance coverage to \$x for \$102 per year. Tom Crosby made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Tom Crosby talked about the Celtic Classis in Bethlehem again, as it is coming up shortly. Our group is a go for Sunday, the 26th of September. Tom said that we have 8 people to man the tent. He also said that there is a volunteer orientation, not mandatory, but will be giving out t-shirts and the parking pass. Again, we will be manning the beer tent, pouring drinks from the taps, collecting money and any tips we receive during our time frame belong to the base. Tom said he sent the information to Bob Smith for dissemination to those members going to the Celtic Classic. We are encouraged to wear our vests and even bring the Base Banner. The information contains a map of the festival ground, how to get there and where to check in. Links to the website are also included.

New Business: The base has been invited to two different Veterans Day Parades on the 7th of November. The first invite was for the Jim Thorpe Parade in Carbon County. The other is for the Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA. Members present agreed to participate in the Monroe County Parade. Further information at next meeting as to time of parade and line-up times.

Welcome aboard to our new members: Kevin Casey, Joshua Kolar and Howard “Chuck” Lawton. Our three new members signed up at the West End Fair. Also, welcome back to Skip Baker, who is currently residing in North Carolina. There is also one outstanding perspective member from the Belvidere, NJ Day. All that remains is for the paperwork to be completed and sent to National.

There were two Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests that were to be held on the weekend before our meeting. The first was for a Dillon Corridore at the American Legion Evan-Blitz Post in Canadensis, PA. The other was for a Dominick Genovese at the VFW Post 2540 in East Stroudsburg, PA. Both of these were on the 11th of September and both packages were mailed.

There is a third Court of Honor request for Ethan Acevedo. This was believed to be originally scheduled last year, but was delayed due to Covid. The Court of Honor is now on the 9th of October at the St Paul Lutheran Church on Fish Hill Rd in Tannersville, PA. David Wright has agreed to do the presentation.

Other members are welcome to attend these ceremonies to see what goes on with the Court of Honor.

Alan Dempsey talked about an idea from Darryl Betz on placing the tent on stilts to help raise it up so the float could be seen easier. It is currently hidden for the most part until you are next to the tent. The idea is to extend the length of the pipes that hold up the canopy. Alan said he purchased the material needed, drilled holes around every 6 inches and they are ready to go with the exception of ‘feet’ for the extensions. Alan expects total cost to be around \$60.

Everything up to now looks very good according to a couple of the members. We even have better access to the storage under the seats.

The West End Fair was well attended, but Mother Nature didn't cooperate too well. The first day was a total washout for the rain. Alan said we hit the break-even point on Thursday and that made Friday and Saturday, pure profit. Alan stated we did well at Belvidere and it was the third highest raffle money received. Alan also thanks those members that helped out at the Pocono Raceway for the race weekend and the Air Show. We are currently waiting on the money from the raceway.

Bob Smith also thanks all the members that manned the booth at the fair and in Belvidere. A full list of all the members will be included in the minutes when provided. We even had Vena Ackerman, Nancy Parks from Jack Rader's office, and a couple of the wives also helped sell tickets.

Good of the Order: Tom Crosby said that the legion post will be doing a Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 13th around the flag pole around 5:45PM. There will be an open bar and food after the ceremony. All are welcome to attend.

Calendar of Events:

9 Oct 2021: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ethan Acevedo in Tannersville, PA. David Wright will do the presentation.

20 Oct 2021: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

7 Nov 2021: Stroudsburg Vets' Parade (not yet confirmed as of this time).

17 Nov 2021: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

25 Nov 2021: Thanksgiving.

19 Dec 2021: Annual Base Dinner at Murph's Hideaway

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Darryl Betz.

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 19:44 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D Smith.