

Meeting Minutes



When: December 20, 2012 at 1900

Location: Room 208, First Baptist Church, Independence Blvd, Wilmington, North Carolina

Coastal Carolina Base Meeting

Call to order: Base Commander Terry Kuhn called the meeting to order promptly at 1900.

Attendees: Terry Kuhn (Base Commander), Steve Bell (USSVI District Commander). Charlie Backes (Vice Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Barry Turano (Base Treasurer), Bill Dixon (Base Chaplain), Frank Blackmon (Base Storekeeper), John Williamson, Jim Simon, Jerry Hawks, Bernie Maguire, , Richard Schrum, Jim Brincefield, William (Willy) Allen (our newest member) and guests Barbara Dixon and Fred Bogart

Invocation: Bill Dixon, Butterbean, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Kuhn led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

Tolling of the Boats: Charlie Backes (Base Vice Commander), and Jerry Hawkes led the attendees in the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony recognizing the sacrifice of the sailors and submarines lost in the months of November and December.

Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance: There were no World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance for this meeting. **Introductions:** Each attendee introduced himself and gave a little background on their submarine experience.

Holland Club Presentations: Base Commander Kuhn announced that he has two Holland Club Awards to present but neither recipient was present at the meeting.

Treasurers Report: Barry Turano (Base Treasurer) reported that the Base bank account now has \$1,172.35 in it. He also reported that since the last meeting he has had several expenses and receipts, some from Base Storekeeper at the meeting, that need to be recorded against the Base account.

Storekeeper Report: Frank Blackmon (Base Storekeeper) handed out several Base Officer and Former Base Officer patches to the appropriate attendees. He also reported that the improved Storekeeper page on the National USSVI website is online now and he advised the attendees to visit the site and shop for merchandise. If you log in as a member and shop, some of the items generate royalty back to the Base of the purchaser.

Recruiting: Butterbean introduced Willy Allen, a member who has now transferred to the Coastal Carolina Base. He also introduced Fred Bogart, a guest who is planning to join the Coastal Carolina Base. Butterbean reported that the Base membership currently stands at 57 members and that he has a very large list of potential members and asked for help in following up on contacting those potential members. The Coastal Carolina Base was on a rapid growth rate for the first half of the year, but the rate has slowed since July. He encouraged members to actively pursue leads on subvets in southeast North Carolina and give him



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the contact information to follow-up. He needs the prospects Name, email address and phone number for each potential recruit.

COB Report: There was no COB Report at this meeting.

Base and National Dues: Butterbean also reminded attendees that he is collecting 2013 dues and has reminder tickets from National for National Dues for those who are not Life Members.

Upcoming Parades: Commander Kuhn reported that he is in the process of signing up for the 2013 Azalea Festival Parade and the Southport July 4th Parade. Members should keep these dates in mind and participate, if possible. Terry confirmed that CCB has the floats reserved for the Azalea Festival Parade and that he has submitted a request for the Torpedo Float for the 2014 Southport July 4th parade.

Base Parade Float: A discussion was opened regarding the investigation of options for creating a Coastal Carolina Base parade float. In the August 16th meeting a suggestion was made that we consider constructing our own parade float. At that time Barry Turano volunteered his 30ft boat trailer as a base on which to construct a larger float for next year's parade. We discussed having a weekend work day for Member volunteers to help construct the float. Michael King volunteered his 16ft utility trailer for the same purpose. A spirited discussion ensued with ideas about the construction and then moved toward procuring a torpedo or some submarine related artifact as the centerpiece for the float. Butterbean and Barry Turano agreed to explore the idea more and establish an exploratory committee to investigate the feasibility of finding a float centerpiece and constructing a float.

Since that meeting, Butterbean tracked down a float maker in Oklahoma who builds floats. Below is photo of one such float that he recently built for another USSVI base. Base Treasurer Turano agreed to contact the builder to find out more about the cost, timing, and logistics for this float builder



Steve Bell (District Commander) suggested that we also contact Al Singleman (National USSVI Junior Vice Commander) for more information about options for a Base float.

A question was also raised regarding a potential storage location for a Base float if one was built or purchased. Richard Schrum volunteered that he has a 40X60 ft pole barn on one of his properties that the Base float could be stored in, if we get one.

Book of Remembrance: At the June Meeting, Vice Commander Charlie Backes brought up a suggestion to create an album with a picture and a write up detailing each deceased member's service in the submarine service. The attendee's supported Charlie's suggestion with a unanimous vote to create the **Book of Remembrance**.



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Charlie reported that he needs pictures and writeups for Chief Larry Dunn and Jim Tolben, two members who have recently gone on Eternal Patrol.

A suggestion was made to convert the book to a **Book of Members** with sections including Active Members, Associate Members and Members on Eternal Patrol. This approach would facilitate a collection of pictures and submarine experiences and sea stories from members while active. The membership in attendance agreed to the suggestion and Commander Kuhn directed Charlie Backes to convert the **Book of Remembrance** to a **Book of Members**.

Base Secretary Bill Underwood announced that he will continue to collect pictures of members at Base meetings and provide the pictures to Charlie for inclusion in the **Book of Members**.

Vice Commander Charlie also encouraged members to draft a description of their time in the submarine service for inclusion with their pictures in the **Book of Members**. Feel free to include war patrols, sea stories or examples of your life in the submarine service that you think would be representative of you and the submarine service.

Amendment of Base By-Laws: Commander Kuhn announced that there is a discrepancy between the Base By-Laws adopted at that October 20th meeting and the National By-Laws with regard to Associate Members.

Section 3, Part C should be changed to read: "Sponsorship for Associate Members will be strictly adhered to as defined in the National Constitution of the United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated."

MOTION: Jim Brincefield offered a MOTION that the proposed Amendments to the Coastal Carolina Base By-Laws be accepted as presented by Commander Kuhn. The motion was SECONDED by Barry Turano and was CARRIED by a unanimous vote of the attendees.

Scholarship: No report at this meeting.

Golf Tournament Fund Raiser: Jim Brincefield updated the attendees on the preparations for the fund raising golf tournament. The event is currently planned for September 28, 2013 at either the Wilmington Municipal Golf Course or Beau Rivage Golf Course. The intention is that it will be an annual event for the Base

Jim asked for Base stationary to be used in promotion of the event. Bill Underwood (Base Secretary) agreed to make stationary with the Base Patch and the Base Treasurer's address as the Base address.

Jim proposed that the charities for the event be the local chapter of Wounded Warriors and the CCB. A discussion ensued regarding the non-profit status of CCB. Steve Bell (District Commander) informed the attendees that USSVI is a chartered non-profit organization and, as a dues-paying affiliate of the USSVI, he believed that the Base qualified as a non-profit as well for these purposes. Vice Commander, Charlie Backes suggested as a back-up the Base consider setting-up a scholarship fund for local ROTC High School Students.

Jim stated that he is recruiting volunteers for to head the following activities associated with the golf tournament;

• Advertising – Promotion of the event



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- Sponsorship Recruitment of sponsors for each hole at the tournament (\$100/hole)
- Door Prizes obtain donations of prizes for various achievements in the tournament
- Food Recruit a restaurant like Chick Filet to donate a lunch meal for each participant at the tournament.

Jim agreed to send an email to all members of the CCB to inform them of the tournament and ask for the volunteers he needs.

Base Library – There was no update at this meeting on this subject.

BB 55 Veterans: Commander Kuhn announced that the BB55 (Battleship North Carolina) Veterans group has invited the members of the Coastal Carolina Base to join the BB55 Veterans group as associate members. They have hosted the CCB for several years for the spring District meeting and asked CCB to participate in an event honoring the submarine service in July 2012. Commander Kuhn suggested that members individually consider joining the BB55 Veterans and, if interested, contact him.

New Business

District Commander's Comments: We were fortunate to have USSVI District Commander Steve Bell in attendance at our Base meeting. Commander Bell informed the attendees that he is the USSVI District Commander for the next 12 months and that he will be running for reelection to the position in the up-coming election and would appreciate our votes.

Commander Bell congratulated the Coastal Carolina Base on winning the Golden Anchor Award for Class Three size bases. Commander Kuhn has the very nice Golden Anchor Award plaque.

Commander Bell also informed the attendees that our district, the Southeast District of the USSVI, also won the USSVI District of the Year award for 2012.

Commander Bell continued that the Southeast District had the highest percentage of members voting in the National Elections and the CCB had the highest percentage of members voting in the District.

At-a-boy's to Butterbean for his persistence and persuasive abilities in making this achievement happen.

Commander Bell also informed the attendees that Congress has to Charter organizations like USSVI as tax deductible charitable organizations. USSVI was chartered because it is primarily constituted of War Veterans. War Veterans are defined as veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War (1946-1989) and the Gulf Wars. He commented that the USSVI has to balance the acceptance of non-war veterans as Associate Members with "War Veterans" in order to keep the charitable organization charter.

Commander Bell spoke for a few minutes about the "Kap(SS) 4 Kids" program for children undergoing treatment for cancer or receiving chemotherapy to treat other life threatening illnesses. A Kaps for Kids charity was formed in 1993 by a physician in



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New Orleans after he witnessed the positive effect of presenting hats autographed by their heros on children losing their hair due to chemotherapy.

In 2007, a Kap(SS) 4 Kids project was established by the Charleston Base with the intent of personally giving caps with Honorary Submariner, Dolphins and the Base name embroidered on the cap to children who are victims of Cancer or other illnesses that cause them to lose their hair or dignity to chemotherapy or radiation. The USSVI supports the Kap(SS) 4 Kids program of personally presenting Kap(SS) or special Certificates to children going through chemotherapy.

In addition, Commander Bell spoke about the USSVI programs for certificates for achievement of Eagle Scout (Boy Scouts), Quartermaster (Sea Scouts), and Gold Award (Girl Scouts). He suggested that the CCB should reach out to local Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts and Girl Scouts to support the program.

He encouraged members of CCB to attend the Regional USSVI Convention in Charleston, South Carolina, April 7-11, 2013. Also the annual meeting of World War II submarine veterans will be held in Kings Bay, Georgia the week of Halloween in 2013. He stated that both those events are great fun and members of CCB were welcome to participate.

Commander Bell closed by asking to be notified when the CCB submits its annual financial statement to National, conveyed his excitement at the level of attendance at the CCB meeting and wished all the members of CCB a hearty "Seasons Greetings".

Upcoming Elections: Commander Kuhn announced that he has been Base Commander for 3 years and he needs to step down from the position in 2013. District Commander Bell commented that the Coastal Carolina Base has grown tremendously while Terry has been Commander and congratulated him on that success.

Commander Kuhn continued that Vice Commander Charlie Backes has expressed an interest in taking over the position and the related responsibilities of Base Commander. Commander Kuhn expressed his desire to organize and chair the Kap(SS) 4 Kids program within the Coastal Carolina Base.

Butterbean will organize the elections process for 2013. The base needs nominees for the open Vice Commander position if Charlie Backes is elected to the Commander position.

Thresher Memorial: Commander Kuhn informed the attendees that the Cape Fear Submarine Veterans group contacted the CCB for help in recruiting donations for a Thresher Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery. The USS Thresher, SSN 593, was lost on April 10, 1963 during sea trials. The Cape Fear Subvet group is offering a very nice Cape Fear Submarine Veterans 25th anniversary coin for donations of \$20 or more. Base members were encouraged to visit the website at www.capefearsubvets.com for more information.

After Battery Hog Roast: Vice Commander Backes informed the attendees that he received an email from the After Battery Submarine Veterans with an invitation to attend their annual Hog Roast to be held at 120 Sawdust Lane in Dorchester, South Carolina on April 6, 2013. This date is the day before the Regional USSVI Convention starts in Charleston. Dorchester is northwest of Charleston



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on I 26 about half way between Charleston and I 95. For more information visit www.theafterbattery.com.

Thank You to First Baptist Church: Jim Brincefield suggested that CCB consider giving the First Baptist Church, where the Base conducts every other meeting, a Thank You Donation of \$100. The Church has provided a room for our meetings without charge for several years.

MOTION: Commander Kuhn offered a MOTION that the members approve a donation in the amount of \$100 be given to the First Baptist Church as a thank you for supporting our Base. The Motion was SECONDED by Vice Commander Charlie Backes and CARRIED by unanimous vote of the attending members.

Commander Kuhn directed Barry Turano, Base Treasurer, to provide Jim Brincefield with a check in the amount of \$100 for this purpose. He also directed Jim to give the check, a thank you card signed by Commander Kuhn and a Base patch to the appropriate party representing the Church

Active Veteran Goody Bags: Vice Commander Charlie Backes brought up that Steve Allenby, a qualified submarine veteran, and resident of Wilmington, was recently called to active duty and sent to serve in Afghanistan. Charlie had recently heard that Move America Forward had collected 400 Care Packages to send to Troops serving in Afghanistan, but the prepared care packages were stolen from the storage site on the day before shipment. Rush Limbaugh stepped up and paid for replacement Care Packages. This act got Charlie thinking about CCB members putting together a care package for Steve Allenby. He encouraged members to bring something to the next meeting to

include in a Goody Bag for our fellow submariner currently on duty in Afghanistan.

Adjournment:

Jim Brincefield offered a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Base Secretary Bill Underwood SECONDED the motion and the motion CARRIED by unanimous vote by the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Scheduled Base Meeting

The next Coastal Carolina Base meeting will be on Saturday morning February 16th, 2013. The meeting will convene at Golden Coral on New Centre Drive in Wilmington at 0900.

If you have any comments or suggestions on these meeting minute's format please provide them to Bill Underwood, Base Secretary, at bunder343@aol.com

Never Forget Our Brothers!

