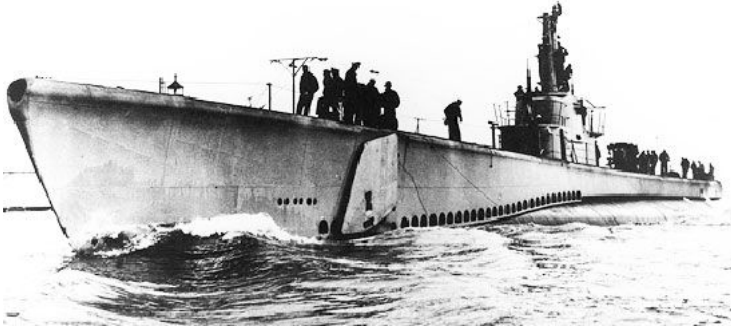


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 May 2023



USS Lagarto SS-371

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlincs@ptd.net

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 / scubapopalan@hotmail.com

Chaplain – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: crosbytr@webcrosby.com

Meeting called to order at 1908 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 May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 Men

Secretary Mike Smith led the members present with an invocation in the absence of the chaplain.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, David Wright, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Scott Gerber, Tony Sturla and Frank McDevitt.

We were also joined by the wives of a few of our members.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting and are posted on the website. If there are any corrections that need to be made, please let the secretary know.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 28 April 2023. Alan said that he has a \$.10 error in the balance and cannot find where it is from. The down payment for the West End Fair was sent in. Looking to have the electricity charge lowered.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we are holding steady at 51 active members as of this meeting. Still need to recruit new members.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The secretary read a letter from the given to him by David Wright. It was from the Department of Veteran Affairs and was a thank you letter to our base for donating the Mission BBQ luncheon for the Veterans in the Community Living Center.

Alan Dempsey talked about a letter he received from the Tunnels to Towers Foundation. It was a thank you letter for our donation. The letter was dated back in January 2023, but the post mark was 9 May 2023.

Flag Box Program: Bob Smith picked up the flags at the Flag Store.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he has not placed any ads in the local papers.

Parades: Memorial Day Parade on the 29th from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The route will be the original. More information in Old Business.

Eagle Scout: There has been no correspondence.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No Report.

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht said that the boat has been repainted and the new cleats have been installed. There was an issue with the portside screw. The screw got broken off and needs to be re-attached. Also going to repaint the screws to brighten them up. Bob said he may need to paint the numbers back on, as the decals don't work well.

Fundraising: Bob Smith stated the base voted to have another raffle this year and that we will attend the West End Fair again.

Bus trip: Looking to reschedule the bus trip to NYC for around September 2024. Too late in the current year to get the plan started. Will need to relook the cost of the bus, potential number of people that want to go and get a cost estimate per person.

Mike Smith read about the loss of the USS Lagarto from Submarine Operations of WWII. Lagarto was believed to be sunk by mines that we laid by a Japanese Minelayer.

Old Business: The Memorial Day Parade this year will be held on the 29th of May. The route has reverted back to the original pattern of starting at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center and around to Rte. 423 and back up Old 940 to the cemetery. There will be food provided by the post afterwards. Step off will be at 10AM and a memorial service will be held at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center.

Alan is still asking for members to help during the race weekend and for the Great Pocono Air Show. Hours for the Air Show are 10-6 Saturday and Sunday the 27th & 28th of May. Our base will receive \$100 per person, per day for our efforts. We would be placed around the stands, or other areas, except the parking lot. This is a great way to earn income for our base, to be used for base operations and our charitable organizations that we donate to. Please respond to Alan Dempsey so we can have a nearly accurate number of volunteers. Friends and family can help out our base. Asking that we wear Khaki colored pants, a nice shirt. Also, bring sunscreen, a hat and earplugs. The cars are loud, but the track dryers are even louder. Schedule for the Pocono Races is on the base website.

Frank McDevitt said that the Lions Club got permission to bring a table to the raceway for the Air Show to help recruit new members. Would like to see our base try to do the same thing to help promote our base and who we are. There is a new person in charge of the veterans' groups and is allowing the groups to have stands / tables for recruiting purposes.

Bob Smith reiterated about the upcoming Armed Forces Day Celebration at the United States Submarine Service Memorial at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, PA on Saturday the 20th of May at 1PM. There will be a reception at the Fort Indiantown Gap Community Club at 3PM. Bob Smith said that he added it to our base calendar on the website.

New Business: Mike Smith reported that the base has received an Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite for Eagle Scout Michael Rodriguez. The Court of Honor will be held at Our Lady of Victory, 327 Cherry Lane Rd, Tannersville, PA on Sunday, June 4th, 2023, at 2PM. Certificate will be mailed as there were no takers.

Anyone else who would like to see a court of honor can do so. Bob had posted the information on the base website. Just click on the link to the Boy Scouts on the main page and it will take you to all of the scouts we have sent packages to or attended in person over the years.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 20th to the 26th of August. The hours for the fair are now 3 to 9 daily, with setup on the 19th and teardown on the 27th. Sign up list for volunteer days to be on the base website. Raffle tickets are available for the members.

Sheila Smith showed the members of the base a replacement wreath to be used for the various memorial services. Our original one could not be located. The design was deemed to be too busy and a different one was chosen. The wreath that was originally picked is meant for indoor purposes only. Sheila looked at another larger wreath meant for indoor and outdoor purposes and showed it to the members present.

David Wright made the first motion for the base to purchase a new wreath. Tony Sturla made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Frank McDevitt said that he will talk to Tom Crosby about putting our placards and other submarine related items back up on the wall in the Legion. They were taken down to have the walls repainted but have not been put back into place since it was done.

The raffle tickets have been printed and separated to be sent to the members based upon how many the individual members sold last year. Bob Smith handed the tickets out to those members present at tonight's meeting. Bob Smith said he spoke to Darryl Betz and he came to pick up his tickets. Bob said to Darryl that we had tabled his items and Darryl said he would be happy to discuss them at the June meeting.

Our base has been invited back to the Celtic Fest in Bethlehem, PA to man the beer tent again. The festival runs from the 23rd to the 24th of September and our date to man the tent is on the 24th at 1PM. We'll be serving beer again and any tips received will go to our base as a donation for the time that we are manning the tent, which is 1-4PM. We need a list of people's names and the date of birth. Will need at least 8 people to man the tent during our time frame.

Next month's meeting will be on the 14th of June at 5PM. We will join the Wilson-Fischer Post at 6PM for the Flag Day Ceremony. After the ceremony our base will be serving dinner.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith said hasn't talked to Bill Klose in a bit but that the last time they talked, he was doing fine and still traveling to Ohio and New York for what he does.

Calendar of Events:

27-28 May 2023: Great Pocono Raceway Airshow.

29 May 2023: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center and will end at the cemetery. Step off will be at 1000 hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the cemetery across from the school after the parade.

4 June 2023: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Michael Rodriguez. Certificate will be mailed.

14 Jun 2023: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

4 Jul 2023: Happy 4th of July.

19 Jul 2023: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

21 -23 Jul 2023: Pocono NASCAR Race Weekend for Volunteering

16 Aug 2023: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post

20-26 Aug 2023: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 at 1700 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.”

Mike Smith offered a benediction at the end of our meeting as provided by our chaplain.

1st motion made by David Wright to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Tony Sturla.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1958 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

