**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: October 26, 2024**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1418 hrs. at the VFW in Fort Mill
* The meeting followed the usual repast of good food provided by our ladies.

**INVOCATION**

* Raymond Zieverink started off our base meeting with words of invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

* All joined in saying our nation’s Pledge of Allegiance, led by Rick Petitt

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was read today by John McHugh

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* Tolling for the 9 boats, which were lost during October, was presented by Joel Tuchfeld and the bell was rung by Base Vice-Commander John McHugh.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 14 base members were present at today’s meeting at the VFW, and we were joined by 11 additional ladies also.

**REVIEW OF LAST BASE MEETING MINUTES**

* Members are reminded that minutes for each the previous 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) for their review and were sent out via email.
* 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**

* With Base Treasurer Bill Strand on the binnacle list – Rick Petitt read an abbreviated treasurer’s report.
* Included were items such as Caps for Kids at $1400 and the fact that we had raised $20,000 in support for the Helene victims in Western NC.
* No Comments or corrections were received.

**BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT**

* Base Storekeeper Jeff Nieberding distributed 2025 calendars.
* Jeff is our contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **None**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Update on Helene Aid**:
* As mentioned before, we had raised $20,000 in aid for the Helene victims in Western NC. Rick Petitt worked with the home improvement chain Lowes, who doubled the amount we had collected and provided tools and heaters for the relief effort.
* Additionally, Rick has made a number of trips up to affected areas in the mountains and reported back some of the devastation that he had witnessed. One of our members had put together a large batch of BBQ and served it up in the area and was thanked for a hot, home-cooked meal by the people being fed.
* For the most part, power, water and other services are available in the area but they are still suffering from the devastation to the infrastructure. Roads and bridges are still either completely out or under repair and this will be a longer-term effort for some areas as the place where the original road or bridge might not exist anymore as a viable location for replacement. This also applies to homes and businesses that were flooded or washed away. Rivers changed course, and slides and erosion took out areas where home and businesses were once built so reconstruction in the same place may not be possible any longer.
* Rick also provided a video of a newscast from WCNC which was taken showing when Rick, Ray and Lowes were providing the needed equipment.
* **Dues for Next Year**
* Dues are now being collected by Bill Strand for 2025 for both National and Base membership.
* For those who are Life Members and members of the Holland Club, dues for our base membership are still due each year.
* Contact John McHugh if you have any questions about whether you own for 2025 as John maintains the official base dues registry.
* You can also check the table below for amounts owed for National dues and the corresponding period of times where you can get a better rate by paying in advance prior to the end of 2024.

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| USSVI Annual & Lifetime Dues Table | | | |
| USSVI National Dues | Years Renewed /  Age at Lifetime | Current Dues until 12/31/2024 | Revised Dues as of 01/01/2025 |
| Annual Dues | 1 Year | $ 30.00 | $ 40.00 |
| Oct-Dec &  Next Year | $ 35.00 | $ 47.00 |
| 3 Years | $ 85.00 | $ 113.00 |
| 5 Years | $ 140.00 | $ 185.00 |
| Lifetime Dues | 76+ Years | $ 120.00 | $ 150.00 |
| 66 -75 Years | $ 240.00 | $ 300.00 |
| 56 - 65 Years | $ 360.00 | $ 450.00 |
| 46 - 55 Years | $ 500.00 | $ 625.00 |
| Up to 45 Years | $ 600.00 | $ 750.00 |

* **Kings Bay**
* Mike Hubbell was down at Kings Bay and should give us a rundown on this year’s activities.
* **Bilge Rats**
* For the upcoming 2025 season of the Carolina Piedmont Bilge Rats, Raymond Zieverink met with the participants, and we will be having a rehearsal at the VFW.
* **Kap(ss)-4-Kid(ss)**
* Dave Violette has been pushing to get our K-4-K program running again. He has successfully set up a day in Jan for Levine. Contact Dave is interested in participating in this program.
* **Burnsville – Next Year for 2025**
* Good news is that the monument seems to be unscathed by Helene and we should have no problems having our ceremony up there next year. Accommodations will be more cumbersome as many will have to find alternative places to stay as the Big Lynn Lodge is already full.
* Because of everything going on in the area we don’t have an updated list of all the alternative hotels at this time. A separate email will be sent once we know more.

**NEXT BASE MEETING (Carolina Piedmont Thanksgiving)**

* Our next base meeting will be on Saturday, November 16th at Fort Mill VFW in Fort Mill, SC.
* Doors open at 1230; we eat at 1300 and our meeting starts at 1400.
* This November meeting will be held early so as to not interfere with the Thanksgiving holiday. Rick especially wanted to remind everyone because there will be a lot of food. Rick is providing the turkeys, and the ladies will make sure we are well fed.
* For those of you who are not regulars to the meetings, this may be a good time to reacquaint yourselves with the rest of the crew. Letting Rick know a head count wouldn’t hurt.
* John McHugh will send out a separate reminder – just in case you missed it here.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1446 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Today’s Benediction was given by Raymond Zieverink and Raymond also reminded us all thru his 3 prayers today to keep Steve Bell in our thoughts & prayers and to give Steve a call just to let him know you are thinking about him.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Michelle Nieberding won today’s raffle.

**A list of today’s attendees at our base meeting can be found below:**

**October 26, 2024, Base Picnic Attendees**:

* John McHugh – Donna Fitzgerald
* Jim Goins – Marsha
* Calvin Reese
* Bob Bunney - Kathy
* Doug Coule - Maxine
* Kevin Walker - Tessa
* Joel Tuchfeld - Anna
* Jeff Nieberding – Michelle
* Shawn Marion
* Rick Petitt – Cindy & Missy
* Zeke Rybczyk
* Don Schob – Angela
* Raymond Zieverink
* Zeke Rybczyk
* Susan Kelly

Minutes Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary