

# MINUTES OF USSVI TARHEEL BASE ZOOM MEETING

HELD ON-LINE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020

Tarheel Base Meeting was held for the first time via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. A total of 23 NC Subvets were logged on for the meeting. Hopefully, that figure is correct. Meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Base Commander Jim Davis. Assistant Chaplain Rich Cimino offered up the invocation. Chaplain Gene Rutter was experiencing some audio/WIFI problems. Base Secretary Bill Lowe lead the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then Bill read the Purpose of USSVI: Our prupose is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country." In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Commander Jim stated no WWII Subvets or new Subvets have logged on and no new Tarheel Base members have signed up since February 1, 2020. All "attendees" were asked to introduce themselves by stating their qual boat and qual year. Subvets in attendance were as follows: Keith Bender; Rich Cimino; Wade Cooper; Jim Davis; Mel Denis; Steve Gillespie; Bill Grogan; Paul Hiser; Jim Jacobs; Chuck Jensen; Leland Kuntzman; Jerry Leppart; Gary Lew; Bill Lowe; Jim Myers; Joe Peek; Mike Runkle; Gene Rutter; Perry Taylor; Anthony Van Schaick; Dan Wall; Jim Wallace; and Al Zilinski.

## TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS

The Tolling of the Lost Boats Ceremony was not conducted as usual due to the length of the list of lost boats. Commander Jim asked for a moment of silence in memory of the crews of these boats who gave the supreme sacrificace for their country.

## **SPEAKER**

The speaker for today's Tarheel Base Meeting was Steve Gillespie, Capt. USN Retired. Capt. Gillespie is a member and President of the US Naval Academy Alumni Association. He covered what has taken place at the Academy this Spring and Summer due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Class of 2020 had a virtual graduation with an outstanding fly-over. After the Spring break for the Class of 2024, no one came back right away. One fifth of the 1200 plebes were allowed back at a time over a period of 4 days. A total of 19 of them tested positive. After two weeks, the 1200 plebes and 300 retailers had a test of negative. Medical Protocall resulted in the plebes being divided into 40 groups of platoon sized pods with no intermingling of the pods. Robust Summer Academic Program is conducted fully on-line. Other items covered by Capt. Gillespie were the renovations in progress on the Annapolis Chapel dome, no formal parades will take place, no midshipmen cruises in 2020, and 25% of the Class of 2023 will become submariners! All thanked Capt. Gillespie for his very informative program!

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Wellness Program Report- Chaplain Gene stated 6 more Base members have been added to the list of over the age of 80 group!

Binnacle List- Base Treasurer Tom McFadden did not join the meeting due to undergoing an out-patient medical procedure this week. He is recovering and doing fine.

Holland Club- No awards are scheduled.

## **REPORTS**

Base Commander Jim Davis- Jim urged all Subvets to cast their vote for the slate of National Officers, even though all are running unopposed. Also, there are a total of seven Proposed Amendments To The USSVI Constitution And Bylaws up for a vote. Our sponsorship of a Cary Youth Baseball Team has been extended to next year. Wade Cooper has agreed to head up the Base Eagle Scout Program and

he has been added to the Tarheel Base Executive Board for a total of 10 EB members. Jim mentioned the publications of two new submarine books by Frank and Charles Hood (authors of Poopies Suits & Cowboy Boots). He stated buying these books will result in the profits going to support the USSVI Charitable Foundation. Commander Jim is looking for someone to step forward and become the Tarheel Membership Chairman for the Base.

Vice Commander Rich Cimino- No Report.

Secretary- Bill Lowe - Approve last meeting minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on February 1, 2020 (exactly 6 months ago) as sent out on the Tarheel email buoy and posted on the NC Subvets. Org website. Meeting minutes were approved with no changes or additions.

Treasurer - Tom McFadden was not present and Base Commander Jim Davis covered the Treasurer's Report as follows - Membership Report - Base membership stands at 101 members as of August 1, 2020. Financial Report: Current Balances- Regular Account- \$5,189.67 ; Savings Account- \$6,088.16; Total Balance- \$11,277.83- Previous Balances (reported June 2020)- Total Balance- \$10,811.58. Notes- Final balance includes savings account interest for June. As reported at the previous meeting, Live Oak savings account rate has dropped to 0.8%. For the year, through June 30, we have earned \$28.88 interest. Recent rise in the operating account balance was primarily due to SK sales and refund for the National Convention ad. Received \$125 check from Jerry Emerson; refund for the National Convention ad. Have processed a check to Asheville Base for their \$25 refund. Getting the address for Old North State Base Treasurer so I can send their \$25 refund.

COB - Dan Wall - No Comment

STOREKEEPER/PR OFFICER - JIM WALLACE - Jim said since the Base is not having in person meetings he can't display his "wares". He urged Base Subvets to contact him via email or a phone call with their want lists and he will get those items delivered to them. Due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, Tarheel Base quarterly dinners have been shut down!!

ADOPT-A-SPOT- Town of Cary has suspended our Base clean-up project at the North Harrison Ave. Veteran's Park for now.

NC SUBVETS COMMANDER - Jerry Emerson- Not "Present".

DISTRICT COMMANDER -Vince Sievert- Not "Present".

REGIONAL COMMANDER - Ken Nichols - Not "Present".

NATIONAL OFFICERS - Paul Hiser - National Treasurer - Paul said the USSVI conducted an on-line audit by supplying the audit team members thumb drives with all the necessary info on them. Only one minor error was found and corrected. Paul gave an update on the National Website. Plans are in the works to sign up a group in France to take on the project at a price of \$1,600 per month- their price for a non-profit organization.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

1- Base Picnic- October 3, 2020- Lake Crabtree Park, Dogwood Shelter, Combined Base Meeting and Picnic. Per Jim Wallace, this event is "up in the air" since the Town of Morrisville has closed the Park through August 15, 2020. Jim will keep the Base informed as to the status of the Park and our get-together..

2- NC State Fair- October 15-21, 2020, Military Appreciation Day on October 22- The NC State Fair has been cancelled for this year!

3- Kings Bay WWII Memorial Meeting in November- Recent word received from Keith Post, Executive Director of the St. Marys Submarine Museum, is that this year's WWII Kings Bay Memorial Week has been cancelled.

4- Asheboro Veterans Day Parade- November 9, 2020- This event is questionable at present.

5- Pearl Harbor Dinner- December 5th- Also in a questionable status.

6- Bottom line- The rest of year 2020 is about shot!!

## OLD BUSINESS

Moonshine Mountain Banner- The finishing touches of adding the 7 NC Base logos(patches) to the 7 1/2 ft. by 19 ft banner on vinyl is, at present, a work in progress.

## NEW BUSINESS

Proposed NC Subvets Charter Revision #9- Commander Jim has not called Jerry Emerson to get the details and the revision is in need of some refinement. This issue is tabled for now.

RAFFLE- No raffle was conducted during this meeting.

BENEDICTION- Chaplain Gene offered up the closing prayer for the people infected with COVID-19 ,our Military and their families, and a prayer for our Base members and families during this difficult time.

Motion to adjourn to next meeting on October 3, 2020 (Base Picnic- Hopefully)- Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

COB Dan Wall - Surface the boat with 3 blasts of the diving alarm!