

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base -- Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Present at muster:

Bob Smith (Base Commanding Officer)	Bob Obrecht (Base Executive Officer)	Alan Dempsey (Base Treasurer)
Scott Jackson (Acting Base Yeoman)	Scott Gerber	David Wright
Darel Handley	Bill Pancoast (new member)	Anthony Sturla
Ken Kull	Bob Sweeney	

Sirens present:

Sheila Smith	Cindy Sturla	
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Meeting called to order by Base Commanding Officer Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post 413 in Pocono Pines, PA. The CO led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer in lieu of prayer by the absent chaplain.

### Treasurer's Report:

Alan reported account balances and checks paid for the past two months. The Base's finances are solvent.

Alan thanked Scott Gerber and Bob Sweeney for their efforts installing refurbished flag box at the Blakeslee Post Office (decals still need to be affixed).

Alan also noted that the Base received a check for \$1,000 from the Pocono Raceway for members' participation during the June race weekend. There were 12 people originally signed up to work, thus the expectation was for \$1,200. Scott Gerber was unable to attend as planned, but it is unknown if there was a second person unable to attend. Please let Alan know if you were signed up and unable to attend so we reconcile if the Base was shortchanged or not.

## Committees:

### Correspondence

Alan received a “thank you” note from Mary Jo and Charlie from Florida who were the recipients of a \$500 gift from the Base. Charlie is a submariner who was in an accident and requested assistance several months ago.

### Membership

New member, Bill Pancoast, joined Pocono Base during the meeting and was introduced to the crew. Bill qualified in submarines in 1982 aboard USS Parche (SSN-683). Welcome aboard!

### Eagle Scout

Mike Smith sent an email to the Base requesting a volunteer for Dylan Payne’s Court of Honor that was held August 9<sup>th</sup>. No volunteer could be identified in time to attend.

### Parades

The Base will be taking the USS Barb Float to “Victorian Day” in Belvidere, NJ on Saturday, September 6 from 1000 to 1800. Sounds like we are a bit light on volunteers (4?) – you should come out with us!

The Veterans Day parade for Stroudsburg is Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 1300.

The Veterans Day parade for Carbon County is scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2025 in Lehighton.

Consider getting your steps and justifying that expensive smart watch by coming out and marching with us!!!

### Outreach

Bob Sweeney had nothing to report, except that we are always looking for new members.

### Fundraising

Bob Smith handed out passes to persons volunteering for the West End Faire (Aug 17 – 23). Setup of the display is happening Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, and breakdown on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – if you can help.

## Old Business

Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival has 7 persons signed up for Sunday, September 28, 2025. We are working for tips and free beer!

## New Business

Storekeeper's inventory is being updated and will be posted on the website soon.

Scott Jackson is organizing a fall foliage bicycle ride of the Lehigh Gorge Rail Trail followed by a social gathering at his house on Saturday, October 18, 2025. If interested, inquire with Scott via email: [sjackson1997@yahoo.com](mailto:sjackson1997@yahoo.com).

## Good of the Order

As part of the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the Navy and Marine Corps, Philadelphia is hosting "Homecoming 250" ([www.homecoming250.org](http://www.homecoming250.org)) from October 9 through the 16<sup>th</sup>. Several naval ships are expected to be present, rumored to include a submarine (per the website, it mentions only the USS Becuna which is a museum piece there).

One of the new upcoming Virginia class submarines will be named USS Barb (SSN-804). We want to reach out and connect with its public affairs since we have our own version of the Barb. Scott will reach out to his classmate who is involved in the project management of the Virginia class.

The annual Christmas party/meeting will be held at Murph's Hideaway on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Binnacle List

Keep David Padora in your thoughts and prayers as he has upcoming surgery.

## Closing

Bob Smith led the members with the Base Creed to close the meeting, followed by a moment of silent prayer.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to close the meeting by David Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to close by Bill Pancoast. All in favor – the meeting was adjourned.