**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:  July 27, 2024**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1401 hrs. at VFW Post #9138 located in Fort Mill, SC.
* The meeting followed our potluck meal including some delicious homemade desserts brought in by our base families.

**INVOCATION**

* Base Chaplain Ray 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 Kevin Walker.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* Tolling for the **3** boats, which were lost during July months past, was presented by Ray Fritz and the bell was rung by John McHugh.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 21 base members were present at today’s meeting, including newest member Doug Cook and his wife, Maxine. Doug qualified on the USS Von Steuben SSBN-632. Again, welcome to Doug & Maxine!

**AWARDS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

* None

**SPECIAL TIME OF REFLECTION ON FAMILY**

* We had a special impromptu time today where folks just shared their experiences about the importance of family and how we just need to care for family members and even those that are not direct family members:
* Rick Petitt shared how he’s presently helping a former employee of his who has severe medical issues and other disabilities and how he is trying to help this fellow live on his own.
* Zeke shared about his wife in Mint Hill and how he visits her multiple times each week and how he sees that other clients at the same facility don’t ever seem to have visitors come to see them.
* Ray Fritz received a call during our meeting that a very close friend of his who he’s been helping get along for many years has just passed at 96 years old.
* Kevin Walker shared with us that his grandson just received one of the USSVI scholarships.
* And finally, Bill Strand shared with us that surviving family members of those men lost on the USS Harder (SS-257) must feel some closure now as an exploration group just found the remains of the sunken submarine Harder almost 80 years after its reported sinking.

**REVIEW OF LAST BASE MEETING MINUTES**

* Members are reminded that minutes for the previous month’s base meeting are posted on our Carolina Piedmont website at [carolinapiedmont.org](file:///C:\Users\tom\Downloads\2022-03-26%20March%20CP%20Meeting%20Minutes.docx) under the “Current Minutes” link for their review. Members are encouraged to read the previous month’s meeting minutes prior to attending our next base meeting.
* No comments or corrections were received on last month’s meeting minutes.

**READING OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Base Treasurer Bill Strand read our latest treasurer’s report. Combined monies in all base accounts currently stands at $9,246.34 as of 7/27/2024.

**BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT**

* Jeff Nieberding is our base contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, etc.
* Rumor has it that the theme for the 2025 USSVI calendars is going to be Virginia Class boats.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **None**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **National Convention – Cleveland OH Aug 20 – 24**
* At meeting time next month, the USSVI National Convention will be underway in Cleveland Ohio. Folks can go to the following website to read the instructions and to obtain information regarding the 2024 national convention in Cleveland Ohio. <https://subvetconvention.org/tours-and-events>
* Another way is to log in to the USSVI.org website, go to Visitors, then 2024 National Convention.
* **National USSVI Elections**
* Voting for National Officers of USSVI is still open to all USSVI members in good standing. Voting is actually done by logging onto the old USSVI website (ussubvets.org) and clicking the Green Vote Nat Election button at the top left side of the page.
* NOTE: You will need your Userid and Password to the old website to login to vote.
* National election voting is from now until mid-August 2024, just prior to the National Convention starting in Cleveland.
* **Kings Bay WWII Submarine Memorial Weekend – October 23rd thru 26th.**
* Reminder that October is not that far away for those interested in attending the 2024 Kings Bay WWII Submarine Memorial weekend in Kings Bay Georgia.
* Emails regarding registration for this weekend will be coming out soon in August.
* Steve Bell or Mike Hubbell can provide you more information regarding this event and places to see while there also.
* **Kap(SS)-4-Kid(SS) Update**
* Dave Violette, one our newer base members, has taken on the responsibility of reviving our Kap(ss)-4-Kid(ss) program. Dave reported in an email to Rick Petitt the following update:
* Dave made contact with Dennis Cloutier the K4K Coordinator at the Old North State Base and that the Old North State Base has successfully gotten their K4K program up and running and they visit the Women’s and Children’s Hospital roughly 4 times a year.
* An attempt to reach out to Levine’s Children’s Hospital will also be made to see if we can get the program back into this location.
* Dave is also pursuing re-establishing contact with the folks at Victory Junction.
* And finally, on July 16, 2024, two members of Carolina Piedmont Base joined in a Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) visit and presentation to Isaac and his brothers, Joseph and Aidan. Isaac has been battling cancer since January 2024. Throughout his treatment, Isaac and his family have faced multiple challenges and uncertainty. His brothers have been actively involved in keeping Isaac’s spirits up through each stage of this struggle.  Jay Andress and Dave Violette visited the brothers and presented them with Honorary Submariner hats, certificates, K4K Challenge coins, and a picture of the USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN 655), the submarine on which both Jay and Dave served together; the visit was well received. Bravo Zulu to Jay and Dave for their outstanding support of the Kap(ss)-4-Kid(ss) program and for honoring Issac, his brothers and famly.
* **Eagle Scout Presentation**
* Joel Tuchfeld reported he gave an Eagle Scout Presentation in Huntersville this month. Well done Joel!
* **Bilge Rats**
* Raymond Zieverink passed along they are looking forward to a fall 2024 restart of the Carolina Piedmont Bilge Rats group and Raymond says he’s always looking for performers/singers to join the group and bring joy to places where our group performs. HINT: Raymond says you don’t really have to be good at either singing or performing to join the group so give Raymond a shout if you’re interested.
* **Submarine Education Program Presentations**
* Discussions began on how to jumpstart our abilities to get back into local high schools to preform our Submarine Education presentations.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* Our next base meeting will be held on Saturday August 24th at 1300 (the fourth Saturday) at the Ft. Mill VFW Post. Doors open at 1230. NOTE: Some folks may be attending the national convention in Cleveland which will be held the week of August 19th.
* Looking farther head to September, folks can begin thinking about the fall base picnic which will occur Saturday September 21st, (one Saturday earlier than our normal 4th Saturday meeting date). The picnic will once again be at the Catawba Nuclear Station park.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1450 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Today’s closing Benediction was given by Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Tom Kelly won today’s raffle (again – two meetings in a row) and Tom graciously again donated his winnings to the USSVI Scholarship Fund.

**A list of today’s meeting attendees follows below:**

**July 27, 2024, Meeting Attendees**:

* Steve Bell
* Bob Bunney – Kathy
* Doug Cook – Maxine (New/1st Timers – Guests of Kevin Walker)
* Ed Eldridge
* Ray Fritz
* Mary Gilles
* Jim Goins
* Jim Harris
* Mike Hubbell - Glenna
* Tom Kelly
* John McHugh – Donna
* Howard Murray
* Jeff Nieberding – Michele
* Rick Petitt
* Steven Rodgers
* Zeke Rybczyk
* Don Schob - Angela
* Bill Strand
* Joel Tuchfeld - Anna
* Kevin Walker - Tessa
* Raymond Zieverink - Linda

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary