

# **Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

## **Meeting Date: February 25, 2023**

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1412 hrs at VFW Post 9138 located in Fort Mill, SC.
- The meeting followed a wonderful potluck luncheon meal brought in by our base families.

### **INVOCATION**

- Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz started off our base meeting with an invocation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- All joined in saying our nation's Pledge of Allegiance, led by Base Commander, Rick Petitt.

### **USSVI CREED**

- The USSVI Creed was read today by John McHugh.

### **TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

- Tolling for 6 boats (including H.L. Hunley) that were lost during past February's was presented by Raymond Fritz and the bell was rung by Mike Hubbell.

### **MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

- 16 members (and 8 ladies) were present at today's base meeting. The ladies then went off to have a Subvettes meeting on their own before the men started our business portion of our meeting.
  - A mini-happy birthday celebration was given to our Base Commander Rick Petitt who turned 70 years young this week.

### **AWARDS**

- No awards were given out at today's meeting.

### **REVIEW OF LAST BASE MEETING MINUTES**

- Members were reminded that previous month's meeting minutes are now posted on our Carolina Piedmont website at [carolinapiedmont.org](http://carolinapiedmont.org) for their review and are encouraged to read them prior to each base meeting. No comments were received on last month's meeting minutes.

### **READING OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Base Treasurer Bill Strand supplied our latest treasurer's report. Combined monies in all base accounts currently stands at \$7,981.83 as of 2/18/2023.
- Bill stated next month he will start showing on our base treasure report registration monies received for the Burnsville May weekend event since Carolina Piedmont Base is now responsible for collecting registration fees for the Burnsville event.

### **BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT**

- Jeff stated all 2023 submarine calendars are now gone. He still has some past year calendars if folks are interested in purchasing them just for the photos and stories about our US Submarine Heros.
- Jeff Nieberding is our contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, etc.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A brief discussion was had whether we would sponsor another season of a Girls' Softball Team in Fort Mill. Jeff Nieberding was asked if he would contact the Ft. Mill Parks & Recreation Committee to investigate this possibility. A final decision on this proposal will take place at our next meeting.
- Bill Strand brought in a "boat" load of girl scout cookies for persons to purchase at today's meeting. A motion was made that we take \$200 from our base treasury and buy girl scout cookies to send to our troops. The motion was seconded and passed. Bill Strand said Girl Scout Troop 1883 from Ft. Mill SC would be making this donation to our troops.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

### **• Open Base Positions**

- Rick reminded us there are a few open positions for volunteers to fill. One position is the Kaps-4-Kids coordinator (Rick is currently fulfilling this position and has all the caps and certificates after former K-4-K leader Jack Jeffries' passed) and the coordinator position for Eagle Scout presentations is still open also.

### **• Color Guard Opportunities**

- Rick reported that the Charlotte Knights baseball franchise has asked our base to do the Memorial Day colors presentation again. Rick will be following up with more details on the event and what date that will be.
- Possibility exists that we could get another opportunity for presenting colors at a Charlotte Checkers game; the hockey team's season wraps up in mid-April.
- And there's interest in contacting the Gastonia baseball team (The Honey Hunters) to see if they would be interested in having our base do opening colors at one of their games this summer.

### **• School Visit Opportunities**

- Bill Strand contacted 3 area schools to see if their ROTC students would be interested in our base visiting to discuss life while serving aboard a nuclear-powered submarine. Bill has not yet received a reply from any of the schools he's contacted.

### **• Base Elections**

- Rick notified us that our base needs to have elections for the following officers this next month. The office of Base Commander and the Office of Base Treasurer are up for their 2-year election cycles.
- Joel Tuchfeld has agreed to be Election Master and Joel will be handling all of the nomination and voting correspondence.

### **• USSVI Dues Increase**

- Reminder, National USSVI will be increasing dues amounts effective April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023.
- Look on our base website to read the projected rate increases as they were reported in our 2023 January's meeting minutes.

- **Burnsville May Event**

- Registrations are being accepted by our base for the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 event at Burnsville/Moonshine Mountain.
- Room availability is limited at Big Lynn Lodge so if you haven't already made your reservation now is the time before you'll have to stay at another hotel.

- **Victory Junction**

- We understand Victory Junction Special Needs Camp is starting up again this year. Rick will reach out to them to see if we can begin to participate in their weekends again to present honorary submariner certificates and hats to those special children.

- **Boy Scouts Talk**

- Joel Tuchfeld was contacted by a relative to see if he would give a talk to a troop of scouts about the Navy Submarine Program ... Joel was happy to oblige.

### **NEXT BASE MEETING**

- Our next base meeting will be at 1400 (winter hours), on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at the VFW in Fort Mill, SC. VFW doors open at 1230 and we will have our normal potluck meal prior to the meeting starting.

### **123<sup>rd</sup> SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL**

- Jim Goins informed us about the upcoming 123<sup>rd</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball which will be taking place on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the North Charleston Marriott.
- Guest speaker will be Admiral James Caldwell Jr., Director of Naval Reactors.
- To purchase tickets or for more information go to the website of <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-charleston-submarine-birthday-ball-tickets-545305753187>
- Tickets will only be sold thru Eventbrite online.
- As part of the birthday celebration, time will also be taken to "Remember the Thresher."

### **SPRING BASE PICNIC**

- Reminder to put on your calendars the date of April 15<sup>th</sup> as this will be the date of our 2023 base picnic at the Catawba Nuclear Station Park.
- NOTE: The 15<sup>th</sup> is actually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April and not our usual 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday meeting date as the plant will be in a shutdown starting the week following April 17<sup>th</sup> and Catawba employees' Jeff Nieberding and Tom Kelly will not be available as they will be working outage schedules on that 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1456 hours. Motion passed.

### **BENEDICTION**

- Today's Benediction was given by Ray Fritz.

### **RAFFLE RESULTS**

- Tonight's 33/33/33 raffle was won by Jeff Nieberding.

## **OPEN 1MC**

- Paul Trexler mentioned his daughter Teri just got out of the Navy.
- Plans are underway by our lady Subvettes to help some local homeless veteran ladies.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:  
Tom Kelly  
Base Secretary

NOTE: The list of meeting attendees follows below.

### **February 25, 2023 Meeting Attendees:**

- Steve Bell
- Bob Bunney
- Ray Fritz
- Jim Goins
- Mike Hubbell
- Tom Kelly
- John McHugh
- Howard Murray
- Paul Myers
- Jeff Nieberding
- Rick Petitt
- Zeke Rybczyk
- Stan Schultz
- Bill Strand
- Paul Trexler
- Joel Tuchfeld