

MINUTES OF TARHEEL BASE ZOOM MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2022 ON-LINE DUE TO INCREASED NUMBER OF COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT INFECTIONS IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Tarheel Base Commander Jim Davis called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Chaplain Gene Rutter offered up the opening prayer of blessing and protection for all during this meeting and beyond. Base Secretary Bill Lowe lead the 22 Subvets ,signed on, in reciting the Pledge on Allegiance. He followed with a reading of the Purpose of USSVI: Our purpose 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.

Recognize WWII Subvets- Tarheel Base has a total of 2 WWII Subvets on the roster and none were signed on for the meeting.

Recognize New Members- LCDR Dan Eddinger, Qual 1998 aboard USS James K. Polk SSBN 645. Retired after 21 years of service; MMN1(SS) Lawrence Gillet, Qual 2015 aboard USS Georgia SSGN 729. He is now on active duty at NTAG Raleigh. Neither of these 2 new members were signed on for the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS

The 22 Subvets in virtual attendance introduced themselves by stating the name of their qual boat and the year they qualified.

LOST BOATS

Commander Jim read the list along with details of the 5 boats lost in January: USS Scorpion (SS-278); USS Argonaut (SS-166); USS Swordfish (SS-193); USS S-36 (SS-

141); and USS S-26 (SS-131). 5 boats lost in February: USS Barbel (SS-316); USS Shark (SS-174); USS Amberjack (SS-219); USS Grayback (SS-208); and USS Trout (SS-202). " For all those in peril on the sea"- Amen!

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Wellness Program Report- Chaplain Gene has called the 80+ year old Base members recently and said some have experienced falls. Jim Kinney has had knee surgery. Earl Buffaloe fell out of bed and broke his ankle. He is now in the VA in Richmond, Virginia recovering from his injury. Marty Kirwan had an incident at his Hillsborough Nursing Home. Fortunately, he was not injured and his son was present to assist him. Gene asked all to say a prayer for those Subvets and their families with health issues.

REPORTS

Base Commander- Jim Davis- 1- Speaker for the April Base meeting will be Charles Hood, author of the submarine book "Poppie Suits and Cowboy Boots". He and his brother Frank Hood have written 6 books about submarines with profits from the sales of these books being donated to the USSVI Charitable Foundation. 2- Lee Kuntzman will be inducted into the Holland Club during the April meeting. 3- On December 18, 2021, 11 Tarheel Base members participated in the Wreaths Across America Program at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Cary, NC. 4- The Tarheel Base has renewed sponsorship of a Cary Youth Baseball Team for the next two years. Commander Jim urged Base members to support our team by attending games. 5- Permanent storage location for the torpedo float is still on the docket. Per Chuck Jensen, there is a possible location in a pole yard building under construction in Winston-Salem. 6- Collection of Base and National dues has been going well with just a few in arrears. 6- Tarheel Base member Mel Denis is participating in a COVID study at Duke Hospital. 7- Presently, Tarheel Base membership stands at a total of 101 members.

Vice Commander- Rich Cimino- His only comment was that he has been "on the run" lately!

Tarheel Base Secretary- Bill Lowe- Entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the last regular Base meeting held on October 2, 2021 during the Base picnic as sent out on the Tarheel Email Buoy and posted on the NC Subvets.Org website. Minutes were approved with no changes or additions.

Treasurer's Report- Tom McFadden- Membership Report- Tarheel Base Membership stands at 101 with 100 regular members and 1 associate member. Financial Report: Current Balances: Regular Account- \$5,675.27 Savings Account- \$6,142.96 and Total Balance- \$11,818.23 . Previous Balances (reported October 2021): Total Balance- \$10,745.36. Notes: Annual financial report submitted to National Treasurer. Pearl Harbor Dinner Summary: Registration Deposits- \$3,420.00. Raffle Deposit- \$700.00. University Club Cost- \$3550.04. Expenses- \$47.11. Without the Raffle (loss) -\$177.15. With Raffle- \$522.85. Town of Cary Baseball Sponsorship- Paid for 2 years- \$300.

COB- Tony Van Schaick- Commander Jim stated a "hats off" is rendered to Tony for his outstanding job of running the Base officers election.

ALL Clear/Webmaster- Joe Peek- Joe covered the problem with the Subvets Facebook Group Meeting location. Other non-subvets were logging on. That has been corrected with those folks blocked from accessing the site. There are now 59 members in this Facebook Group. Also, Joe stated Wade Cooper, our Tarheel Base Eagle Scout Representative, is working with the Scout organization to get info on upcoming Eagle Scout Awards Ceremonies.

Storekeeper/PR Officer- Jim Wallace- Jim covered the upcoming the Veterans Experience Action Center event that will take place at the Herb Young Community Center in Cary, NC on the 17th, 18th, and 19th of March 2022. Veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team including Veterans Benefit and Health Administrators, Vet Center, and Veterans' Service Officers. They will assist with the following: Face-to-face explanation and assistance facilitating and expediting existing claims and appeals, filing new claims, and accepting all claims-

related evidence for processing and providing information regarding benefits related VA programs. Volunteers are needed to help out with this worthwhile program. Jim will send out an email with info on how to volunteer.

NC Subvets Commander- Jerry Emerson- Not signed on.

District Commander- Vince Sievert- Not signed on.

Regional Commander- Ken Nichols- Not signed on.

National Office Information- Paul Hiser- USSVI National Treasurer- Paul stated the election of National Officers is under way. He asked Bill Lowe if he would consider running for National Secretary. Bill showed his answer with a "thumbs down" gesture. The USSVI National Convention is scheduled for August 21st in Buffalo, NY.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1- Breakfast at Golden Corral on Capital Blvd in Raleigh on Saturday, March 5th at 8:30 AM.

2- Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 12th. Jerry Leppart has submitted the Tarheel Base application for the Base to participate with the torpedo float. Jerry said this will be his last time to pull the torpedo float.

3- Moonshine Mountain Memorial Weekend- May 20 to May 22. Registration form is available on NCSUBVETS.ORG.

4- Thomasville Memorial Day Parade- May 30, 2022. Question? Will the Old North State be participating with their submarine float?

OLD BUSINESS

NC Subvets Trailer Fund. As per "Change #9" to the NC Subvets Charter, donations to this fund should be \$1.00 per Primary Member per year for each of the 7 Subvet Bases in NC. This has been previously voted on

and approved by the Tarheel Base. Bottom line, Tom McFadden should send approximately \$85.00 to Jerry Emerson for this fund.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1- USSVI Holland Club donation by the Tarheel Base may be in the neighborhood of \$50 this year.
- 2- Per Jerry Leppart, Home Depot is now giving a 10% discount to veterans, year round, when they register as a veteran.
- 3- Gene Rutter stated he is having problems assessing the USSVI Website. After some discussion, it appears the problem is with the web server you use to gain access. Foxfire is the best one to use.
- 4- All thanked Jim Wallace for setting up the Zoom meeting!

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Gene Rutter- A prayer of thanks was offered up for allowing Subvets the privilege of holding their Base meeting during these trying times with Omicron infections on the rise!

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:30 AM. Next meeting will be on April 2, 2022 (Hopefully it will be an in-person meeting) We shall see!!

