



USSVI South Sound Base

Don Mansfield, Commander
Minutes of Meeting, January 14, 2010
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 1905 Hrs. There were ten members and two guests present. Norm Carkeek led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Don Smith gave the opening prayer.

USSVI Creed: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Of America.

Tolling of the Boats lost in January was conducted by Commander Don Mansfield and COB Greg Lee:
USS Scorpion (SS278) 1944 USS Argonaut (SS166) 1943 USS Swordfish (SS193) 1945 S-36 (SS141) 1942 S-28 (SS131) 1942

A moment of silence was held for our departed shipmates on eternal patrol.

Binnacle List: Commander Jon Cox, Ken Board, Mike Ellis.

A motion was made and passed to accept December's meeting minutes as posted.

John Mansfield gave the Treasury Report. A balance of \$3,668.35 is in the SSB account, of which \$1,084.05 is in the storekeeper account. Mike submitted the annual Treasurer's report to National. The report was accepted as read by voice vote.

In Membership Chairman Ken Board's absence, John Mansfield reminded everyone that annual members need to renew their dues by January 31st or they will be dropped from USSVI rolls. Dues are \$30; \$20 to national and \$10 to the Base. There are programs available for multi year memberships.

Base Newsletter Report: Don "Mac" Smith said that as soon as he receives the meeting minutes, he is ready to go to press with the "Klaxon". Many thanks to Don for stepping up.

Storekeeper: Fred Ball reported that he is becoming familiar with the storekeeper inventory, ordering, receiving and shipping items. His goal is to increase sales by having new items available in the storekeeper inventory. Many thanks to Fred for taking on the duties as SSB SK.

Old Business

SSB PAO John Mansfield reported on Bethel School District's Nelson Elementary School dedication ceremony, held January 9th in which he was guest speaker. An article appeared in The Dispatch (Eatonville's newspaper) covering the event. John said many audience members came up to him after the ceremony and thanked him. Senator Randi Becker (R-Eatonville), Jim McCune (R-Graham) and Pierce County Council member Roger Bush were in attendance.

New Business

A vote was passed to hold the Base swearing in ceremony of 2010 officers at the February 11th meeting because only one new officer was present.

Guest speaker ETC(SS) Gary Dillard, Chief instructor at the Trident Training Facility communications school, gave an informative talk to members covering his career. Gary, from Tacoma, Washington, started his on-the-water experience as a sea scout at age 14, on the Charles N. Curtis (SES110), in which SSB Commander Don Mansfield was his mentor. Gary joined the navy in 1990, went to submarine school and qualified on USS Puffer (SSN652). He did a tour on USS McKee (AS41) a submarine tender, then went on to teach submarine surveillance courses in Groton, Connecticut. Gary served on board USS Alaska (SSBN732) for four years, where members of South Sound Base met him during their five hour ride several years ago.

Gary remarked how proud he is of the young sailors in today's nuclear submarine navy and stresses teaching and make them study the histories of WWII submarines and their crews. He feels it is essential that they focus on their duties while at the same time remain "connected to the heritage of those who have gone before them." A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Gary by Commander Don Mansfield. Thanks to Greg Lee for making the certificate.

Good of the Order

Greg Lee suggested we order a new supply of lapel ribbons for our fundraisers. A request will be submitted to Jan "Bear" Stiffey.

On that note, a discussion was held and voted on to give storekeeper Fred Ball authority to spend up to \$100 for items needed by the base. Requirements exceeding more than \$100 in expenditures will require at least Base Commander approval.

Our first fundraisers at Wal*Marts will be May 31st, Memorial Day.

Greg Lee displayed a coffee mug that he would like to see us carry in the base store and make available on-line. A request for production costs will be submitted to "Bear."

WRD4 Commander John Mansfield gave a report on the new Olympic Peninsula Base. Their first meeting is January 21st, 7 p.m. at the Port Hadlock VFW. 31 Matheson Street.

A motion was made and passed to present a "Thank You" plaque to Eric G. Sandstrom VFW Post 969 for allowing South Sound Base to hold our meetings in their facility. They have been gracious hosts for more than seven years since the base's inception. Mike Robb was authorized to make the plaque at a cost of not more than \$60.00.

Commander Don Mansfield said he will contact Mary Bridge Children's Hospital to find out when we can do another Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) visit.

Chaplain Don Smith gave the closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 2100.

Respectfully Submitted:

John Mansfield, Acting SSB Secretary