**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: February 18, 2017**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Vice-Commander Jack Jeffries 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.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was recited tonight by Tom Hulme.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

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

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* There were 16 members present at this month’s meeting and we had one visitor from Concord and his wife who read about our base from the USSVI website and decided to visit our meeting tonight. We wish to welcome John Bosanek (who qualified on USS Sargo) and his wife Donna back to join us again anytime.
* Tonight, Tom Hulme also remembered our WWII Subvet member Hal Rutter who just departed on eternal patrol since last meeting. All rose and presented a hand salute to a special place set up for Hal tonight at his usual table spot at our meetings.

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

* The January 2017 base meeting minutes were emailed out to members on February 13th for review. A motion was made to accept the January minutes as posted; no discussion and the motion passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Our Back-up Base Treasurer Calvin Reese presented the base’s treasury report thru February 18th, 2017 at tonight’s meeting; see table below for actual figures.
* A motion was made to accept the February treasurer’s report as presented; no discussion and the motion passed.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Balances as of 1/28/2017 | Last Reported Balances |
| Kapss-4-kidss Fund | $810.50 | $1,210.50 |
| Moonshine Mtn Memorial Fund | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| NC Air Museum | $117.00 | $92.00 |
| Scholarship Fund | $53.00 | $0.00 |
| General Base Fund | $5,102.21 | $5,126.21 |
| Total Balances | $ 6,082.71 | $ 6,428.71 |

**SK REPORT**

* Our base storekeeper Jeff Nieberding reported he still has a few remaining 2017 USSVI calendars left for purchase. Calendars now are at a reduced rate of $7 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**

* **Member Call List**
* We continued a discussion about developing a member call list to periodically contact base members who haven’t been seen at meetings to remind them just before upcoming meetings.
* Base COB Joel Sparnon and Tom Kelly will work together to develop a list of locations where people live and combine that with the names of people who routinely show up to meetings; this will help to work out both a Member Call List and possibly a “Provide A Ride” list so that if a member doesn’t have the capability to drive to meetings that someone in their area could maybe give them a ride to/from the meetings. That list will be out before next meeting so that Jack can start to make more localized lists available to our usual meeting attendees.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Name a Street verses Roadside Blue Star Marker verses Adopt-A-Highway**
* We continued discussion led by Zeke Rybczyk on the possibilities of having a road named after our organization. We realize this would be a long-term commitment to have this done. Other ideas were brought up regarding getting a garden club to sponsor us with a Blue Star Roadside Marker or simply volunteering our organization to perform the roadside pick-up service of known as Adopt-A-Highway. Zeke is inspiring us to continue discussion to sort out the possibilities of any of these selections. More to follow.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Base Officer Nominations**
* Jack reported official nominations for the next two-year terms of base officers are now closed.
* Nominees submitted are as follows:
* Base Commander – Rick Petitt
* Base Vice Commander – Jack Jeffries
* Base Treasurer – Raymond Zieverink
* Base Secretary – Tom Kelly
* Voting will now take place on-line with your ballets emailed to our Election Master Dale Moses by next meeting in March. Write-in nominees will still be honored until next meeting.
* **Meeting Time Discussion**
* We had a discussion tonight regarding the possibly of adjusting our monthly meeting time during the winter months to an early afternoon time to allow persons who don’t like to (or can’t) drive in the dark to attend our monthly base meetings.
* Some challenges exist to moving to an earlier time because the Bilge Rat performances are now held on the same day as our base meetings and are conducted earlier that same day.
* Actions to mediate this problem are contained in tonight’s Old Business segment above regarding the issuance of a Member Call List.
* **Bilge Rats-Update**
* Our next Bilge Rats show will be on Saturday Feb. 25th at the Crescent Heights Senior Living Center in Concord NC.
* **Hockey Game Evening with The Base**
* Dale Moses reported 41 tickets were sold for a gathering of base members at Bojangle’s Arena on February 10th. Dale stated it was a real pleasurable evening (except for a dinner faux pas at the restaurant at the arena). Thanks again Dale for arranging for this event … and especially for all that you do!!!
* **Color Guard Events, Eagle Scouts, Sub Education Programs-Updates**
* Jack and Rick performed a submarine education presentation this past month to the cadets at the JROTC unit at Nation Ford High School in Fort Mill SC. A thank you card was received from the unit for our visit to the school.
* Dale reminded 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 date for this event is Saturday, May 27th.
* Also we were notified that the next Massing of the Colors event will be held on April 30th at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill SC. Dale will be contacting members of the base color guard to determine their availability. It is also noted that anyone from the base can attend this event which is quite the patriotic affair.
* **Moonshine Mountain-Updates**
* John Markiewicz USSVI National Commander sent a Letter of Recognition to the Carolina Piedmont Base for their most generous Moonshine Mountain Memorial donation last year. Special recognition was also given to Ray Fritz whose matching donation really helped this effort significantly.
* Dale continues to prompt us about the Halfway Night festivities when we meet on the 19th & 20th of May at Moonshine Mountain. Dale stated he himself has now joined as a dual-base member of the Asheville Base and they are also competing for the Halfway Night coveted Dirty Sock Award.
* Dale detailed for us the weekend’s show time opportunities that will include on Friday night a Jam Session, or Karaoke night – if they don’t get enough folks to have a jam session. The Talent Show will be on Saturday night and there’s where we need at least one more act/skit to fill the venue.
* **Dues -Update**
* Jack reported that our base membership as of the beginning of this year is now at 97 members.

**OPEN 1MC**

* Stars info from John Brough - we received a letter from a retired vet who comes through the Charlotte USO and he said that they were getting low on stars here.  The vet also expressed a request that we send some stars to DC for their USO. John forwarded the letter to the President of the USO who in turn thanked us.  John sent all the correspondence to Jack for our base record keeping.
* A thank you note was received from the Boone Family for flowers that were sent to Sandra Myer’s sister.

**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 will be held on the fourth Saturday in March on the 25th at the Fort Mill VFW.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1955 hours; the motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

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

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Tonight’s raffle was won by our base COB Joel Sparnon!

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary