**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: July 23th, 2016**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called the meeting to order @ 1853 hrs. at the VFW Post located in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

**INVOCATION**

* Base Chaplain Tom Hulme gave 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 Jim Goins.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

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

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* There were 22 members present at this month’s meeting.

**SERVICE AWARD**

* Al Westberry was awarded his 5-Year USSVI membership pin tonight and also Al was presented with a patch noting he has now been qualified in submarines for 55 years.

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

* The June 2016 meeting minutes were posted in the July 2016 edition of the Piedmont Periscope plus the minutes were also sent directly to the membership via email on July 2nd. A motion was made to accept the June minutes as posted; no discussion and the motion passed.

**READING/APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Base Treasurer Raymond Zieverink presented the treasurer’s report thru July 23th, 2016.
* A motion was made to accept the July’s treasurer’s report as presented; no discussion and the motion passed.

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| Category | Balances as of 7/23/2016 | Last Reported Balances |
| Kapss-4-kidss Fund | $745.27 | $720.27 |
| Scholarship Fund | $276.00 | $228.00 |
| General Base Fund | $6,092.33 | $5,962.33 |
| Total Balances | $ 7,113.60 | $ 6,910.60 |

**GUEST SPEAKER**

* Local Gastonia Navy Recruiter Luther Cruikshanks, ET2(SS) was invited to speak to base members at tonight’s meeting about his experience as a submarine sailor and his present day experiences in the Navy.
* Luther qualified in submarines onboard USS Olympia (SSN-717) in 2010 and is now performing his shore duty time in Gastonia.
* Luther explained he specializes in recruiting personnel for Navy Seal billets and has a desire to one day serve as a Navy Seal himself.
* Luther answered many questions posed to him by members at tonight’s meeting.
* Carolina Piedmont Base wishes to express our thanks to Luther Cruikshanks for attending tonight’s meeting and for his continued service in the United States Navy.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Fort Mill VFW Financial Support**
* Dale Moses who is also a member of the Fort Mill VFW Post (where we meet) presented information at last month’s meeting regarding how the post received a cost increase for their property insurance by $800 this year. Members were asked to brainstorm ideas on how our base could help the post towards this significant cost increase.
* After a brief discussion a Motion was made by Raymond Zieverink to increase the donation amount of our meeting’s potluck meal to a price of $7 from its current $6 cost. The extra dollar collected will be donated to the VFW on a monthly basis. After a short discussion a Second was received to Raymond’s motion and the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* None

**SK REPORT**

* Base Storekeeper Jeff Nieberding reported he’s awaiting word on the 2017 calendars and will pass along the information when received and then will begin taking orders. Jeff is available for whatever items members need to order; patches, vests and challenge coins, etc.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Burnsville - Memorial Repairs**
* Last meeting we first heard about the recent engineering study for infrastructure repairs around the Burnsville Submarine Memorial. The study concluded it will cost an estimated $17,880.00 for more storm drains to be built around the site and subsequent road repaving after the new drains are installed.
* We started brainstorming ideas on how our NC Subvet Bases could raise the funds to save our memorial from deterioration.
* Ideas presented by base members included a “Go Fund Me” website to raise funds (the cost of this is relatively cheap compared to other fund raising methods). The Go Fund Me website only requires 7½ % of what was raised for their payment.
* Other ideas presented were to send an article to the American Submariner magazine to possibly get a write-up in the next issue to state the concerns we are having with the potential deterioration of the Burnsville Memorial site and to make all USSVI submariners aware of our situation.
* Another suggestion was to write up a USSVI POC announcement and send to the National Commander to have our story emailed out to all USSVI members as well.
* However, prior to starting any corporate fund raising, we need to have a document prepared on the history and significance of the Burnsville Memorial; this is the starting point before any of the aforementioned fund raising can begin.
* We were also reminded that the Burnsville Submarine Memorial has been granted 501c3 status so all monies donated to it would be tax deductible.
* **Memorial DVD's and Photos**
* Rick reminded us he’s still taking orders for the professionally-made DVD which was produced for the May event at Burnsville. The cost of owning a copy of this DVD is $15.
* There will be a one-time order of DVD’s placed thru Rick Petitt and the base passed a motion last meeting to pay for the shipping cost of the DVD’s. Members who were not at June’s meeting will need to contact Rick as soon as possible to indicate if they want to order a DVD.
* **National Elections**
* Voting for the national election continues with only 37 base members voting as of tonight’s meeting.
* All base members who have not yet voted are encouraged to go NOW to the USSVI website and click on the “Vote Nat Election” button to vote. 100% voting participation is very important for our base to represent our support for USSVI.
* If you are having any difficulties logging into the USSVI website to vote, you can contact Patrick Householder who is the keeper of the website.
* **Event Updates - Eagle Scouts, Color Guard, Sub Ed, Flag Etiquette**
* Joel Tuchfeld has been asked to do another Eagle Scout presentation.
* Moe announced the Flag Etiquette presentations will be starting again once schools are in session. Anyone interested in participating with Moe to see how it’s done is welcome to join him.
* Rick asked for volunteers to do submarine education presentations now that schools will be starting again.
* **Dues**
* Reminder about 2017 membership dues:
* National dues are $25/year or $70 for 3 years or $115 for 5 years.
* Base dues are $10/year or $27.50 for 3 years or $45 for 5 years.
* Dues can be paid to our Base Treasurer Raymond Zieverink at any time before the end of the calendar year, however, the sooner you renew the less stress it will be on yourself (and Rick).
* **Purple Heart Memorial Dedication on August 7th**
* Bob Bunney who is also a purple heart recipient and member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart announced that a memorial to Combat Wounded Veteran’s will be dedicated on Sunday, August 7th at the York Recreation Complex (74 4th St. in York SC).
* Bob also said he was taking donations to help pay for the memorial and we decided to “pass the hat” at tonight’s meeting to contribute. Bob agreed to match whatever amount was collected tonight up to $100.
* A motion was passed for the base to contribute from the General Fund the difference in the monies collected tonight up to a $100 amount. Ray Zieverink will present a check to Bob from the base treasury for tonight’s difference in contribution.
* **Bilge Rats**
* Moe(SS) reminded us he’s still recruiting extremely talented individuals (NOT!) for this year’s Bilge Rat programs.

**OPEN 1MC**

Additional items of interest mentioned prior to adjourning tonight’s meeting are listed below:

* Base Chaplain Tom Hulme continues to update base members on Carol Jeffries and Hal Rutter’s health conditions. Tom commented as he continues to pass along information that he won’t put out any information that family members ask be held in confidence. Tom reminds us to keep our shipmates & family members in our prayers.

* Rick announced the USO of North Carolina Center’s Traditions of Honor Cup 10th Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Ballantyne Country Club, 11120 Ballantyne Crossing Avenue, Charlotte, NC, on Monday, September 12th at 10:00 AM. Copy and paste the link below into your web browser for the online registration and prizes for this event: <http://uso-nc.org/events/charlotte-center-10th-annual-traditions-of-honor-cup-golf-tournament/>

* Moe reminded us that another way to help contribute to the VFW post financially is to attend their weekly dinner’s held every Thursday evening at 6 PM at the post.

* Tom Hulme as the meeting closed presented a commemorative Bible to Joel Sparnon on the passing of his father last year.

**PIEDMONT PERISCOPE**

* All hands are reminded that any news items they want 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 meeting of the Carolina-Piedmont Base will be held on Saturday, August 27th, 2016 at 1900 hrs. at the VFW in Fort Mill, SC. A pot-luck meal will precede the meeting starting at 1730.

**SEPTEMBER’S ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION CHANGE**

* The annual base meeting usually held at Jack & Carol’s place in Monroe in September has been moved this year to Raymond & Linda Zieverink’s home in Rock Hill SC. The gathering will be held on Saturday September 24th.
* This will be a BYOC (Bring Your Own Chairs) event as we won’t have access to tables and chairs that we normally borrow from Jack’s volunteer fireman’s hall.
* Further details will be passed along to base members at August’s monthly meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2002 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