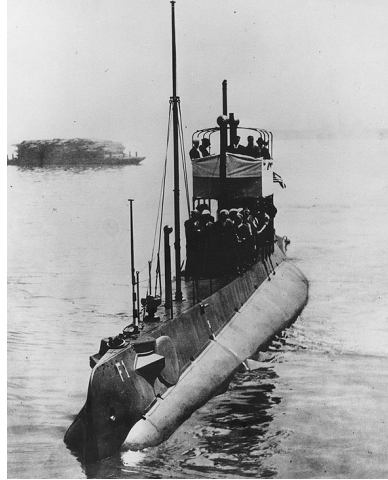


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 18 March 2026



## USS F-1 (Skate I) (SS-23)

### 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](mailto: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

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**Base Treasurer – Scott Jackson** / P.O. Box 223, Pocono Lake, PA. 18347

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

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**Meeting called to order** at 1903 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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 Men
15 Mar 1943	USS Triton	SS 201	74 Men
26 Mar 1944	USS Tullibee	SS 284	79 Men
20 Mar 1945	USS Kete	SS 369	87 Men
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 Men

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

**Roll Call:** Member's present were Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Bob Sweeney, Scott Gerber, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Bruce Frisch, David Wright, Kenn Kull, Tony Sturla, Daryl Handley, Tom Kaluzny, Scott Jackson, and Al Tafa.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary stated that the February 2026 minutes sent out late and did provide copies for the meeting. Still dealing with email issues with the new computer.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported that we have a balance of \$x.xx as of the end of February. There are four outstanding checks that have not cleared the account. This leaves an actual ending balance of \$x.xx. The treasurer reported that he paid our insurance for the float using his personal credit card and asked the members present if he could be reimbursed from the treasury. The total was \$258 for the insurance.

Tony Sturla made the first motion to allow the charge to be reimbursed. David Wright made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed for the treasurer to be reimbursed from the base treasury.

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

Bob Obrecht was nominated for Base Commander by Bob Sweeney  
Bob Sweeney was nominated for Vice Commander by Scott Jackson and Darryl Betz,  
Mike Smith declared he would remain as Base Secretary  
Scott Jackson declared he would remain the Base Treasurer

There were no other nominations or declarations for officers and the slate is closed. Bob Smith asked Command Master Chief, Daryl Handley, to cast the deciding vote for the officers nominated. Master Chief Handley cast the vote, and the members present voted "aye".

Bob Smith administered the oath of office to the newly elected office holders.

Bob Smith was asked by new commander Bob Obrecht to continue with tonight's meeting.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that the base has 46 members. Anwander moved out of state and Josh Kolar did not renew his dues,

**Budget / Donation:** No report until after the fundraising is complete.

**Correspondence:** The secretary read a thank you letter from the Salvation Army. Our donation of \$200 was made in the name of Major Robert Vaughan, who also founded our base.

**Flag Box Program:** Flag boxes continue to be productive. Sheila picked up a bunch at the Flag Store in Sciota. Alan Dempsey said he picked up the flags at Kinsley's Shop Rite and the post office in Blakeslee.

**Speakers Bureau:** No Report.

**Publicity:** No report.

**Parades:** Next parade will be on Memorial Day in Pocono Lake. Further information to follow.

**Eagle Scout:** Court of honor invitations covered in new and old business.

**Outreach:** No Report.

**Ships Store:** No Report.

**Float Committee:**

Michael Smith read about the loss of USS F-4. She suffered a catastrophic event and her hull imploded with the loss of 21 men onboard.

**Old Business:** Mike Smith talked about the upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. There were three invitations, one came via e-mail.

1<sup>st</sup> court of honor is for Chandler Nicholas Smith on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April at 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA. Scott Jackson stated he would do our presentation.

2<sup>nd</sup> court of honor is for Daniel Cunningham on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April at 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA. David Wright stated he would do our presentation.

3<sup>rd</sup> court of honor is for Rose Krezel on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 2PM at the Zion Untied Lutheran Church, 1919 Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA. Alan Dempsey stated he would do our presentation.

Bob Smith stated that we lost base member Bonaventure Turri back in November 2025. Our base sent a certificate to his bereaved loved ones. Bob stated that National has a certificate that all the bases need to do is add a name and print on appropriate paper stock.

Alan Dempsey mentioned again that we had briefly discussed having a three-tiered prize system for the raffle this year. The discussion of having the value of the prizes as \$1000, \$250, and \$100. There was intense discussion back and forth about the additional \$350 in expense for the two other prizes on top of our normal expenses for running the raffle.

Alan Demspey made the first motion that we have a three-tiered prize system this year. Tom Crosby made the second motion. There was one dissention for the motion and the remaining members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Scott Jackson stated he will get the small games of chance license on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. We can then have the tickets made.

Scott Gerber said that he would like to see us put up our display at a table at the Reading Airport for their military weekend, June 5-7. Scott said it would let us showcase how submarines played a part in WWII with the lifeguard duties of rescuing downed pilots. Scott also said he was able to get us a table at the event. If we were to sell our raffle tickets at the event, it would cost the base \$250 to be allowed to do so. We also need to contact the Reading Base since this is in their area for this event and try to combine forces for our display.

**New Business:** Tom Crosby talked about Flag Day for the Legion Post. They have decided to hold the Flag Day Ceremony at 4PM on Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. The post will have a band there from 5 to 9 in the bar area. This is also the same weekend as NASCAR at the Pocono Raceway. There was some discussion about when to hold the base meeting. This topic has been tabled until at least the April meeting.

The next parade will be on Memorial Day, the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Line up at 9AM starting at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center and will step off at 10AM. The route will loop around to Rte 432 and back to Old Rte 940 and end at the cemetery across from the school. A service will then be held.

There was one new Eagle Scott Court of Honor request. This is for Eli Lovene Kresge and will be held at St Paul Lutheran Church at 158 Fish Hill Rd in Tannersville on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April at 1PM. There were no takers at this meeting.

Alan Dempsey talked about the upcoming Pocono Race Weekend in June. The dates are the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14th. Alan is looking to get a rough headcount of who would be attending and what days they would be there.

Bob Obrecht continued the meeting with the start of new business. He talked with Bob Smith about setting up tables before and after the fair at the Shop Rite in Brodheadsville to sell raffle tickets. More information at a later meeting. If we can get enough to man the table, we could bring the float for a display.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith stated that he would get the calendar updated as soon as he can. He has been unable to do it for the last couple of months.

Bob Smith talked about the 4 new National Life Members from our base: Daryl Handley, Kevin Casey, Brett Moyer and Mike Smith. Bob Smith also had the pleasure of giving David Wright and Tom Kaluzny their Holland Club Certificates and challenge coins, membership patch and patch.

### **Calendar of Events:**

21 Mar 2026: Court of Honor for Rose Krezel. 2PM at the Zion Untied Lutheran Church, 1919 Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA.

11 Apr 2026: Court of Honor for Chandler Nicholas Smith. 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA

15 Apr 2026: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson Fischer Post at 7PM.

18 Apr 2026: Court of Honor for Eli Kresge. 1PM at St Paul Lutheran Church in Tannersville PA.

19 Apr 2026: Court of Honor for Daniel Cunningham. 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA

20 May 2026: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson Fischer Post at 7PM.

25 May 2026: Memorial Day and Parade at Pocono Lake.

12 – 14 Jun 2026: NASCAR Pocono Race Weekend.

14 Jun 2026: Flag Day

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 15 Apr 2026 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 the benediction at the end of our meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by David Wright to adjourn the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Tony Sturla

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Obrecht declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2000 hrs.

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