



## **USSVI South Sound Base**

Don Mansfield, Commander  
Minutes of Meeting, 02-12-09  
VFW Post 969  
3510 E. McKinley Ave.  
Tacoma, WA 98404

The USSVI South Sound Base meeting was called to order by Commander Don Mansfield at 1900 Hrs. There were 17 members and guests present. COB Greg Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Don Smith gave the opening prayer.

Tolling of the Boats lost in February was conducted by Commander Mansfield and COB Greg Lee.

CDR Mansfield introduced distinguished guests, USSVI National Commander, Patrick Householder, Western District 4 CDR, Bud Berg and Past Seattle Base CDR & National PR Committee Member, Bob Oppe..

**Binnacle List:** There were no SSB members on the Binnacle List. John Mansfield mentioned that Vern Linth, a WW II sub sailor supported by South Sound Base, passed away last month at the Orting Soldiers Home.

A motion was passed to accept the January 2009 meeting minutes as posted on the web.

2008 Past Commander Don "Mac" Smith gave a belated "Thank You" address to the group for all the support given him last year. National CDR Pat presented a very nice plaque to Don on behalf of SSB members.

National CDR Pat spoke on the organization, it's purpose; to honor those submariners who gave their lives in service to their country, and where we as members come from, where we're going and why. Emphasis was given on promoting visibility and improving communications in the communities we live in. He said there are now 157 chapters nationwide with more than 13,000 members. It is estimated that there are a half-million past and present submariners out there, and we need to make them aware of our existence.

Examples were given of how submarine veteran members from chapters on the East and West coasts provide history classes to young active duty sub sailors so they will be able to continue the traditions of serving in one of the finest branches of the military.

Pat also spoke on the need to contribute to the needs of our deteriorating museum boats, whether it be monetarily or through work parties. A motion passed to send \$50 to the Mobile Base in support of the Drum.

WD4 CDR Bud Berg addressed the group and spoke on the recent Western District conference in Loughlin, Nevada, and the upcoming WWII Subvets NW Regional/USSVI WRD4 2009 Joint Conference in Silverdale May 20-22, 2009. He handed out registration forms for the event. Bud also presented SSB SK John Mansfield with WD4 patches for our base store.

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

Treasurer's Report. Mike also said the he needs to meet with John Mansfield at the bank to sign the account card.

Mike checked with the Navy Federal Credit Union and found out that in order to have our account transferred to their facility, one of us has to be a member of it. It was decided to remain with our present WAMU bank.

### **New Business:**

Bob Oppe spoke to base members about the Razorback museum in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the upcoming "work party" scheduled there. Participants can do a "sleepover" that includes meals and accommodations. Let him know if you are interested in going. Email: [Bopple@aol.com](mailto:Bopple@aol.com).

Chuck Kraft, who qualified on the Pomfret in the 1960's, and a local sign business owner, presented concept drawings of and explanations on the design and construction of a proposed parade float for South Sound Base. Materials and display possibilities were also discussed. More on the project will be discussed at next month's meeting concerning viability, obtaining funds, costs, time and talent contributions by members.

### **Old Business**

Don Mansfield talked about the upcoming Kaps4Kids event. He received the form from Child Life Health Center at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital along with guidelines for entertainers and visitors. A showing of hands was asked for to determine potential membership participation at the event. The media will be notified prior to our visit.

SSB member CDR Alan Mandigo, Sr. Naval Science Instructor at Stadium High School and NJROTC cadet program coordinator, presented information on the upcoming "Massing of the Colors" to be held at Ft Lewis. Greg Lee and John Mansfield will represent SSB and carry our banner at the event. Other members are welcome to come out and observe. Sunday, March 8, 2009, 3:00 P.M., Soldiers Field House.

### **Good of the Order:**

Bob Oppe spoke about Seattle Base's upcoming meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and guest speaker Jack Yusen, who served in USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE 413) at the Battle of Leyte Gulf off Samar Island when the "Sammy B" was sunk after engaging vastly superior Japanese forces. She was part of "TAFFY THREE," screening the Jeep carriers defending the invasion fleet and with USS Johnson was left alone to fend off Cruisers and Battleships converging on the invasion force at Guadalcanal. Eighty-nine men were lost in the sinking and the 120 survivors spent several days in the water fending off sharks. The Roberts became known as "The DE that fought like a battleship." Should be interesting.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Don Smith and the meeting was adjourned.

**Raffle Drawing:** *Victory At Sea* video was won by Don "Mac" Smith.

Respectfully Submitted: John Mansfield, Acting Scribe