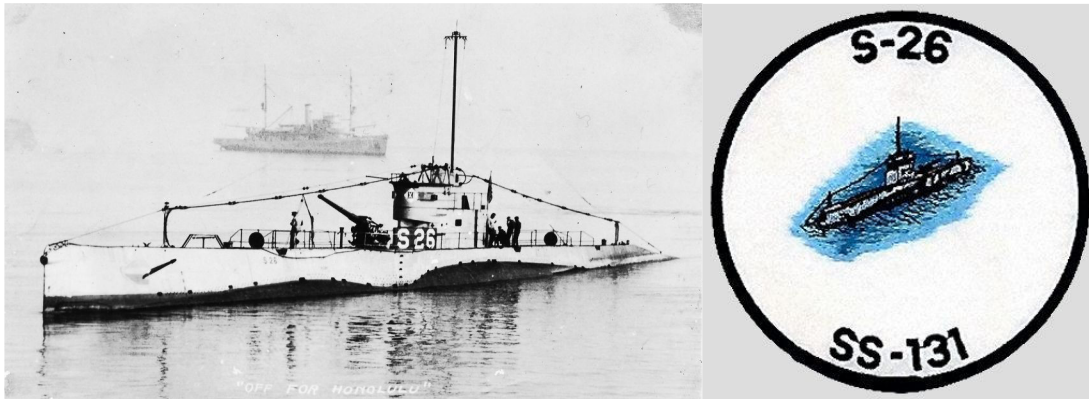


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 January 2022



USS S-26 SS-131

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601
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Base Executive Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732
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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 / E-mail address: scubapopalan@hotmail.com

Chaplain – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466
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Meeting called to order at 1909 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
20 Jan 1942	USS S-34	SS-141	0 Loss of Life / Boat Lost
24 Jan 1942	USS S-26	SS-131	43 Men
10 Jan 1943	USS Argonaut	SS-166	105 Men
05 Jan 1944	USS Scorpion I	SS-278	76 Men
12 Jan 1945	USS Swordfish I	SS-193	89 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Josh Kolar, Frank McDevitt, Gene Peppe and David Wright.

We were also joined by the wives of Bob Smith and Josh Kolar.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary reported that the December minutes were posted to the base website. A corrected set was sent to account for a Post Script. There was no official base meeting in December, just a short meeting before the dinner. This consisted of the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Tolling the lost boats for December and for our departed shipmates and ended with the benediction.

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 2021, with outstanding checks to be cleared. Alan also ran down the list of income and expenses for our report that will be sent to National. Upcoming expenses will be the Base Insurance and the Float / Trailer Insurance and possible West End Fair Entry Fee.

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

Alan Dempsey declared his intent to remain Base Treasurer.
Mike Smith declared his intent to be the Base Secretary.

Tom Crosby declared his intent to remain as Base Chaplain.

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 12 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. Donald E Smith went on Eternal Patrol early last year. George A Schimpf, Sr. departed for Eternal Patrol back on the 4th of January 2022. Also, Steve Munding requested to be dropped from our base.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary was handed and read three thank you letters for our donations approved back in November 2021. They were from The Fisher House Foundation,

The Disabled American Vet's (DAV) and from the Salvation Army. The donation made to the Salvation Army was made in memory of our founding member and Salvation Army Major, Robert Vaughan.

Flag Box Program: Flag boxes continue to be productive. Tom Crosby asked if we still had another box available to be used by the Wilson-Fischer Post. It is currently in storage at Locust Lake Ridge and will take extra personnel to move it. It will also need refurbishment.

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

Parades: No parades until at least March. Next parade will be the Parade of Shamrocks to be held in Bethlehem, PA on Saturday, March 12th. We were invited at no cost by the Celtic Cultural Alliance, thru Jennifer Crosby, wife of Tom Crosby. There is interest amongst the members in attending. More information to follow. Tom Crosby was asked of the post was going to have their parade on Memorial Day this year, and Tom responded that it is tentatively scheduled as of now. There is also the St Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg that is scheduled for Sunday the 20th of March. We have not received an invitation for this one, yet.

Eagle Scout: Mike Smith had no report. No invites, or thank you letters received.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No report, Bob Obrecht was absent.

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: There is some discussion on upgrading the horn. One suggestion was to use the base klaxon, powered off an inverter hooked to a battery. Mike Smith will also look into more to scale lights for the running lights for the conning tower.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS S-26. The S-26 was part of a convoy of S-Boats being led out of the harbor of Balboa on the Pacific Side of the Panama Canal. They were being led out by Submarine Chaser PC-460. The chaser signaled that she was turning around, but was not seen by any submarine other than the S21. PC-460 accidentally rammed the S-26 and ruptured the main ballast tanks causing her to sink instantly. Of the 46 men on board, on the CO, the XO and a lookout survived the sinking. They were on the conning tower since this was a surface transit. The boat was too deep for any salvage operation and was declared lost on the 24th of Jan 1942.

Old Business: There is a new district commander, Thomas Denton. He replaced Huey Dietrich, who decided not to run again. Bob invited Mr. Denton about a possible bas visit, as Huey has tried to do in the past.

Bob Smith talked about a gentleman by the name of Peter Dockter, who was impressed with our display at the fair. He send Bob copies of submarine prints that he obtained at an antique store. Bob said he was going to bring them to tonight, but will try to bring them to the next meeting. Alan Dempsey made the first motion to have a thank you letter sent to him, seconded by David Wright, all in favor, motion passed. The secretary will send the letter.

New Business: During the discussion about our flag boxes, Alan Dempsey recommended that we send out thank you letters to the places that have allowed us to install one for use. They include

Kinsley's Shop Rite in Brodheads ville, Blakeslee Post Office, Beech Mountain Lakes Association where David Wright resides and Pocono Lake. The Secretary will send out the letters, all he is asking is for the mailing addresses to be e-mailed to him.

Bob Smith mentioned that he made up the schedule of all the events we may be interested in on the base website. He is asking the members to take a look and suggest any corrections, or additions to what is listed.

There was some discussion about getting out to our members about the upcoming Base Elections. David Wright suggested e-mails and possibly putting it out on our Facebook site. We are really looking for a base member who has attended meetings in the past to be the prospective base commander, or other positions. Bob is looking for someone to finally replace him. They would have the best information on how we operate.

Gene Peppe asked if we would look into going back to Murph's Hideaway for next year's Christmas Dinner. The members agreed with this. Bob Smith gave a recap on the dinner and what happened when negotiating the original price. They removed the shrimp cocktails due to the high expense, but the day of the dinner ended up including them on a plate at no extra cost amongst all of the hors d'oeuvres.

Josh talked about East Stroudsburg University and that they host a Veterans Day recognition that is open to the public. Josh would like to see if we could get invited to attend in November for the ceremony that they have. Bob said he would put it on our schedule when we get more information. Josh said he would talk to June Pepe about this.

For the Parade of Shamrocks, Tom Crosby said he would like to get a tentative number of how many would attend. He said that the organizers include a parade marshal for every ten, or so attendees. They would very much like to see the float, if we were to attend.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith mentioned at this meeting that our friend and honorary base member, Vena Ackerman of the Flag Store in Sciotta, PA lost her husband Jim back on the 15th of December 2021. The secretary will send one of our cards to offer our condolences.

Bob Smith welcomed new member Josh to his first meeting. Josh said he took the night off to finally attend.

Mike Smith asked Tom Crosby if he had heard from The Tobyhanna Army Depot PAO. Tom replied that they had heard from the PAO, but does not know if anything was done on the legion post side/ He said he would find out.

Tom Crosby says the post is going back to having an Island Dance in February. This is a dinner / dance where everyone is invited to attend. Just have a Hawai'ian shirt. More information will be on the website.

Also, Tom said that he post is now Smoke Free. They have attached a designated smoking area to the building, complete with heat.

Gene Peppe said that his wife, Mary will be going in the get her knee replaced again.

Calendar of Events:

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

12 Mar 2022: Parade of Shamrocks in Bethlehem, PA. More info to follow.

16 Mar 2022: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

20 Mar 2022: St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA at 1:30 PM. No invite received, yet

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 Feb 2022 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 Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by David Wright

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1951 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

