

**Minutes from the NC Subvets Working Meeting
Held at VFW Post #7383 in Cary, NC
6 February 2010**

Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe

Prior to the working meeting, 18 Subvets and one wife enjoyed a get-together for the "noon meal" at the Golden Corral in Cary.

Tarheel Base Commander Jerry Emerson called the meeting to order at 12:59 PM with Chaplain Bill Whelan offering the opening prayer. Jerry led the 28 Subvets present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

While stating the name of their qual boat, brief introductions were rendered by all Subvets in attendance.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Paul Hiser introduced Bill Cozzolino, American Legion Post 67 Commander. Mr. Cozzolino talked about the various veteran organizations in the area "mingling hats" by having members come to their Post to listen to speakers.
2. Per Pat Collins, Holland Club Coordinator, no presentations are scheduled today. Pat will continue to collect \$1.00 from each Holland Club member through July 2010.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEMS AND REPORTS:

1. Paul Hiser, NC Subvets Webmaster, covered the updates that he has done to the website. It is now much easier to upload items to the site. Paul stated he has turned in the names of the Subvets and family members requesting tickets to the commissioning of the USS New Mexico (SSN-779) to take place in Norfolk, VA on March 27, 2010. All names have been approved with tickets / info to be mailed out soon.
2. Tarheel Base Secretary, Bill Lowe, read the minutes from the December 5, 2009 Base Business Meeting. Minutes were approved after making some minor corrections. Motion was made and passed to also approve the minutes from the October 17, 2009 without reading same due to a time restraint and since these minutes were previously published in the All Clear.
3. Butterbean Dixon, Tarheel Base Vice Commander stated recruitment of new Base members has slowed down. As of to date, the Base has lost 9 members for non-payment of dues and membership stands at 189. After some discussion, all agreed that, going forward; two contacts with Subvets to have them pay their dues will be enough attempts.
4. Tarheel Base Secretary, Spencer Combos, gave the following Treasurer's checking account report (details included in the USSVI – Tarheel Base Treasurer and Membership Corner below). Spencer is now using the Quicken 2010 program to track dues payments with a bank requirement that information has to be updated every 6 weeks. Also, USSVI National has a deadline of April 1st for the Base End of the Year Report and Spencer is compiling that report now.
5. Commander Jerry gave a financial report on the 5 December Pearl Harbor meeting. Total incoming was \$1,660. Expenses were \$1,717.15. That left the Base in the hole for \$57.15. Jerry stated that we would have broken even if we had an additional three attendees. All agreed the meeting location in Wilson was "A-1" and a motion was passed to hold the 2010 Pearl Harbor meeting at the Wilson Country Inn & Suites.

6. Chuck Jenson reported on the status of the Burnsville Submarine Memorial. He hasn't made contact with the owner, Tony, recently. The last word from Tony was that he plans to be at the next meeting of the NC Subvets in Burnsville scheduled for May 21, 2010. The use of concrete to stabilize the Memorial base is still the plan Tony wants to utilize.
7. NC Subvets License Plate Czar Jerry Leppart went over the history of his numerous trips down to the NC Legislature to prod those folks on taking action on Senate Bill 116. Our Subvets plate bill still resides in the House Finance Oversight Committee in the section dealing with a specialty plate commonality issue. This committee has a meeting planned for March and Jerry will be "in the house" then. As of February 6, 2010, Jerry has 250 names requesting a total of 363 plates.
8. Jim Myers read a letter covering a Dolphin Race Around The World Scholarship Fund. Further information about this fund will be available on the website. Jim has 20 or so old WWII Subvets calendars from 2001 and 2002 to give away to any and all takers. Jim is in search for an amplifier for the torpedo trailer. He has looked on E-Bay and Craig's List for this item. Also, Jim has built another set of steps for the torpedo trailer.
9. All Clear Editor Patch stated he has extended the deadline for submitting articles / info for the next issue in order to cover today's business meeting. He hopes to have the All Clear out a week from Monday.
10. Commander Jerry announced the Tarheel Base is still in need of a permanent storekeeper.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Upcoming Parades:
 - a. Chuck reported he has paid the \$50.00 entry fee for the St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held in Charlotte, NC on Saturday March 13, 2010. Our participation in the Charlotte Parade will afford Ollie Thompson's family the opportunity to see his torpedo "in review."
 - b. Motion was made and seconded for the Tarheel Base to participate in the Azalea Festival Parade in Wilmington on April 10, 2010. Entry fee will be waived for Veteran groups. Coastal Carolina Base member Terry Kuhn will be the contact person for info on this parade. Chuck stated he will put out info when available.
2. Elizabeth City Meeting - Chuck Jensen covered details on the upcoming joint meeting of the WWII SE Subvets and the SE District 1 USSVI Subvets to be hosted by the USSVI Albemarle Sound Base in Elizabeth City, NC. The meeting will be held March 4th - 6th with a hospitality room set up at the Fairfield Inn. Dinner will be served at VFW Post #6060 on Saturday, March 6, 2010 with Force Master Chief Garrison as the guest speaker. Per Jim Myers, 34 people have signed up to date with a registration deadline coming up on February 19th.
3. A lengthy debate / discussion took place concerning the pros and cons of paying Base members dues. After all was said, a motion was passed to have the Base Officers plus Chaplain Bill look at requests on a case by case basis to determine the need or legitimacy.
4. Commander Jerry led a discussion on conducting monthly Base business meetings. Jerry stated his reason for monthly meetings was to cut down on the amount of time expended covering all the agenda items. All agreed that Jerry should decide on the need for more frequent business meetings.
5. Dick Kanning covered a Battleship North Carolina (BB-55) Reunion scheduled for May 5th - 8th in Wilmington, NC. A local VFW Post will be the site for a dinner. Tarheel Base Subvets are invited with registration forms forthcoming.

6. Dick Kanning stated he has served the past three years on the selection committee for the Sailor of the Year for COMSUBLANT and has enjoyed this position. He has spearheaded a fund to award the runners-up with a monetary gift for those outstanding sailors and their families. Last year, \$250 was given to each of the two runners-up. A motion was passed for the Tarheel Base to donate \$100 to this fund matching what the Base gave last year.
7. Dick Kanning brought forth the idea of splitting the Tarheel Base with the possibility of having a base in Raleigh and one in the Greensboro area. One problem was mentioned with a split - the need for another slate of officers. Will Base members step forward to fill these positions? Chuck made a suggestion that Dick have the Bases in NC poll their Tarheel Base members in their respective areas to see if they would be willing to join a local base.
8. Jerry urged all members to cast their votes in the upcoming election of USSVI National officers. We need to have more than 15% vote this time around. Dick covered the various names on the ballot and the offices they are seeking. There three names in the hat for National Director. John Peters will be handling the election again this year. Members will be able to vote "on line" starting in June.
9. Commander Jerry has scheduled the next Tarheel Base Business Meeting for Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the "hut" at 1:00 PM with lunch at the Cary Golden Corral at 11:30AM.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Dick Kanning has received a letter from the crew of the USS North Carolina (SSN-777) thanking the Tarheel Base for the gift of a shadowbox containing a wooden laser cut of their ship's patch / seal.
2. Jerry Leppart passed around a framed picture of the first Nuclear Task Force in the Med. back in April 1964. Ships in the Task Force were USS Enterprise (CVN-65); USS Long Beach (CGN-9); USS Bainbridge (CGN-25); and last but not least as lead ship - USS Seawolf (SSN-575). Jerry was a crewmember on board the Seawolf during this deployment.
3. Dick Kanning discussed nominations for National and District awards. Dick has helped rewrite the awards manual and is asking members to submit names of Subvets for awards consideration.
4. Jerry Leppart will check on the possibility of displaying the sub and torpedo at the NC State Fair.
5. Meeting was adjourned at 15:35.