

**Minutes from the USSVI Tarheel Base Meeting
Held 06 August 2011
American Legion Post #67
Cary, NC**

Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe

Prior to the Base meeting, 18 Subvets and 1 guest (Aneras, son of Spencer Combos) participated in morning chow at the Golden Corral in Cary at or about 8:30 AM.

Tarheel Base Commander Gordon Banks called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM with Chaplain Bill Whelan offering the opening prayer. Gordon led the 30 Tarheel Base Subvets and 2 guests present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS:

COB Patch Paciorek and Base Treasurer Spencer Combos conducted a reading of the names, recount of loss, and tolling of the bell in remembrance of the 3 US Navy submarines lost during the month of July (S-28; SS-216; SS-273) and the 6 lost during August (S-39; SS-181; SS-255; SS-257; SS-332; SS-345). As of note, Subvet Joe Morgan was in attendance and was a survivor of the sinking of the USS Cochino (SS-345) on August 26, 1949.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Commander Gordon asked all guests and Subvets to stand and introduce themselves with Subvets stating the year they qualified and the name of their qualification boat. Guests present were Bill Cozzolino, the Commander of American Legion Post #67 and Mike Dorman, founder on the Military Missions in Action organization.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

HOLLAND CLUB

No Holland Club inductions were held during the meeting.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 COMMANDER

All Subvets welcomed Bill Cozzolino in addressing meeting attendees. Bill is a friend of Subvet Paul Hiser and has visited VFW Post 7383. He stated the Tarheel Base is welcome to hold future meetings in their facility free of charge! A sound system and projection screen are available for use during meetings. Parking is limited and Bill suggested two sided angle parking in the rear of the building in order to accommodate more vehicles. Subvets with limited mobility should have first priority to parking spaces on the concrete pad next to the rear wall of the building.

Bill covered info on the work and activities of his Post. They are 242 members strong and have lost 6 members this year. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month with a meal at 6:00 PM and start of meeting at 7:00 PM lasting until about 8:30 PM. Bill stated the requirements to join the American Legion and it appears most all Subvets are eligible. Post 67 helps homeless vets, works with the Navy ROTC at Cary High School, and staffs a trailer during the Cary's Lazy Days event. Bill solicited Subvets to volunteer for two hour tours of duty at the Lazy Days trailer- no cooking- just direct people to purchase their food items.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mike Dorman, founder of Military Missions in Action, and a retired US Coast Guardsman covered the four programs of MMIA. List of programs are: 1 - Operation Building Hope - modifying homes of disabled vets. Work is now in progress on a WWII vets house just down the block from Post 67; 2 - Homes for Healing - Offering a less stressful home environment for vets suffering traumatic brain injuries; 3 - Operation Warrior Golf Program - Gives 10 disabled vets a week of golf. This program is in need of 70 sets of golf clubs; 4 - Field Footlocker Program - Collects items and ship's them to troops deployed.

The group's programs are conducted throughout the state of North Carolina. It is an all volunteer organization except for Mike. His salary is \$1,000 per month with \$800 take home pay. MMIA's administrative costs are 4.5% of their budget.

REPORTS

1. Base Commander Gordon Banks bestowed well deserved Bravo-Zulu honors on Jerry Leppart for his "never give up the ship" job in pursuit of passage of the NC Subvets License Plate Bill. All present gave Jerry a standing ovation!! Commander Gordon congratulated two Subvets who had USSVI scholarships awarded to their grandkids- \$950 to Trevor Jensen, Chuck Jensen's grandson and \$1,000 to Stephanie Everard, granddaughter of Bob Werner. As of note, this is Stephanie's third year of earning this scholarship. Gordon asked for a motion of approval for a \$50 donation that the Tarheel Base has made to the Float Maintenance Fund. Motion was made, seconded, and approved. Gordon asked John Rupertus, Nathanael Greene Base Commander, to cover the Walk Now for Autism Speaks spearheaded by the Carolina Piedmont and Nathanael Greene Bases. The fundraising event will take place at the Carolina Motor Speedway on October 8, 2011. Participants will be walking around the 1-1/2 mile track 3 times to raise money for Autism research. Rupertus' "clean hat" was passed around during the Base meeting and a donation totaling \$145 was collected.
2. Base Vice Commander Bill (Butterbean) Dixon reported recruitment of new Base members is going well. He urged members to pay their Base and National dues in a timely manner.
3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on June 4, 2011 as e-mailed and posted on the NC Subvets website. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve said minutes as distributed.
4. Tarheel Base Treasurer and Record Keeper Spencer Combos reported a checking account balance of \$3,802.52 as of August 5, 2011. With the use of Quick Books, Spencer has the ability to compare last year's Base income and expenses with the current year's figures. Tarheel Base membership stands at 172 regular members plus 2 associate members. Spencer announced he will not run for the office of treasurer next year due to family and business obligations.
5. COB/All Clear editor Patch Paciorek stated he is still taking online website courses. Deadline to submit information/articles for the upcoming issue of the All Clear is Friday, August 12, 2011. Patch is hopeful the All Clear will win top newsletter honors this year- especially since he is a member of the judging committee (i.e.- he voted for it!). MMIA Project and NC Subvet license plate info will be posted on the NC Subvets website.
6. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer Jim Wallace delayed his comments until his turn to cover the Adopt A Spot project.
7. NC Subvets License Plate "Czar" Jerry Leppart reported the NC Specialty Plate Bill was finally signed on June 30, 2011. Jerry passed around a copy (sample template) of the plate with mass production to begin on Monday, August 8, 2011. Plates should be available during the first two weeks of September. His latest tally is 324 Subvets requesting a total of 458 plates. As of August 1, 2011, Jerry turned over 284 applications to the NC DMV along with a total of \$4,760. Also, Jerry is collecting names of Subvet who wish to go on a tour of the "Plate Plant" located at 1150 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. A total of 30 adults can go on the 45 minute to 1 hour tour scheduled for 9:00 AM on Monday, August 15, 2011.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Parades: Next parade will be the Old Soldier's Parade in Newton, NC on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 5:00 PM. Chuck Jensen stated he will pass along info on this parade shortly. Per John Rupertus, other upcoming parades are: Veteran's Day parades on 11/11/11 in Asheboro; 11/12/11 in Winston-Salem; and 11/13/11 in High Point.
2. Tarheel Base Book and Video Exchange Library Coordinator Wolfgang Friedrich had his "library" set up on a table during the Base meeting.
3. POW/MIA Table: Scott Powell had the POW/MIA table on display and did an outstanding job of covering the significance of each item. Scott was hoping his father-in-law, a WWII POW in Germany, would be present for his talk but he passed away earlier this month.

4. Service Projects: Wayne Powell voiced support for the Military Missions in Action Project. He stated MMIA is a good organization and helps vets in the local area. Wayne has helped the last 3 days with a house renovation project for a WWII vet here in Cary a "city" block away. He volunteered to assist with this project to see for himself what MMIA was all about. Wayne invited Subvets to accompany him, after the meeting, for a tour of the house off North Harrison Ave. Motion was made and passed for the Tarheel Base to make MMIA a Base project. As a means of support for this worthy project, Dick Kanning made a motion that the Tarheel Base donate \$200 to MMIA. Motion was amended to direct \$50 of the \$200 to be used by Wayne Powell for the expense of erecting bird feeders at the North Harrison Ave. house. Motion was seconded and approved.
5. Jim Wallace passed out information on three proposed options for the Cary Adopt a Spot Program:

Option A: Bond Park - This involves 4 separate work day events: 1 - During first week of November, removing the boats from the lake/dock area, loading them up, unloading them at the storage facility, and scrubbing them off. 2 - December or January: Spreading mulch at the ropes course. 3 - March: Painting park gates. 4 - April: Spreading mulch and updating flower beds before Spring Daze/Earth Day celebration at Bond Park. This project allows for the sponsoring group to have two prominent sign locations - one near the boat house entrance and one near the main area of the ropes course.

Option B: White Oak Creek Greenway Trail - Consists of 1.2 miles of trail to sweep for litter 4 times a year. Trail begins at the Central Metro Hub Kiosk in Bond Park and ends at MacArthur Drive. There would possibly be some mulching and beautification work involved. One sign would be located at the Central Metro Hub Kiosk.

Option C: South Harrison Ave - Quarterly litter sweeps on each side of roadway starting at the intersection of S. Harrison Ave. and Shirley Drive. and ending at the intersection of Chapel Hill Rd. and S. Harrison Ave, a distance of one mile. A sign would possibly be placed at the corner of S. Harrison Ave. and W. Park St.

As of note, each of these options requires a two year commitment to do the assigned work. After some debate and concerns, a motion was made for the Tarheel Base to go forward with Option A - Bond Park. Motion carried via a show of hands vote of 21 to 7.

NEW BUSINESS:

SED1 Commander Dick Kanning commented on the USSVI Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund. He congratulated Subvet Bob Werner's granddaughter on receiving a scholarship for the third year in a row and Chuck Jensen's grandson, Trevor, for his scholarship award this year. As of note, Trevor's older brother, Taylor, won the same type scholarship 3 years ago. Dick made a motion that the Tarheel Base make a donation of \$300 to the USSVI Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund. After Base Treasurer Spencer Combos gave the okay that funds were available, the motion was approved.

OPEN FLOOR:

Chaplain Bill (Bill Chaplain) asked the assembled Subvets to keep Bob Werner's wife, Joyce, in their prayers. Bill has made phone contact with Don and Rosemary Small and stated they are doing ok.

Also, Bill related a story of a search for a model submarine that the WWII Subvets used for a "pool cruise" at meetings. The sub, with the aid of fishing poles, would "sail" to the middle of a swimming pool and dive. Bill was pleased to report that the sub had been found!

Chaplain Bill rendered a closing prayer.

NEXT BASE MEETING:

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2011.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:32 PM.

Raymond Kilduff was the winner of the 50/50 raffle drawing in the amount of \$72.50.