**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: January 28, 2017**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called the meeting to order @ 1900 hrs. at the VFW Post located in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

**INVOCATION**

* Carolina Piedmont base Chaplain Tom Hulme gave us tonight’s invocation.
* Tom also gave us an update on Hal & Dee Rutter’s health conditions and asked base members to continue to pray for comfort & peace for the Rutter’s.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

* All joined together in saying our nation’s Pledge of Allegiance.

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was recited tonight by Jim Goins.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* The Tolling of the boats for December was presented by Tom Hulme and Joel Sparnon.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* There were 25 members present at this month’s meeting and we had the pleasure of being joined tonight by our WWII and longest qualified Subvet member Don Haseley.

**BASE AWARDS**

* The Attaboy Award was presented tonight to Joel Sparnon who serves as our current Base COB.
* The following member longevity awards were also given out tonight:
* 5-year membership pin - Joel Sparnon
* 10-year membership pins – Lee Hickerson, Mike Hubbell & Jeff Nieberding
* 20-year membership pins – Steve Bell & Joel Tuchfeld

**READING/APPROVAL OF THE LAST MEETING MINUTES**

* The December 2016 base meeting minutes were posted in the January 2017 edition of the Piedmont Periscope. A motion was made to accept the January minutes as posted; no discussion and the motion passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Base Treasurer Raymond Zieverink reported an audit was performed this January 2017 on last year’s checkbook and financial statements; the results were satisfactory with one minor exception of a single check payout without an accompanying receipt.
* Treasurer Raymond stated going forward there will be no future payments from the base treasury without an accompanying receipt except for the Base Storekeeper ordering items from the National Storekeeper.
* Raymond also stated a base End-of-Year report was sent to the National Treasurer.
* Finally, Raymond presented the base treasury report thru January 28th, 2017 and also reported the year-end balances of all base accounts; see table below for actual figures.
* A motion was made to accept the January treasurer’s report as presented; no discussion and the motion passed.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Balances as of 1/28/2017 | 2016 Year End Balances |
| Kapss-4-kidss Fund | $1,210.50 | $1,210.50 |
| Moonshine Mtn Memorial Fund | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| NC Air Museum | $92.00 | $92.00 |
| Scholarship Fund | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| General Base Fund | $5,126.21 | $5,289.21 |
| Total Balances | $ 6,428.71 | $ 6,591.71 |

**SK REPORT**

* Our base storekeeper Jeff Nieberding reported he still has a few remaining 2017 USSVI calendars left for purchase. Calendars are $8 each. This year’s theme is “Historical Classes of Boats.”
* Jeff also has parking signs and challenge coins available plus he can order patches, vests, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Member Call List**
* Rick reported he wants to periodically contact base members who we haven’t seen at meetings lately to remind them just before upcoming meetings.
* Throughout the year, Rick will pass out a short call list to our folks to help contact members who we haven’t seen in a while.
* Also, Rick suggested if we know of any members who can’t or don’t like to drive in the dark that it would be great if we decide to pick them up for a base meeting.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Base Officer Nominations**
* Rick reported it’s time for nominations to be received again for base officer positions for those persons who will serve for the next two years.
* Nominations can be received for any of the following positions:
* Base Commander
* Base Vice Commander
* Base Treasurer
* Base Secretary
* The nominating period will close at the end of February’s base meeting.
* **NC Aviation Museum Membership-Update**
* Rick reported we are still waiting for funds from some of the other NC Subvet bases to be received to pay for our patron membership to the NC Aviation Museum at Asheboro.
* We are seeking membership at the Patron level in gratitude to the aviation museum who kindly allows us to store our torpedo and submarine floats at their facility.

* **Bilge Rats-Update**
* The 2017 season for Carolina Piedmont Bilge Rats productions (Season 6) has officially kicked off with a visit to the Laurel’s in the Village at Pineville. There was a good crowd present, all had a good time and our group was also able to give out lots of Veteran’s stars.
* Looking ahead to Season 7 the Bilge Rat group will be performing Heehaw again and next season’s show will be called: “Heehaw – Revisited.”
* Our next Bilge Rats show will be on Saturday Feb. 25th at the Crescent Heights Senior Living Center in Concord NC.
* **Hockey Game-Final Reminder**
* Dale Moses reminded us one last time he has the date of this coming February 10th reserved for us to meet at a Checker’s hockey game at Bojangle’s Arena. Tickets are $16 per person.
* **Color Guard Events, Eagle Scouts, Sub Education Programs-Updates**
* Dale notified us our color guard will have the privilege of presenting the colors at the Charlotte’ Knight’s BB&T ballpark in May for the Memorial Day weekend. The proposed date for this event is Saturday, May 27th.
* The base color guard again presented the colors at a Charlotte Hornet’s basketball game at Spectrum Arena. The game was against the Golden State Warriors and Stephen Curry and there were more than 19 thousand people in attendance at this game; which certainly was nice exposure for the United States Submarine Veterans organization.
* Eagle Scout presentations are becoming one of our most favorite activities. Steve Bell has given 3 presentation’s recently and Andy Miller has also given one. As the word gets out to the various troops about how we honor their achievements of becoming an Eagle Scout, we are getting more and more calls to participate in these special events.
* Finally, Rick gave us a shout-out about becoming a participant at one of the Submarine Education presentations planned for this year at our area schools.
* **Moonshine Mountain-Updates**
* Dale gave us a shout-out about the Halfway Night festivities when we meet on the 19th & 20th of May at Moonshine Mountain. Dale asked for us to be thinking about any skits we might want to perform at this year’ Moonshine Mountain Halfway Night.
* We were also reminded to make our reservations early for this May event as hotel room availability is somewhat limited in this area of NC.
* Steve reported we are just slightly less than 13 thousand dollars in monies collected for the Moonshine Mountain restoration effort. The total amount needed based on our first estimate is 18 thousand dollars. It is truly amazing how folks within our various NC Subvet bases have generated this amount of money in such a short period for this much-needed project.
* **Dues -Update**
* Rick said we’ll get an update from Jack at our next meeting regarding our current base membership level. It appears based on dues not collected by year’s end we’ll be losing some names from our rolls.
* Regarding our current membership levels at the Carolina Piedmont Base, Rick stated we have 49 members who are currently in the Holland Club; which is close to 50% of our entire base membership. We are all encouraged to keep spreading the word about USSVI to those submarine veterans we meet who haven’t heard about our organization or haven’t yet made that commitment to join USSVI.

* **Sea Stories Needed**
* Dale Moses, who is now the editor for the NC Subvets All Clear Newsletter, asked that we provide to him with any interesting sea stories we may know and would like to share with others in one of these quarterly publications.

**OPEN 1MC**

* 2017 Southeast Regional Conference – Steve Bell reminded us about this year’s conference in Orlando. We are staying at the same excellent resort where we stayed last year and the rates are still very good. To date, no tours are set up but being this is in the Orlando area there will be plenty to do aside from attending the conference.
* Zeke reminded us again about efforts to name a state highway with an association to USSVI; this effort will take lots of legwork from a champion to lead this effort. Another suggestion also came up stating we could also sponsor one of the local highways as part of the Adopt-A-Highway campaign to clean up trash on the side of some stretch of road quarterly. This would be one way to get our name on a road sign and would likely be something we could accomplish much more quickly than officially having a road named for our organization.
* Calvin Reese reminded us he was given a shallow-depth gauge from an old submarine and it was given to him as an item that could be raffled off to raise money for one of our bases. Calvin had the depth gauge in his car and brought it in at the end of tonight’s meeting to be seen by those members present.

**PIEDMONT PERISCOPE**

* All hands are reminded that any news items they want to be included or considered for the next issue of the Piedmont Periscope newsletter that all submissions need to be sent to Robert Schilke no later than the 15th of each month.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* The next base meeting for 2017 will be held one week earlier than normal on the THIRD Saturday in February. We will meet on Feb. 18th at the Fort Mill VFW.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2000 hours; the motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Tonight’s Benediction was given by Base Chaplain Tom Hulme.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Tonight’s raffle was won by Colleen Moses!

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary