



## **USSVI South Sound Base**

Don Mansfield, Commander

Minutes of Meeting, August 13, 2009

VFW Post 969

3510 E. McKinley Ave.

Tacoma, WA 98404

The USSVI South Sound Base meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Jon Schreiber at 1900 Hrs. There were ten members and one guest present. Pat LeMagie led the Pledge of Allegiance and Don Smith gave the opening prayer. Vice Commander Jon Schreiber read the USSVI Creed

Tolling of the Boats lost in August was conducted by Vice Commander John Schreiber and COB Greg Lee.

**Binnacle List:** Commander Don Mansfield, Jon Cox and Tom Wright.

Each member and guest introduced himself, gave the year they qualified in submarines and where they live. Lance Nowland, a life member of Blueback Base was welcomed by the group. Lance is interested in becoming a dual member of South Sound Base, and wants to join the Silent Service Motorcycle Club. He lives in Randle, Washington. Welcome aboard, Lance.

Acting Commander Schreiber gave a short recap of July's meeting.

Mike Ellis gave the Treasury Report. A motion to accept the Treasury Report was passed.

John Mansfield spoke on behalf of National Commander, Patrick Householder about new programs available on the USSVI website to get the word out about our organization, recruiting and retention. SSB currently has thirty-six members. Ron Eggimann, Norm Carkeek and others participated in discussions that centered around a former member's resignation from SSB. After all was said and done it was agreed that if someone receives unsolicited emails of a political nature that he or she finds offensive or distasteful, the most obvious solution would be to have the offended party inform the sender(s) to stop doing so rather than take the drastic measure of resigning.

John Mansfield, WRD4 Commander, spoke to the issue. National Commander, Patrick Householder sent out a news bulletin on the topic last year which reads: "NEWS-02: A Reminder to all - Politics and USSVI Submitted by: Pat Householder on 9/18/2008. Shipmates, You want to know how to weaken or destroy a fraternal organization like USSVI? Bringing your political and/or religious views to the organization and insisting that all your shipmates adhere to your particular point of view is the surest route I can think of.

Do you have strongly held political beliefs? Great! Everyone should know where they stand and take a strong interest in our public affairs, both local and national. Volunteer and work for those beliefs in the political campaigns that energize you. Get out the vote! Make a difference. But keep it out of USSVI. We are a fraternal brotherhood rooted in our common service in submarines and our desire to honor the memories of the brave men who fought and died in those steel hulls. The 'politics' and 'religion' of our subvet brothers, which will vary all over the landscape, is their personal business and should never intrude into the affairs of USSVI. Respect is the key, shipmates. Please respect yourself and respect your shipmate's point of belief by keeping such things out of the USSVI arena."

Newsletter editor, John Mansfield reported a July Klaxon was not produced due to lack of input.

Storekeeper John Mansfield turned in \$167.00 from sales bringing a balance in the account to \$855.05. Several sales were produced from our base website. All ten copies of "USSVI First 40 Years" have been sold. Thank you everyone who bought them. He also presented information and photos on challenge coins, the updated storekeeper section on USSVI's website, and new items in our base inventory. Don "Mac" mentioned the new bumper stickers available regarding USS Scorpion.

### **Old Business**

Greg Lee reported on base participation at National Night Out in the Narrows Business District. It was a lot of fun and about 70 signatures were obtained on the petition regarding our memorial project. There were 17 vendors, a band, freebies and games in typical neighborhood community fashion. Jonathan Bautista and his father stopped by our information booth. Jonathan was awarded SSB's Outstanding First Year Cadet plaque last May in Stadium High School's NJROTC recognition banquet.

Jon Cox was not able to make the meeting but he did send a note regarding the upcoming Lacey/Hawks Prairie Rotary Military Family Support Day to be held September 12th. Due to a conflict in dates associated with the USSVI National Convention in San Diego, which he and John M plan to attend, it was decided to cancel SSB participation. We will consider next year's event when dates are known.

Dave Richards gave a Memorial Committee report. Members held two meetings this month and have decided to re-evaluate the idea of using a Mk16 torpedo; and more research is needed to determine a site location. The Veterans Memorial park in Tacoma is located on a street right-of-way and is subject to change with only 30 days notice. The expense of moving our memorial, if placed there, would be born by the base.

### **New Business**

A motion was passed moving the next base meeting to September 17<sup>th</sup> so as not to conflict with the National Convention. SSB's September meeting will mark their seventh year as a base. A ceremony will be held in which Past Commander and USSVI Longevity Pins will be awarded to base members.

### **Good of the Order**

John Mansfield informed everyone that AMVETS "Pappy Boyington" Post 2008 has been formed and meets the first Thursday of every month at Eric G. Sandstrom VFW Post 969. All submarine veterans are welcome to join. Dues are \$35 a year. An application can be obtained at the post canteen.

Greg Lee and John Mansfield will check with the Spanaway and South Puyallup Wal\*Marts to confirm we are on their calendars for our fundraisers Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. John also mentioned the upcoming Veterans Day Parade in Auburn.

Chaplain Don Smith gave the closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 2040

Respectfully Submitted:

John Mansfield, Acting SSB Secretary